



**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# **GRDA**

# Newsletter

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**ISSUE 5**





**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Published by

**GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

75, Republic Street, Victoria, VCT 1018,

Gozo, Malta

Tel: +356 22156333

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

**[grda.mt](http://grda.mt)**

Front Cover: Gozo Regional Development Strategy document cover

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.

# IN THIS EDITION

1

**LAUNCH OF THE GOZO REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**  
GOZO: AN ISLAND OF VILLAGES

3

**VISIT BY H.E. MR LORENZO VELLA,  
HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
REPRESENTATION IN MALTA**

5

**GRDA STAFF ATTEND THE  
ERASMUS+ PROJECT**  
ABOUT CIRCULAR ECONOMY ON SMALL  
EU ISLANDS

7

**STATE OF THE UNION DISCUSSION**

9

**GRDA PUBLICATIONS**

2

**LAUNCH OF VICTORIA URBAN  
UPGRADE PROPOSAL**

4

**VISIT TO BORNHOLM,  
AN ISLAND REGION IN DENMARK**

6

**SIGNING OF MOU  
WITH THE CHAMBER OF GEOLOGISTS**

8

**GRDA PARTICIPATION IN THE  
JOBSPUS EMPLOYER SERVICES  
MEETING**

# LAUNCH OF THE GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

## GOZO: AN ISLAND OF VILLAGES

The GRDA launched the Gozo Regional Development Strategy 2023-2033 which aims to be a central tool in the development of Gozo, expressing a clear, coherent vision and serving as a roadmap for the next ten years.

The launch took place on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September in front of a well attendant event addressed by the Prime Minister Robert Abela, the Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri and GRDA's CEO Mr. Mario Borg.

The ten-year plan, drawn up by the Gozo Regional Development Authority, embraces three main principles which are:

1. Promoting sensible use of land and the environment
2. Re-aligning economic growth with wellbeing
3. Re-valuating Gozo's identity

Prime Minister Robert Abela stated that it is through policies aimed at the needs of Gozo that Gozitans can live a better quality of life. He said that the Government's vision for Gozo is a clear one, that of achieving the necessary balance between the economic activity and the social and environmental aspects of the island. "We want Gozitans to live well, with a future designed by them. Gozo's realities are best known to Gozitans, and that is why it was crucial for us that this strategy originates from Gozitans themselves", stressed the Prime Minister.

▼ Prime Minister Robert Abela delivering his conclusion speech during the launch of the Gozo Regional Development Strategy.

## The Gozo Regional Development Strategy



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR GOZO







Minister Clint Camilleri giving a presentation during the launch of the Gozo Regional Development Strategy. ▲



▲ GRDA CEO Mr. Mario Borg giving the opening speech during the launch of the Gozo Regional Development Strategy.

Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri stated that this strategy, which was launched after a wide consultation, revolves around the vision of Gozo: An Island of Villages. “We want to see that we make the best use of the land. Gozo must also move towards an economic balance that ensures quality of life. We must again give value to the identity of Gozo because Gozo without its identity does not exist”, claimed the Minister Camilleri.

The CEO of the Gozo Regional Development Authority, Mr. Mario Borg, said that the process by which this strategy was prepared was a rigorous one where a series of consultation meetings were held. He stated that this strategy is designed by Gozitans and based on everything that makes Gozo a distinct region from Malta, with its qualities, opportunities, and characteristics.



# LAUNCH OF VICTORIA URBAN UPGRADE PROPOSAL

The GRDA launched a public consultation process in relation to the Victoria Urban Upgrade proposal.

In view of Victoria's present challenges, namely lack of open spaces, lack of parking spaces, and traffic congestion, the GRDA is proposing a vision for Victoria urban upgrading. GRDA's vision centres around a proposal to transform the existing parking area in Victoria (adjacent to the Villa Rundle Gardens and the Bus Terminus), including the adjacent football ground and surrounding area, into a green park. This entails relocating the parking spaces underground, with circa 800 car spaces being made available.

The proposal seeks to contribute towards the regeneration of the area and challenge the prevailing car-centric hierarchy by prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists, thereby making several streets more accessible to them. It aims to foster a vibrant public life that meets our social, environmental, political, and cultural objectives. Furthermore, by incorporating nature into daily life and creating public spaces, the proposal aims to create a sense of community and enhance the overall liveability of the area.

The concept proposal for Victoria urban upgrading forms part of GRDA's wider plan to design a long-term and holistic sustainable master plan for the island of Gozo.

▼ An artist impression of the proposed park.







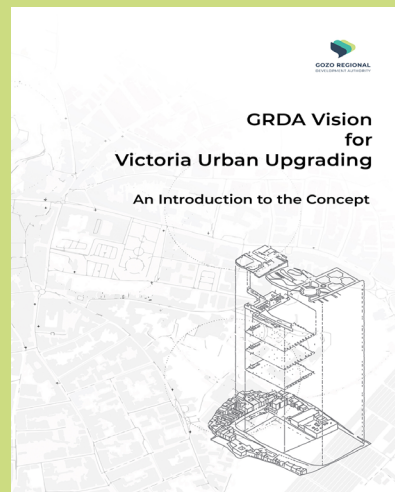
▲ GRDA Public Consultation Meeting in relation to GRDA's Victoria Urban Upgrade Proposal.

The GRDA held several meetings with relevant stakeholders together with a public consultation meeting. The Authority will be publishing an outcome statement in the coming weeks.

