



GOZO REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GRDA

Newsletter

JUNE 2023

ISSUE 4





GOZO REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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75, Republic Street, Victoria, VCT 1018,
Gozo, Malta
Tel: +356 22156333
Email: info@grda.mt
grda.mt

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GRDA Regional Tourism Conference

Snapshot of Visitors' Perspective captured in new tourism survey.

The Gozo Regional Development Authority held its first regional tourism conference entitled – **Tourism in Gozo: A Visitors' Perspective.**

The well-attended conference was opened by Mario Borg, CEO of the GRDA who stressed why the Authority felt the need to organise this conference and present two studies on how tourists and visitors alike perceive Gozo.

Lawrence Zammit, Director at MISCO, presented the results of a survey among 401 participants including an overview of the results and interesting insights that were uncovered during the survey. Economist Ruben Ellul Dimech presented an analysis of TripAdvisor reviews for Gozo which provide some key insights in the strengths and weaknesses of Gozo as a tourist destination.

A panel discussion followed, with the participation of Ronald Sultana, Director for Tourism and Economic Development at the Ministry for Gozo, Leslie Vella, Deputy CEO at the Malta Tourism Authority, Joe Muscat, CEO of the Gozo Tourism Association, and Prof. Marie Avellino, Director at the Institute for Tourism, Travel, and Culture at the University of Malta. The discussion was moderated by journalist Fiorella Pace.

The Hon. Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo concluded the conference. Minister Camilleri stressed the importance of continuing to invest in this important industry for the island of Gozo and the need to continue to give a distinctive experience to our visitors, which is the cutting edge for our competing neighbours.

Excerpts from the Tourism in Gozo: a Visitors' Perspective Survey results presented during the Conference. ▼

Speakers, Panellists and Participants at the GRDA Regional Tourism Conference. ►

Overall most tourists seem very satisfied with their visit. Tourists who overnight have a higher satisfaction rating, even more so those visiting Gozo on their own.

Overall satisfaction scores



Most tourists, regardless of their length of visit would revisit the island.

