

The Reform of the Voluntary and Not For Profit Sector

Public Consultation Document February 2024



The Gozo Business Chamber's Feedback to the Public Consultation Document

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THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

1. The Gozo Business Chamber's feedback

The Chamber notes with satisfaction the changes being proposed through this consultation document. An important aspect which the Chamber would like to outline is that of regionality. While the categorisations being proposed are positive, it is important that these take into consideration also the context in which these organisations are operating. Thus, while Gozitan based organisations operate within a regional, national, and international context, many of them have a strong community ethos. To this end while their initial scope may suggest a particular categorisation, discussions should be undertaken with an organisation to ensure that this type of categorisation does not in any way prejudice its operations. The Gozo Business Chamber, for example, while being an association which represents businesses operating in Gozo, has a strong interest, and operates very much in the community.

Within this context it is important that, if not already undertaken, the Commission for Voluntary Organisations checks whether a regional impact assessment (RIA) is required. The requirement of a regional impact assessment study arises from the Gozo Regional Development Authority Act. The Act states that one of the functions of the Gozo Regional Development Authority is to ensure that an RIA study is carried out whenever a ministry, authority, agency, or any other form of government entity intends presenting a proposal that would affect Gozo.¹ To this end the Gozo Regional Development Authority has developed a regional impact assessment system. This is a planning tool that outlines the Gozo Regional Development Authority's (GRDA) requirements for assessing socioeconomic and environmental impacts of any significant Government of Malta intervention on the community of Gozo. Further information can be found on this [link](#).

The Chamber would also like to note positively the point highlighted in the consultation document that the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations will serve as a one-stop-shop in respect to any forms required by the Malta Business Registry (MBR). While this effort is to be lauded, further effort is needed by the MBR to simplify its forms with respect to voluntary organisations.

¹ Article 8 (1)(F) and Schedule II of the GRDA Act.