

April 2017

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GRTU NEWSTRING



GRTU enters Public Private Partnership for Renewable Energy Investments

GRTU has signed a shareholders' agreement with the Water Services Corporation to develop two solar farms to be utilised by the commercial sector on the Corporation's land. Through this agreement a company has been established with the name of Malta Energy Ltd.

Minister Konrad Mizzi responsible for energy and water conservation exclaimed that the two solar farms will be constructed over reservoirs at Ta' Cenc in Gozo and another in Mellieha in Malta. They will jointly generate a minimum of 1 megawatt of electricity.

Minister Mizzi also noted that the recent renewable energy projects, including the communal PV farm scheme, the Water Services Corporation will be making optimal use of its assets for renewable energy. This measure is envisaged to contribute to Malta's 10% of renewable energy, country specific requirement target by 2020. Minister Mizzi also mentioned that the Ministry and its entities are working very well with the GRTU, which organisation is also currently the promotional partner in the Energy

Audit Voucher scheme, a scheme which provides for free energy audits for small enterprises.

GRTU President Paul Abela said that GRTU has followed its members in the renewable energy sector for a number of years and this has seen the sector flourish through an improvement in their working environment, the establishment of national standards, and securing EU funds for investments in renewable energy. He insisted that this will also be beneficial to companies providing solar panels in Malta to grow, especially considering that the energy generated will supply a total of 400 households.

"Today marks another positive step not just for GRTU and the members it represents but also for our country. By working together we will help the country reach its EU 2020 targets". Mr Abela clearly stated that the GRTU "will ensure that all operators working in the renewable energy sector will have the opportunity to take part in this project" through a competitive tender.

Opposition's 'A Better Quality of Life for You' Paper



The Opposition has issued a set of 171 policy proposals which address the state of life quality of Maltese citizens. The vision of such proposals delves into a long term strategy for establishing pillars of good governance, but most of all maintaining the environment's sustainable development. This policy paper has been endorsed by the GRTU as a viable plan for the economy and sustainable environmental development to coexist.

Amongst the long list of proposals, there were some emerging proposals which will effect businesses especially infrastructural development in Malta. For example in the light of the current political sphere, the document is suggesting that parliament should vote on ODZ related matters with 2/3 majority vote.

The document calls for the reduction in property tax on property areas earmarked for regeneration and reduction in income tax on rent in such areas. Another positive proposal suggested that environmental related fees should be ring fenced, to be used exclusively for what they are intended. The paper also proposes that an amount of VAT derived from retail should also be ring forced for use in retail regeneration. There after accumulated funds will be invested in the upkeep and maintenance of such areas, hence alleviate the burden from Local Councils. Other proposals which were put on the plate were the setting of a ceiling limit of stories which

could be built in certain areas and the introduction of a time limit to the completion of properties under construction to avoid prolonged visual distortions in infrastructure.

The GRTU President Mr Paul Abela stated that even though GRTU represents the private sector, the private sector is committed to pay back and adhere to measures of environmental regeneration for our country's well being. Mr Abela suggested that further to the Nationalist Parties' concern about the ODZ areas, GRTU suggests that the areas outside of development should be given a price over and above the market price given to areas for development, considering they were not disclosed of for development in the first place.

Mr Abela said that as the economy and consumer demands develop a gap is being created between the newest shopping malls and the traditional shopping areas. The 'old' shopping areas need to be helped in updating their area of their operation and attractiveness as a whole. Mr Abela warned that if we are not careful we will end up stripping our localities from the traditional shops and GRTU believes that these still have an important economic and social purpose to serve.

GRTU is concerned with the proposal to regulate waste collection times.

On making small businesses active partners - Mriehel Enterprise Zone Foundation

In March 2016, the Maltese Government together with the private sector has set up the Mriehel Enterprise Zone Foundation, a Private Public Partnership (PPP). The idea initiated by the private sector was set up to give a makeover to the Mriehel Industrial Estate. Both the private and public sphere of this partnership will fork out equal amounts of investment to make the industrial estate a state of the art business hub. Within this Foundation, GRTU will be representing smaller size operators through President Paul Abela, who acts as one of the members of the Foundation.

In this environment, GRTU organised a meeting with its members within the Mriehel Industrial Estate with the intention to involve SMEs actively in the feedback given to the board of the Foundation. The Foundation is very active at the moment and adjourns every two weeks.

