

Update

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Session on Sustainable Workplaces



On the 15th May, the Malta Employers' Association organised a workshop on Sustainable Workplaces, during which various aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) were discussed. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Roberta Lepre' from Weave Consulting, that delivered a presentation about CSR practices worldwide and also provided information about CSR tools such as the ISO26000, which

offers guidelines to help businesses and organizations translate principles into effective actions and shares best practices relating to social responsibility. She explained that CSR is different than philanthropy, and it touches on many issues related to human rights, labour standards, the environment and governance.

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There was a healthy discussion with the participants and the second part of the session included a panel discussion with the participation of Mr. Joseph Farrugia (Director General, Malta Employers' Association) and Mr. Robert Micallef from Office Group. The discussion centred on the diverse nature of CSR practices and also on the CSR aspects of supply chains.

The event also served as a networking session where participants exchanged notes about their own experience in CSR. It was stressed that there could be a business case for CSR if it integrated as part of the organisation's strategy and not as an add-on to business plans. Among the benefits mentioned were employee retention, consumer loyalty and brand building, and innovation. However, all participants agreed that the nature of CSR should remain voluntary and it is up to companies to decide the extent of involvement in CSR and the form it should take.



Mr Joseph Farrugia



Participants



Dr Roberta Lepre'



Mr. Joseph Farrugia, Dr. Roberta Lepre' & Mr. Robert Micallef