



GOZO REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# GRDA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022  
ISSUE 2







**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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# Small Islands Organisation

The GRDA participates at the SMILO Annual Conference held on the island of Culatra in Portugal.

The Gozo Regional Development Authority has participated at the Small Islands Organisation's (SMILO) Annual Conference held on the island of Culatra, in the region of Algarve, Portugal.

SMILO is an NGO that assists small islands of less than 150 km<sup>2</sup> that wish to work towards managing their territory more sustainably.

The conference delved upon the subjects of renewable and sustainable energy, waste management within islands, mechanisms intended to enhance local economic development, and sharing of best practices within islands.

## Solutions for waste-free islands in the Mediterranean

The GRDA also participated in a 3-day workshop, "Solutions for waste-free islands in the Mediterranean", organised by SMILO on the Frioul Archipelago, in France.

This workshop was part of the **Erasmus+** program 'Circular Economy On Small EU Islands', of which GRDA (Gozo) is a participant, together with the other partners: Public Institution Sea and Karst-MORE I KRŠ (Hvar & Pakleni, Croatia), Anemos Ananeosis (Sifnos, Greece), Frioul Island Committee (Frioul, France).

▼ GRDA CEO Mario Borg sharing best practices with fellow delegates at the SMILO Conference.



GRDA's Marthese Cassar delivering her presentation at the SMILO workshop in France. ▼





# Healthy Spaces for Children

## GRDA Webinar in collaboration with the Centre for Resilience & Socio-Economic Health.

The GRDA, in collaboration with the Centre for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health - University of Malta held its first webinar focusing on the findings related to **Healthy Spaces for Children in Towns and Villages in Gozo**.

Professor Carmel Cefai and his research team presented the findings of a study that investigated how Gozitan towns and villages may become more child friendly.

The webinar was also addressed by Suzanne Gili from the Office of the Commissioner for Children. Presentations were delivered by Mr Joseph Cutajar, Director of Eco-Gozo and Mr Kevin Cauchi, Mayor of Għajnsielem Local Council.

