



Youth4Entrepreneurship Gozo – 2021

Daniel Borg

Friday 12 November 2021

I feel privileged to open this event today. Thank you Francesca for your introduction and I welcome you all and thank you for accepting our invitation. I would also like to thank those that are following us on our social media.

The starting point of the event today was the SME Week. Every year the Chamber organised an activity targeted towards businesses during this period. Two years ago we said to ourselves: Why not do something differently? Why not hear what young people have to say about Gozo and what type of economy they want? It is useless having a Chamber, if it has no future. And we thought about this contest. We wanted young people to tell us about their ideas, to challenge them to think in an innovative way about Gozo.

And to say the truth every year I pose myself the same questions: Should we organise it again? Will young people apply? However, every year as this contest comes to its conclusion I am again energised and look forward to the upcoming year.

However, a point which we emphasise every time we do this contest is this is not about winning. It is about instilling confidence in young people to come forward and tell us about their idea, and also to help them build up their skills in pitching their idea in front of a real panel of business experts. In fact today we don't announce any winners. Today, this is a celebration for these youth who have accepted our challenge and have come forward to discuss and share their idea with us.

This is the third time we are organising this event, and I am happy to see that each year we are seeing more organisations believing and supporting this event. However, my dream is that this event continues to grow, and provide renewed opportunities to young people.

Last year we introduced a session organised by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh on how interested youth should pitch their idea. We also provided each participant with a report, and the comments of each member of the panel of business experts. Some of them were also offered mentoring from our panelists. The opportunities are endless. However, my vision is that this does not limit itself to an event, but that there is a process accompanying it. I would like this event to eventually evolve into a programme where potential participants would be mentored and assisted throughout. We are planning to hold this event on the 11 November of next year. So book the date!

I feel privileged to have seen youth throughout these three years building their confidence and presenting their idea, to give them some advice on how they should pitch their idea. But most of all I have learned from them all. Each year I have seen new and more innovative ideas. I am sure that this year will be no less. So I wish all the participants the best of luck, but most of all enjoy yourselves and gain the most out of this experience!