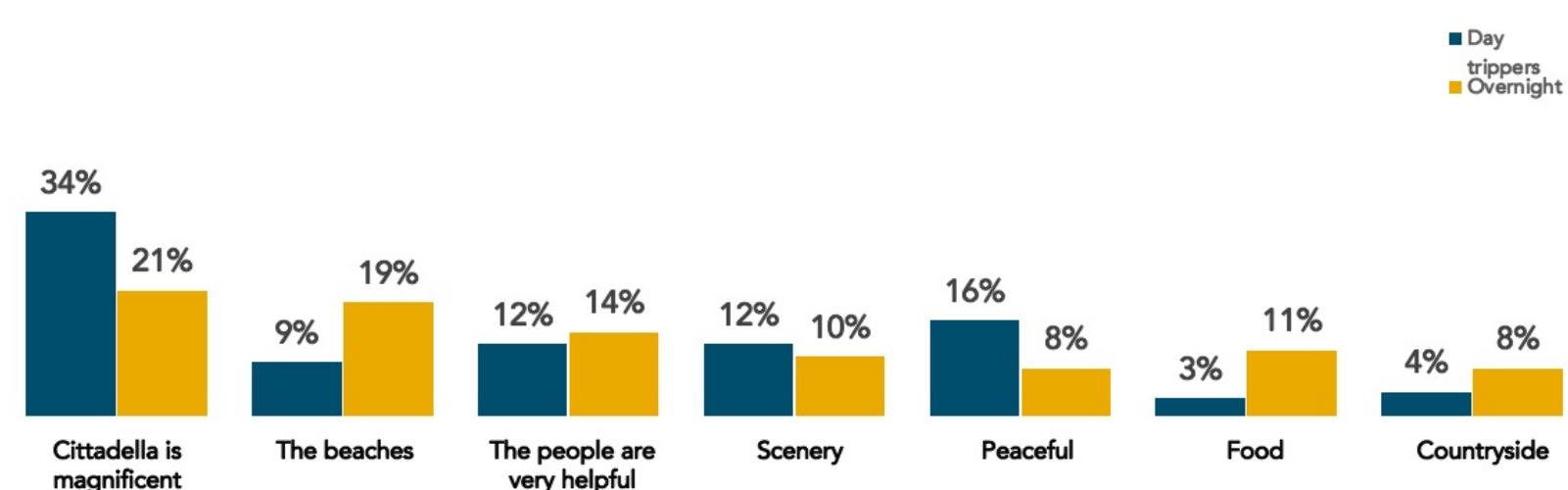
Likelihood to revisit Gozo





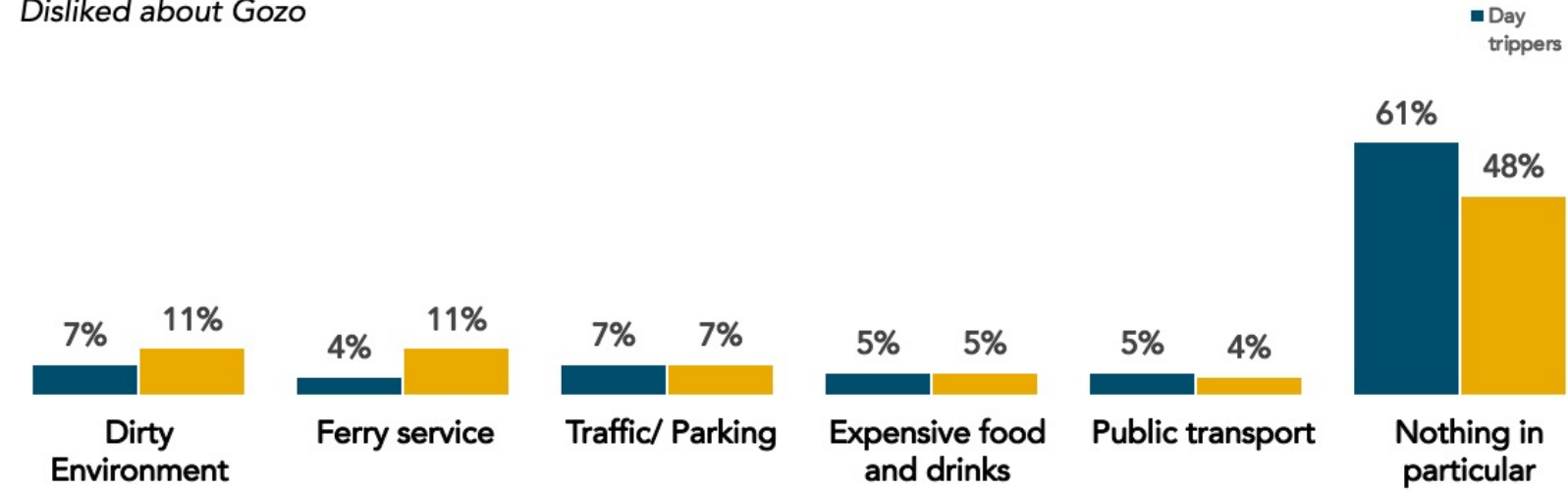
In mentioning two things about Gozo, most respondents found Cittadella to be magnificent. However the varied responses of those who overnight in Gozo show that Gozo needs to be fully experienced.

Liked about Gozo



The main pain points for those who overnight in Gozo are the ferry service and the dirty environment. However 48% of respondents found nothing they disliked about Gozo.

