

We have begun to piece together the puzzle surrounding the **orchestrated frame-up against Mr Ronald Galea**, former CEO of Fondazzjoni Wens, as part of an ongoing **journalistic investigation**. (Doninu (Malta) International)

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Homes for the disabled taken over amid 'shocking' living conditions

Fondazzjoni Wens has been operating since 1990

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Dar il-Wens in Kalkara. Photos: Matthew Mirabelli

A foundation that runs three homes for persons with disability has been taken over on orders from the authorities amid concerns about "shocking" living conditions.

Representatives of HILA, a part of Care Malta, last week took over the operations of Fondazzjoni Wens, which operates residential services for 43 people with intellectual and physical disabilities.

The intervention came after concerns were raised about living conditions in the foundation's homes - Dar il-Wens and Dar Ahlini in Kalkara, and Dar Merbhu in Fgura.

Fondazzjoni Wens has been operating since 1990 and was a pioneer in the sector when it was established. However, in the past year, concerns have mounted about the state of the residences, the quality of care, as well as reputation within the homes.

The Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA) confirmed that Fondazzjoni Wens was no longer coordinating the operations of the homes due to concerns over living conditions that "were not up to standard", but did not go into further detail.

However, photos from the day HILA took over showed one of the homes in a shabby and dirty state, including cracks in ceilings, exposed steel reinforcements, and faeces on the wall in one of the rooms.

Sources in the sector described it as "the worst home I saw in Malta", "shocking" and "in a clear state of neglect".



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Homes for the disabled taken over amid 'shocking' living conditions

Homes for the disabled taken over amid 'shocking' living conditions **Fondazzjoni Wens has been operating since 1990 National Disability Kalkara Fgura**

9 February 2025

Emma Borg 9 Journalist Times of Malta

Dar il-Wens in Kalkara. Photos: Matthew Mirabelli

A foundation that runs three homes for persons with disability has been taken over on orders from the authorities amid concerns about “shocking” living conditions.

Representatives of HILA, a part of Care Malta,(***DIRECT ORDER FOR 200,000 Euros per Month***) last week took over the operations of Fondazzjoni Wens, which operates residential services for 43 people(***MISSING THE SON OF THE AMMINISTRATOR MARK BAMBER THAT IS TRANSFER TO DAR TAL PROVIDENZA***) with intellectual and physical disabilities. The intervention came after concerns were raised about living conditions in the foundation’s homes –

Dar il-Wens and Dar Abilità in Kalkara, and Dar Merħba in Fgura. Fondazzjoni Wens has been operating since 1990 and was a pioneer in the sector when it was established. However, in the past year, concerns have mounted about the state of the residences, the quality of care, **as well as nepotism within the homes.**

(Can you show us the laws that are breach please) The Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA) confirmed that Fondazzjoni Wens was no longer coordinating the operations of the homes due to concerns over living conditions that “were not up to standard”

Can CEO Ruth Sciberras clarify her statement?

Because during a face-to-face meeting with us, she clearly told us that she acted on the direct instructions of the Commissioner for Voluntary

Organisations (CVO) to remove the licence. She even used herself as an example and said to me:

“If the Commissioner gives you such an order, wouldn’t you obey? Wouldn’t you follow what he says?”

This raises serious questions about whether the Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA), under her leadership, acted independently and within its legal mandate — or whether decisions were influenced by external pressure.

, but did not go into further detail. However, photos from the day HILA took over showed one of the homes in a shabby and dirty state, including cracks in ceilings, exposed steel reinforcements, and faeces on the wall in one of the rooms.

It is truly astonishing how HILA Homes Ltd presented these images. Let us take a closer look together at the photos that were published in The Times of Malta.



As you can see above, each photo is numbered for reference, and we will now explain them one by one:

Photo 1:

*This is clearly a photo of the **roof access door**, **not** the main entrance of Fondazzjoni Wens in Kalkara. The house is located **directly facing the sea**, so natural wear and environmental elements are expected. As clearly visible in the image, maintenance work was already in progress — you can see the plaster work completed but still awaiting the final coat of paint, which is why the surface appears white and unfinished.*

Photo 2:

*This armchair shown in the image is dirty, yes — but **how certain are you, Ms Ruth Sciberras, that it wasn't staged deliberately for the photograph?** Coincidentally, we are in possession of over **100 photos** taken in **December 2024** — two months before the Times of Malta published the images — which show that all these armchairs were equipped with **transparent plastic covers**, precisely to make cleaning easier due to the fabric material.*

*Did you investigate any of this, or did you simply rely on the images handed over by the **Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO)**, especially considering that you yourself admitted you weren't even aware of these photos before they were published?*



Photo 3:

This image appears to depict something intended to suggest embarrassment or neglect — possibly some kind of shaft or service duct. However, with all due respect, Ms Ruth Sciberras, if you were to enter your own office premises from the back — through the parking area, to be clear — you would encounter similar conditions. In fact, if you look carefully at the white marble staircase, you'll clearly notice that it is stained and merely wiped, not scrubbed or properly maintained. I highlight this not to criticise unnecessarily, but to point out the double standards being applied: you are quick to pass judgment on others, yet do not apply the same scrutiny to your own environments.