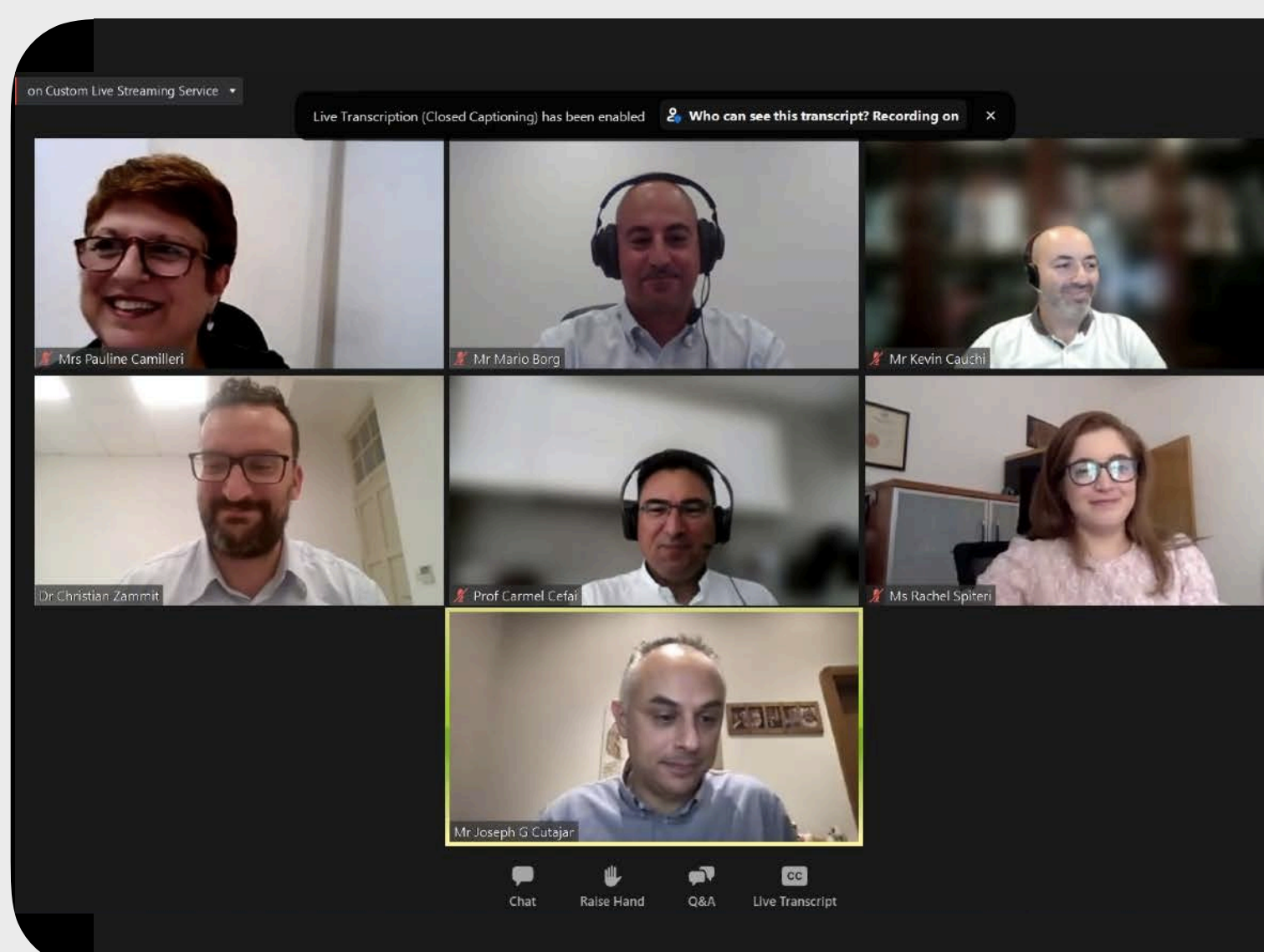
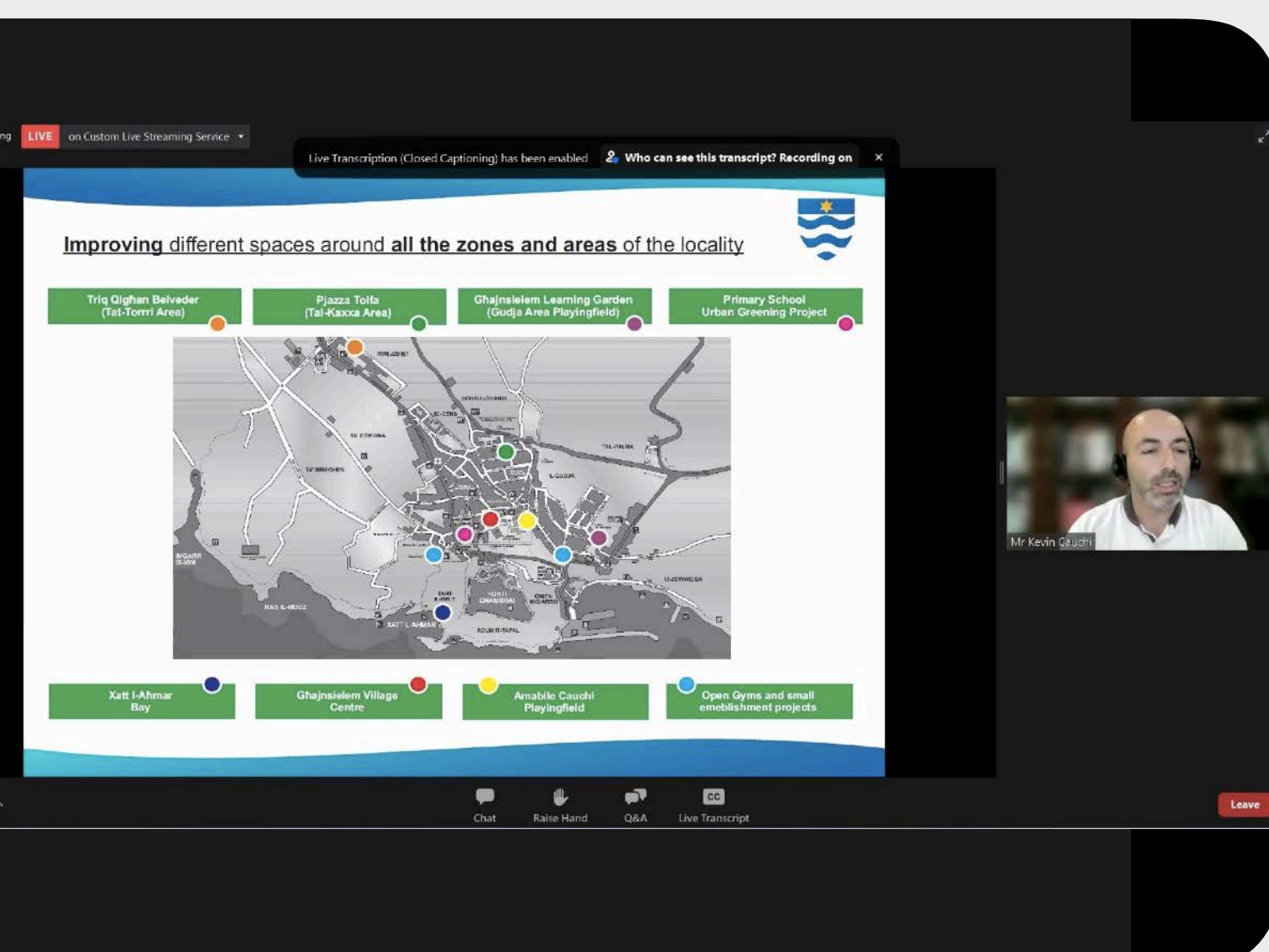
Mental health issues and awareness were discussed by Pauline Camilleri, Senior Social Worker at Gozo General Hospital and President of the Mental Health Association Gozo.