During the meeting with its members GRTU CEO Abigail Mamo, discussed a number of issues and concerns which could be raised to the Foundation. Such as proposals for alternative parking zones, waste collection systems, storm water mitigation system and marketing

proposals for the area, amongst others. Feedback from small businesses in the area to this cause has been very positive and enlightening.

GRTU has initiated progress in the interest of small businesses. The organisation has been able to obtain a €50,000 contribution from Government towards the PPP, as a collective sum contribution by small businesses. GRTU is of the opinion that small businesses do have interests in the area especially since the market price allocated to the area is rising. Therefore, due to the involvement of large stakeholders, it is in the small businesses' interest to remain up to date and active stakeholders. GRTU will be speaking to individual businesses separately to gather their feedback and create a separate sub committee. This committee will be represented in the Foundation's Board through President Paul Abela as one of its members. The intent of such a committee is to integrate the interests of small businesses in Mriehel which collectively will become proactive players to the agenda setting of the Foundation's board.





Maltese Digital Buyers on the increase – MCA Study

The Malta Communications Authority has once again conducted their yearly and very interesting study related to the consumption trends of the Maltese demographic.

The study has unveiled that more than 75% of Maltese consumers pertaining to all age groups are using the Internet. Moreover the study shows that an increasing number of consumers are resorting to the Internet during all stages of their purchasing journey, regardless whether the final transaction of purchase takes place online or in store. Very few buyers (19%) obtain information prior to purchase from visits made to shops. In addition a high percentage of millennials access the internet through their smart phones during shopping physically in shops in order to compare prices and products elsewhere.

Some recurring inhibitions to online purchasing persist: such as lack of familiarity with online transactions and look and feel of the product, whilst security issues are on the decline over the years.

Patterns of social media use have also been analyzed during this study. 87% of Maltese consumers engage in communication with business through social media channels especially Facebook. Whilst 1 out of 6 consumers follow their favourite brands online and look for expert or peer reviews prior to proceeding to purchase. Comments and posts on social media regarding businesses and their products highly influence other consumers potential to purchase.

An astounding 78% of internet users are in fact digital buyers, with the majority having claimed that they made an online purchase within 3 months of the study. The younger generations are the ones more likely to refer directly to a retailer's website, although not to the

same extent as they do with online marketplaces and search engines.

The growth in Ecommerce is evident in the frequency of online purchases and the number of online consumers. Figures of online consumption have plummeted from 2014 from 20% to 33%, whilst frequent online buyers increased from 3% to 13% from 2014 to 2016. Although some may think that digital buyers generation pertains only to the younger generation, older Baby Boomers also aspired that they prefer a laptop or desktop (93%) as device of choice to make their online purchase. This reflects that younger shoppers appreciate better the convenience of handy devices for ease of use whilst at home or out shopping.

Online purchases from foreign websites from Maltese online consumers remain considerable. Online buyers seek to buy clothes and shoes at 77%, holiday accommodation and flight tickets, both at 74%. The items which have significantly increased are the other travel arrangements (car hire, excursions, trains/buses, etc), from 12% in 2014 to 59% and events, from 12% in 2014 to 47%. Regrettably less than a third of digital buyers that are purchasing online are purchasing from local websites, with purchases mainly made to event tickets, flights and accommodation. However, there has been a general increase across many of the items bought locally. An interesting fact for businesses is that 80% of digital buyers purchasing online would be encouraged to buy from local websites if free and/or rapid delivery was given in addition to product or service.

These figures are clear indicatives to all businesses that it has become eminent for business to acquire viewership online in this heavily web-based environment. Especially considering that the younger emerging generations seek such web-based tools throughout their purchasing journey, irrelevant or whether they are seeking a good or service.

Agreement on minimum wage - A Historical Milestone

GRTU was one of the social partners who have signed the agreement on the revisions related to low income earners. The negotiations were very delicate and together with the other employers' representatives, GRTU made sure that any increases would not negatively affect the competitiveness of businesses.

The agreement signed amongst social partners addresses the concerns presented to us by government and to which social partners took the brave decision to shoulder responsibility. The measures agreed upon in this agreement are purposely designed to preserve wage relativities and industrial relations, while addressing social inequalities.

Malta has a national minimum wage, this minimum wage is legal and is there for a reason, there is nothing unlawful in workers entering employment on minimum wage. Social partners however agreed that minimum wage earners should not remain stuck on the minimum wage and therefore these employees will have their pay increased by Eur 6 per week over a period of two year following their first year of employment, starting January 2017. This will lead to a drastic decrease in workers being paid on the minimum wage.