Photo 4:

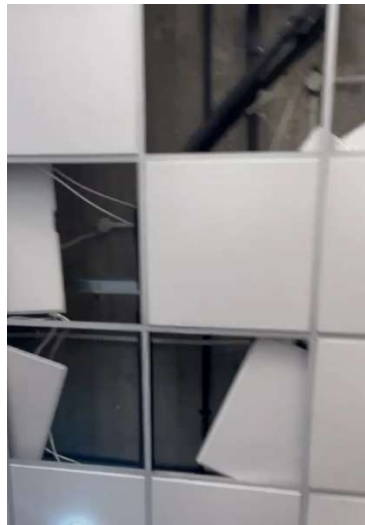
This photo, which shows ceiling plaster (kisi) that has peeled off — not structural cracks in the ceiling — was taken in Fondazzjoni Wens' store. We have marked a red circle on the image to show that the box visible in the stores contains adult diapers intended for use by persons with disabilities.

To depict this image as evidence of “inhumane” conditions is deeply insulting to the persons with disability who reside in these homes. You

are effectively representing them as though they are living in concentration camp-like conditions, which is an affront to their dignity.

If needed, I am prepared to share additional images — this time not from Fondazzjoni Wens, but from a residential care home operated by Care Malta, which also falls under your remit. A quick comparison would show that such minor wear and tear is present in other care facilities too. These issues are not unique to Wens, and to portray them as scandalous without context is misleading.

Attached below are two images from that Care Malta home, taken during our investigations. We also have extensive photo and video documentation available for further review, should you wish to conduct a fair comparison.





The six photos above were not obtained from Fondazzjoni Wens or any of its residential homes. These were actually provided to us by relatives and children of elderly residents currently living in a home that falls under your responsibility, Ms Ruth Sciberras — one operated by Care Malta.

(If necessary, we have further photos and videos, not only from this specific facility, but also from other homes under the same management.)

We are astonished that these issues are visible to us, yet not to you. Why are they not being investigated or acknowledged? We have never seen any reporting or scrutiny in the Times of Malta about these care homes — yet when it comes to a residence for persons with disabilities, there was an urgent effort to paint the situation as catastrophic.

Why this selective concern? Could it be connected to the fact that Fondazzjoni Wens holds over €3 million in savings and more than €7 million in real estate assets? Has someone set their sights on these funds?

Let us be absolutely clear: if anyone believes this matter will be forgotten over time, they are mistaken. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to uncover the truth and ensure that justice is served. The fact that persons with disabilities may not speak up for themselves does not mean they are without a voice.

That is precisely what your role — and your publicly funded salary — is meant to defend: the rights and dignity of our most vulnerable citizens. And if that duty is being ignored or manipulated for other agendas, it is our responsibility to speak out and demand accountability.

Homes for the disabled taken over amid ‘shocking’ living conditions Sources in the sector described it as “the worst home I saw in Malta”, “shocking” and “in a clear state of neglect”. The Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) explained that multiple agencies were involved in reviewing Fondazzjoni Wens before the takeover. It is the first time that a takeover was forced on a voluntary organisation. The OCVO said it had engaged with the superintendent of public health, Identity Malta, Jobsplus and the police as it sought to “establish the facts” concerning the foundation.

The Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) has publicly stated that it engaged with several government entities — including the Superintendent of Public Health, Identity Malta, Jobsplus, and the Police — in order to “establish the facts” concerning Fondazzjoni Wens.

We respectfully ask the following:

- 1. Regarding the Superintendent of Public Health:
If this entity was truly involved, why was no formal report issued? Why was no action taken under its legal remit? We are*

aware that Ms Gauci is a person of high integrity and professionalism, and we know from personal experience how thoroughly she operates. Why is her name being used to suggest complicity or involvement in a situation she may not have supported?

2. Regarding Identity Malta:

If this agency participated, and if any legal violations were indeed found, why were no formal charges filed or proceedings initiated in court? If your claim is true, why has this never been communicated to us or made available through proper channels?

3. Regarding Jobsplus:

If Jobsplus reviewed the situation, and any serious irregularities were found, why did it fail to take action or refer the matter to the appropriate legal or regulatory bodies?

4. Regarding the Police:

You referred to police involvement and even implied that an inspector “felt sorry” for Mr Ronald Galea. Does this mean you are alleging that a police inspector failed in his legal duty by not prosecuting Mr Galea, despite supposedly having grounds to do so? If that is your position, we believe it is extremely serious and deserves independent scrutiny.

From our perspective, it seems that these references are being made not to clarify facts but rather to deflect responsibility and create an appearance of broad institutional support for your actions.

