

GOZO REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GRDA

# Newsletter

MARCH 2023  
ISSUE 3







**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Published by  
**GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
75, Republic Street, Victoria, VCT 1018,  
Gozo, Malta  
Tel: +356 22156342  
Email: [info@grda.mt](mailto:info@grda.mt)  
**grda.mt**

Front Cover: GRDA Stakeholder Consultative Group Meeting

This publication may not be used in any format or medium.  
This material is property of the Gozo Regional Development Authority.  
Any queries regarding this publication should be sent on: [info@grda.mt](mailto:info@grda.mt).  
Designed by the GRDA. © Copyright 2023.



MARCH 2023

# In this edition

1

New GRDA Offices Inaugurated

2

Employment and Skills  
Webinar

3

Circular Economy Conference

4

A snapshot of News, Events and Initiatives

5

GRDA Research and Notes

6

Contact Us



# Official Opening GRDA Offices

The GRDA welcomes you to its new offices in the heart of Victoria.

The GRDA's new offices in Republic Street, Victoria were officially opened in February. During the inauguration, Prime Minister Robert Abela remarked on the pivotal role played by the Authority in pushing forward ambitious initiatives including the target that Gozo reaches carbon neutrality.

Prime Minister Abela highlighted the fact that Gozo remains at the centre of Government's policy, with record investment made over the last years. While Government continued with capital projects such as the Aquatic and Sport Centre, it also made sure that the private sector remains competitive and provided the necessary support. He mentioned that over the last three years, Malta Enterprise helped around one thousand businesses operating from Gozo

with financial assistance of around €17 million. The Prime Minister added that his Government is committed to drive measures and direct investment to Gozo that will translate into further economic growth on the Island.

Mario Borġ, Chief Executive Officer of the Authority said that over the last two years, the Authority has established itself as a leading entity in Gozo. He mentioned how, among others, the Authority has worked on many policies and projects related to more sustainable socio-economic development, as well as setting up structures through which ensure dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

**R-L** The Hon. Prime Minister, Robert Abela; The Hon. Minister for Gozo, Clint Camilleri; GRDA Chairman, Michael Galea and GRDA CEO, Mario Borġ.



GRDA's Mario Borġ leads a tour of the GRDA Offices, located opposite Villa Rundle in Republic Street, Victoria.





# Employment and Skills

GRDA publishes a Discussion Paper and holds the Webinar - “Employment and Skills: the Gozo Perspective”.

The GRDA has published a Discussion Paper on Employment and Skills in Gozo. This analysis provides an in-depth regional assessment of the demand for and supply of employment on the island. The paper outlines the challenges, the strengths, and the opportunities that Gozo could build upon to unlock its growth potential. The contents of this discussion paper are presented to foster a wider discussion on this topic and to help formulate research-based policy recommendations.

