

Youth 4 Entrepreneurship Gozo 'Spaces for Youth'

Date: Friday 10th November 2023

Venue: To be advised

Time: 19:00 hrs

The Gozo Business Chamber, in collaboration with the Gozo Regional Development Authority, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Bank of Valletta, and EUROPE DIRECT Gozo, is proud to announce the fifth edition of the '**Youth 4 Entrepreneurship Gozo**' event. This event, which will form part of the events being organised during the SME Week, will take the form of a contest for potential young entrepreneurs who wish to share business ideas related to Gozo. The overall goal of this initiative is to instill confidence in young people enabling them to reach their full potential, and direct attention to the economic potential and challenges facing the island of Gozo, whilst encouraging young people to adopt an innovative approach to develop their business ideas based on Gozo's needs and potential.

Theme

This year's **Youth 4 Entrepreneurship contest** will focus on '**Spaces for Youth**'. The theme for this year's event emerged from the discussions that were held among the participants of last year's event. They expressed the desire, that this should be the theme for this year's event. The term "space" is being used, as this is not defined by a physical or fixed location but is defined by the interactions that occur within it.

In Gozo the lack of spaces or places where youth can have fun and relax are very limited. Current spaces include pubs, eateries and one cinema. This is very limited in scope when it comes to entertainment, offering limited opportunities for youth to interact in a safe, fun and fruitful manner. To this end youth are being invited to present their ideas on the subject. But what are the criteria that youth should consider?

Such a space should offer social connectedness. While being sustainable from a business point of view, it should also align itself to the following criteria:

- Safe;
- Accessible for all;
- Sustainable; and
- Youth-friendly.

This space for youth may not necessarily focus only on the aspect of entertainment. It may be a space for youth managed by an NGO or a youth organisation (examples in this regard include youth parish centres around the island). To this end it may also offer opportunities for socializing, learning, and engaging. However, it would still need to be financially sustainable, and in their pitch youth should explain how this space is going to be sustained financially.

Always remember that all the ideas must make business sense even if the profits and any form of income, is going to be used, to finance for example the actions of a non-governmental organisation!

So think of this pitch as the best way how to present your idea to potential investors/donors, thinking also how can this be financed, even if this is for the public interest. Here you can find useful links related to the 2020,2021, and 2022 editions: [link1](#); [link 2](#); [link 3](#); [link 4](#), [link 5](#).

The best idea will be selected on the following criteria:

- **Applicability to the Gozitan context.** This means that any idea that is submitted must be related to Gozo.
- **Innovative Approach** (following the criteria set here i.e. safe, accessible, and youth-friendly).
- **Ability to solve a potential problem or to cater for a specific need.**
- **Quality of the Pitch**

Who is eligible to apply?

This contest is aimed at young people between the age of 16 and 35. Applicants should be at least 16 years of age, and not more than 35 years of age, at the time of submission. Applicants should be residents in the Maltese islands, but they may not necessarily be from Gozo. The idea, however, must be strictly related to Gozo. A group of persons may team together to present their ideas. In this case it must be clearly indicated in the application form.

Coaching session

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ will be conducting coaching sessions for potential applicants. The JAYE Foundation will be conducting a specific session on Financials. The exact dates and location will be communicated in due course. The timeline will be as follows:

- **25 April 2023** Launch of the Youth4Entrepreneurship Event
- **June 2023** Session 1 – Information session about the contest
Planning and Drafting a Proposal
- **July 2023** Session 2 – Financials
- **August 2023** Session 3 – Pitching of Ideas and Public Speaking
- **September 2023** Submission of Proposal
- **November 2023** Y4E Event

How to apply:

Potential young entrepreneurs are invited to attend the launch of the Youth4Entrepreneurship contest. They can also apply through this [link](#) to attend for the Sessions. Applicants who wish to participate without attending the sessions can submit their ideas through this [link](#) by not later than **Friday 29th September 2023**. All eligible participants will be able to present their business idea during an event to be held on **Friday 3rd November 2023**.

All entries will be acknowledged. Applicants will also be informed whether their entry is eligible or not. If an applicant or an idea is not eligible, applicants may still be able to re-submit a new application. Those who submit their application later than **Thursday 20th September**, may not necessarily be provided with a reply within the required timeframes to be able to submit a new application.

Proposal Guidelines

The proposed idea is to be uploaded (in PDF format) on this [link](#).

Length of proposal – not more than 500 words.

Presentation of Proposal on 10th November 2023

A powerpoint projector, laptop and screen will be available to the participants during the event.

During this session, young people or groups will have the opportunity to pitch their business ideas during a **ten-minute, ten-slide live pitch**, in front of a panel of business experts.

The **presentation** should focus on these main aspects:

- Background / Scope
- Presentation of the actual idea, and how this will be implemented
- Potential Budget / Funding / Source of Financing
- Difficulties that can be encountered in the implementation of this idea

The experts will also have the possibility to ask questions after the presentation. During the 10th November event all the participants will be awarded a certificate of participation.

The proceedings during the event will be in English. This means that the pitch during the event must also be conducted in English.

Winning proposal

The winner will be announced on **Monday 20th November 2023** through an official notification on the Gozo Business Chamber's website and facebook page. All the participants will also be informed accordingly.

The winning idea will take home **the amount of €500**.

Further Information

If you require further information kindly contact us on info@gozobusinesschamber.org

For information about the coaching sessions please contact: jennifer.cauchi@gov.mt