

**Joseph Borg**

**Employers Information Session – VASTE Programme**

**Institute of Tourism Studies – Gozo**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

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Dear all, I would like to thank you for your participation in today's event. Surely today's session has proved beneficial to all of us here present today.

The session by:

- Lino Spiteri Foundation Services,
- Jobsplus; and
- The S.A.F.E (Substance Abuse Free Employees Programme) Programme from SEDQA, were all very interesting.

I agree that the business community should do its part in creating a culture of employability for persons coming from vulnerable groups. I myself am involved as a Director, on a voluntary basis, in an association which caters for persons coming from vulnerable groups, and in my own enterprise I also employ people with disabilities. Thus I am a firm believer that employment is an important road for social inclusion. People coming from vulnerable groups have a lot to offer. More often however they face barriers which are created by us based on preconceptions and a distorted view of the reality around us.

As a business community, as we have seen today, we cannot say that programmes and assistance is not available. Thus I encourage you to make the most of these opportunities in order to create a fairer and more equitable society.

As the Gozo Business Chamber we are deeply committed to such initiatives. We believe in an ethical way of how business should be structured, and in fact this year we are going to emphasise specifically this topic, in one of the seminars we are going to organise this year. As a small organisation we are keen to work on the ground, bringing opportunities like this one to the business community. The Gozo Business Chamber wants to continue to be an effective tool in order to be the voice of the Gozitan business community, but also at the same time assisting enterprises to be more proactive to society's changing scenario. Thanks.