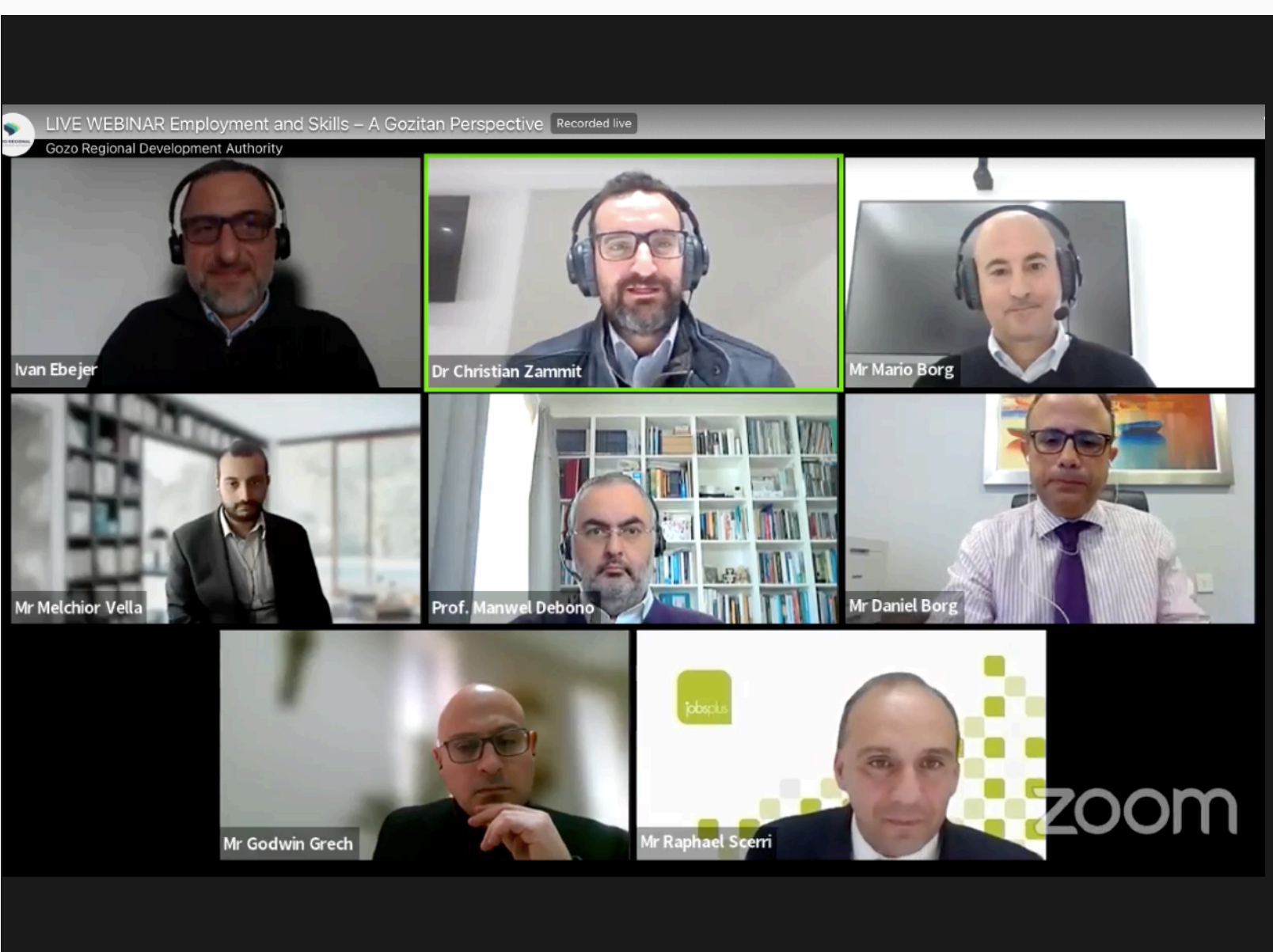
The study was carried out by Ivan Ebejer, economist, consultant and foresight strategist, assisted by Mr Mario Borg and Mr Juergen Attard from the Gozo Regional Development Authority. The findings and recommendations were presented to the public during a GRDA webinar.

The webinar brought together leading experts in the employment field including Melchior Vella, visiting lecturer at the University of Malta; Prof Manwel Debono, lecturer at the University of Malta; Daniel Borg, CEO of the Gozo Business Chamber; Raphael Scerri, Head of Employer Services Division at Jobsplus; Godwin Grech, Director of MCAST in Gozo; Ivan Ebejer and GRDA CEO Mario Borg.

The Discussion Paper can be read and downloaded on the GRDA Website at [grda.mt](http://grda.mt) while the 2.5-hour long Webinar is available for viewing on the GRDA's Facebook Page at: <https://fb.watch/jxb-2RUgzi/>.

Click Icon to view.

L-R Ivan Ebejer, Christian Zammit, Mario Borg, Melchior Vella, Prof Manwel Debono, Daniel Borg, Godwin Grech and Raphael Scerri.





# Circular Economy Conference

## GRDA hosts Small Islands Organisation delegation to a three-day conference in Gozo.

The Gozo Regional Development Authority, in collaboration with SMILO - Small Islands Organisation, held a three-day conference on **'Circular Economy in small EU Islands'**. The conference, held in Gozo, was funded through the Erasmus+ programme.

During the conference, local stakeholders shared their insight with participants hailing from the Mediterranean islands of Frioul in France, Pakleni in Croatia and Sifnos in Greece.

The conference, held at the GRDA offices in Victoria, focused on water conservation including the use of second-class water for irrigation and renewable energy in small islands.

SMILO Sustainable Islands network is an NGO, governed by French law, with the mission to support small islands wish to adopt a more sustainable way of managing their territory. SMILO's actions cover various transversal themes such as water, waste management, energy, biodiversity, landscaping, and island heritage.

