



**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**GRDA**

# Newsletter

**OCTOBER 2022**

**ISSUE 1**



# In this edition

OCTOBER 2022

1

Message  
from the CEO

2

Regional Impact  
Assessment

Gozo Rural Airfield

3

Regional Economic  
Model for Gozo

4

GRDA Scholarships:  
MCAST and UOM

5

GRDA Research  
and Notes

6

Contact Us



# Message from the CEO

Two years ago, the Gozo Regional Development Authority (GRDA) was set up. Less than four months later, it published its [Vision Document](#). A document that sought to explain the roles and functions of the Authority. The need to explain its role was felt because the GRDA was the first authority in Malta (and Gozo) with territorial competency and therefore people could not look at other entities as an example. Thus, this Vision Document served as one of the GRDA's first outreach exercises.

During these last two years, the Authority has been very active in researching and publishing policy related matter concerning Gozo and its regional dimension. This, we think, was largely missing and we believe our input contributed to a better understanding of Gozo and how to better address the challenges ahead. On this aspect, a main output was the preparation of a [Regional Development Strategy for Gozo](#) as well as the publication of several policy papers. At the same time, the Authority provided constant assistance to the Ministry for Gozo with regards to important projects, chiefly in formulating the concept, high-level project management and carrying out of the regional impact assessment.

The Authority also seeks to build working relationships with various entities, both local and international. This is important as it provides valuable knowledge-transfer and helps widen the activities of the Authority. The constant and active engagement with stakeholders, including the general public, has been and remains central to the Authority. The GRDA prides itself as an entity that is open, transparent, and accountable.



The above are some of the activities that the Authority is busy with. The GRDA tries to communicate its efforts through its website and social media to maintain and foster a relationship with stakeholders. Now, we are taking a further step to help you follow the Authority more closely.

This Newsletter will provide a reference to the activities of the GRDA and can act as a guide to those that look to know more. The quarterly Newsletter is structured as an easy to go publication with a summary of the main events and links through which one can get more information.

We hope the GRDA Newsletter is of interest to you and other readers.

**Mario Borg**  
CEO



# Regional Impact Assessment

In-depth studies carried on the impact of the Gozo Rural Airfield

The GRDA recently undertook a Regional Impact Assessment and Public Consultation Process on the upgrading of the existing Heliport in Xewkija into a Gozo Rural Airfield. The project is proposed by the Ministry for Gozo.

The public consultation process involved numerous stakeholder meetings, feedback received by email and two presentations and Public Consultation Meetings held at the Gozo Innovation Hub.

A meeting in English was held on 19th May and one in the Maltese language on 20th May. More than 40 people participated in the meetings and over 70 suggestions or



recommendations were received by email as part of the consultation process.

Rendering of the Proposal for the Rural Airfield 





# Gozo Rural Airfield Documents & Studies



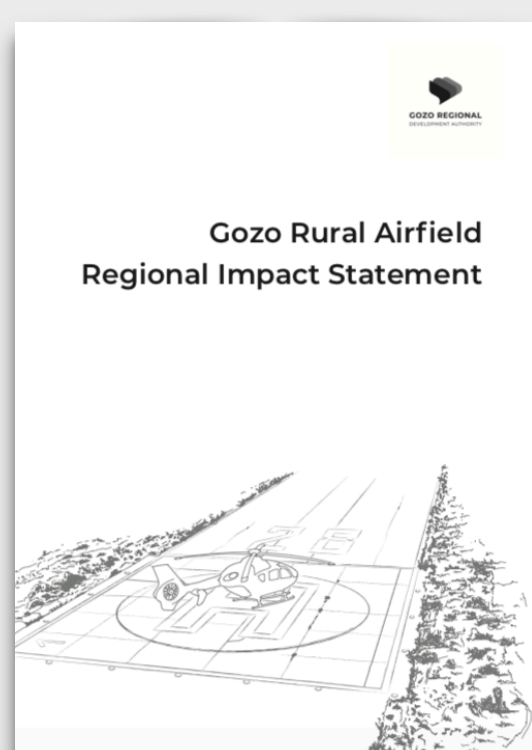
We invite you to access the comprehensive reports, studies, designs, infographics and videos at [grda.mt](http://grda.mt)

Three primary factors were taken in consideration when assessing potential impacts and benefits that the proposed Airfield project might have on the region of Gozo.

