

Youth 4 Entrepreneurship Gozo 'Waste Hackers. Mobilising Young Minds for Waste Reduction in Gozo.'

Date: Friday 15 November 2024

Venue: Kempinski San Lawrenz

Time: 19:00 hrs

The Gozo Business Chamber, in collaboration with the Gozo Regional Development Authority, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, Bank of Valletta, JA Malta Foundation, and EUROPE DIRECT Gozo, is proud to announce the sixth 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 and share their business ideas based on Gozo's needs and potential.

Theme

This year's **Youth 4 Entrepreneurship contest** will focus on '**Waste Reduction**'.

This year, the Gozo Business Chamber invites young people to present groundbreaking business ideas centered on waste reduction, contributing to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable Gozo. Participants are encouraged to develop innovative solutions that address the island's unique challenges in waste management, recycling, and resource efficiency, fostering a circular economy that benefits both the environment and the local community.

Possible Solutions could include:

- **Creative Recycling Initiatives:** Develop systems for efficiently collecting, sorting, and processing waste materials to transform them into new, valuable products. This could include upcycling workshops, community recycling centers, or partnerships with local artists to create goods from recycled materials.
- **Advanced Waste Management Technologies:** Propose cutting-edge technologies that enhance waste collection, sorting, and recycling processes. Ideas might involve smart bins that optimize waste separation, AI-driven waste sorting facilities, or mobile apps that incentivize recycling through rewards.
- **Organic Waste Solutions:** Address food and organic waste by creating composting programs or bioenergy projects. This can include community composting sites, partnerships with local farms for organic waste utilization, or the development of bio-digesters that convert organic waste into renewable energy.
- **Packaging Innovations:** Design sustainable packaging alternatives that reduce single-use plastics and promote biodegradable or reusable materials. Ideas could range from edible packaging for food products to durable, returnable containers for local businesses.
- **E-Waste Management:** Create solutions for the collection and recycling of electronic waste. This might include establishing e-waste drop-off points, refurbishing old electronics for resale, or safely extracting valuable materials from discarded devices.

- **Sustainable Tourism Practices:** Propose ways to make Gozo's tourism industry more sustainable by reducing waste generated by visitors. This could involve eco-friendly accommodations, zero-waste events and festivals, or initiatives that encourage tourists to minimize their environmental footprint.
- **Circular Economy Models:** Develop business models that keep resources in use for as long as possible through sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, and recycling existing materials and products. Ideas could include tool libraries, clothing rental services, or repair cafes that extend the life cycle of products.

This theme aims to inspire the next generation of Gozitan entrepreneurs to lead the way in sustainability and eco-friendly business practices. By leveraging their creativity and innovative spirit, young entrepreneurs can make Gozo a model of environmental stewardship through visionary entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation.

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, 2022, and 2023 editions: [link1](#); [link 2](#); [link 3](#); [link 4](#); [link 5](#); [link 6](#).

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.
- **Financial Sustainability**
- **Innovative and Sustainable Approach.**
- **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.

Persons or groups who have participated in past editions, or who have won past editions of the Youth4Entrepreneurship, may again participate in the contest.

Kindly note that due to the limitations of the event only the first four applicants will be accepted.

Coaching session

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ will be conducting coaching sessions for potential applicants in collaboration also with the other collaborating entities. The timeline will be as follows:

1st July 2024	Launch of the Youth4Entrepreneurship contest
24 August 2024	Session1: (a) The Youth4Entrepreneurship contest and logistics; (b) Overview of this year's theme; (c) tools for structured planning; (d) Presentation; (e) Pitching; (f) Writing a Good Proposal.
31 August 2024	Session 2: (a) Profit and Loss/Income Statement as a simple planning tool; (b) Financing the Project.
October 2024	Submission of Proposal
November 2024	Y4E event

How to apply for the Training Sessions and the Contest

Potential young entrepreneurs can also apply through this [link](#) to attend for the training sessions organised by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ. Applicants who wish to participate without attending the sessions can submit their ideas through this [link](#) by not later than **Friday 18th October 2024**. All eligible participants will be able to present their business idea during an event to be held on **Friday 15th November 2024 at 19:00 hrs at the Kempinski Hotel in San Lawrenz**.

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 **Friday 4th October** 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 the 15th November 2024

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 15rd 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 25th November 2024** through an official notification on the Gozo Business Chamber's website and facebook page. All the participants will also be informed accordingly.

The prizes for the ideas presented will be as follows:

- 1st Prize: 500 euro
- 2nd Prize: 200 euro
- 3rd Prize: 100 euro

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