Over thirty island territories, including Gozo, are members of the SMILO network, embracing a spirit of cooperation and solidarity between islands. The network is composed of islands located in Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, the Indian Ocean, and South-East Asia.

GRDA CEO Mario Borg delivering a presentation on Circular Economy in the Conference Room at Level 4 of the GRDA Offices.



GRDA Staff with SMILO Delegates at Mgarr ix-Xini.







Joseph Cutajar, Director of the EcoGozo Directorate within the Ministry for Gozo, addressing delegates in Victoria. ▲

Christian Zammit, Senior Manager at the GRDA, sharing the stories of Ġgantija Temples in Xagħra and the Citadel in Victoria.

▲ Joe Muscat, CEO of the Gozo Tourism Association, addressing delegates in Victoria.

Ing Ronald Pace, from the Water Services Corporation, gave a tour and detailed explanation of the Hondoq RO Plant. Ing. Pace explained the importance of this plant in replenishing Gozo with drinkable water.

Ing Charles Camilleri and Mr Mark Grima explain the process of treating sewage before being discharged, and the process to polish water and distribute to the agricultural sector through the 2nd Class water distribution network.

Delegates attending the Circular Economy Conference enjoyed a mix of Seminars and Workshops at the GRDA Office and site visits and tours of key locations around the island of Gozo.



# Gozo project wins GTI Awards

Eco-Gozo - A Better Gozo wins 8th edition of the Greening the Islands Awards.

The GRDA participated in the Greening the Islands (GTI) Observatory Summit in the Canary Islands and presented **Eco-Gozo - A Better Gozo** Prima Med-Wet Project for the GTI Awards.

The project placed first and won the 8th edition of the GTI Awards. The GRDA also contributed to the discussion on islands transition to more sustainable forms of energy, the challenges for effective decarbonisation policy, financing methods and sustainable tourism.



## SEASON 2

### GRDA Podcast



The Gozo Regional Development Authority has released a new season of its **Official Podcast**, covering various aspects of life on Gozo.

Hosted by leading journalists or public figures, each 30-minute podcast features a different guest speaker. Released so far:

Podcast 1 | **Gozo Channel**

with Gozo Channel Chairman, Joe Cordina

Podcast 2 | **Diving**

with Diving Instructor / Owner, Brian Azzopardi

Podcast 3 | **Gozo's Cultural Heritage**

with Cultural Heritage Director, John Xuereb

Podcast 4 | **Dwejra**

with San Lawrenz Mayor, Noel Formosa

Podcast 5 | **National Statistics Office in Gozo**

with NSO Director, Manuel Tabone

Catch up on both Seasons of our Official Podcast at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/gozorda/videos>





Andrew Brooke and Marthese Cassar presenting the donation to Fondazzjoni Arka ▲



▲ The GRDA Stakeholder Consultative Group Meetings

## GRDA presentation to Fondazzjoni Arka

The GRDA staff presented a donation of €500 to Gozo NGO, Fondazzjoni Arka. The donation was collected throughout the year by a voluntary contribution scheme among staff.

## EURADA Winter School

Two GRDA officers participated in a 3-day Winter School on Smart Specialisation for competitive, sustainable, and resilient local development. Organised by the European Association of Development Agencies (EURADA), the course programme offered a deeper understanding of megatrends and their possible effects on local development and a better understanding of research methods for evidence-based policy-making at local level. Participants also developed expertise in putting in place effective regional and local development strategies and policy frameworks for competitiveness and sustainability.

L-R H.E. Ms Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of India to Malta and GRDA CEO, Mario Borg ▶

EURADA Winter School ▼



## Stakeholder Consultative Groups

The second meeting of the GRDA Stakeholder Consultative Groups was held at the GRDA Offices in Victoria. The agenda for this meeting included the Employment and Skills in Gozo and the GRDA Feedback Statement on the Agricultural Land Reform White Paper.

## Meeting with High Commissioner of India to Malta

Mario Borg, CEO of the GRDA was invited for a cordial meeting in Gozo with H.E. Ms Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of India to Malta and Second Secretary, Mr Aniruddha Das. During the meeting, Mr Borg explained the role of the GRDA while other issues of common interest were also explored. The GRDA looks forward to further collaboration with the Commission.



