



Webinar 4 - 2022
Assisting Businesses: The Business
Enhance Grant Scheme

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Thank you Daniel. The green and digital transition are two topics which are very important for us a Chamber. Throughout these past years we have consistently worked on them, and provided our input at various levels.

Already in 2019 when we had hosted the INSULEUR Forum here in Gozo we had tackled the topic of how digitalisation can help islands bridge the gap at various levels. Little did we know how the COVID-19 pandemic will be changing the whole world scenario not only on a social but also at an economic level. Digitalisation would become the order of the day, together with sustainability. The green and digital transition would become the focus of the European Commission as Europe sought to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These transitions are required in order to make European companies more competitive, but the green transition assumed a much greater importance as companies worldwide started to battle the effects not only on the COVID-19 pandemic but also the war in Ukraine. The latter has shown Europe's dependability for its energy requirements, on fossil fuels and countries outside the European Union. This made European companies vulnerable to external shocks, and the green transition assumed a much more important significance. Europe is now putting much more emphasis on the importance of increasing the share of renewables. However, there is also another dimension, the impact of climate change. Hot summers, droughts, and the other effects of climate change are now being felt all over. We need to act now! And us as businesses have a huge responsibility.

Small island economies such as Malta and Gozo, are much more vulnerable to external shocks. However, Malta and Gozo's small size also makes them ideal to introduce changes and to create a situation where both companies and citizens adapt to new realities at a fast pace. How does Gozo fit in all this?

Gozo being smaller than Malta, offers more advantages, when it comes to implement these changes. Gozo can indeed reach carbon neutrality prior to Malta, a point the Chamber has been advocating throughout. However, there is still much that needs to be done.

How are we as a Chamber doing our part? The Chamber through various information sessions has been working to assist businesses in this green and digital transition. It has also advocated for higher thresholds for Gozitan businesses, as it is aware of the extra difficulties faced by businesses located in Gozo. However the Chamber is also working with youth. For the past three editions of its annual Youth4Entrepreneurship Gozo contest it has promoted topics related to sustainability, digitalisation and climate change. It is only by working at all levels and involving everyone that we can bring real change. Thank you!