Disliked about Gozo



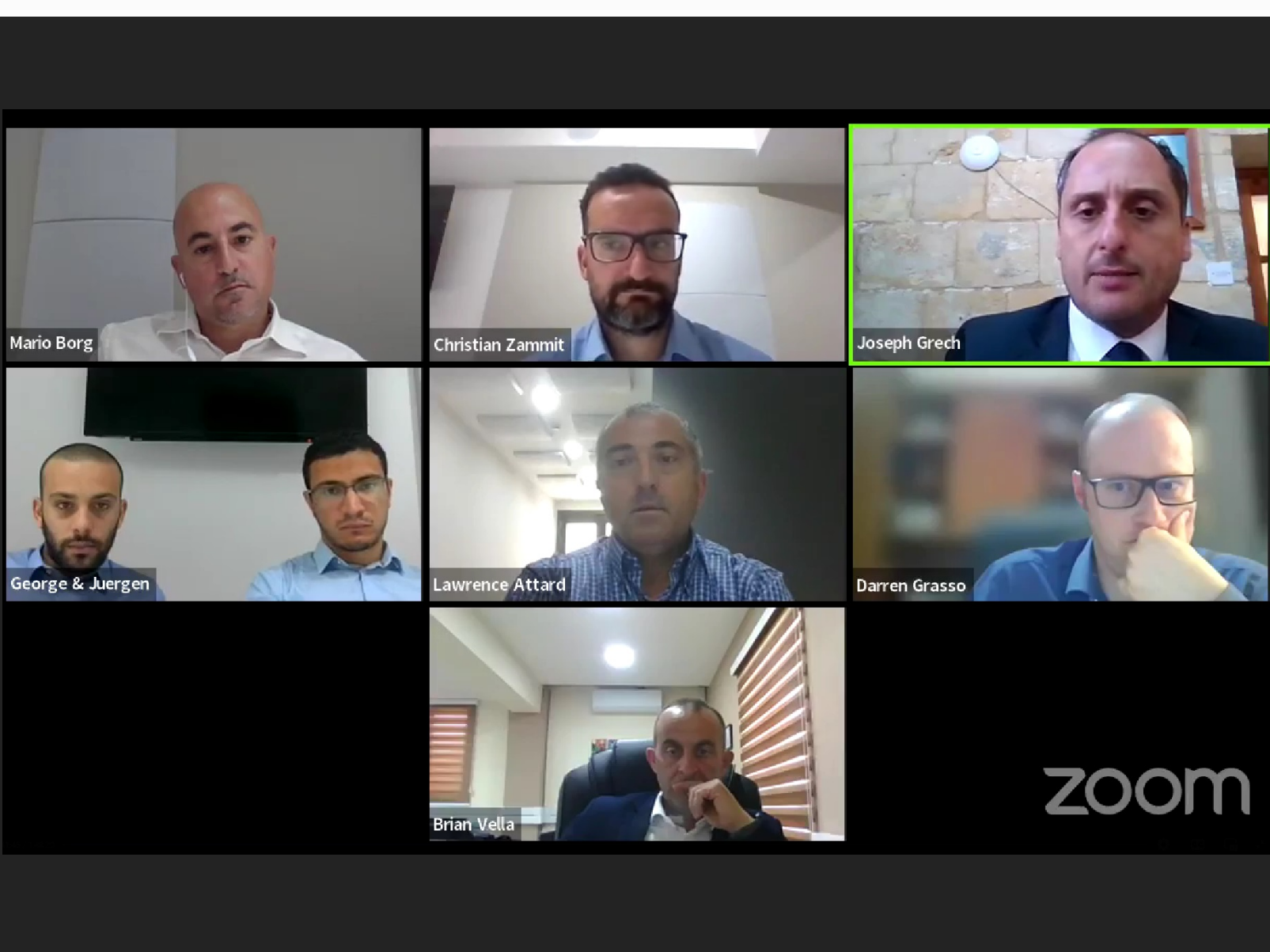
Focus on Agriculture

GRDA publishes a Discussion Paper and holds the Webinar - “Regional Agriculture: A Gozitan Perspective”.

The GRDA has published a Discussion Paper on **Regional Agriculture: a Gozitan Perspective**. Building on the findings of the situational analysis, and on the strategic objectives of the Gozo Regional Development Strategy, the Common Agricultural Policy, and the National Agricultural Policy, this paper presents an overarching vision for the agricultural sector in Gozo with the objective to steer it in a more sustainable direction.

This vision is based on the following strategic goals: (1) revitalising Gozo’s rural community; (2) attracting more youths to Gozo’s agricultural sector; (3) valorising Gozitan food and produce; (4) achieving a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system (Farm to Fork); and (5) achieving a sustainable sector resilient to climate change.

GRDA’s Webinar Participants (L-R) Mario Borg, Christian Zammit, Joseph Grech, Juergen Attard, George Cauchi, Lawrence Attard, Darren Grasso and Brian Vella.



The key points were presented during the GRDA webinar addressed by Dr Joseph Grech, Chairman of Gozitano Agri Coop; Lawrence Attard, Principal Agricultural Officer at the Government Experimental Farm; Brian Vella, CEO of the Malta Food Agency; Dr Darren Grasso, Head Project Support at SEM and GRDA CEO Mario Borg.

The Discussion Paper can be read and downloaded on the GRDA Website at grda.mt while the Webinar is available for viewing on the GRDA’s Facebook Page at: <https://fb.watch/lr6BKPObbs/>.

Click Icon to view.