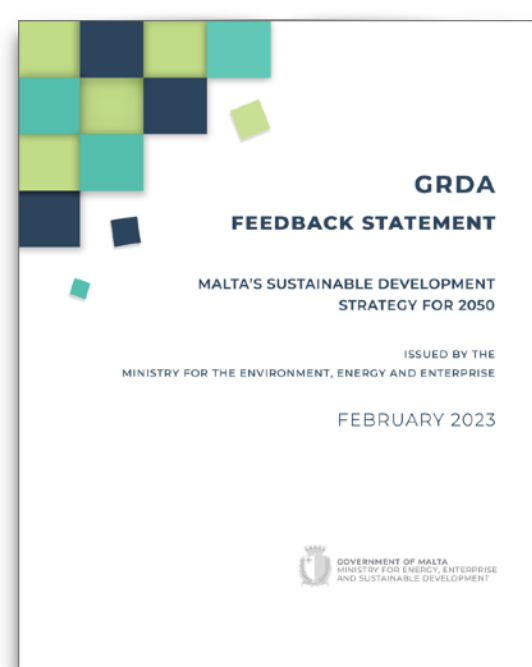


# GRDA Notes & Research

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

## GRDA FEEDBACK STATEMENT: MALTA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2050

Ministry for the Environment, Energy & Enterprise



The GRDA supports Malta's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050. The benefits of sustainable development will positively impact the Maltese Islands including Gozo and its inhabitants. However, in order to reach the desired goals, as mentioned within the strategy, synergies between different ministries is necessary. The GRDA is actively involved in the formulation of national strategies and policies in order to make sure that Gozo's development is factored in, within the

assessment and implementation stages of any Government intervention which will have an impact, whether significant or not, upon the community of Gozo.

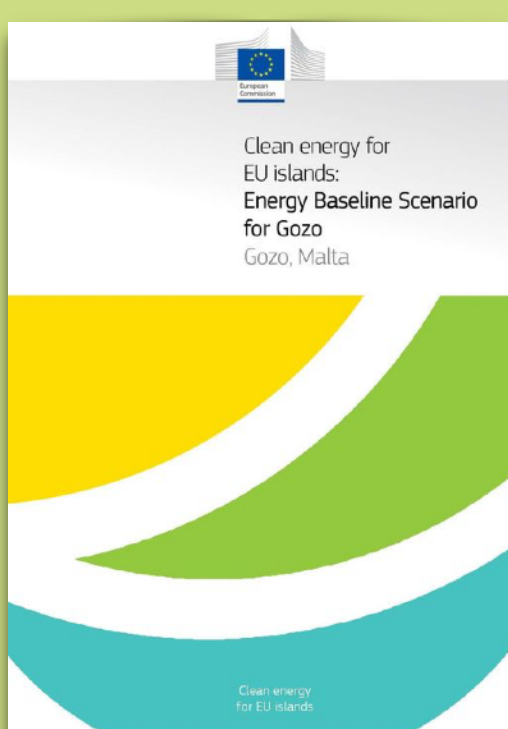
Gozo was recently chosen to participate in the EU Mission "**100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030**", a fund under Horizon Europe. The aim of this mission is to have 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030.

Through this mission, Gozo, through the GRDA, will receive technical advice and assistance from the Mission Platform (managed by the NetZeroCities consortium), which will lead to the publication of the Climate City Contract. The Climate City Contract entails the commitments, action plan and investments. Eventually, Gozo will be recognised as a Climate-Neutral and Smart City, hence creating an increased opportunity for funding relevant projects and participating in pilot projects.

FEBRUARY 2023

Read the full Feedback Statement at:

<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/FEEDBA1.pdf>



## CLEAN ENERGY FOR EU ISLANDS PUBLICATION CLEAN ENERGY FOR EU ISLANDS: THE ENERGY BASELINE SCENARIO FOR GOZO

Clean Energy for EU Islands

MARCH 2023

Read the full Report at: <https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu/countries/gozo>



## GRDA PUBLICATION: ANNUAL REPORT 2022



2022 was a year of significant progress for the GRDA. Learn more about the Gozo Regional Development Authority and our work, achievements and milestones in our Annual Report for 2022.

The detailed report covers all aspects of our endeavours including our setup and structure, legal and compliance, communications and social dialogue, project management and implementation, research and policy and more.