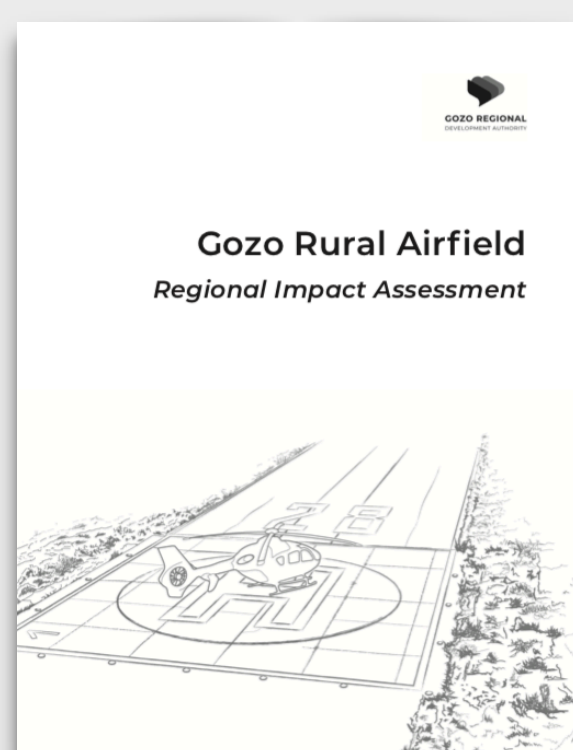
These are the social, economic (socio-economic) and environmental impacts. The impacts and benefits of the proposed intervention are based on research analysis and specially commissioned studies, which are available to view on the GRDA website.

In light of the outcomes of the Regional Impact Assessment study, the GRDA has endorsed the implementation of the proposed Gozo Rural Airfield project and presented a number of recommendations and mitigation measures to the Ministry for Gozo.

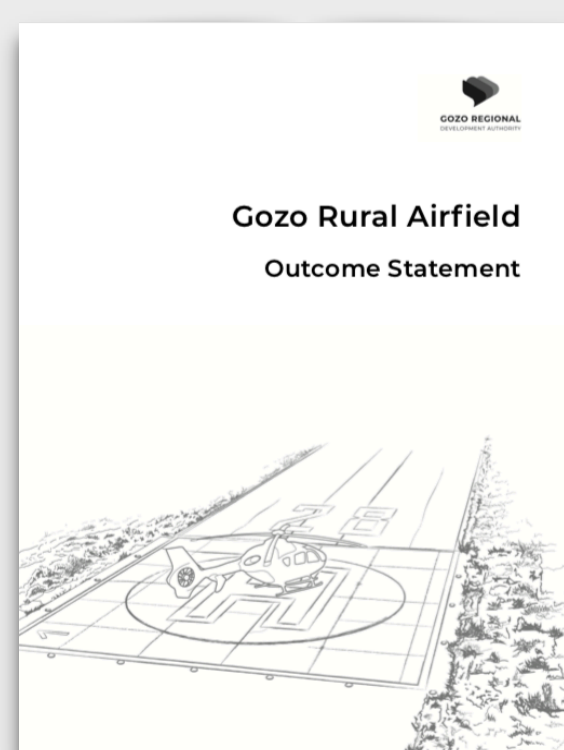
*“The proposed project would introduce significant benefits for the whole Gozitan community and the island’s economy.”*