The Webinar is available for viewing on the GRDA's Facebook Page at:  
<https://fb.watch/gRRRCDoDc2/>



GRDA Webinar on Healthy Spaces within Towns and Villages in Gozo.

L-R Pauline Camilleri, Mario Borg, Kevin Cauchi, Christian Zammit, Prof Carmel Cefai, Rachel Spiteri and Joseph Cutajar.





# International Collaborations

## GRDA and Greening The Islands sign Framework Collaboration Agreement.

As part of its international outreach and collaborative projects, the GRDA has consolidated its cooperation with Greening the Islands through the signing of a Framework Collaboration Agreement. This will allow a more coordinated approach in areas that are in line with the GRDA's work of formulating, streamlining and helping in the implementation of regional policies for Gozo.

The agreement, signed at the GRDA offices in Gozo on Friday, October 7, relates to initiatives including:

- innovative and sustainable environmental solutions for the generation of energy and water supply;
- the development of suitable industrial policies and good governance practices;
- the enhancement of sustainable green mobility that supports the island's needs;
- the development of innovative solutions



**L-R** Greening the Islands Director Gianni Chianetta and GRDA CEO Mario Borg

in the field of agriculture, waste management and tourism; and

- the development of integrated solutions that enhance environmental protection and help Gozo achieve its greening goals.

## Stakeholder Consultative Groups

Following its call for expression of interest for participation in its Stakeholder Consultative Groups, the GRDA held the first quarterly meetings in October. These meetings are an essential part of the GRDA's ongoing consultation with the community and follow the key priority areas of the draft Regional

Development Strategy for Gozo. The next meetings will be held in January:

- Tangible Assets and Spatial Planning
- Intangible Assets Planning
- Social Impact and Identity
- Sustainability and Circular Economy





▼ The GRDA participates during the launch of the digital platform – ‘Timeline Gozo’

## GRDA participates in launch of Digital Platform Timeline Gozo

Mario Borġ, CEO of the GRDA, participated during a panel discussion, organised by the The Gozo Business Chamber, during which the Chamber launched the Digital Platform - ‘Timeline Gozo’. The panel discussion focused on the importance of digitalisation for businesses and NGOs in Gozo.

## GRDA joins EURADA

The GRDA has joined EURADA - The European Association of Development Agencies. Founded in 1992, EURADA gathers professionals working on economic development across Europe.

The association facilitates the cooperation among regional economic development practitioners. They can network, plan common EU projects, cooperate, advocate, and participate at European level. EURADA serves as international well-established facility to connect development agencies with each other, with Europe, and with the opportunities Europe has to offer.



The GRDA participates during the Sixth Form Day at Sir M.A Refalo

## Sixth Form Day at Sir MA Refalo

The GRDA was invited to participate in this year’s Sixth Form Day, an annual event held each November and organised by Sir M. A. Refalo Centre for Further Studies - 6th Form. This provided the opportunity for the Authority to meet Gozo’s youth and talk about its role and plans for the future, both in terms of Gozo’s socio-economic development and future job opportunities.