Apart for this, the agreement also caters for another increase as a onetime increase in the COLA supplement amounting to Eur1 per week during 2018 and another Eur1 per week in 2019. This affectively means that minimum wage earners will have their pay increased by Eur 8/week in 2018 and another Eur 8/week in 2019.

As part of this agreement, social partners also underline that a change in the minimum wage alone will not realistically resolve the poverty risk of many families, including pensioners and the labour market mechanism on its own cannot be expected to address poverty matters. At enterprise level, wage levels are determined on



the basis of productivity and competitiveness.

The social partners also suggested that specific measures targeting poverty are more effective in addressing the problem without destabilising the labour market.

All Social Partners within the MCESD are aware that poverty is a social issue and conduct their functions - within MCESD and without – with a keen social conscience. These measures underscore the importance of designing and implementing specific and targeted measures to address pockets of poverty, as against adopting wide ranging actions which risk destabilising the labour market, which can be wasteful since they may well end up channelling resources to individuals/ segments which are not really at risk of poverty (e.g. raising incomes to relatively higher income earners to restore relativities). Such resources will be more efficiently used if they are directed in a focused manner to recipients who are the most afflicted by poverty and social problems.

Regularization of Permits granted to Street Vendors

GRTU is in active collaboration with the Department for Local Government for the proper enforcement and clarifications of the law which governs Local Councils' power to issue permits to street vendors in their locality. The GRTU complained heavily with the head of the Department Mr Adrian Mifsud on the way some Local Councils were operating ultravires, and abusing of a law that unfortunately left loop holes for interpretation in a way which certainly was not meant by the regulator.

A plan of action was agreed between both sides that will also be cooperating also when it comes to enforcement. GRTU will be presenting a set of proposals for the amendment of Legal Notice SL 441.04. to ensure that local councils abide by the law and avoid bypassing the system when issuing operating permits to street vendors. The Department of Local Government has informed the GRTU that it will be circulating guidance and directives to the local councils as guidance for the application of any temporary kiosk or street vendors especially in event of Mother's Day in the forthcoming weeks.

Il-GRTU f'Laqgħa kordjali mall-Onorevoli Ministru Dr Christian Cardona u Dr Lydia Abela Segretarju Ezekuttiv tal-Partit Laborista



L-Onorevoli Cardona u s-Sinjura Abela kienu prezenti għal-laqgħa li saret fi ħdan il-GRTU sabiex jiddiskutu affarijiet kurrenti u proposti li għandha l-GRTU, bħala l-vuċi tan-negozjanti. Il- President tal-GRTU Paul Abela stqarr li l-GRTU dejjem ħadmet id f'id mall-Gvern tal-gvernata fl-interess tan-negozji z-zgħar.

Issemma ukoll li l-GRTU kienet strumentali ħafna fejn jidhlu policies u ħadmet qatiegħ sabiex fl-aħħar issa f'Malta twaqqaf id-*Development Bank*. Din l-proposta tqajmet mill-GRTU waqt laqgħa tal-MCESD li saret fil-prezenza tal-Prim Ministru fejn dan tal-aħhar aċċetta din t-talba. L-Att dwar il-ħinijiet tal-ftuħ għall-ħwienet li kienet proposta oħra tal-GRTU u li issa daħlet fis-seħħ wara survey li sar fost l-membri fi ħdan il-GRTU, fejn ġie stabbilit li l-maggiorparti tal-membri qablu li l-ħinijiet għandhom jinbidlu, l-GRTU tat is-support sħiħ tagħha sabiex din l-Ligi tiġi attwata.

L-Onorevoli Cardona irrefera għal-laqgħa mall-GRTU bħala importanti ħafna. Dan għaliex l-GRTU tirrapresenta' diversi *stakeholders* u huwa diffiċli għal gvern sabiex jiltaqa' hu magħhom individwalment. Dr Cardona talab lill-GRTU sabiex tibda tipprepara l-proposti tagħha sabiex l-gvern jkun jista' jibda jaħdem fuq l-manifest elettorali għal-legislatura li jmiss.

L-Onorevoli Cardona irrefera għall-Public Private Partnership (PPP) fejn n-negozjant qiegħed jingħata assistenza sabiex jkun jista' jiġġenera x-xogħol u tkabbir

barra minn xtutna. Il-Family Business Act (FBA) huwa ukoll pass ieħor il-quddiem, fejn wara diversi laqgħat mall-entitajiet kollha kkonċernati issa saret realta'. Is-Social Enterprise Act (SEA) ukoll hija mizura oħra li ġiet attwata f'dan iz-zmien fejn aktar nies qegħdin jiġu mhegġa jifthu negozju f'Malta. Proposta oħra li ħadmet fuqha il-GRTU kienet it-tneħħija tat-Trade Licence.