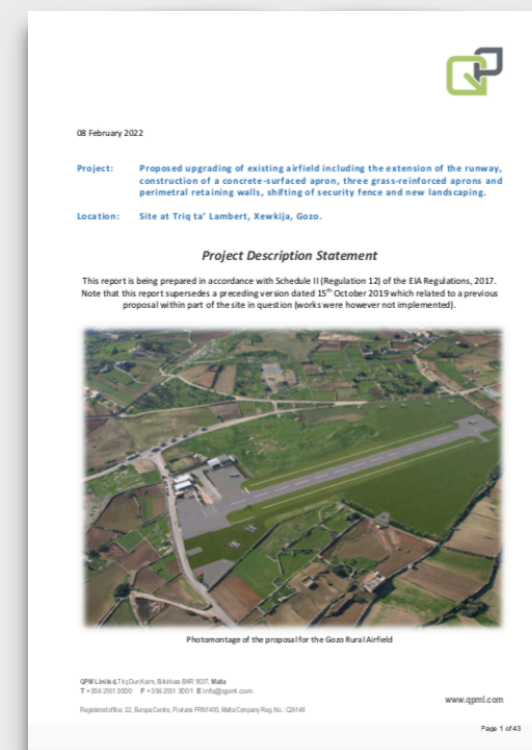
**Regional Impact Statement**



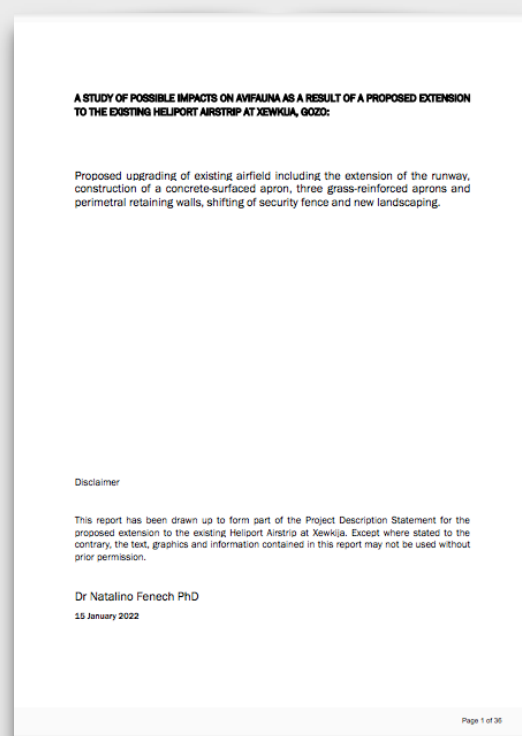
**Regional Impact Assessment**



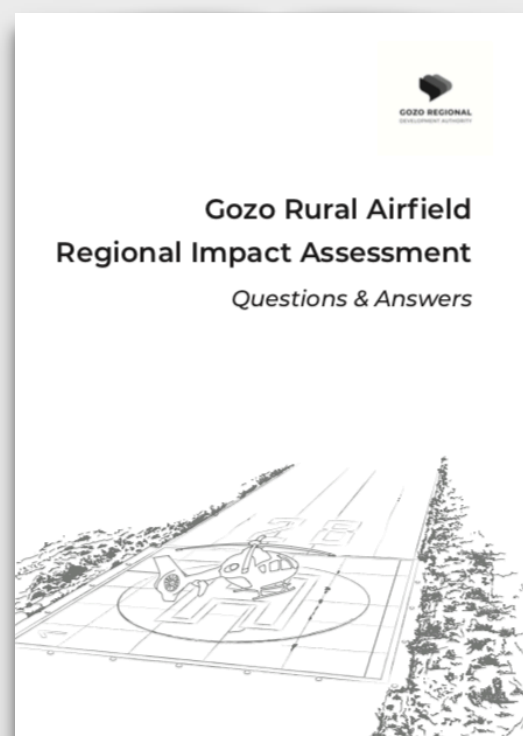
**Outcome Statement**



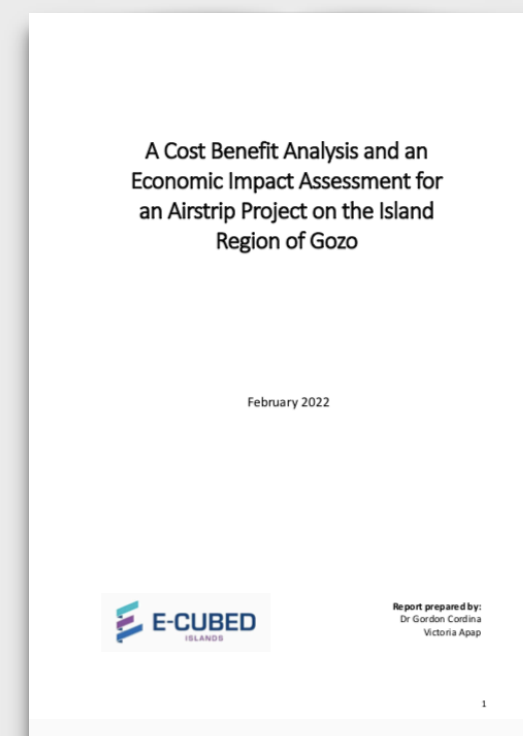
**Project Description Report**



**Avifauna Impact Study**



**Regional Impact Assessment FAQs**



**Cost Benefit Analysis and Economic Impact Assessment**



# Regional Economic Model for Gozo

Designed in collaboration with  
Oxford Economics

The GRDA in collaboration with Oxford Economics has developed a new regional macroeconomic forecast as well as a tourism forecast model for Gozo. Through these models, the GRDA will be able to produce forecasts of important variables such as employment and tourism growth in Gozo. The Authority will also be in a position to model regional policies and assess how they will impact Gozo, thus putting it in a strong position to formulate robust and evidence-based decisions proposals.

The new economic models were presented by Oxford Economics during the GRDA's first Regional Economics Conference held in September.