We urge you to consider the following: It is possible that some individuals from these agencies were consulted, but rather than confirming any wrongdoing, their involvement may have in fact found no legal or ethical breach — contrary to the narrative you are now promoting.

We therefore challenge you to publish, via your media partner Times of Malta, the original reports and formal documents issued by these entities. These should include the names and signatures of the officials

who authored or approved them. That would not constitute a breach of ethics, as all these agencies are public bodies subject to transparency and accountability.

In the interest of truth and public trust, we believe this level of transparency is essential — not selective summaries or interpretations, but the full documentation that supports the sweeping actions taken against Fondazzjoni Wens and Mr Ronald Galea.

Sources in the sector described it as “the worst home I saw in Malta”, “shocking” and “in a clear state of neglect” Homes for the disabled taken over amid ‘shocking’ living conditions Photos from the day HILA took over showed one of the homes in a shabby and dirty state, including holes in ceilings, exposed steel reinforcements, and faeces on the wall in one of the rooms. n e x t . In December, an interim board was appointed by the NGO commissioner to manage the foundation with a specific mandate to improve governance and compliance.

*Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations,
With all due respect, it would be misleading to claim that you are not accountable for the proper governance of Fondazzjoni Wens. You have a clear obligation to ensure it is managed correctly — with full transparency and without deception.*

Moreover, this must be done in line with current legislation — not based on draft laws or regulations that have not yet been approved by Parliament, such as the controversial “Bl-Ohla Dawl Libbist” you attempted to invoke. That suggestion implied that you believe yourself to be above the law, which is deeply concerning in a democratic system.

The commissioner said the board’s responsibilities included ensuring safety and accessibility in the homes, addressing deficiencies in service standards to meet licensing requirements, and safeguarding the dignity and well-being of the 43 residents, who remain in the premises.

There are several key facts and issues that were conspicuously omitted from the Times of Malta article:

- 1. That the former CEO, Mr Ronald Galea, left over €3 million in savings in the Foundation's bank accounts.*
- 2. That Mr Galea also left behind more than €7 million worth of property assets purchased under his leadership, solely for the long-term benefit of the Foundation.*
- 3. That individuals from CRPD — the very regulatory body overseeing Fondazzjoni Wens — were appointed to the Board of the Foundation, in clear conflict of interest and possible violation of applicable laws.*
- 4. That you, as Commissioner, appointed your close associate as treasurer — a person who was both a professional colleague and political affiliate.*
- 5. That one of the Board members is also personally leasing a garage to you — a potential conflict of interest that was not disclosed.*
- 6. That a Board member, who had previously caused damage to the residence, was still appointed, and this incident was allegedly omitted from the Times coverage.*
- 7. That another Board member had previously been involved in serious controversies involving FSWS, with unpaid labour disputes reportedly amounting to over €10 million in NI.*
- 8. That this same Board, together with your office, issued a direct order of €200,000 per month, without any public tender, despite having eight months of time to follow correct procurement procedures.*

In short, the list of questionable actions and omissions is extensive. These matters are not personal accusations, but are publicly verifiable facts which deserve transparency and accountability.

Foundation CEO posed as patient The story gained attention after a man claiming to be the brother of a resident with Down's syndrome, identifying himself as "Joe Abela," contacted Times of Malta and alleged that families had been blindsided by the takeover and staff had been fired, without prior warning. However, it later transpired that "Joe Abela" was actually the former CEO of the foundation, Ronald Galea.

It appears that even The Times of Malta is fully aware that its reporting contains misleading or false narratives. While it may be true that former CEO Ronald Galea acted improperly by using a false identity — and we acknowledge this was wrong — it is equally important to place this within the broader context. When one witnesses such a

coordinated setup and injustice happening in plain sight, with no one taking responsibility, and when a person like Ronald Galea — who himself is a person with a disability — is left unprotected by the very institution meant to safeguard his rights (CRPD), it becomes understandable that he may have acted out of fear or desperation.

Instead of defending his rights, CRPD aligned itself with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) and became complicit in the unfolding abuse. Mr Galea was likely unaware that The Times of Malta is in fact a commercial partner of your company via Corporate ID, which raises significant ethical questions. You have deceived the Maltese public by not disclosing this connection, and as such, you have been able to influence the narrative and shape public opinion to suit your interests, rather than presenting facts impartially.

After being found out, Galea admitted to Times of Malta that he called under a false name because he was also the guardian of some residents and thought his arguments would have more credibility if he didn't share his real name.

What a coincidence — so he was telling the truth after all, wasn't he? Are you now willing to tell the truth the way former CEO Ronald Galea did?

Homes for the disabled taken over amid 'shocking' living conditions Nonetheless, the board of Fondazzjoni Wens confirmed that families were not informed of the takeover in advance but said this was due to the urgency of the situation. "Unfortunately, the circumstances did not allow for giving prior notice," the board stated. A meeting with families was held on February 3, where they were given details about the transition. "Those present showed they understood the board's position and that they are in agreement on the way forward," the board said. The board noted that none of the staff were fired.

