



## Youth4Entrepreneurship Gozo – 2021

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It is with pleasure that I am closing this event today. We have heard some very exciting ideas, one relating to the use of modular nuclear power plants, the development of an online business management platform which will be deployed and tested first in Gozo, and an app offering the possibility to users to use every mode of transport available on the island, being private or public, in real time.

What can I say? This has surely been an excellent opportunity for these young people to show that if we have a vision, we can plan ahead. We must not be burdened by our limitations, but these should instigate us to think further about our potential.

This is the third year that we are organising this contest. Every year we have seen this event continue to grow. What had started as a simple idea has developed and is gathering traction. And that is why I would like to thank the various stakeholders who believe and are supporting us in this event: Aġenzja Żgħażaġh, Europe Direct Gozo, Bank of Valletta, the Ministry for the Economy and Industry, and the Gozo Regional Development Authority. I would also like to thank the Minister for Gozo, Hon Clint Camilleri who every year participates actively in this event.

I must also say that in the past two years we have decided to focus the event on particular areas. Last year, given the importance of the Green Deal we decided to concentrate the event on the issue of sustainability. This year it is different. Besides sustainability we also added digitalisation. And there are two reasons for that.

Sustainability and Digitalisation are the two pillars on which the European Commission is building the recovery of the European economy in the aftermath of the pandemic. The second reason is that if we stop to think for the island of Gozo these are the areas which can help us really diversify the Gozitan economy and create value added niches.

Yesterday I addressed a congress in Piraeus, Greece, which concentrated on the contribution of the Greek islands to Greece's economy. A reflection which I made and which was shared by many is that islands have suffered most during the COVID-19 pandemic because they were overdependent on tourism.

Today's event shows that there is a different way, and seeing young people participate in this event really fills us with courage, that we can look ahead for Gozo in a different way.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the Chamber who have worked tirelessly for the organisation of this event. I thank you all for your participation and attendance, including those who have followed the livestream on our facebook page, and I would like to wish you all a good evening.