

# SMEs NATIONAL FORUM 2022

Organised by



**GOVERNMENT OF MALTA**  
MINISTRY FOR THE ECONOMY,  
EUROPEAN FUNDS AND LANDS



Main collaborators



**17 November 2022**

Xara Lodge, Rabat

Collaborators



*Ensuring the Skills*   
**for Future Competitiveness**

## Agenda

- 8.00am **Registration Coffee**
- 8.30am **SMEs National Forum Introduction**  
**Stephanie Spiteri**, Event Host
- Theme Video
- 8.35am **Welcome Address**  
**Joanne Bondin**, President - Malta Employers' Association
- 8.40am **Keynote Speech**  
**Joseph Farrugia**, Director General - Malta Employers' Association
- 8.50am **Address**  
**Hon. Silvio Schembri**, Minister for the Economy, European Funds & Lands
- 8.55am **Address**  
**Hon. Robert Cutajar**, Member of Parliament, Shadow Minister for the Self-Employed, Small Business and Cooperatives
- 9.00am **Presentation**  
**Etienne Caruana**, Director General - National Statistics Office
- 9.15am **Presentation**  
**Prof Godfrey Baldacchino**, Professor of Sociology - Department of Sociology University of Malta
- 9.20am **Workshops session**



### WORKSHOP 01

Topic – **“Making our labour market work for the transport sector”**

Presentation by **Kirsten M. Cutajar Miller - Economist**

Main participants:

<b>Dr Jeannette Axisa</b>	<i>Director General – Foundation for Transport</i>
<b>Joseph Galea</b>	<i>Tourism and Aviation Consultant / Member of the Aviation Advisory Committee</i>
<b>Raphael Scerri</b>	<i>Head of Division Employer Services - Jobsplus</i>
<b>Kevin J. Borg</b>	<i>CEO - Malta Maritime Forum / MEA Consultant</i>
<b>Perit Karmenu Vella</b>	<i>Former European Commissioner</i>



### WORKSHOP 02

Topic – **“Supply and skills. Labour challenges facing hospitality, tourism and retail”**

Presentation by **JP Fabri - Partner, Seed Consultancy**

Main participants:

<b>Norbert Grixti</b>	<i>General Manager – Grand Hotel Excelsior</i>
<b>Adrian Tonna</b>	<i>Chief Commercial Officer – Xara Lodge</i>
<b>Col. Mark Mallia</b>	<i>CEO Identity Malta Agency</i>
<b>Andrew Debattista</b>	<i>Senior Manger Business Development - Institute for Tourism Studies</i>
<b>Dr Charlotte Camilleri</b>	<i>Executive EU and Legal Affairs - Malta Employers' Association</i>



### WORKSHOP 03

Topic – **“Nurturing skills and creativity in the digital era”**

Presentation by **Dr Anne Marie Thake - Senior Lecturer Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy, University of Malta**

Main participants:	<b>Alexia Frendo</b>	<i>Global HR Business Partner - Kindred Group</i>
	<b>Maria Cauchi Delia</b>	<i>CEO - Malta Institute of Accountants</i>
	<b>Joseph Seychell</b>	<i>Senior Manager - ICT &amp; Technologies Malta Communications Authority</i>
	<b>Carm Cachia</b>	<i>Chief Administrator - Eskills Malta Foundation</i>
	<b>Efrem Borg</b>	<i>Chief Technologist – Malta Digital Innovation Authority</i>



### WORKSHOP 04

Topic – **“Skills for impact - manufacturing, technical and ancillary services”**

Presentation by **Dr Roberta Lepre – Managing Director, Weave Consulting**

Main participants:	<b>Antoinette Caruana</b>	<i>Company Secretary / General Manager - Farsons</i>
	<b>Frederick Schembri</b>	<i>General Manager - Torrent Pharma (Malta) Ltd</i>
	<b>Michael Mifsud</b>	<i>CEO - Multigas</i>
	<b>Clayton Cutajar</b>	<i>Director Stem Engagement Working Group - MCST</i>