Is it really possible that not even in this matter you are being honest?

Can you please tell us who among the original staff remains with you today?

Can you explain how the transfer of operations actually took place?

Is it true that you refused to receive a proper handover of residents' medical files once, twice — even three times?

Is it also true that staff members were left with unpaid social security stamps, just like what had previously happened with FSWS?

Can you tell us how you claim that families agreed with your decisions? Because we have yet to receive a single statement of support, while complaints against you continue to surface.

What do you say about the death of Martin Ambinette — wasn't he under your care?

What do you say about the resident who fell down the stairs?

What do you say about another resident who was reportedly so agitated that she was nearly dragged to calm her down?

What do you say about the resident who tried to escape the home and later said he wanted to end his life?

What do you say about the resident who was sent to work in a soaked uniform because there was no time for it to dry?

What do you say about the resident who ended up strapped to a wheelchair to prevent him from escaping — is that how you presented him at Martin Ambinette's funeral?

What do you say about residents who were found with pills scattered everywhere — are those the same medications they're supposed to be taking?

(Attached photo: pills spread on the table)



What do you say about a resident who became so distressed that she physically attacked another vulnerable resident?

And we could keep going — as long as necessary.

Disputed claims over the state of the homes Galea, who founded Fondazzjoni Wens in 1990, in a state of neglect. strongly refuted claims that the homes were “There are always things that can be improved,” he admitted but insisted the allegations were inflated. Addressing the issue of faeces on the walls, Galea explained: “You need to understand we have severely disabled people, and this can happen. I am sure it wouldn’t have been there for long, if indeed it was there.” He expressed frustration over the takeover, arguing that he had been working to improve conditions but faced resistance from the newly formed board. “If it was up to me, I would turn the home into a five-star hotel,” he said, adding that he had tried to hire an interior designer to improve the facilities but was blocked by the board. “I built it from nothing,” said Galea, who explained he managed to raise millions of euros for the foundation. He questioned why the takeover happened so quickly, especially since he had been granted a licence to operate every year. Concerns over nepotism Galea also defended his management practices, despite concerns of nepotism. It was found that around. failure of oversight. When contacted he said: “I believe in nepotism a lot. The law doesn’t say that you can’t work with your family.” However, concerns were raised about one staff member – a relative of Galea – who had been previously found guilty by a court of physically and mentally harming a person with the mental age of a six-year-old. Galea defended the individual, stating they had completed their

probation and community service, had a clean conduct, and was not “that kind of person”. Sources in the sector argued that the fact that Fondazzjoni Wens was allowed to operate under these conditions for so long suggests a broader “The authorities chose to close their eyes,” one source said. HILA declined to comment on the takeover or their plans to improve the residences. Care Malta, which owns HILA, is a privately owned company that operates multiple care facilities across Malta

Findings:

It has come to our attention that the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO) maintains a formal partnership with The Times of Malta. This close association raises alarms about potential conflicts of interest, particularly given the newspaper’s reporting on issues related to Fondazzjoni Wens and individuals connected to the CVO. Such media relationships between regulatory bodies and press outlets demand heightened scrutiny to ensure editorial independence and public trust are not compromised.

Jes Saliba (Managing Director, Corporate Identities)