## Energy Academy Malta Conference

GRDA Research & Policy Manager, Marthese Cassar participated in the Energy Academy Malta Conference on 13-14 October. The EU Commission Conference highlighted current developments on Malta’s energy transition, the legal framework for production of renewable energy and energy efficiency and new projects developed to help reduce the country’s dependence on fossil fuels. In her presentation, Marthese spoke about the “Preparatory work leading to Gozo’s participation in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.”





# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**The Gozo Regional Development Authority would like to inform you that its offices will be closed from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December till Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

## New GRDA Office in Victoria ►

To celebrate the festive season, the GRDA hosted employees, Board Members and Ministry of Gozo Officials at the new GRDA Offices in Victoria, located opposite Villa Rundle.

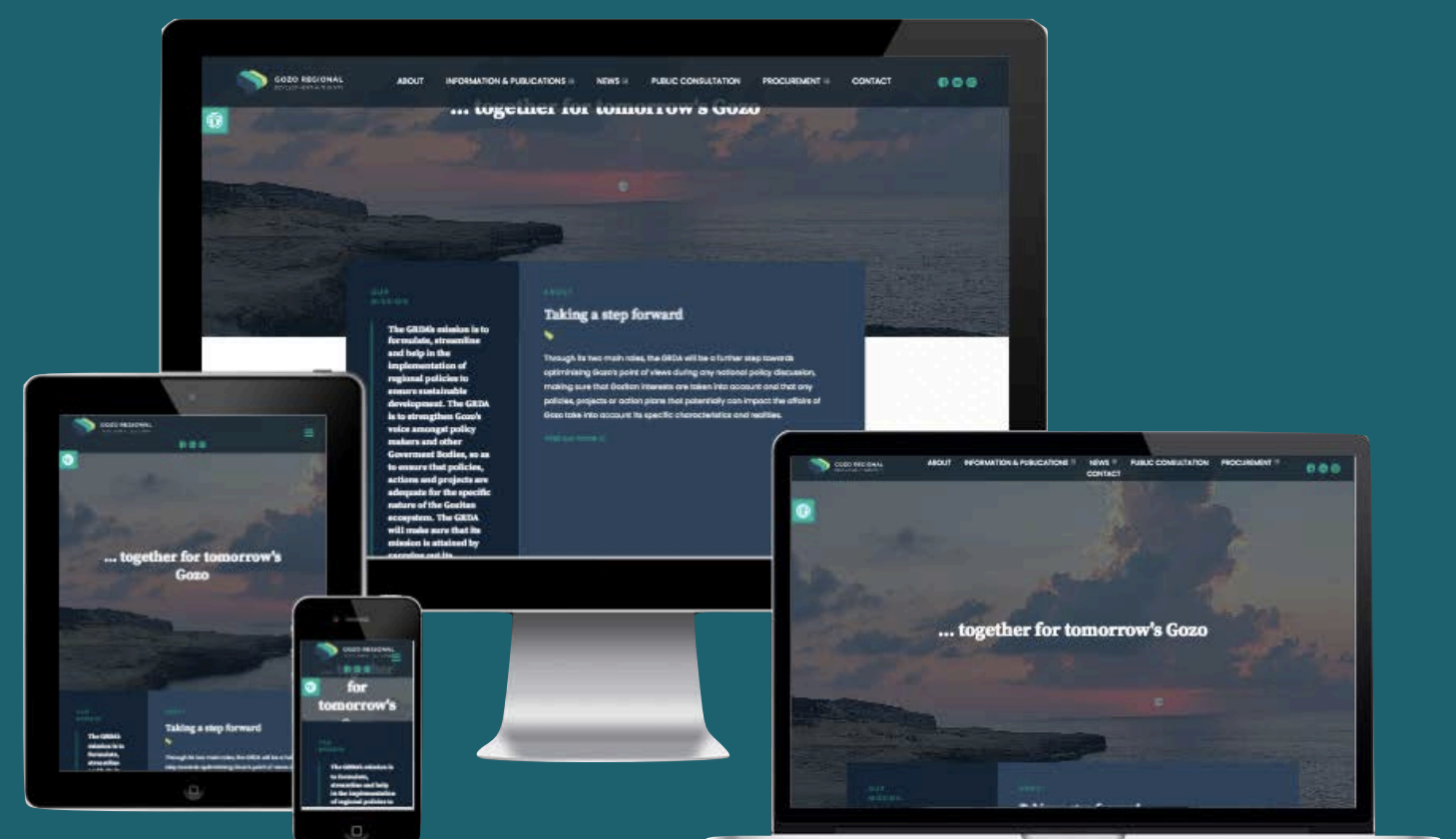
GRDA CEO Mario Borg welcomed the Hon. Minister for Gozo, Clint Camilleri, and

accompanied him on a tour of the offices.