10.30am

### Video A

10.35am

### PANEL DISCUSSION 01



Topic: **“Digital foresight: readiness for eCommerce and online platforms”**

<b>Francois Grech</b>	<i>Managing Director - Exigy</i>
<b>Bernard Agius</b>	<i>Manager Digital Services - Malta Communications Authority</i>
<b>Carm Cachia</b>	<i>Chief Administrator - Eskills Malta Foundation</i>
<b>Anamaria Magri Pantea</b>	<i>Secretary General - International Integrity Foundation</i>
<b>Fabianne Ruggier</b>	<i>Director - RSM</i>

10.55am

### Video B

11.00am

### PANEL DISCUSSION 02

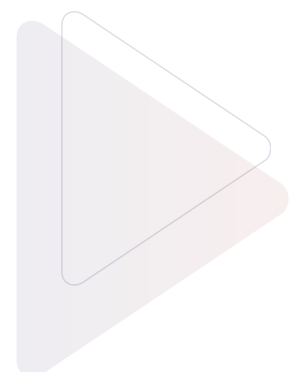


Topic: **“Ensuring the skills for a smooth green transition in transport”**

<b>Hon. Aaron Farrugia</b>	<i>Minister for Transport, Infrastructure &amp; Capital Projects</i>
<b>Dr Jeannette Axisa</b>	<i>Director General - Foundation for Transport</i>
<b>Michael Callus</b>	<i>Chairperson of the Board - Transport Malta</i>
<b>Gaetano Bugeja</b>	<i>Head, Lily of the Valley, Mosta Secondary School - Maria Regina College</i>
<b>Pauline Micallef</b>	<i>CEO - MaritimeMT</i>

11.20am

### Video C



11.25am



**PANEL DISCUSSION 03:**

Topic: *"Is our enterprise future competitiveness at risk?"*

<b>Steve Ellul</b>	<i>Policy Advisor Ministry for Environment, Energy &amp; Enterprise</i>
<b>Brian Camilleri</b>	<i>Chief Economist - Malta Enterprise</i>
<b>Kevin Chircop</b>	<i>Executive Chairman - Enemed</i>
<b>Paul Azzopardi</b>	<i>CEO - Malta Development Bank</i>
<b>Gilmour Camilleri</b>	<i>Chief Economist - Malta Fiscal Advisory Council</i>

11.45am

**Video D**

11.50am



**PANEL DISCUSSION 04:**

Topic: *"Investing in human resources while securing service quality standards"*

<b>Col. Mark Mallia</b>	<i>CEO - Identity Malta Agency</i>
<b>Felix Borg</b>	<i>Head of Corporate Services Division - Jobsplus</i>
<b>Pierre Fenech</b>	<i>CEO - Institute of Tourism Studies</i>
<b>Prof Joachim James Calleja</b>	<i>Principal/CEO - MCAST</i>

12.10pm

**Presentation**

**Stefano Mallia**, President Employers' Group - EESC

12.20pm

**Workshops Rapporteurs' Presentations**

12.35pm

**Speech**

**Hon. Clyde Caruana**, Minister for Finance and Employment

12.40pm

**Speech**

**Hon. Ivan Castillo**, Member of Parliament, Shadow Minister for Work, Employment & Maritime

12.45pm

**ROUND-UP-DEBATE:**

Topic: *"Ensuring the skills for future competitiveness"*

<b>Hon. Clifton Grima</b>	<i>Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation</i>
<b>Hon. Justin Schembri</b>	<i>Member of Parliament, Shadow Minister for Education</i>
<b>Prof. Alfred J. Vella</b>	<i>Rector - University of Malta</i>
<b>Prof Colin Calleja</b>	<i>Dean Faculty of Education, Head of Department for Inclusion and Access to Learning - University of Malta</i>
<b>Joanne Bondin</b>	<i>President - Malta Employers' Association</i>

1.10pm

**Closing remarks**

1.15pm

**Networking Lunch**

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