Dialogue with Għal Għawdex

The two entities seek to converge on Għal Għawdex Eight Point Plan

The GRDA hosted representatives from civil society group, Għal Għawdex to discuss further the 8 Point Plan presented by the coalition in May and to which the GRDA provided a response.

The aim of the meeting was to find common ground to collaboratively work together towards a better, more sustainable Gozo.

To read the full joint statement published following the meeting please go to:
<https://grda.mt/the-grda-and-ghal-ghawdex-seek-to-converge-on-ghal-ghawdex-eight-point-plan/>

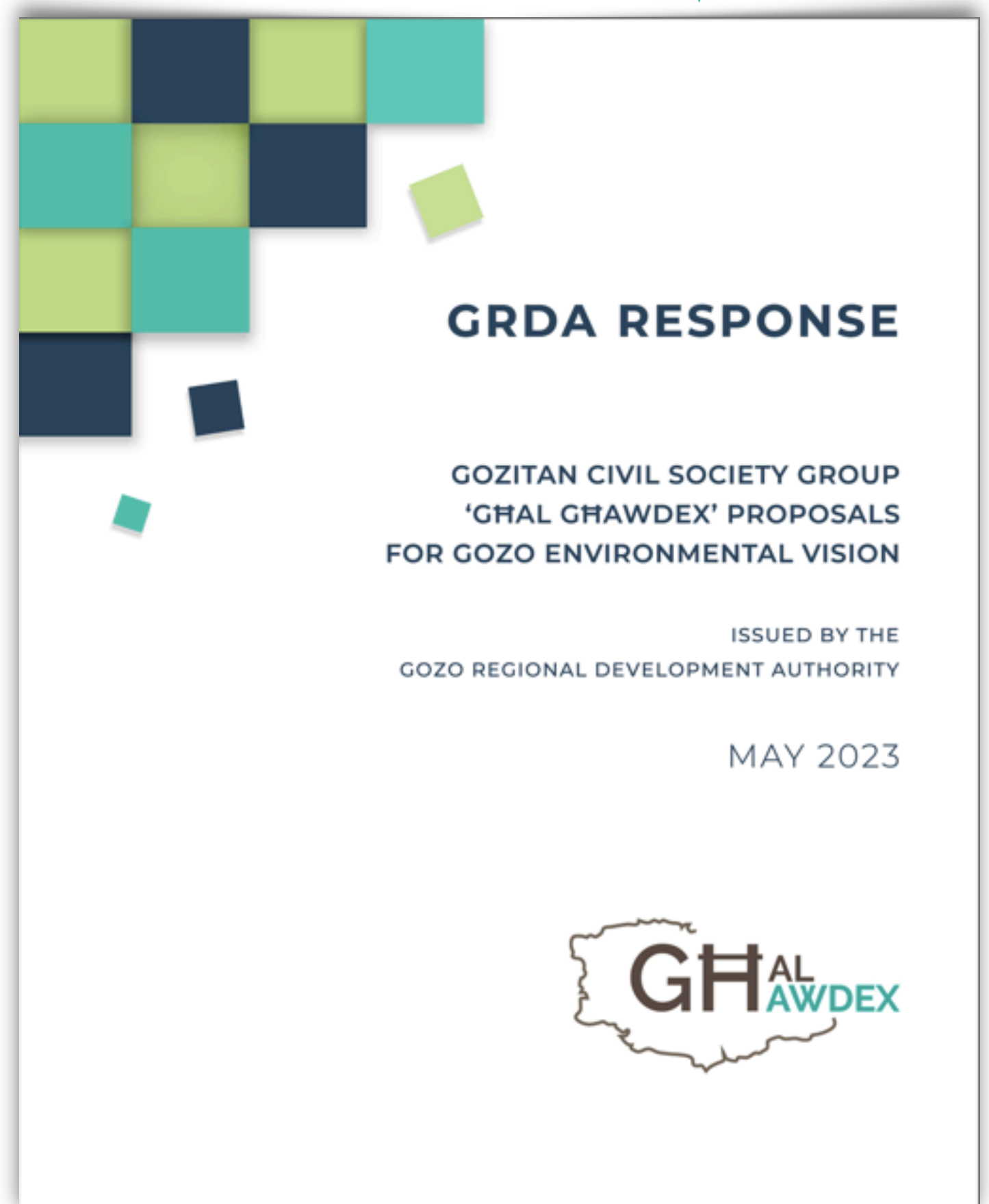
To read the full GRDA Response to Gozo Civil Society Group Għal Għawdex Proposals for Gozo Environmental Vision, click on the icon below.

