

Youth 4 Entrepreneurship Gozo

Date: Friday 11th November 2022

Venue: To be decided.

Time: 19:00 hrs

The Gozo Business Chamber, in collaboration with the Gozo Regional Development Authority, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Bank of Valletta, and EUROPE DIRECT Gozo, is proud to announce the fourth edition of the '**Youth 4 Entrepreneurship Gozo**' event. This event, which will form part of the events being organised during the SME Week, will take the form of a contest for potential young entrepreneurs who wish to share business ideas related to Gozo. The overall goal of this initiative is to instill confidence in young people enabling them to reach their full potential, direct attention to the economic potential and challenges facing the island of Gozo, whilst encouraging young people to adopt an innovative approach to develop their business ideas based on Gozo's needs and potential.

Theme

This year's **Youth 4 Entrepreneurship contest** will focus again on '**Sustainability**' and more specifically on business ideas which are focused on reducing climate change.

The sixth '[State of the Science Report of the United Nations's intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#)', "confirms the role of climate change as a multiplier for hunger, poverty, conflict and displacement" ([Laganda, 2021](#)). The sustained heat waves, fires and flooding experienced throughout Europe are an important call for action, as now we are seeing the effects of climate change materialising closer to home.

This means that any economic growth needs to be achieved with no impact on the environment, and that new niches of economic growth are in themselves sustainable solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Europe has as its goal that of transforming itself into a globally competitive, climate neutral, digitalised economy and society.

Youth play a very important part in this process as they are the catalyst of change.

This year's business ideas need to focus on reducing the impact of climate change. This means that business ideas must: (a) aim to reduce the causes of climate change such as greenhouse gas emissions; or (b) limit the impact resulting from climate change without in any way contributing to its causes. The latter is also important. Though we need to work on the causes of climate change, even if we had to reduce the greenhouses gases emissions immediately, we would still need to recover from the greenhouse gases present in the atmosphere.

Potential initiatives

- Actions targeted towards water conservation such as the creation of innovative grey water systems.
- Innovative ways of green transport.
- New ways of protecting certain environments from extreme weather events, such as heavily flooding due to extreme rainfall, and how the water could be collected for beneficial purposes. An example in this regard can be the city of Copenhagen. Following heavy rainfalls in 2011 the 'Cloudburst management plan' was developed.

Innovative ways included in the plan comprise also new bicycle routes that also serve as storm-water channels.

- Green walls and roofs to help control the temperatures, but also to absorb water and reduce run-off during storms.
- Building management systems targeted towards increasing the use of energy in building.
- Innovative ways of increasing the generation and uptake of renewable energy.
- Making places such as large retail outlets more energy sustainable, such as for example through the introduction of solar tube which channel sunlight (free) into any environment.¹

Always remember that all the ideas must make business sense even if the profits are going to be used for example to finance the actions of a non-governmental organisation!

You can also think yourself as a business consultant who comes up with a bright idea which needs to be presented to the government of the day to be implemented. So think of this pitch as the best way how to present your idea to potential investors, thinking also how can this be financed, even if this is for the public interest. In 2020, and 2021 we already had some wonderful ideas which were related principally on how renewable energy could be generated here in Gozo. Here you can find useful links related to the 2020 and 2021 editions: [link1](#); [link 2](#); [link 3](#); [link 4](#).

The above are just some examples. The best idea will be selected on the following criteria:

- **Applicability to the Gozitan context.** This means that any idea that is submitted must be related to Gozo.
- **Innovative Approach.**
- **Ability to solve a potential problem or to cater for a specific need.**
- **Quality of the Pitch**

Who is eligible to apply?

This contest is aimed at young people between the age of 16 and 30. Applicants should be at least 16 years of age, and not more than 30 years of age, at the time of submission. Applicants should be residents in the Maltese islands, but they may not necessarily be from Gozo. The idea, however, must be strictly related to Gozo. A group of persons may team together to present their ideas. In this case it must be clearly indicated in the application form.

While applicants from previous years can participate they cannot submit the same idea, nor can the same idea be submitted by other persons or groups. If a similar idea is presented this needs to be substantially different from what had been presented.

Coaching session

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh will be conducting coaching sessions for potential applicants. The JAYE Foundation will be conducting a specific session on Financials. The exact dates and location will be communicated in due course. The timeline will be as follows:

- **13 May 2022** Launch of the Youth4Entrepreneurship Event

¹ European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action, *Our planet, our future : fighting climate change together*, Publications Office, 2018, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2834/04721>

- **June 2022** Session 1 – Information session about the contest, Entrepreneurship, Climate Change and Gozo
- **July 2022** Session 2 – Planning and Drafting a Proposal
- **August 2022** Session 3 – Financials
- **September 2022** Session 4 – Pitching of Ideas
- **September 2022** Submission of Proposal
- **October 2022** Session 5 – Public Speaking
- **November 2022** Y4E Event

How to apply:

Potential young entrepreneurs are invited to attend the launch of the Youth4Entrepreneurship contest. They can also apply through this [link](#) to attend for the Sessions. Applicants who wish to participate without attending the sessions can submit their ideas through this [link](#) by not later than **Friday 30th September 2022**. All eligible participants will be able to present their business idea during an event to be held on **Friday 11th November 2022**.

All entries will be acknowledged. Applicants will also be informed whether their entry is eligible or not. If an applicant or an idea is not eligible, applicants may still be able to re-submit a new application. Those who submit their application later than **Friday 23th September**, may not necessarily be provided with a reply within the required timeframes to be able to submit a new application.

Proposal Guidelines

The proposed idea is to be uploaded (in PDF format) on the following link: <https://forms.gle/qBbGzCceJPrc6y2w7>

Length of proposal – not more than 500 words.

Presentation of Proposal on 11th November 2022

A powerpoint projector, laptop and screen will be available to the participants during the event. If the event is held online the participants will be able to present their idea on an online platform.

During this session, young people or groups will have the opportunity to pitch their business ideas during a **ten-minute, ten-slide live pitch**, in front of a panel of business experts.

The **presentation** should focus on these main aspects:

- Background / Scope
- Presentation of the actual idea, and how this will be implemented
- Potential Budget / Funding / Source of Financing
- Difficulties that can be encountered in the implementation of this idea

The experts will also have the possibility to ask questions after the presentation. During the 11th November event all the participants will be awarded a certificate of participation.

The proceedings during the event will be in English. This means that the pitch during the event must also be conducted in English.

Winning proposal

The winner will be announced on **Monday 21st November 2022** through an official notification on the Gozo Business Chamber's website and facebook page. All the participants will also be informed accordingly.

The winning idea will take home **the amount of €500**.

Further Information

If you require further information kindly contact us on info@gozobusinesschamber.org

For information about the coaching sessions please contact: jennifer.cauchi@gov.mt