



Webinar

Women in Entrepreneurship and Business

Daniel Borg

Thursday 11 March 2021

Introduction

I welcome you for our first webinar for this year ‘ **Women in Entrepreneurship and Business**’. As a Chamber we decided to hold this webinar to celebrate International Women’s Day. It is my pleasure to say that this initiative today, was proposed by one of our panelists, Alda Bugeja, who is an entrepreneur in the local crafts and artisanal sector, and who is also a member on our Council. A big thank you also goes to Elaine Camilleri, Partner Tax Services at Act, and Marie Grech, Director at Frank Salt Real Estate. Both Elaine and Marie are also members on our Council, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment towards the Chamber. Today we will also be having on our panel, Victoria Azzopardi, Analyst EU & Institutional Affairs at Bank of Valletta. I would like to thank her in advance for her contribution.

The webinar today will be discussing the experiences of these four women, who are entrepreneurs and/or in business, providing useful insights of the difficulties faced, and what it means today to be a woman in their respective role.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day the President of the European Parliament, David Maria Sassoli highlighted how women in Europe earn on average 14.1% less than men.¹ In her video message during the same event, the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern highlighted that COVID-19 has exacerbated the structural inequalities between women and men and that “only by fully – and meaningfully including women in leadership at all levels can we ensure that our responses to the pandemic meets the needs of everyone.”² Unfortunately inequalities are still present with us today!

We hope that the experiences of these women who made it, will help on both counts: to raise awareness of the present inequalities among all levels of society, but also to be enlightening experiences to all of us present here today.

¹ David Maria Sassoli (2021), *International Women’s Day Celebration: Opening Statement* by David Sassoli EP President (online) : [International Women’s Day Celebration: Opening statement by David SASSOLI, EP President - Multimedia Centre \(europa.eu\)](https://multimedia.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2021/03/09/international-womens-day-celebration-opening-statement-by-david-sassoli-ep-president) [accessed 9 March 2021].

² Jacinda Ardern (2021), *International Women’s Day Celebration: Video Message* by Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand (online) : [International Women’s Day Celebration: Video message by Jacinda ARDERN, Prime Minister of New Zealand - Multimedia Centre \(europa.eu\)](https://multimedia.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2021/03/09/international-womens-day-celebration-video-message-by-jacinda-ardern-prime-minister-of-new-zealand) [accessed 9 March 2021].

All of those who are participating on our online platform please feel free to post your comments and questions which will be answered by our panelists during the dedicated Question & Answer session.

To this end we hope that you will find this session useful. I now kindly invite our President, Joseph Borg, to make his introductory remarks.

Closure of Webinar

We now come to the end of our webinar. I would like to thank you all for accepting our invitation to join us today. I sincerely hope that this webinar has been fruitful to all those who have participated, and that in our small part we may have contributed to the debate.

I would like to thank once again our panelists Elaine Camilleri, Alda Bugeja, Marie Grech and Victoria Azzopardi. A special note of thanks also goes to Richard Grech, who was the technical coordinator for our webinar. Thanks Richard!

Finally I would like to invite you to continue following us, on our webpage and facebook page. Thanks once again for joining us today.
