



Youth4Entrepreneurship Gozo – 2023

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Esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us today. Let me start by saying a big thanks to our partners on this initiative Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, Bank of Valletta, the Gozo Regional Development Authority, and the Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands. Their support was instrumental for the success of today's event. I would also like to thank the members of our evaluation panel: Mark Scicluna Bartoli, Simon Schembri, and Mario Borg. They surely had a difficult task today! Thanks also to Jennifer Cauchi from Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, with whom we have worked hand in hand over the past few months, and who always teaches me that patience and perseverance is the key to work with youth. Let me also thank the staff at the Chamber for their support throughout, and for being patient with me in going through all the details.

As we draw the curtains on this inspiring gathering, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of optimism and pride. The ideas presented, about such an important topic as spaces for youth in Gozo is something which offers all of us a lot of food for thought. I was impressed by the fact that while all of them had the opportunity to present something which would be simply profit-making, all chose something which has a positive social impact on the youth community in Gozo. They chose not their self-interest but the benefits their ideas would have on the community. And this is something that we as a business community need to learn from, and it is something that the Chamber will continue to work on in the future.

What we have experienced in Gozo over the past few years, shows that we need to revisit our values. And we have a lot to learn from this generation, which puts values above profit. We would be mistaken if we think that both are mutually exclusive. They are not. We can be profitable, while putting values first, and with this type of attitude

everyone will benefit, not just the few. This is the attitude that we will continue to support and promote as a Chamber.

The commitment and dedication displayed by our young aspiring entrepreneurs today, provides us with hope for the sustainable growth and prosperity of Gozo. Let us continue to nurture and support our young talents, providing them with the opportunities and resources they need to flourish.

As we leave this gathering, let us carry with us the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and resilience. The journey of entrepreneurship is one filled with challenges, but it is also a journey that holds the promise of limitless possibilities. Together, let us shape a future where the youth of Gozo continue to be the driving force behind a thriving and vibrant business community, but a business community which is more compassionate and puts its values above everything.

Thank you!