MAY 2023
<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/GRDA-Response-GRDA-position-on-Ghal-Ghawdex-coalition-8-proposals-23.05.23-V2.pdf>

GRDA'CEO Mario Borg, Christian Zammit and George Cauchi meeting members of the coalition Għal Għawdex



Click Icon to view.





Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Stakeholder meetings were held in Gozo and Malta. ▲



GRDA and the Malta Trust Foundation Stakeholders Meeting and presentation of Needs' Analysis. ▲

Towards Becoming Carbon Neutral

During the second week of April, Mr Bob Dhaeseleer, Climate Neutral City Advisor, together with the Gozo Regional Development Authority, conducted a series of meetings with local stakeholders as part of the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

The aim of these meetings was to connect, give advice and support the GRDA navigate through this mission journey.

Presentation to Institute of Tourism Students

On invitation of the Institute of Tourism, Travel and Culture at the University of Malta, our colleague, Mr Juergen Attard, delivered a presentation to a group of 21 students who attended a four-day study tour of Gozo. Mr Attard explained the role and function of the GRDA and presented the salient features of the tourism survey which was communicated to the public a few days before.

GRDA's Juergen Attard delivering his Tourism presentation. ▼



Inclusion: Needs' Analysis for Marsalforn and Xlendi

The Gozo Regional Development Authority, in conjunction with The Malta Trust Foundation, hosted an important meeting between various stakeholders, through which a needs' analysis study of Marsalforn and Xlendi concerning topics such as migration, mental and social wellbeing, and inclusion, were discussed and recommendations put forward.

MARE Summit

The GRDA participated in this year's edition of MARE Summit – the property summit. The two-day event brought together some of the biggest names in the industry who provided insights into the future of the property industry, discussed new technologies, challenges and opportunities, sustainability, investments and much more.

Mr Mario Borg, CEO of the GRDA participated in a panel discussion which focused on 'Balancing Economic Growth & Sustainable Development in Gozo's Real Estate and Construction Sectors'.

GRDA Team Members at the MARE Summit ▼





MCAST Conference in collaboration with the GRDA and the Gozo Business Chamber. ▲



▲ "Rebuilding of Marfa Road, Ghadira" Information Session.

Encounter MCAST meets Industry Conference

The GRDA recently addressed a conference entitled 'ENCOUNTER MCAST meets Industry'. Juergen Attard, delivered a presentation on a study carried out by the GRDA which analysed employment and skills in Gozo, while Dr. Christian Zammit, participated in a panel discussion, during which he expanded on the in-depth Employment and Skills analysis carried out to identify the key challenges of Gozo's labour market.

'ENCOUNTER MCAST meets Industry' was organised by MCAST with the Collaboration of the Gozo Regional Development Authority and The Gozo Business Chamber.

Information Session: Marfa Road, Ghadira

An information session to explain the ongoing works on Triq il-Marfa, Ghadira, was held in the Conference Room at the GRDA's Offices in Victoria. The meeting was led by Infrastructure Malta CEO, Mr Ivan Falzon and Architect Robert

Infrastructure Malta CEO, Ivan Falzon, addressing the Marfa Road Information Session at the GRDA Offices. ▼



Zerafa, Head of Unit Planning and Design at Infrastructure Malta. During the session, the dynamics of the new road upgrade and the reasons behind the decision to turn a stretch of 500 metres to a single lane were explained.

Mr Falzon also communicated that further roadworks are being planned for the area with particular focus on the road from Marfa roundabout to Cirkewwa where the possibility of converting the single lane road to double lane is being explored.

SMITHS Project Conference

The GRDA attended the "Sustainable Transport: Adaptation and Resilience to the Maltese Islands" conference organised as part of the SMITHS (Sustainable Multi-Intermodal Transport Hubs) Project.

The importance of sustainable transport systems and how the Maltese islands can adopt a more sustainable approach towards transport was highlighted. One key conclusion focussed on the behavioural changes required to implement a more sustainable transport system on our islands.

▼ SMITHS Project Conference



GRDA Staff Development

Priority on self-development and further education.

The GRDA places a high priority on staff training and supports its team members to further develop their potential.

