



Welcome to Our Research Retreat Malta Awaits

Subject: Welcome to TEAE Network Research Retreat -

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you to our upcoming research retreat in beautiful Malta! As TEAE network convenors, we cannot wait to meet with each of you and embark on this unique journey of community building, idea sharing, and collaborative exploration.

A Different Kind of Academic Gathering

This retreat represents something special – a **non-traditional, non-standard academic conference** that breaks away from conventional formats. You won't find PowerPoint presentations or formal lectures here. Instead, we're creating space for **collaborative conversations, meaningful dialogue, research discussions, and genuine connection**. Our approach reflects the very essence of what we're exploring together: **transforming the way we work together**. We're not just talking about change – we're living it through how we structure our time together.

Living Our Values Through Our Schedule

We've thoughtfully designed our retreat to honor both collaboration and personal well-being:

- **Mornings:** Dedicated time and space for focused "work" – engaging in research conversations, experiential sessions, and collaborative exploration
- **Afternoons:** Time to reflect, recharge, and enjoy the stunning beauty of Malta

This rhythm allows us to be fully present for our academic work while also embracing the restorative power of place and community.

Special Moments to Anticipate

Opening Welcome: On our first day, we'll gather at an amazing viewpoint for a welcome drink. What better way to begin our conversations than surrounded by Malta's breathtaking scenery?

Venue: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/LSyHtjsCaYANqHtL9>

Closing Celebration: Our final day will feature an optional social dinner – a wonderful opportunity to deepen the community connections we've built throughout our time together.

Venue: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/uRhjnafPYWTVZLo48>

You will see the beauty of Valletta from both sides! And for those staying in Sliema, our meeting point for the social dinner (optional, of course) will only be a short 2-minute ferry hop away!

Your Preparation Matters

To make the most of this unique format, **please read the attached participant guidelines carefully**. Your preparation is essential for creating the collaborative, conversation-rich environment we're all looking forward to experiencing.

Whether you're contributing to research conversations or facilitating experiential sessions, your thoughtful preparation will help us achieve our shared goal of meaningful engagement and community building.

Thank You for Joining Us

Thank you for being part of this innovative approach to academic gathering. Your willingness to embrace collaborative conversation is exactly what will make this retreat transformative for all of us. We're counting down the days until we can share ideas, questions, and thoughts together in the beautiful setting of Malta. Get ready for engaging conversations, new connections, and perhaps a new way of thinking about how we come together as a scholarly community.

See you soon in Malta!

With excitement and anticipation,

Saskia, George, Alessandra - TEAE Network Convenors