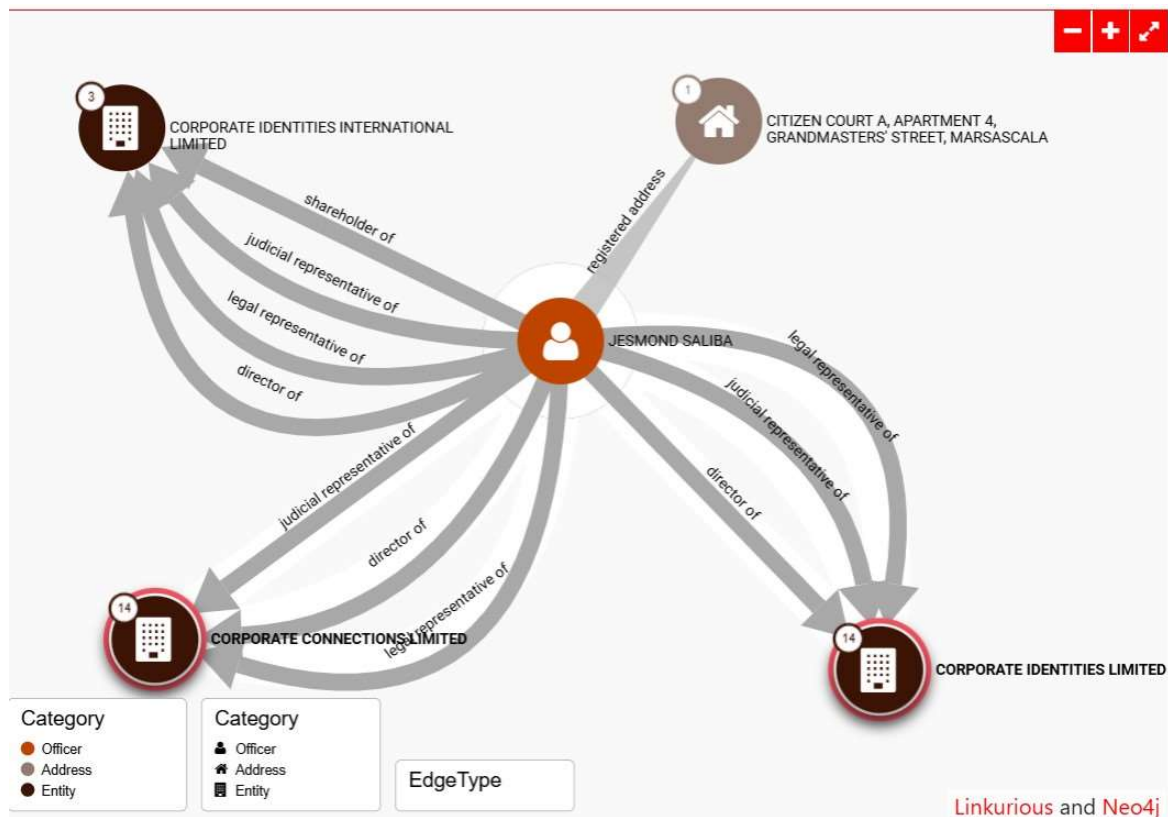
“I am supporting two countries, Poland and Italy. Since I was a child, I have always supported Italy during international tournaments. There’s no particular reason and definitely not a family tradition as my father supports England. I always loved Italy as a country and above all AC Milan. So I guess the support for Italy is something I developed at a young age. In the past 13 years, I have also



developed a passionate support for my second homeland, Poland. Obviously, being married to a Polish woman and the father to Polish-Maltese daughters (who love football, which they sweetly call ‘Milan like Daddy’s’), doesn’t leave me much of an alternative. I’m not the kind of supporter who enjoys the elimination or defeats of other teams, as long as the protagonists contribute to the beauty of what is the BEAUTIFUL game.

When the going gets tough for Italy, I think that I better stay indoors on my own. On the other hand, I enjoy watching the other games (where Italy isn’t involved) with various groups of friends in open air or similar bars where the atmosphere is nice.”

Bad loser or good sport? “I don’t like it when my team does not win. (so far Poland and Italy are still to register their first victory). But I don’t think I am a bad loser, as in I get over it quite easily.”



Partnership Overview

"The Corporate Times" is a collaborative publication produced jointly by **The Times of Malta** and **Corporate ID Group**. This official partnership indicates an ongoing content-sharing and branding relationship between the two entities:

- **Corporate ID Group** provides strategic communications, public policy analysis, and editorial content.
- **The Times of Malta**, a leading national daily, distributes **The Corporate Times** as a supplement, expanding its media reach and influence through this collaboration.

