



Greening the Islands Foundation Islands Meeting

Digital Innovation Hub

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I am really happy that this journey that was started in 2019, is now bearing fruit. During the past two days we have had important discussions and debates. But debate is healthy, and it was an important occasion for all stakeholders to come together. Though we might have heard of a lot of problems and issues, it is in reality what this exercise is all about. We need to assess the status quo.

However, an important thing that came out of this approach is that we need to act now. The opportunities out there are immense. However, we need to start building on a long term plan integrating all the aspects. We have seen for example how the leap forward in the transport sector will depend on the preparedness of the infrastructure sector.

We also need to beef up, as was discussed today, on three aspects of expertise: technical, administrative, and financial. The opportunities in EU funding are now based on research, and participation in consortia, to be able to tender for EU funded project in areas related to the Green Deal which are today at the heart of the main EU funding. The competition is great. However, we have also seen that there are various opportunities and I hope that the meetings held yesterday and today will ensure that as an island we all start this journey together.

I would like to thank the Ministry for Gozo for accepting the invitation we posed to partner with Greening the Islands, and now the Gozo Regional Development Authority for the preparations undertaken in hosting and organising these two days. We look forward to continue collaborating to continue to bring opportunities to Gozo, and also to discuss how the private sector can be a catalyst to make Gozo more sustainable.
