THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

EUROPE DIRECT
Gozo

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The Launch of the Third Generation of *EUROPE DIRECT* in Gozo

The Gozo Business Chamber has for the third consecutive time been selected to host the one of the local structures of the Europe Direct network, for the period May 2021 to December 2025. The role of the Europe Direct is to inform about and engage citizens with the Europe Union institutions and their work. The Gozo Business Chamber has been hosting one of the three Maltese offices of the Europe Direct Network since 2013.

During an event targeted towards key stakeholders within the local Gozitan community at the Grand Hotel in Mġarr Gozo, the Gozo Business Chamber launched the third generation of the Europe Direct network.

Joseph Borg, President of the Gozo Business Chamber, Dr Elena Grech, Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta, and Dr Mario Sammut, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office made the introductory speeches.

Joseph Borg highlighted how that "while it is true that the Gozo Business Chamber is an association of businesses, it is also an association which works intensely in the community. Its members are involved within the community or in community organisations. The Office of the Europe Direct network, is another service which the Chamber is offering to the Gozitan community."

Dr Elena Grech, Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta remarked that for the European Commission Representation "it is important for us to reach out to all citizens about the benefits of the European Union, and it is therefore important for us to have a presence in Gozo." In this regard she urged participants in the event to give their opinion on the EU on the Digital Platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe and to engage in the ongoing debate in this regard.

Dr Mario Sammut, Head of the European Parliament Liason Office, highlighted that "it is important to explain the role and the benefits of the European Union". He also remarked that "it is important to target everyone, those citizens that need to know more about the European Union, but also those that are already actively involved with the European Union and its institutions."

Daniel Borg, CEO of the Gozo Business Chamber, provided an overview of the Europe Direct's work during the past years, and highlighted the vision for the role of the Europe Direct Gozo for the next five years. He indicated how the three pillars that the European Union has set for the next five years, principally that of: sustainability, digitalisation and resilience, are very relevant for Gozo. Consequently the work of the Europe Direct Gozo office will be very important in the coming period.

Ms Marlene Muscat, manager of the Europe Direct Gozo, chaired two panels. The first panel composed of Dr Samuel Azzopardi, President of the Gozo Region and a member of the Committee of the Regions, Noel Formosa, Mayor of San Lawrenz, and Robert Tabone, Head EU & International Affairs of the Local Government Division, discussed the work of Europe Direct within the various localities in Gozo.

Marvic Refalo, Eco Schools Teacher and a representative of Nature Trust Malta (Gozo Section), Ramona Mercieca (Globe Coordianator), and Jesmond Borg, Gozo Campus Coordinator of the Institute of Tourism Studies, participated in the second panel which discussed the work of Europe Direct within the various educational insitutions.

The event was also trasmitted live on the Gozo Business Chamber, and the Europe Direct Gozo's social media platforms.

The proceedings of the event can again be accessed from here: https://youtu.be/5secGc2eJ0U

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It-Tnedija tat-Tielet Ġenerazzjoni ta' *EUROPE DIRECT* f'Għawdex

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex reġgħet ġiet għat-tielet darba konsekuttiva magħżula biex tospita l-istruttura tal-*Europe Direct* f'Għawdex għall-perijodu minn Mejju 2021 sa Diċembru 2025. Ir-rwol tal-Europe Direct huwa li jinforma ċ-ċittadini fuq, u jseħibhom iktar fil-ħidma tal-istituzzjonijiet Ewropej. Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex ilha tospita wieħed mill-uffiċċji tal-*Europe Direct Network* f'Għawdex sa mill-2013.

Matul avveniment li għalih ġew mistiedna l-iktar partijiet interessati fis-soċjeta Għawdxija u li sar fil-*Grand Hotel* fl-Imġarr Għawdex, il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex nediet it-tielet ġenerazzjoni tal-*Europe Direct Network*.

Joseph Borg, President tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex, Dr Elena Grech, Kap tar-Rappreżentenza tal-Kummissjoni Ewropeja hawn Malta, u Dr Mario Sammut, Kap tal-Uffiċċju tal-Parlament Ewropew hawn f'Malta, għamlu d-diskorsi tal-bidu.

