

03 July 2024

HSBC Malta Foundation and Esplora collaborate on the 5th Edition of the Primary STEM Challenge

The directorate for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and VET (Vocational Education and Training) Programmes, in its continuous effort to foster scientific curiosity and skills among young learners, has just concluded the 5th edition of the Primary STEM Challenge - an initiative for primary students in Years 3 to 6. This innovative initiative, which was supported by the HSBC Malta Foundation, invited primary students to delve into the fascinating world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

A total of 50 primary students and 5 primary classroom teachers and their students from state and non-state schools participated in the 5th edition of this challenge. Participants explored one of three engaging themes namely, Light, Soil, or Chemical Reactions through a hands-on investigative approach. Students were tasked with creating a brief, three-minute video to showcase their findings outlining the investigation process in a compelling manner. The submissions were evaluated by a team of professional adjudicators based on their scientific content, investigative skills, and the effectiveness of communication. Entrants could have participated individually or as a classroom and followed detailed guidelines.

Mr. Olaf Mc Kay Esplora Senior Director, emphasized the importance of such initiatives: "By engaging in the Primary STEM Challenge, students not only acquire essential 21st-century skills but also foster a lifelong interest in science and discovery which is at the very heart of our mission and vision at Esplora."

HSBC Malta Foundation reaffirms its commitment to educational initiatives by providing attractive prizes for the top three entries in each theme category, as well as a special classroom prize. "Our support for the Primary STEM Challenge underlines HSBC's dedication to nurturing young minds and contributing to the educational landscape of Malta," said Paula Mamo on behalf of the HSBC Malta Foundation.

The first three winners in each category were announced on Friday 31st May 2024 on the [STEM & VET Curriculum Hub Facebook Page](#) (ex-Science Centre Pembroke – Malta).

During a brief award ceremony held at the HSBC Hub, in Qormi, Ms Xanthe' Schembri, Assistant Director STEM & VET Programmes within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation presented a certificate of participation to the winners. Dr Paula Mamo, Company Secretary at HSBC Malta presented the winning participants voucher awards sponsored by the HSBC Malta Foundation. Mr Des Zerafa Cini, Education Programme and Content Developer on behalf of Esplora presented the winners of the Science Communication Award Esplora Family Tickets including the Esplora Planetarium Experience.



Photocaption: Dr Paula Mamo, Company Secretary at HSBC Malta (far right) representing the HSBC Malta Foundation together with some of the winning students and programme leads.

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