Implications

1. Media–Regulator Nexus

Given that senior CVO figures are linked to Corporate ID Group, the

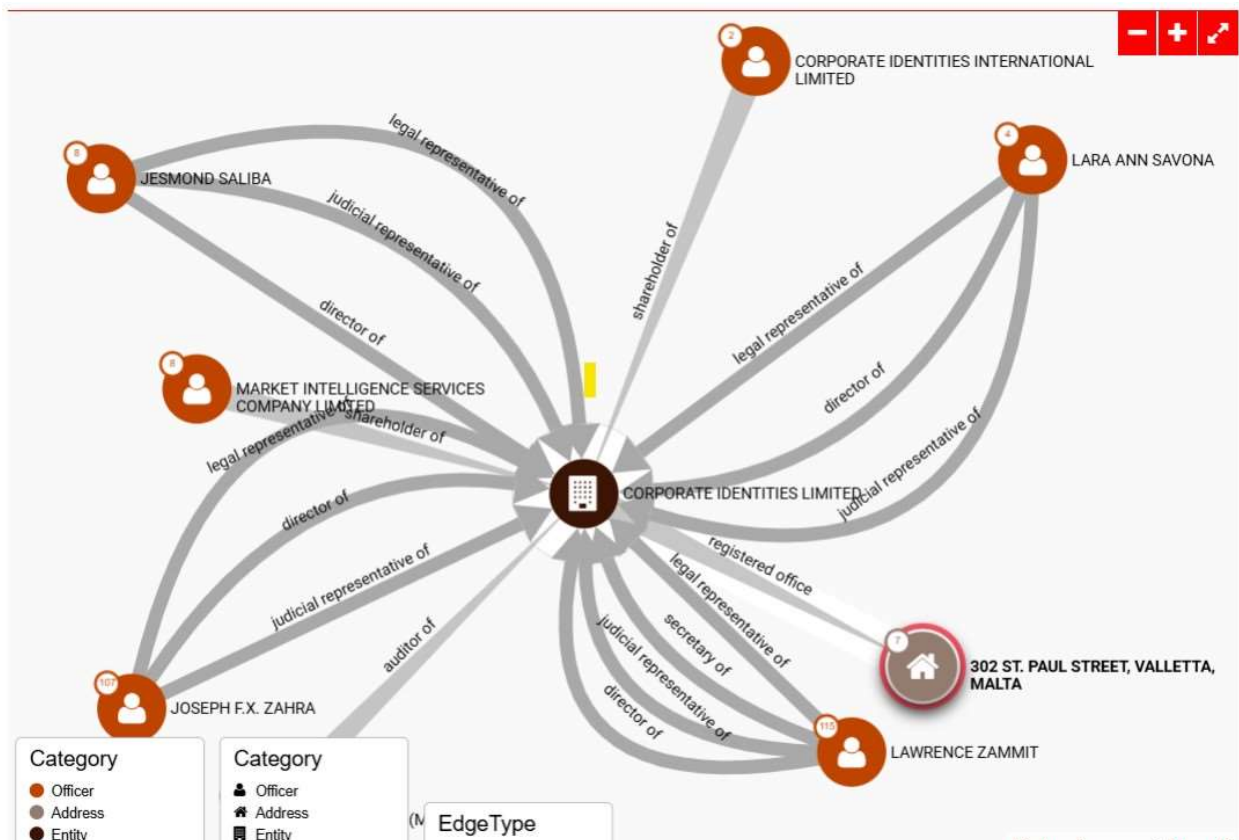
partnership with a major national newspaper may create **perceived (or real) conflicts of interest** when the same newspaper reports on matters involving the CVO, Fondazzjoni Wens, or related individuals.

2. **Transparency Concerns**

This kind of media relationship may influence public discourse and raise questions around **editorial independence, fair reporting**, and **transparency** in coverage pertaining to disability rights and regulatory oversight.

3. **Public Trust at Stake**

For public confidence in institutions like the CVO to remain intact, it is essential that such media partnerships are **fully disclosed** and any potential conflicts are **officially managed**.



