



Webinar 3 - 2021
Regenerating The Economy: A Business
Webinar on the New Malta Enterprise
Schemes

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Friday 21 May 2021

Good morning ladies and gentlemen! We welcome all of you; those who are our members and all others who have decided to join us this morning.

I would like to thank the Minister Hon Miriam Dalli, for her introduction, but especially for her assistance and her openness to dialogue. As a Chamber we were also part of the discussions which have led to the schemes which we are presenting today. To this end allow me to thank Steve Ellul from the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development, with whom we communicate continuously.

This is the third Webinar that the Gozo Business Chamber is holding this year. As a Chamber we are continuously trying to find ways and means how to assist our members, and also those who are not our members but who are following us both on facebook and through this platform.

This has been a continuous journey. We did not know when we started last year what was waiting for us along the way. So we made it our prerogative to do our outmost to assist everyone as much as possible. This has been our mission as of last year, and in fact we have left these webinars open and free to everyone.

Earlier, I spoke of uncertainty. This uncertainty engulfed everyone, us as businesses, and also the Government in its primary role as policy maker. The past year and a half was a period of continuous discussions and meetings. Sometimes we criticised the Government, and expected more. However, it was a period of intense consultation and collaboration, and this was evident as the Government continuously sought to assist businesses and the population at large in the best possible manner.

On the 27th April 2021, a set of new measures and initiatives were announced by the Government to regenerate the Maltese economy which we all have welcomed. These included: (a) a renewed rent and electricity scheme; (b) a one-time grant for businesses that will remain closed after the 10th May 2021;

(c) Change To Grow 2021; (d) Restart Incentive scheme 2021; (e) Smart and Sustainable Investment scheme 2021; and (f) Micro-Invest Tax Credit Extension. An integral part of these schemes is the digital and green economy.

We have been asking for these schemes to be tweaked in favour of enterprises based on Gozo. Gozo has been lagging behind in its economic development when compared to the progress registered on a national level even before COVID. Covid has hit us hard and the help our enterprises need is even greater now!

I am happy that we have roped in also Mark Scicluna Bartoli, Executive Product Management & Development who will speak about 'Facilitating Access to Finance for Green Investment'. Thank you Mark for being with us this morning!

A big thanks goes to Kurt Farrugia, CEO of Malta Enterprise who will be our main speaker today and who will be presenting these schemes.

Now I give the floor to Mr Mark Scicluna Bartoli.