Paul Abela rrefera għal kwistjoni tas-SISA, xi ħaġa oħra li l-GRTU ser tibqa' taħdem fuqha sabiex din titneħħa. L-Onorevoli Cardona qal li din ma kinetx l-aħjar għazla u ddeskriviha bħala taxa diskriminatorja. Il-GRTU pprezentat l-ilmenti tagħha lill-Ministru tal-Finanzi. Paul Abela enfasizza l-fatt li s-SISA tkompli zzid il-problema tal-kompetizzjoni ngusta fejn ix-xogħol mhux ddikjarat u l-prodott huwa ferm orħos għad-detriment ta' intraprizi oħra li jittemprow mal-Ligi.

Kwistjoni oħra li ssemmiet f'din l-laqgħa kienet li l-ħwienet li joperaw minn *shopping malls* peress li dawn il-ħwienet sejrjn tajjeb ħafna għax huma ferm organizzati u attrezzati. S-sinjura Abela insista li jrid jsirxi ħaġa għal ħwienet li jinsabu fit-toroq. Dan għaliex dawn qegħdin jiffaccjaw problemi li gejjin minn kompetizzjoni ingusta u kwistjonijiet oħra bħal nuqqas ta' parkeġġ u l-kompetizzjoni ta' xiri *online*.

Paul Abela informa li l-GRTU ma taqbilx ma l-Abbozz ta' Ligi dwar il-*Bottle Bill* u talab sabiex għalissa din il-

kwistjoni tinzamm wieqfa. Is-Sur Abela talab lill-Ministru sabiex dwar dan l-Abbozz jkunu kawti ħafna. L-Onorevoli Cardona qal li se jara li din l-*issue* tidhol taħt l-*Comprehensive Waste Bill*. Kulhadd prezenti qabel li din għandha tiġi studjata u tara x'effett ser tħalli fuq setturi oħra.

Il-President tal-GRTU propona li s-sistema tal-*Wardens* għandha tinbidel u issir *Local Policeman* u li tiġi b'sistema ta' fond u ma tkunx *self-funded*. Spjega wkoll kif il-GRTU għab għat fix-xejn l-*master plan* ta' Paceville wara li pprezentat fatti konkreti li ma saret l-ebda konsultatazzjoni.

IL-Kunsill Ezekuttiv ukoll ġibed l-attenzjoni tal-Ministru dwar d-deċizjoni li ħa l-Kunsill Lokali ta' San Giljan fil-konfront tal-ġurnata ta' San Patrizzju f'San Giljan. Avveniment li jkunu qegħdin jistennew diversi sidien ta' ristoranti u *bars* f'San Giljan. Is-Sur Philip Fenech

saħaq li l-*one off permit* li joħroġ mill-Kunsilli Lokali qed jiġi uzat għad-detriment tan-negozji fissi. Il-GRTU ilha għal diversi snin topponi din l-ingustizzja. L-Commerce Division titfa' l-piz fuq l-Kunsill, l-Kunsill fuq l-pulizija u jibqa' hadd ma jieħu passi biex dan ma jseħħ. L-Onorevoli Cardona stqarr li ser jieħu nota dwar dan għalkemm kien diġa' semgħa biha u anke f'ċertu okkazzjonijiet irrapporta hu stess ċertu irregolaritajiet.

Il-President Paul Abela talab sabiex dan il-gvern jibqa' jisma' u jiltaqa' mall-GRTU bil-għan li r-relazzjoni tkompli tissaħħaħ fejn jkollna ekonomija aħjar u aktar b'saħħitha u li tkun tista' titgawda minn kulhadd.

L-Onorevoli Cardona rringrazzja lil Paul Abela u lill-Kunsill Ezekuttiv tal-laqqgħa kordjali u wiegħed li l-punti kollha diskussi kienu ser jitressqu sabiex jigu diskussa.



The GRTU would like to congratulate its members for their hard work and achievement in the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) eBusiness Awards. GRTU would like to extend its compliments to James Abela at Student Campus for their award as Best Tech Start-Up (see to left photo) and New York Best developed by Anchovy for their award in Best Social Media Campaign (see to right photo).