A **team building event** was held on Friday, 28 April for all GRDA Staff members. The in-house interactive session was lead by Mr Paul Gauci, an expert in the field of team building, leadership and management.

Ms Marthese Cassar, Manager Research & Policy, is supported by the GRDA's **Self-Development Scheme Programme**, which scheme is sponsoring her studies for the Master of Arts in Public Policy Leadership at the University of Malta. We wish Marthese all the best in reaching her goal.



▲ Ms Marthese Cassar, Manager Research & Policy receiving confirmation of her Masters Grant from GRDA CEO Mario Borg.

▼ Team-building workshop for GRDA Staff Members.

▼ Team-building workshop for GRDA Staff Members.



GRDA Notes & Research

Notes, Research and Feedback Statements are regularly published on the GRDA website. Keep updated at grda.mt

GRDA PUBLICATION:

PERSPETTIVI

ISSUE 2

Perspettivi

A Gozo Review

Issue 2



The second edition of GRDA's journal, **Perspettivi A Gozo Review** is available to view at grda.mt. Every edition of Perspettivi (*eng. perspectives*) features long-form papers, studies, articles and opinions on different aspects of life in Gozo such as infrastructure, connectivity, travel, migration, island needs and more. A limited number of printed copies are available upon request by sending an email on info@grda.mt.

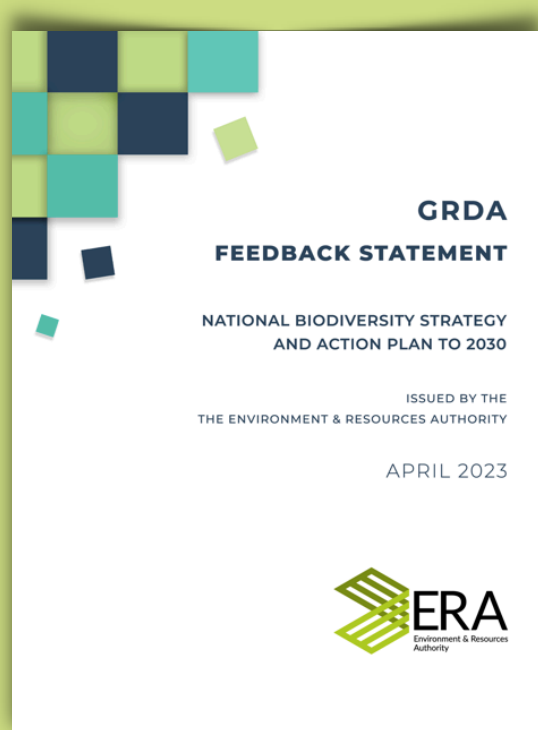
In this edition of Perspettivi Issue 2:

- **Spaces and places for children and young people living in Gozo** by Carmel Cefai, Rachel Spiteri and Natalie Galea
- **Reviewing Gozo - A look at TripAdvisor data** by Reuben Ellul Dimech
- **The Malta-Gozo Air Service** Part 1 - The Early Endeavours by Joseph Bezzina
- **Migration and Social Wellbeing in Gozo** by JosAnn Cutajar

MARCH 2023

Read the full Issue of Perspettivi at: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Perspettivi-Issue-2-30.03.23.pdf>

Contributions to the journal are penned by members of the public and are entirely independent of the GRDA's official positions or views. Interested contributors are invited to contact the GRDA at info@grda.mt to request the journal's editorial guidelines and to submit their abstracts.



GRDA FEEDBACK STATEMENT: NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO 2030

Environment and Resources Authority

APRIL 2023

Read the full GRDA Feedback Statement at: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Feedback-on-the-National-Biodiversity-and-Strategy.pdf>

GRDA TOURISM SURVEY: TOURISTS' PERCEPTIONS OF GOZO



MAY 2023
Read the GRDA Tourism Survey Report at:
Part 1: https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/GRDA_Tourism_Survey_Part_1.pdf and;



