



Terms of Reference

Intra-Governmental Working Groups

1. Background

The Gozo Regional Development Authority (GRDA) is an autonomous Authority that was officially launched in September 2020 and has as its legal basis Chapter 600 of the Maltese Laws. It has both a consultative and regulatory function, with one of its remits that of drawing up the Regional Development Strategy for Gozo (RDS) and overseeing its implementation. It is run by an executive team led by Mario Borg as CEO and an officially-appointed Board of Directors headed up by Michael Grech as Chairman.

For more information on the set-up, structure and ethos of the GRDA please visit www.grda.mt. We also invite you to read the [GRDA Vision Document](#) and the [GRDA Consultation Document for the Regional Development Strategy for Gozo](#) published on the site.

2. Regional Development Strategy for Gozo

In 2021, the GRDA held a series of Consultative Group Meetings, three Public Meetings and an open call for feedback on a Consultation Document for the Regional Development Strategy for Gozo. The strategy will be finalised and published in the first quarter of 2022 and will focus on 8 key strategy areas:

- Spatial Planning and Sustainable Urban Development
- Infrastructure and Accessibility
- Economic and Talent Development
- New Economy
- Sustainable Tourism
- Social Development
- Rural Development and Eco-Gozo
- Culture, Heritage and the Arts

3. Ongoing Consultation and Open Dialogue

The GRDA encourages active consultation and ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders who have a positive and genuine interest in the economic, cultural, environmental and quality of life development of the island of Gozo. This always-open format is being underpinned with the setting up of four Intra-Governmental Working Groups and four Society Working Groups. Each Working Group will bring together stakeholders with remit and/or specific knowledge and experience in these key areas to fast-track an understanding of current issues, facilitate implementation and generate proactive solutions for the island and its people.

4. Intra-Governmental Working Groups

The GRDA will set up and run four Intra-Governmental Working Groups focussed on but not limited to the following areas:



- **Tangible and Spatial Planning**
Infrastructure, capital projects, spatial planning, sustainable urban development, transport and accessibility.
- **Intangible Assets Planning**
Economy, Investment and Innovation.
- **Social Impact and Identity**
Education, employment, senior citizens and active ageing, youths, inclusion, wellbeing, culture and heritage.
- **Sustainability and Circular Economy**
Sustainable tourism, rural development, agriculture and fisheries, environment, waste management, climate change and planning.

5. Purpose and Objectives

Intra-Governmental Working Groups

The purpose of the Working Groups is to bring together representatives from across Government and Public Administration including Ministries, departments, entities and agencies to maximise collaboration and synergies in terms of planning, research and development, strategy development and implementation.

The key function of the intra-governmental working groups will be to facilitate the timely, coordinated implementation of measures and actions set out within the Gozo Regional Development Strategy 2021-2030, the majority of which will be delegated to appointed national agencies, entities and authorities, that will be responsible for said implementation with the stewardship of the GRDA.

Ref: Gozo Regional Development Authority Act Cap 600 Art 8(c): "in order to achieve an ongoing functional relationship with such government entities and to ensure that any decisions required for the implementation of the regional development strategy for Gozo are taken without undue delay;"

6. Composition

- Each Working Group will be composed of a minimum of seven members. Additional officials, representatives and experts may be invited to participate in specific meetings if and as required when it would be beneficial to draw on their specific expertise, remit and for purposes of implementation and collaboration.
- The Working Groups will be chaired by Mario Borg, CEO at the GRDA or an official appointed by him.
- A Working Meeting Coordinator and Rapporteur will be appointed to facilitate the organisation of the Working Groups.



7. Meeting Format and Participation

- The Working Groups will convene once every quarter for an indefinite period. In 2022, these meetings will be held in March, June, September and December with advance notice given to facilitate high levels of participation. Additional meetings may be called if required at the GRDA's discretion.
- The meetings will discuss specific agendas as set up by the GRDA, foster collaboration and information exchange on matters relating to Gozo and offer a platform for sharing new ideas and best practices. The Intra-Governmental meetings notes will include specific action points that arise from the meeting with clear indication of ownership.
- Working Group Members wishing to formally present specific concepts to the Group are invited to advise the Working Group Rapporteur beforehand for consideration for inclusion in the Agenda.
- Where appropriate, Members may request the attendance of an additional colleague/s at specific meetings by sending an email to the Working Group Rapporteur explaining the reason.
- Meetings will be held remotely through a Teams Meeting connection. Any in-person meetings will be held at the Gozo Innovation Hub in Xewkija, unless otherwise advised.
- Each meeting will have an estimated duration of two hours.
- Members who are unable to continue their participation are requested to inform the GRDA by writing to the Working Group Rapporteur. Where the member is representing a particular entity, this should be accompanied with a nomination for a new representative.

8. Documentation

- All meeting notes, agendas and supporting documentation will be placed in a digital location and Working Group Members will be granted access. These will include a schedule of action points by all members.