MARCH 2023

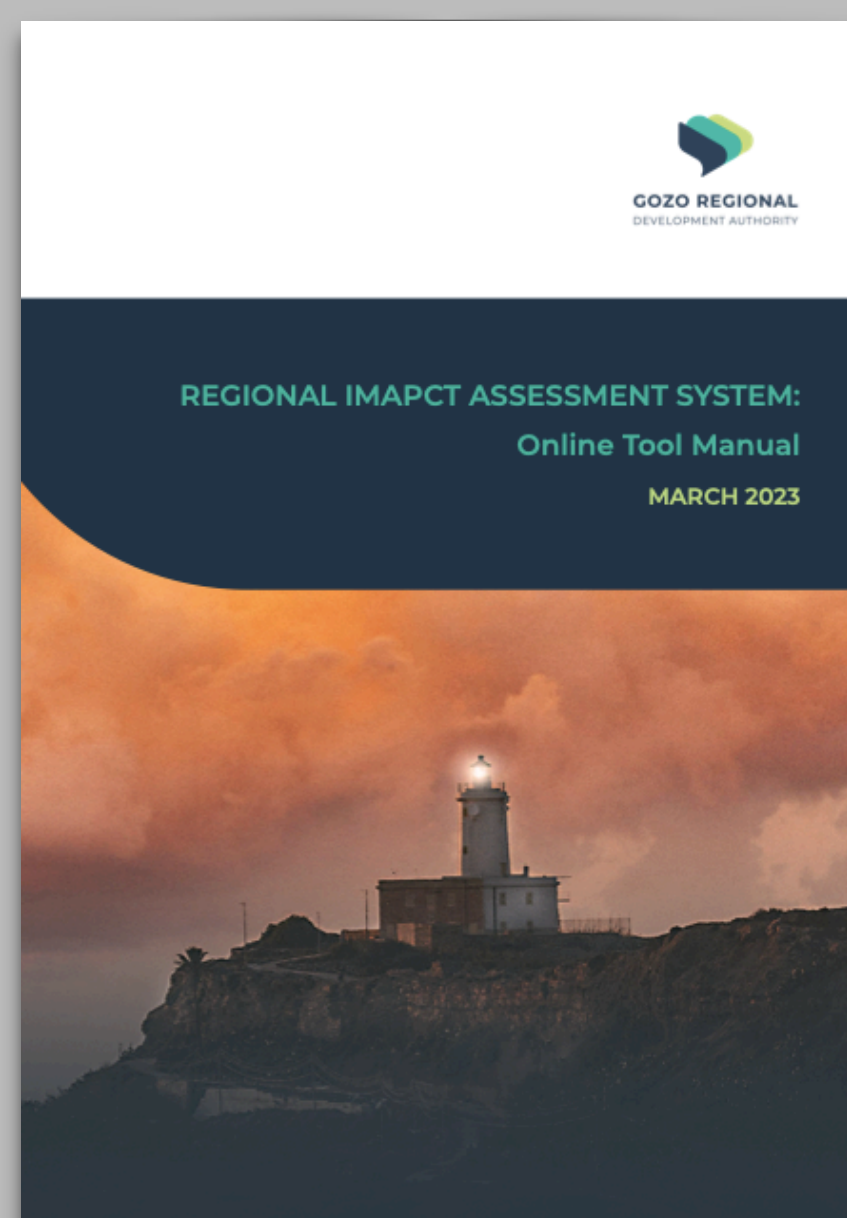
Read the full GRDA Annual Report at:  
[https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GRDA\\_Annual-Report-2022\\_VH\\_OP-WEB.pdf](https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GRDA_Annual-Report-2022_VH_OP-WEB.pdf)

## New Regional Impact Assessment Online Tool

The Regional Impact Assessment System (RIAS): is a planning tool that outlines the GRDA's requirements for assessing socio-economic and environmental impacts of any significant Government of Malta intervention on the community of Gozo.

An online tool has been developed by the GRDA to assist potential proponents with carrying out a preliminary self-assessment on whether a project merits further analysis with regards the RIAS. This is carried out through a set of questions. By providing 'yes' or 'no' answers to each of the questions, the preliminary screening tool informs the Proponent whether it should inform GRDA about the proposed intervention or otherwise.

Read more about and access the system on the GRDA's website at: <https://grda.mt/regional-impact-assessment-online-tool/>







## CONTACT US

### GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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:



+356 22156342



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