Joseph Borg irrimarka li "għalkemm il-*Gozo Business Chamber* hija għaqda li tiġbor fiha n-negozji, hija wkoll għaqda li taħdem bis-sħiħ fil-komunita'. Il-membri tagħha huma kollha nvoluti fi ħdan il-komunita' jew organizzazjonijiet komunitarji. U hawnhekk nista' ngħid li l-Uffiċċju tal-*Europe Direct*, li tagħha din hija t-tielet ġenerazzjoni, huwa servizz ieħor li l-Kamra tħoss li qed tagħti lill-komunita' Għawdxija."

Dr Elena Grech, Kap tar-Rappreżentanza tal-Kummissjoni Ewropeja, hawn f'Malta enfasizzat li għar-rappreżentanza tal-Kummissjoni Ewropeja f'Malta "huwa mportanti għalina li nilħqu liċ-ċittadini kollha fuq il-benefiċċji tal-Unjoni Ewropeja u għalhekk huwa mportanti għalina li jkollna preżenza f'Għawdex." Għal dan il-għan stiednet lill-parteċipanti f'dan l-avveniment li jagħtu l-opinjoni tagħhom fuq l-Unjoni Ewropeja fuq il-pjattaforma Diġitali tal-Konferenza tal-Futur tal-Ewropa u biex jipparteċipaw fid-dibattitu kontinwu li qed iseħħ.

Dr Mario Sammut, Kap tal-Uffiċċju tal-Parlament Ewropew hawn f'Malta saħaq li huwa "mportanti li nispjegaw ir-rwol u l-benefiċċji tal-Unjoni Ewropeja." Huwa qal li "huwa mportanti li nilħqu lill-kulħadd, kemm lil dawk iċ-ċittadini li jixtiequ jafu iktar fuq l-Unjoni Ewropeja, imma wkoll dawk li huma diġa involuti attivament fl-Unjoni Ewropeja u l-istituzzjonijiet tagħha."

Daniel Borg, Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex, ta rendikont tal-ħidma tal-*Europe Direct*, f'dawn l-aħħar snin, u enfasizza fuq il-viżjoni għar-rwol tal-*Europe Direct* f'Għawdex għall-ħames snin li ġejjin. Huwa ndika kif it-tlett pilastri li fuqhom l-Unjoni Ewropeja se tkun qed taħdem għall-ħames snin li ġejjin jiġifieri: s-sostenibilta, d-diġitalizzazjoni u r-reżiljenza, huma rilevanti ħafna għal Għawdex. Għalhekk il-ħidma tal-uffiċċju tal-*Europe Direct* f'Għawdex se tkun importanti ħafna fil-ħames snin li ġejjin.

Marlene Muscat, maniġer tal-*Europe Direct* f'Għawdex iċċerrjat żewġ *panels*. L-ewwel *panel* kompost minn Dr Samuel Azzopardi, President tar-Reġjun Għawdex u membru tal-Kumitat tar-Reġjuni, Noel Formosa, Sindku ta' San Lawrez, u Robert Tabone, *Head EU & Institutional Affairs*, fi ħdan id-diviżjoni tal-Gvern Lokali, iddiskuta x-xogħol tal-*Europe Direct* fi ħdan id-diversi lokalitajiet f'Għawdex.

Marvic Refalo, għalliema tal-Eko Skola u rappreżentanta ta' *Nature Trust Malta* (Gozo Section), Ramona Mercieca għalliema u Koordinatriċi ta' *Globe*, u Jesmond Borg, Koordinatur tal-*Gozo Campus* tal-Institut għall-istudji turistiċi, ppparteċipaw fit-tieni *panel* li ddiskuta x-xogħol tal-*Europe Direct* fi ħdan l-istituzzjonijiet edukattivi.

Dan l-avveniment kien trasmess fuq il-midja soċjali tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex u tal-*Europe Direct*.

Wieħed jista' jerġa jara l-avveniment hawnhekk: https://youtu.be/5secGc2eJ0U