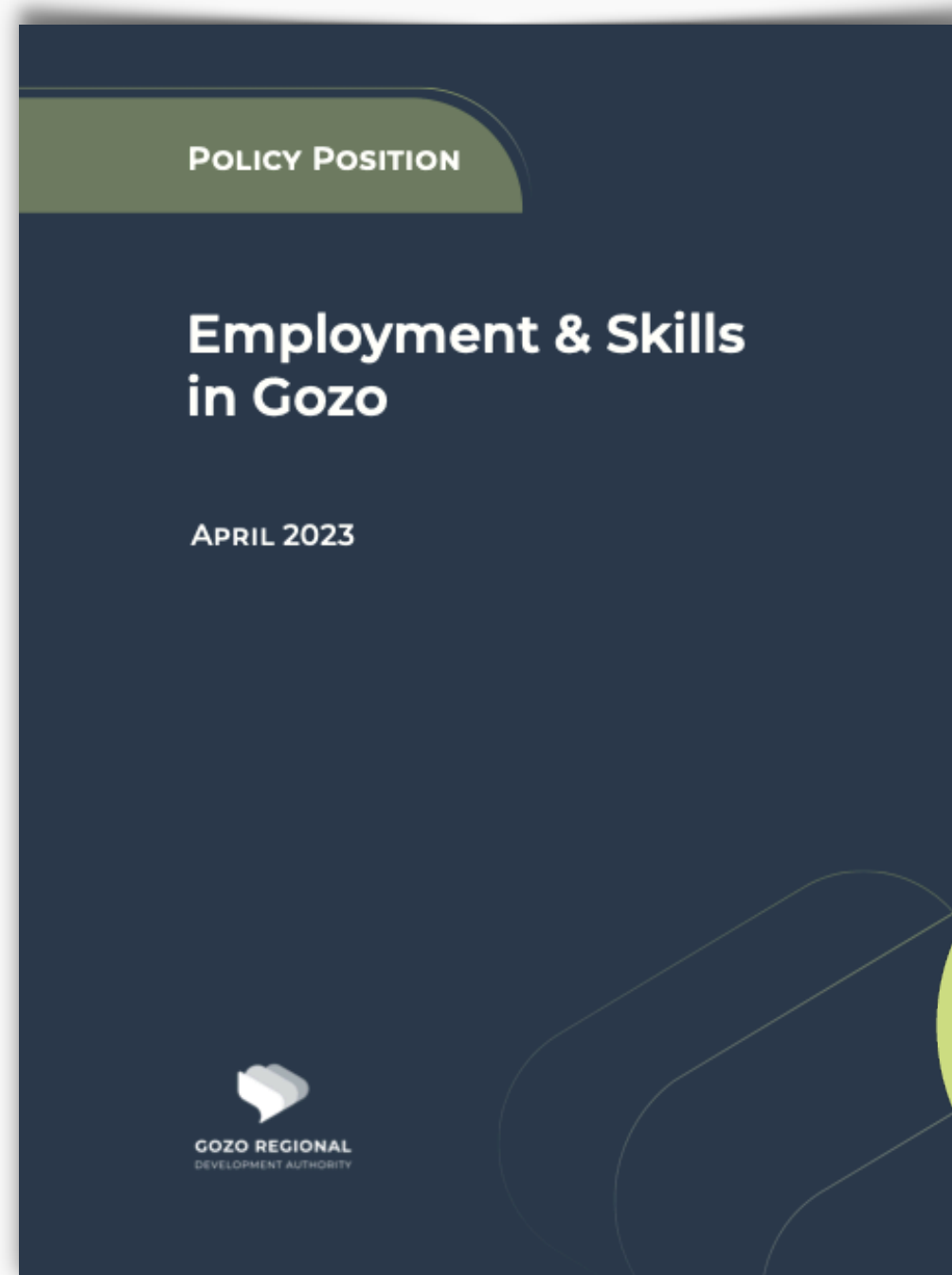
MAY 2023
Read the GRDA Tourism Survey Report at:
Part 2: <https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Infographics-Part-2.pdf>

GRDA POLICY POSITION: EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS IN GOZO

The challenges outlined in the discussion paper on Employment and Skills in Gozo (published in January 2023) need focused and tailored policy interventions so that Gozo breaks out from the low skills equilibria and unlocks its growth potential.

Following the publication of this discussion paper, and feedback from various stakeholders, the GRDA is presenting its official policy position on Employment and Skills in Gozo. The policy position is meant to serve as guide to policy makers at a national level on this issue.

To read the key policy recommendations, access the Policy Position document by clicking on the adjacent icon.



APRIL 2023
Read the full GRDA Policy Position at:
<https://grda.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Position-Paper-Employment-Skills-in-Gozo-24.04.23.pdf>

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 and reach out to us through our channels.



+356 22156333



info@grda.mt