The intent of the eBusiness awards awarded by the MCA is to encourage innovation in the field of eBusiness and to foster awareness of web-based technologies in addressing social and economic concerns. Furthermore MCA through these awards emphasize the efficiency and sustainability of the implementation and use of web-based tools in a diverse array of

sectors. At the same time rewarding businesses and innovative eBusiness service providers who successfully adopted such web-based tools.

GRTU and MCA work together on a regular basis to support small businesses in making the best use of their online potential. GRTU has been instrumental in pushing for incentives that encourage businesses to invest in their online presence and sell online. Thanks to an EU funded project GRTU was able to develop an online learning platform and a reference book to help businesses set up their online shop. Apart from this GRTU is today also able to give practical solutions and tailor made help to enterprises with regards to eCommerce.

Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Status

The GRTU held an info session on the authorised economic operator (AEO) status on Thursday 20 April 2017.

The concept is designed to balance increased security requirements with facilities for reliable operators who trade with non-EU countries. Traders who are certified under the AEO will enjoy simplifications on conventional customs procedures and customs safety and security measures. The legal basis of the AEO is provided by Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 laying down the Union Customs Code.

AEO status can result in two types of authorisation

- AEOC: Authorised Economic Operator - Customs Simplifications. This status provides easier admittance to customs simplifications provided specifically under the c u s t o m s l e g i s l a t i o n ;

- AEOS: Authorised Economic Operator - Security and Safety. This status entitles the holder to benefit from particular facilitations related to customs controls relating to security and safety when the goods enter or leave the customs territory of the Union.

- Any economic operator established in the customs territory of the Union who is part of the international supply chain and is involved in customs-related operations, may apply for an AEO

status.

- This excludes, for example, businesses that only:
 - distribute in the customs territory of the Union goods that are already in free circulation;
 - produce goods for the Union internal market using raw material already in free circulation;
 - provide consulting services on customs matters.The four criteria that must be satisfied to obtain AEO certification were discussed in detail and they include; an appropriate record of compliance with customs requirements; a satisfactory system of managing commercial and where appropriate transport records, which allow appropriate customs controls; proven financial solvency; and approved security and safety standards.

One should also note that the evaluation of AEO application will not constitute a regular customs audit, and the evaluation process may vary depending on the size and type of the applicant's business. The AEO status is continuously monitored and can be reassessed and if necessary suspended or revoked.

For more information kindly contact Mr Martin Spiteri, Senior Official, Customs Department on direct line 25685198 or on email: martin.a.spiteri@gov.mt



The High Commission in Ghana is inviting SMEs to attend the African Small and Medium Enterprises Expo, organized by the Nigerian Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, scheduled to be held between the 24th and 28th July 2017 in Lagos, Nigeria. Further information on the exhibition can be obtained from this link <http://www.africansmeexpo.com/>

Regolamenti tal-2017 dwar Multi ghal Kull Gurnata



Wara li thabbret konsultazzjoni pubbliku dwar l-Avviz Legali 2017 dwar Multi ghal Kull Gurnata, l-GRTU talbet laqgħa mall-Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) sabiex tingħata spjegazzjoni fid-dettal dwar kif ser japplika dan l-Avviz Legali u lil min ser jolqot l-aktar.

Dawn ir-regolamenti ser jibdlu d-*daily penalty regulation* preżentament fis-sehh (S.L. 549.72 enacted by L.N 276/2012 u amendata bl-L.N. 124/2015), fejn jigi introdott dan l-AL dwar il-protezzjoni tal-Ambjent u ser jigi applikat kif gej;

L-Awtorita' tibghat avviz bil-miktub lil persuna skond l-artikoli 76, 78,, 80 jew 86 tal-Att b'konnessjoni ma' ksur imwettaq taht xi Skeda taht dawn ir-regolamenti wara d-data li dawn ir-regolamenti jigu fis-sehh, għandha tinnotifika wkoll lil dik l-persuna li hija suggetta għal:

multa amministrattiva ta' mitt ewro (ewro 100); u multa kuljum wara hmistax il-gurnata mid-data tal-avviz kif stabbilit u stipulat fid-dispozzjonijiet tal-iskeda relevanti taht dawn ir-regolamenti

Dawn ir-regolamenti ser jolqtu lil dawk li ripetutament ser jinjoraw l-Ligi.

