



GOZO REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Terms of Reference

Stakeholder Consultative 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 draft Regional Development Strategy for Gozo. The strategy will be finalised and published in 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 **Stakeholder Consultative Groups**. Each 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. Stakeholder Consultative Groups

The GRDA will set up and run four Stakeholder Consultative Groups (*Stakeholder Groups, Groups*) focused 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

Stakeholder Consultative Groups

The purpose of the Stakeholder Groups is to bring together representatives across the island spectrum, for early sharing of developments at the GRDA, consultation as required and to keep a finger on the pulse of the needs, opinions and aspirations of the various demographic and societal groups on the island.

Stakeholder Group Members will be appointed to represent the private sector, constituted bodies and non-governmental organisations, and private citizens.

6. Composition

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



7. Meeting Format and Participation

- The Groups will convene once every quarter for an indefinite period with advance notice given to facilitate high participation.
- The meetings will discuss specific agendas as set up by the GRDA, foster collaboration and information exchange between different entities offer a platform for sharing new ideas and best practices.
- Stakeholder Group Members wishing to formally present specific concepts are invited to advise the Group Rapporteur beforehand for consideration for inclusion in the Agenda.
- Where appropriate, Members may request the attendance of an additional colleague/s or private citizens to specific meetings by sending an email to the 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 Stakeholder Group Rapporteur. Where the member is representing a particular entity or NGO 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 Stakeholder Group Members will be granted access. These will include a schedule of any action points requested of all members.

9. Participation

Participation in the Stakeholder Consultative Groups is carried out on a voluntary basis and no additional remuneration will be due for participation. Thank you.