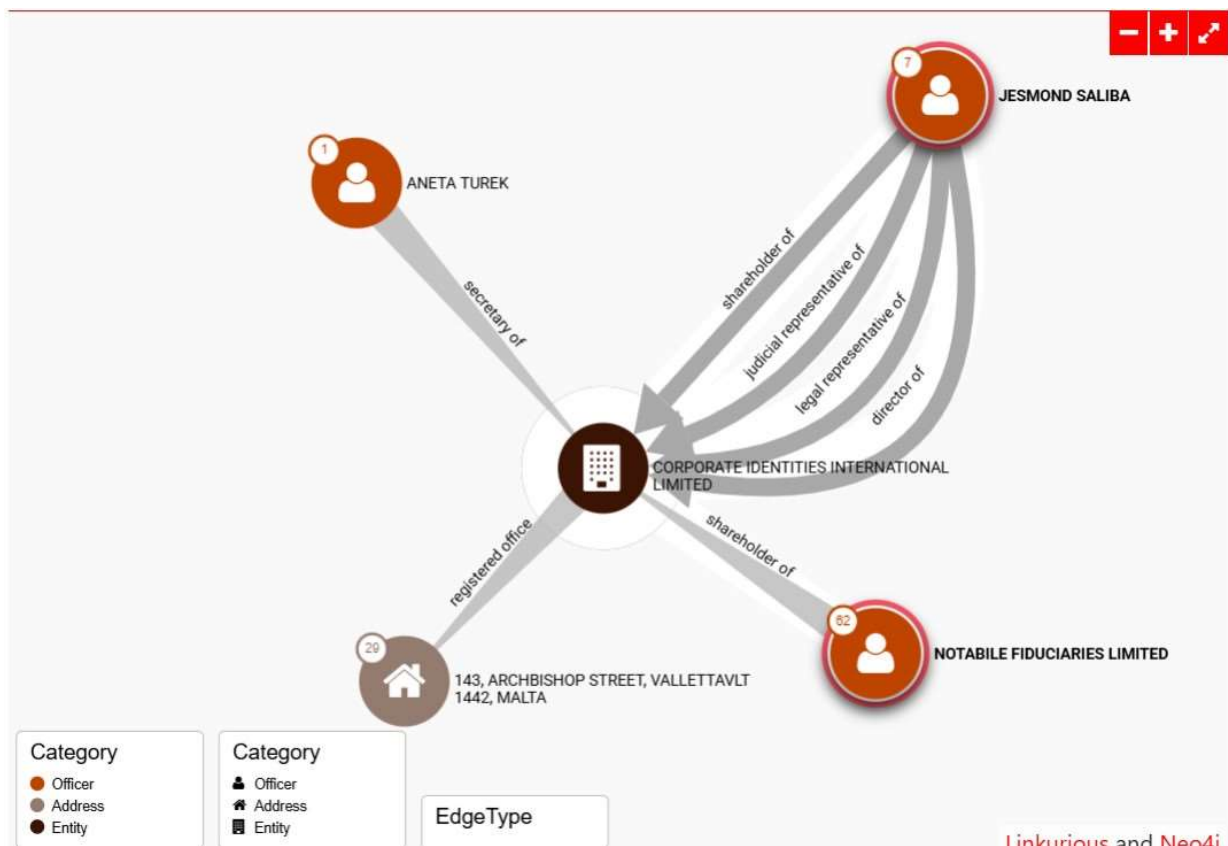
Key People at Corporate ID Group

Based on their official "Core Team" profile:

- **Jesmond Saliba** – *Founder*
- **Lawrence Zammit** – *Director*
- **James Vella Clark** – *Communications & PR Manager*
- **Keith Zahra** – *Communications Manager, Corporate & EU Affairs*

Summary

Role	Name
Founder	Jesmond Saliba
Director	Lawrence Zammit
PR/Media Manager	James Vella Clark
Corporate/EU Affairs Manager	Keith Zahra



Corporate ID Group – Core Details

- **Founded** in 2008 as Corporate Identities
- **Headquarters:** Fino Buildings, Notabile Road, Mrieħel, Malta
- **Privately held** with a core team including:
 - Jesmond Saliba (Executive Chairman / Founder)
 - Lawrence Zammit (Director)
 - James Vella Clark (Communications & PR Manager)
 - Keith Zahra (Corporate & EU Affairs Manager) No public information is available on ownership shares or investors.

Domestic Partnerships & Collaborations

1. The Corporate Times

- A joint publication between Corporate ID Group and **The Times of Malta**, distributed as a magazine supplement

2. Corporate Connections (with Demajo Group)

- Operates under “C-ID International,” a collaboration focused on corporate marketing and brand representation (including Mediaset and AC Milan)

3. Advocacy For Legacy (A4L)

- A social advocacy initiative of Corporate ID Group: partnerships include Fondazzjoni Sebħ, Dar tal-Providenza, Save a Life Foundation, University of Malta, Scouts (LEAP), and Malta Girl Guides

4. CI Consulta – AI Enabling Unit

- Collaboration with academic Prof. Alexiei Dingli to deliver AI transformation strategies

5. EU Affairs Office in Brussels

- Extended services with the appointment of Dr Ylenia Micallef Grimaud as EU Affairs Partner

International Collaborations & Global Outlook

- While primarily Malta-centric, Corporate ID Group offers **EU Affairs support** through its Brussels office, engaging across European institutions.

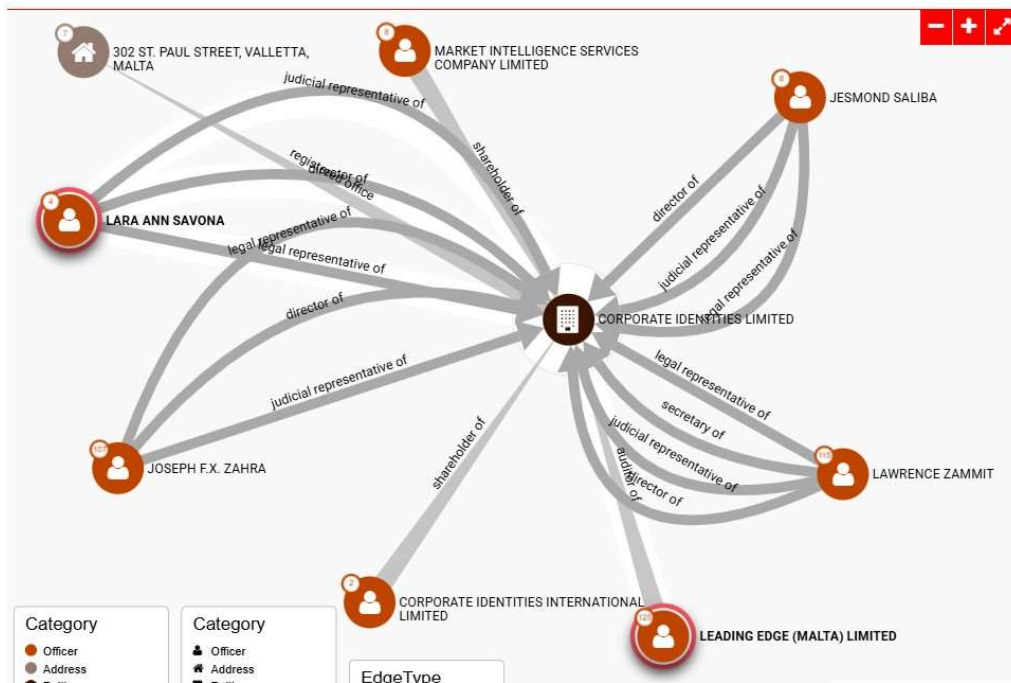
- The group's **Diplomatique.Expert** platform (with Corporate Dispatch) produces an annual Global Stability Index—reflecting its geopolitical and research capabilities