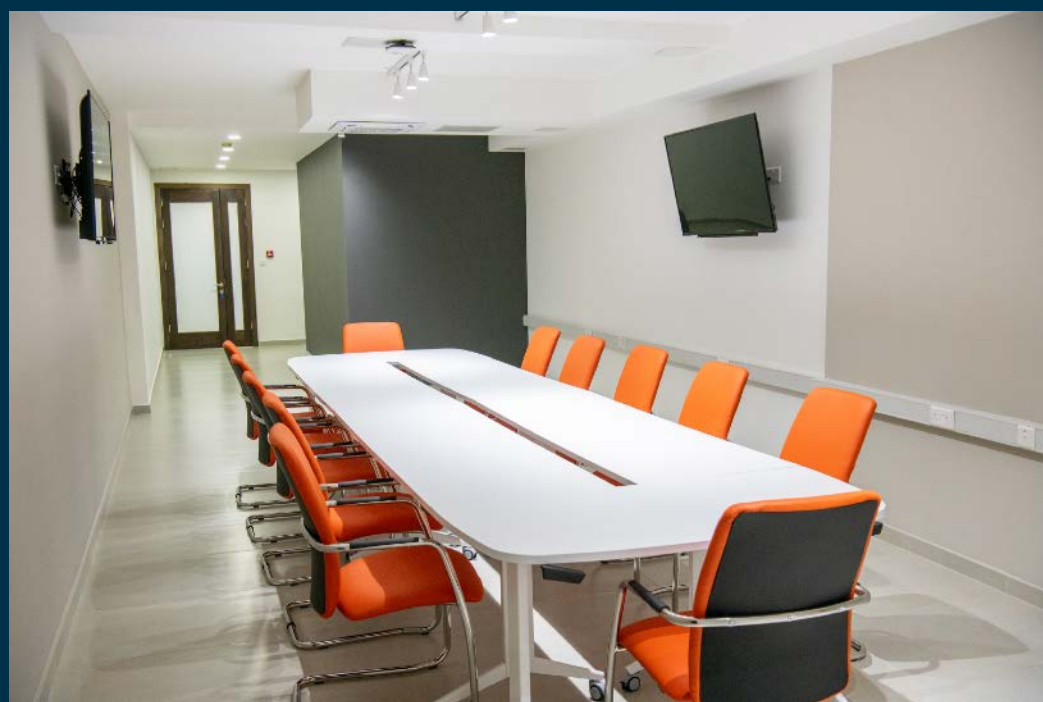
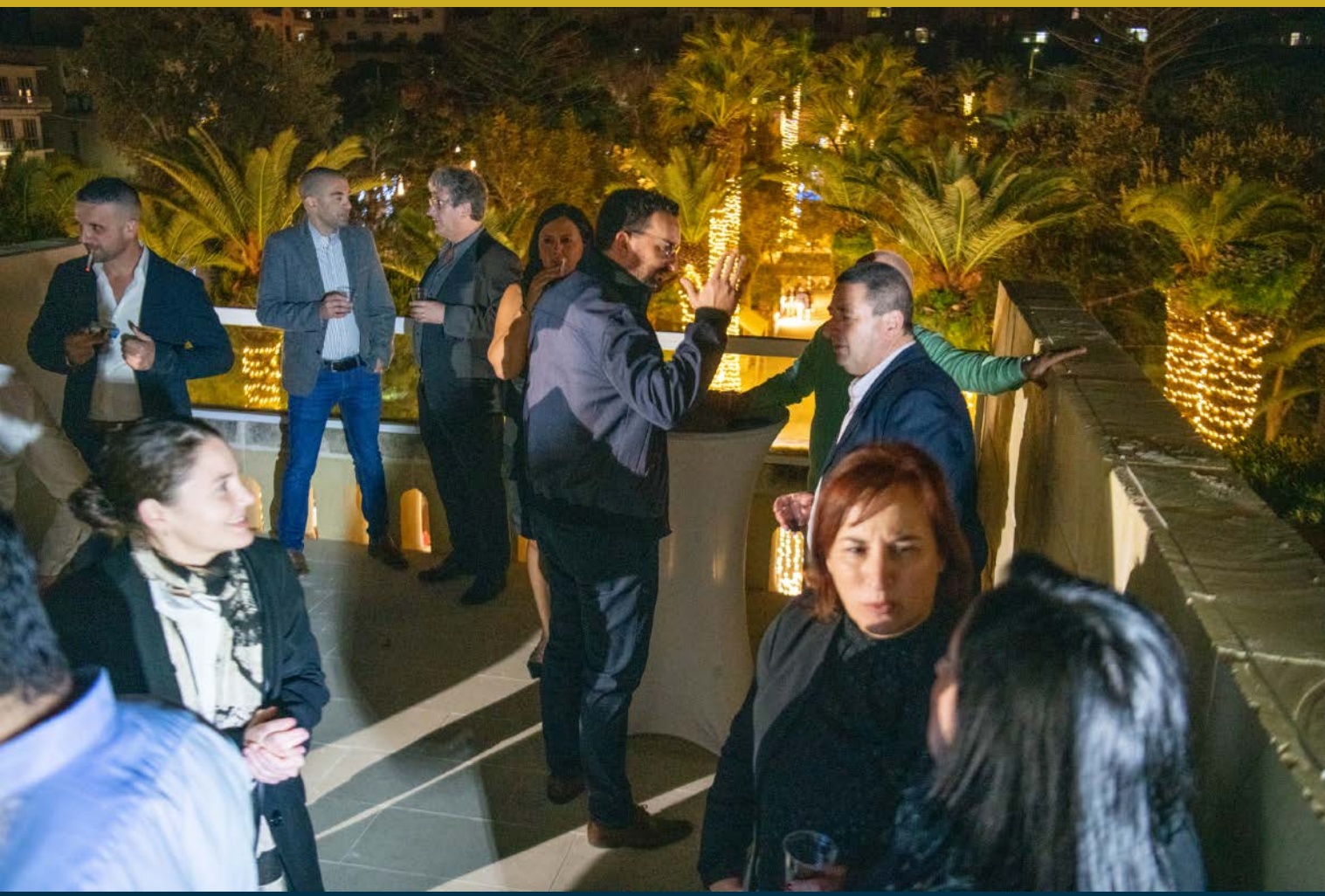
Further details and opportunities to visit us will be announced in the new year. May we take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones all the best for the festive season.