L-Offizi li jaqgħu taht dan l- A.L. huma;

Nuqqas ta' sottomissjoni ta' rapurtar tad-data lill-Awtorita sad-data mitluba mill-Awtorita' u Operat mingħajr licenzja u nuqqas ta' konformita mal-kundizzjonijiet stipulati fil-permess

Wara li gie studjat sew dan l-Avviz Legali mad-diversi setturi kkoncernati l-GRTU għan nom tal-membri

ppreżentat dawn it-talbiet;

- Is-somma amministrattiva tinzel għal €50 min €100 u tiskatta mas-16 l-gurnata wara notifi- cazzjoni bil-miktub.
- L-15 l-gurnata għandhom jigu kkalkulati fuq *working days*, (*weekends* u *public holidays* ma jghoddux) u mhux *calendar days*
- L-Awtorita' tibqa tagħmel viziti spontanji pero, qabel ma johrog r-rapport tara li tkun qegħda titkellem mall-persuna awtorizzat/a jew l- persuna licenzjat/a
- L-ERA taħdem flimkien mall-GRTU sabiex l- operaturi jkunu nfurmati fil-hin bl-iskadenza tal- permess jew affarijiet ohra relatati
- Il-licenzja tal- *waste carrier* għandha tkun im- gedda awtomatikalment kull sena bil-kundizzjoni li l-ERA tircievi kopja tal-licenzja u l-*insurance* tal- vettura awtorizzata. Jekk jirrizulta *infringe- ment* min naha ta l-operatur tiskatta mmed- jatament il-penali.
- Il-licenzja tal *waste broker* għandha tkun im- gedda kull sentejn. B'hekk tigi eliminata t- tensjoni ta' kull sena bejn l- ERA u l-operaturi.
- L-ERA għandha tikkopera mall- *permit holder* u tiehu l-rwol ta' ahna qegħdin hawn biex ngħinuk attitudni.
- L-ERA għandha tinforma lill-GRTU direttament dwar tibdil f'materji li jolqtu lill-membri tagħha b'hekk jigu evitati konflitti bla bżonn.

Il-GRTU ser tibqa tinnotifika lill-membri tagħha bl-ahhar żviluppi.

GRTU meets Dr Alfred Sant MEP – Renewable Energy Project

During a cordial meeting held on the 13th April 2017 with MEP Dr Alfred Sant the GRTU discussed in detail his proposed Preparatory Action Plan to make islands within the European Union front-runners.

The ultimate aim of this project is to help islands to move to the production of electricity from local clean energy sources and to become autonomous, to the greatest possible extent, in energy supply. The project will also create an EU-islands structure to serve as a platform of knowledge sharing and direct assistance to islands on energy/climate action related issues.

Dr Sant informed that the report - Strengthening cooperation on climate action among islands within and beyond the EU through the creation of an island identity within the Global Covenant of Mayors - was proposed last August, approved by the European Commission and supported by S&D Croatian MEP Tonino Picula and S&D Italian (Sicilian) MEP Michela Giuffrida.

The Commission has just published the first interim report for the Pilot projects and Preparatory

actions that have been approved for the EU Budget 2017 which includes the Preparatory action on the document "Strengthening cooperation on climate action among islands within and beyond the EU through the creation of an island identity within the Global Covenant of Mayors". The Action was approved as part of the 2017 Budget. This will be implemented on a two year term.

In the meantime the Commission will work in close co-operation with core Member States and islands' local authorities with the aim of implementing the initiative forward. A European Energy Islands Forum will be established in order to showcase advances, encourage networking, share experiences and transfer knowledge and know-how to the islands themselves. The Forum will also allow technology providers to reach potential clients.

GRTU agrees with this project and will be supporting this initiative. If successful, this project, can become a permanent EU instrument

Upcoming Events

Date Time	Event	Venue
3rd May 1.30PM-3.30PM	Information Session: Family Business Act	University of Malta Campus Valletta
9th May 1.30PM-4.30PM	Schemes & Assistance with employing Maltese, EU & Third Country Nationals by Jobs Plus	Malta Life Sciences Park San Gwann
11th May 3.30PM-5.30PM	Information Session: EU Grant Schemes	Hotel Calypso Marsalfon Bay, Gozo
16th May 2.30PM-3.30PM	Information Session: Introduction to the New 50 Euro Banknote	TBC

Should you like to attend any of the aforementioned meetings or information sessions kindly contact Rakel Cilia on rakel.cilia@grtu.eu or 21232881.

Contact GRTU Malta Chamber of SMEs on **21232881 / 3** or e-mail **admin@grtu.eu**



Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2007 – 2013
Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life
Project may be part-financed by the European Union
European Social Fund (ESF),
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds



Investing in your future