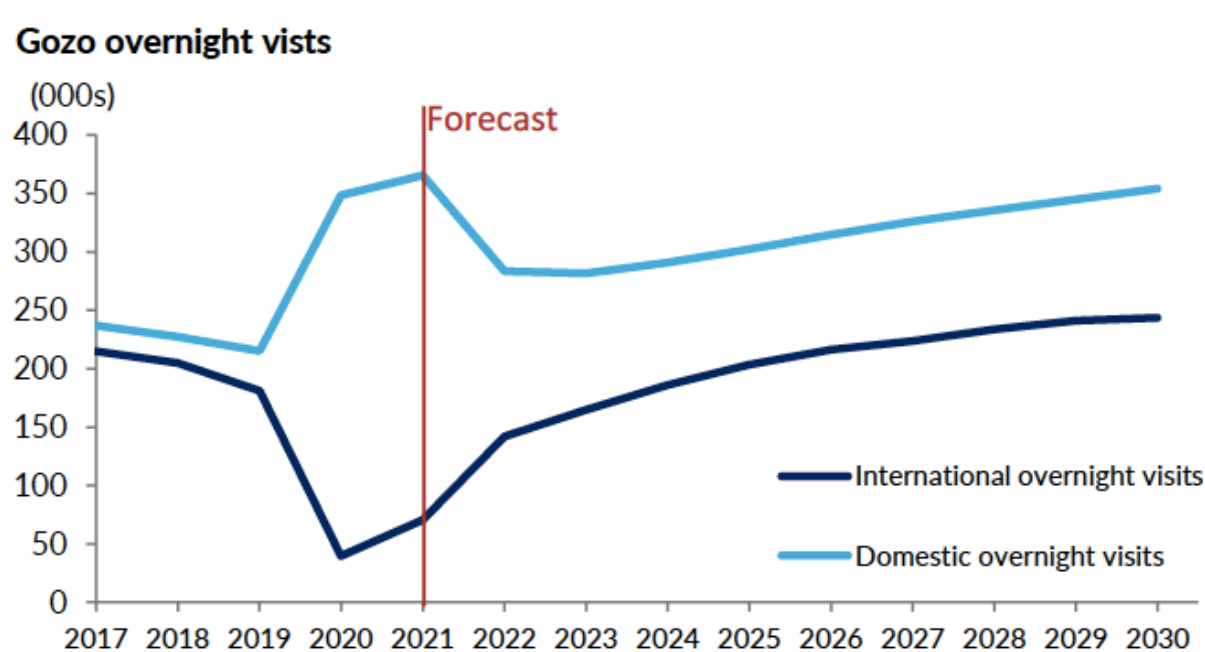
GRDA's CEO Mario Borg gave an overview of the short-term economic outlook for the island and specific budget proposals made by the GRDA for 2023.

The Authority also hosted a panel discussion with leading economists and researchers on regional economic growth and resilience in times of uncertainty.

The results of the new macroeconomic and tourism forecast models will be announced in two annual forecast publications which will be published on the Authority's website.

For more information please contact us at [info@grda.mt](mailto:info@grda.mt)

## Forecast results



## Key points

- The forecast results have been combined with the 2021 data which was released after the forecasts were initially produced.
- There has been a clear substitution effect, with data showing a strong performance for domestic travel in 2020 and 2021, though this is forecast to subside in 2022.
- International overnight visits declined by 78% in 2020 and are not forecast to reach pre-pandemic levels until 2024.