## GRDA Website

The GRDA Website at grda.mt has been upgraded so that it is in line in relation to the requirements of Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, known also as the Web Accessibility Directive.









# 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:

## IMPACT OF THE 2023 BUDGET ON GOZO



The Regional Analysis of the Budget 2023:

- provides an overview of the main fiscal measures announced by the Minister for Finance and Employment during the Budget Speech for 2023<sup>1</sup>;
- outlines the budget initiatives which are specifically aimed at Gozo;

- summarises past and projected public investment spending.

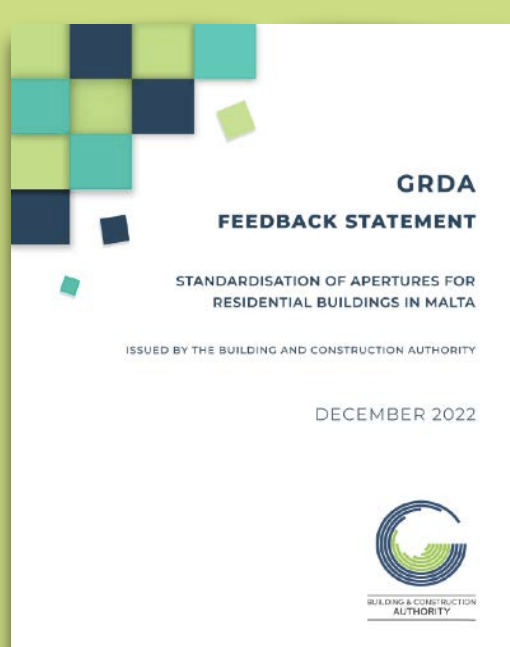
The final section of the note focuses on the economic impact of selected budget initiatives on the economy of Gozo. This analysis is based on the Gozo Economic Modelling tool developed by Oxford Economics for the GRDA and includes:

- New Investment Projects including the new warehouse park in Xewkija and the restoration of the Gozo Aqueduct in the vicinities of Victoria.
- The New Tourism Scheme set to be introduced in 2023 to enhance tourism during the low season.