## GRDA NOTE - V. PARK PROPOSAL

The GRDA published a note in connection to its proposal in establishing a green park in Victoria and regenerate the zone.

Read here the potential benefits, projected cost, and economic impact that this proposal will generate.



▶ Click icon to view.



▶ An artist impression of the proposed V. Park.



# VISIT BY H.E. MR LORENZO VELLA,

## HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN MALTA

H.E. Mr Lorenzo Vella, Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta paid an official visit to the GRDA in August.

During the interesting discussion, Mr Mario Borg, CEO of the GRDA explained the role of the Authority and the work being carried out.

Ambassador Vella expressed his gratitude towards the effort of the GRDA in highlighting Gozo's specific needs and proposals brought forward by the GRDA. He also congratulated the Authority for the various initiatives undertaken to make the most of EU Funded programs available.



# VISIT TO BORNHOLM, AN ISLAND REGION IN DENMARK

A delegation from the GRDA and the Gozo Business Chamber paid an official visit to Bornholm, an island region which form part of the Denmark located in the Baltic Sea.

The visit was coordinated by the Bornholm Regional Municipality, the local authority covering the entire island. The 2-day high intensity visit included several meetings with local entities that share similar challenges like Gozo. Meetings were held with representatives of Destination Bornholm, the local tourism entity in Bornholm and Baltic Energy Island and Bornholm Energy & Supply which explained to the delegation the transition undertaken by the Municipality to convert from fossil fuels to renewable energy.



▲ Members of the GRDA and GBC had a meeting with CEO Ms Pernille Kofod Lydolph, from Destination Bornholm, the office responsible to promote the region as a tourist destination.



Other meetings were held with Bornholm Mayor, Mr Jacob Tröst, the Bornholm Agriculture & Food Agency and Ms Samantha Högstedt Terry, responsible of the Rønne Swimming Hall.

Bornholm Energy & Supply, CEO Mr Claus Andersen and VP Mr Klaus Veslöv, explaining the region's green transition to the delegation.



GRDA CEO Mario Borg, presenting a book about Gozo to Bornholm Mayor Jacob Tröst in the presence of Mr Niels Christen Andersen who led the delegation.



## GRDA STAFF ATTEND THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ABOUT CIRCULAR ECONOMY ON SMALL EU ISLANDS

From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, the GRDA attended workshops and site visits on the islands of Hvar and Pakleni, Croatia, as part of the Erasmus + project, titled Circular Economy on Small EU Islands. This project is coordinated by SMILO Small Islands Organisation, together with the other partnering islands hailing from: Pakleni - Croatia, Frioul - France, Sifnos - Greece and Gozo.

GRDA NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023 ISSUE 5

GRDA staff during the site visit on Pakleni Island.





This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit of the project, with previous visits to Frioul and Gozo held in November and March, respectively. During the visit to Hvar and Pakleni, the main theme in the discussion was marine activity.



▲ GRDA staff during one of the stakeholders meeting as part of the Erasmus+ Project.

## SIGNING OF MOU WITH THE CHAMBER OF GEOLOGISTS

The GRDA and the Malta Chamber of Geologists signed an MOU which will serve for future collaborative initiatives that will be undertaken.

During the signing, various topics were discussed that are relevant to both parties and which will be explored.

The agreement was signed by GRDA CEO, Mr Mario Borg, and by the President of the Chamber of Geologists, Dr Peter Gatt.



# STATE OF THE UNION DISCUSSION

An event was held at Cittadella, within which GRDA participated in the analysis of the 'State of the Union' speech delivered in the European Parliament, by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.

The discussion in the presence of Mr. Lorenzo Vella, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Malta, local stakeholders and local council representatives, dealt with various topics, including challenges such as inflation, immigration and inclusiveness, and climate change.



# GRDA PARTICIPATION IN THE JOBSPLUS EMPLOYER SERVICES MEETING

This annual stakeholders meeting is organised by Jobsplus with the participation of the GRDA, the Gozo Business Chamber and the Gozo Tourism Association.

During this meeting stakeholders were provided with a comprehensive review of Jobsplus' activities conducted in the past year. Additionally, stakeholders engaged in an open discussion on Jobsplus' ongoing and previous training initiatives. Citing several of its studies, including the employment and skills paper published earlier in the year, the GRDA highlighted possible potential improvements.



# GRDA PUBLICATIONS

## Corporate Plan 2023-25

Our Corporate Plan 2023-25 has been published and it is available on our website: [grda.mt](http://grda.mt)

It provides a detailed overview of how we will deliver our objectives and performance criteria.

The plan also highlights the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the environment we operate in.

Our goals focus on:

- Sustainable Economic Growth
- Infrastructure and the Ecosystem
- The Regional Dimension
- Gozo's Institutional Framework
- Governance



▲ [Click icon to view.](#)

## Outlook 2023 – 2025 & Budget Proposals for 2024

The GRDA published a Note on the short-term outlook for Gozo and the Authority's proposals for the upcoming budget.

The proposals include:

- Realignment of the reduced stamp duty on residential property with Gozo's socio-economic and environmental needs
- Ringfencing of revenue from the tourism eco-contribution to Gozo
- The review of training fiscal incentives to help Gozitan micro enterprises remove barriers to upskill and reskill their workforce



▲ [Click icon to view.](#)





## 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 22156333



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