Summary Table

Collaboration	Partner(s)	Nature of Partnership
Corporate Times	Times of Malta	Joint publication, editorial collaboration
Corporate Connections	Demajo Group	Marketing/PR joint venture
Advocacy For Legacy (A4L)	NGOs & educational institutions	Social advocacy and CSR
AI Unit (CI Consulta)	Prof. Alexiei Dingli	AI implementation & strategy
EU Affairs	Brussels office	EU policy advisory presence
Diplomatique.Expert / Corporate Dispatch	International experts	Annual geopolitical reports

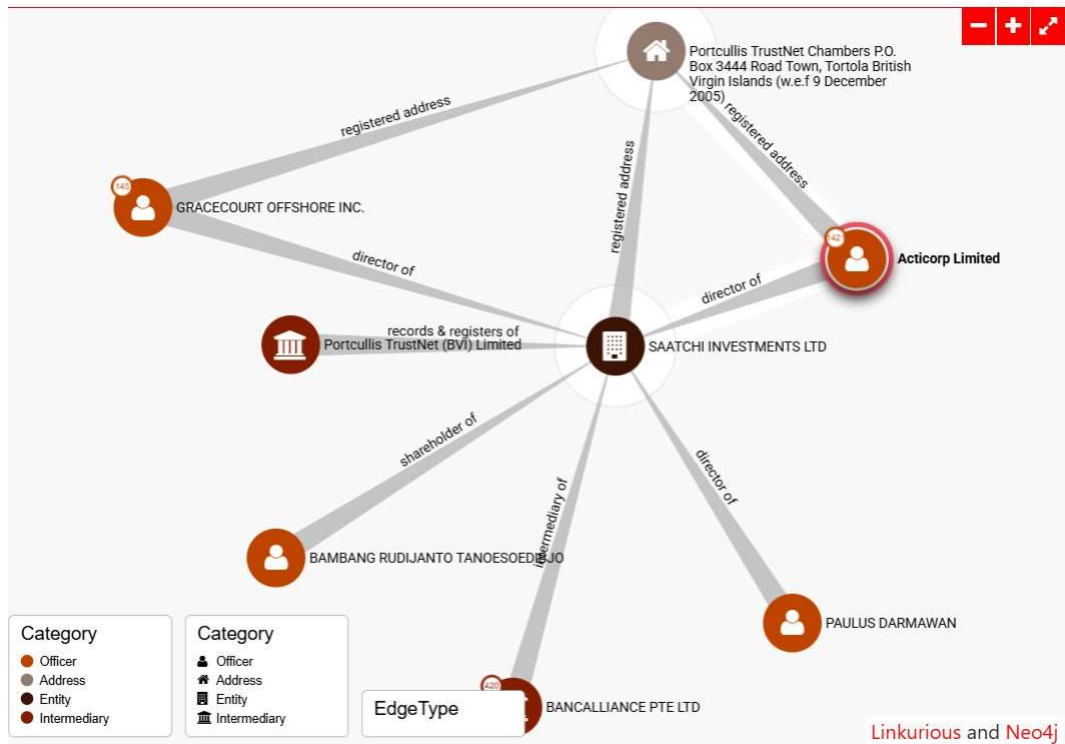
Implications for Governance & Transparency

- **Media Link:** The ongoing content partnership with Times of Malta (“The Corporate Times”) may pose a **potential conflict of interest**, especially CVO officials’ ties to Corporate ID Group.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** Without transparent disclosure of financial links or editorial boundaries, this relationship can blur lines between public oversight and media neutrality — a matter that merits review by ethics bodies or media watchdogs.



CONNECTIONS:





This research has been conducted voluntarily by Doninu (Malta) International, during which we have compiled and made available all relevant evidence for your review. Through this investigation, we have begun to piece together the puzzle that clearly points toward a coordinated character assassination of Mr. Ronald Galea, former CEO of Fondazzjoni Wens.

We urge you to stop targeting and damaging individuals—especially persons with disabilities—due to financial motives. These individuals are entirely innocent and should not be made to suffer because of others' greed.

As we always say: if anything we have stated is inaccurate or incorrect, we invite you to inform us. Should we find you are right, we will promptly correct the record and issue a written apology.

We conduct this work as part of a journalistic investigation. We thoroughly verify and research each matter to ensure the highest degree of accuracy. For all statements we make, we hold the necessary evidence in hand.