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Read the full GRDA Note at: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Budget-2023-A-Regional-Analysis.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> The Budget Speech 2023 is available from: <https://finance.gov.mt/23/Documents/Budget-2023-Speech.pdf>.



## GRDA FEEDBACK STATEMENT: STANDARDISATION OF APERTURES FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN MALTA

Building and Construction Authority

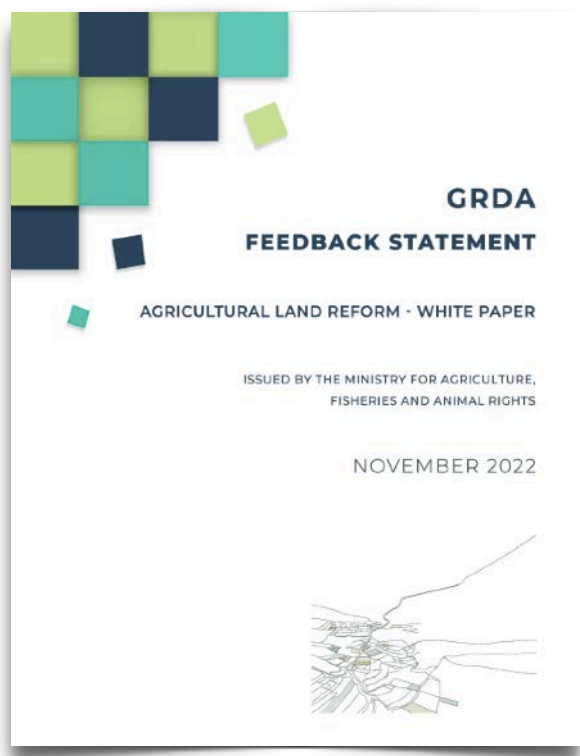
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Read the full Report at: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Feedback-on-Apertures.pdf>



**GRDA FEEDBACK STATEMENT:**  
**AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM**

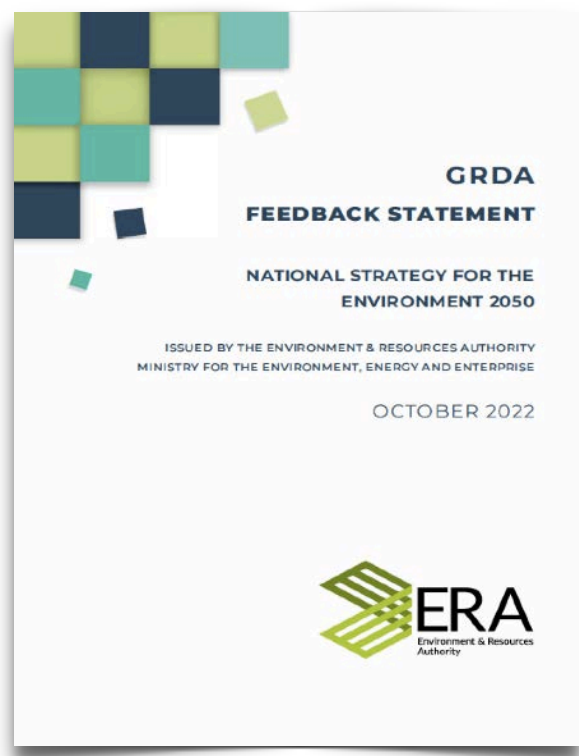
Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.



NOVEMBER 2022  
Read the full GRDA Feedback Statement at:  
<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Feedback-on-Agricultural-Land-Reform-07.11.22.pdf>

**GRDA FEEDBACK STATEMENT:**  
**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 2050**

Environment and Resources Authority  
Ministry for the Environment, Energy & Enterprise



OCTOBER 2022  
Read the full Feedback Statement at:  
<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Feedback-on-the-Environment-Strategy-2050.pdf>



**We have moved**

The Gozo Regional Development Authority has moved offices to the heart of our capital at 75, Republic Street, Victoria (opposite Villa Rundle). We look forward to welcoming you there in 2023.

Please note that the GRDA Offices will close for Christmas recess between Monday 26 and Friday 30 December, 2022. We will reopen on Monday 2 January, 2023.



## CONTACT US



The Gozo Regional Development Authority is located at 75, Republic Street, Victoria, Gozo. Stay abreast of our developments at [grda.mt](http://grda.mt) and reach out to us through our channels:



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