Tourism Forecast Extract.  
Source: Oxford Economics





▲ **Speakers and Panelists at the GRDA's first Regional Economics Conference** **L-R** - The Hon Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri, Panelists: GRDA CEO Mario Borg, Dr Daniel Gravino, Brian Camilleri, Dr Stephanie Fabri, Tania Sultana (not pictured)

## Greening the Islands Observatory Meeting

The Gozo Regional Development Authority, together with the EcoGozo Directorate and the Gozo Chamber of Commerce organised the GTI Observatory as part of the Greening the Islands initiative. Gozo, has been a member of this community since 2018.

The GTI observatory consisted of a two-day meeting where various sectors were discussed and how these can become more sustainable. Topics discussed include the energy and water sector as well as mobility on the island, the waste sector, agriculture, and air quality. Amongst the participants were officials from various Government departments, local Authorities and Corporations as well as educational institutions. Furthermore, present for the meeting, there were members from the business sector.

During the discussions there were various foreign experts who shared their views and best practices on how their islands and countries strengthen the operation of more environmentally friendly methods.





# Human and Talent Development

GRDA launches Scholarships in MCAST Masters Degree and UOM Diplomas in Commerce and Gozo Studies.

## Malta College for Arts Science and Technology (MCAST)

The GRDA has signed a 3-year Framework Collaboration Agreement with MCAST. The agreement outlines the implementation of collaborative initiatives in the areas of Research, Regional Policy, Academic Scholarships and more. This agreement signals the intention of both GRDA and MCAST to collaborate and seek synergies that can be leveraged for the benefit of Gozo.

The first agreement under the Framework Collaboration Agreement is the sponsorship by the GRDA of an MCAST Masters Programme for a maximum total amount of €6,500.

MCAST Deputy Principal Mario Cardona & GRDA CEO Mario Borg

A promotional graphic for the University of Malta Diplomas. The top half features a photograph of four students (three women and one man) standing outside a modern building with large glass windows. The bottom half is a dark blue and green overlay containing text and logos. Logos for the Gozo Regional Development Authority and L-Università ta' Malta are at the top left. The text lists 'Diploma in Commerce' and 'Diploma in Gozo Studies' offered by the 'University of Malta - Gozo Campus'. It states that '90% of tuition fee covered by the Gozo Regional Development Authority'. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn are at the bottom left. Contact information and a disclaimer are at the bottom right.

GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

L-Università ta' Malta

Diploma in Commerce  
Diploma in Gozo Studies

University of Malta - Gozo Campus

90%  
of tuition fee covered  
by the Gozo Regional Development Authority

For more information  
visit [grda.mt](http://grda.mt) or send us  
an email on [grda\\_schemes@grda.mt](mailto:grda_schemes@grda.mt)

Terms & conditions apply.

## University of Malta Diploma Scholarships

The GRDA has also confirmed two scholarship schemes for the Diploma in Commerce and Diploma in Gozo Studies offered by the University of Malta Gozo Campus in Xewkija.



# GRDA Notes & Research

Notes, Research and Feedback  
Statements are regularly published on the  
GRDA website. Keep updated at [grda.mt](https://grda.mt)

## GRDA NOTE: OUTLOOK 2022-24 & BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023



The GRDA serves to address an important gap in the socio-economic development of Gozo by streamlining regional policies and their implementation. This ensures that Gozo's significant and unique economic, social and environment characteristics are reflected in national strategies and policies.

For the first time since its establishment, the GRDA is publishing specific proposals in

preparation for the forthcoming Budget.

The submissions draw on research, consultations with and feedback from stakeholders which the GRDA carries out on an ongoing basis. They are complimentary with and in addition to the measures in the GRDA's Regional Development Strategy that will be published in the coming months.

- 1 Better targeting and alignment of the stamp duty reduction on residential property with Gozo's socio-economic and environmental needs.
- 2 Ring-fencing of revenue from the tourism eco-contribution to Gozo.
- 3 Regional input-output tables for Gozo.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Read the full Note at:

<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Outlook-Pre-Budget-Document.pdf>



## GRDA PUBLICATION: INITIAL EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOZO

A Summary of Opportunities from EU  
funded Programmes for Gozo.

Read the full Report at: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GRDA-Initial-EU-Funding-Opportunities-Roadmap-for-Gozo.pdf>



## GRDA FEEDBACK STATEMENT: A SOCIAL VISION FOR MALTA 2035

Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights.

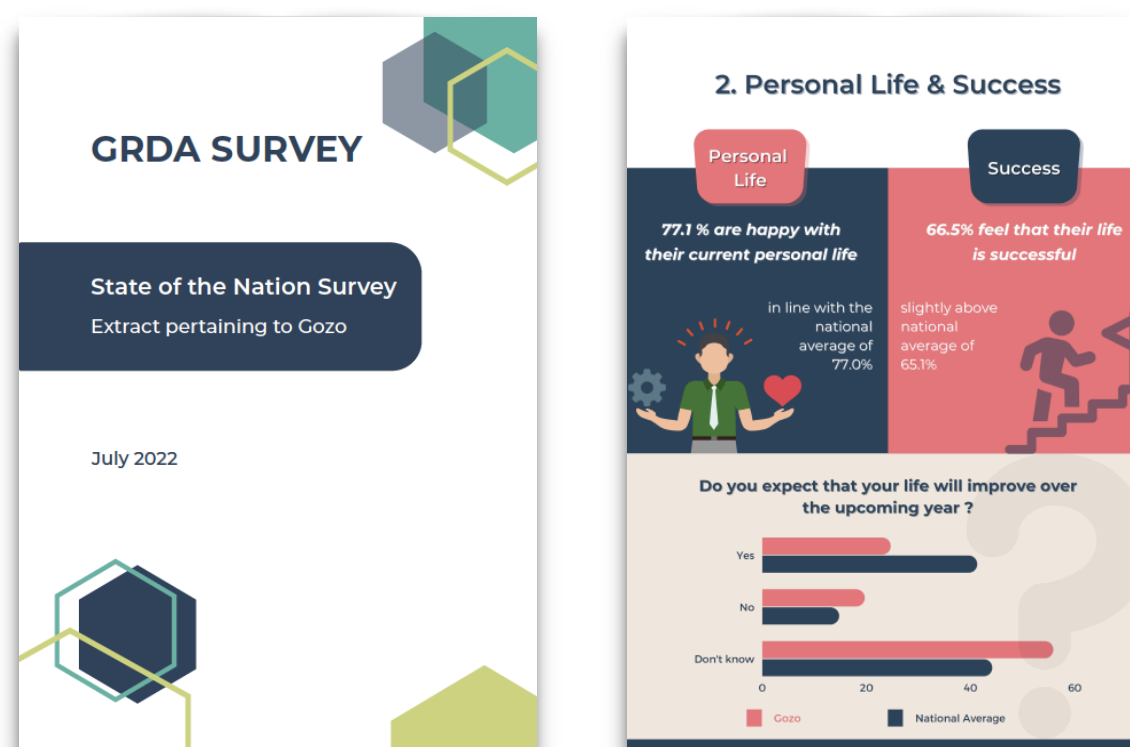


JULY 2022

Read the full GRDA Feedback Statement at:  
<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/A-Social-Vision-for-Malta-2035-Feedback-Statement.pdf>

## GRDA SURVEY: STATE OF THE NATION SURVEY 2022

Extract pertaining to Gozo.



JULY 2022

Read the full GRDA Survey Extract at:  
<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GRDA-Report-Stat-tan-Nazzjon-2022.pdf>



### GRDA PUBLICATION: GOZO BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Read the Publication at: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Incentives-for-Business-in-Gozo.pdf>



### GRDA PUBLICATION: PERSPETTIVI A GOZO REVIEW ISSUE 1

Read the Publication at: [https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Perspettivi\\_Issue-1.pdf](https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Perspettivi_Issue-1.pdf)

# Contact Us

The Gozo Regional Development Authority is based at the Gozo Innovation Hub in Xewkija, Gozo. Stay abreast of our developments at **grda.mt** and reach out to us through our channels:



+356 22156333



[info@grda.mt](mailto:info@grda.mt)







**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY







**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Published by  
**GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Innovation Hub, Xewkija  
Gozo, Malta  
Tel: +356 22156333  
Email: [info@grda.mt](mailto:info@grda.mt)  
**grda.mt**