

Volt Malta Manifesto 2022

**A Modern & Social
Business Enviroment**



**Ivvota Aħjar.
Ivvota Volt.**

Is-Sibt, 26 ta' Marzu

A Modern & Social Business Environment

Digitalisation

- **Expand the “One-Stop-Shop for Business - Business 1st”** to facilitate any type of business & for further interactions between businesses & Government to be done digitally.
 - **Functionality.** The digital system should make it possible to;
 - Automate and simplify financial & data reporting;
 - Update and amend Shareholder records;
 - Handle fees & tax-related affairs, such as Corporate Tax, Value Added Tax and More
 - **Accessibility.** The registry should be accessible to all business types based and headquartered in Malta, including but not limited to;
 - Limited Liability Companies;
 - Partnerships;
 - Cooperatives;
 - More.
 - **Scope.** Ensure it can facilitate various business directions.
 - Cross-border business operations & strategies across the European Single Market & World,
 - Entrepreneurs with multiple start-ups & businesses.
 - **Scale.** Ensure it is equipped to support SMEs and start-ups among other business models.
 - Navigating legal requirements,
 - Venture capitalist and network access,
 - Incubators.
- **Registration Process**
 - **Reduce all costs to start a business** of any type to €1.
 - Ensure any additional costs (licences etc) to operate the business across Europe do not exceed €1,000.
 - **Unleash Self-Employment/ Freelancers.**
 - Ensure that a Self-Employed individual can locate and submit all documents required within a day, and can start working the following day.
 - Exceptions exist where specific licences are required (e.g food handling), which should be obtainable within as short a period as possible without loss of quality.
 - Ensure that the online platform to register is user friendly.
 - Ensure that the same online platform can be used by Maltese citizens, non-Maltese EU citizens and third-country nationals with residence or work permits.
 - **Unleash Micro-Enterprises**

- Micro-Enterprises should be able to register and commence completely paperless & within 3 days.
 - Exceptions exist where specific licences are required (e.g food handling), which should be obtainable within as short a period as possible without loss of quality.

Business Incubators

- **Create a Business Incubator Network.** Interlink Malta's public & private incubators, to support start-ups with a wide array of information, options and tools.
 - **Foster diverse private incubators.**
 - **Tax-reduction incentives** for advisory roles to start-ups.
 - Performance-based incentive.
 - **Tax-reduction incentives** for businesses making use of private incubators.
 - Participation-based incentive.
 - **Create a private-public incubator** to facilitate European expansion. This would exist for established companies in Malta which primarily operate in Malta (75% + of revenues), to accelerate their European Expansion.

Venture Capital Investment

- **Create an accredited Angel Investors & Venture Capital Firms Network.** To ensure funding from highly experienced sources who have a strong familiarity with Malta's and/or European Single Market business landscape.
- **Facilitate the creation of Venture Capital Firms.**
 - Reduced Capital Gains tax on investments in Malta-based companies

Small Businesses

- **Create Tax-Incentives for new SMEs for up to 3 years** if they continuously create jobs or re-invest surplus.
- **Create incentives for Employee Stock Options.**

Cooperatives

Cooperatives offer rigid structures which are capable of coping with shocks to the economy very effectively, relative to other models. The legislation regulating them is outdated and requires significant modernisation.

- **Fiscal incentives.** Create fiscal incentives to encourage Cooperatives on a level playing field with other business models.
 - **Tax Credits & Grants.**
- **The Cooperative Societies Act**
 - **New Legal Framework.** To update the 20-year-old legislation and make it fit for purpose, for the current economic realities
 - **Ensure 'One member One vote' principle.**
 - **Enable Societies** - Cooperatives between diverse entity types.

- **Reduce the minimum number of members required to 3 from 5.** To increase accessibility and align with international trends.
- **Ensure representation of Cooperatives** in the Enterprise Consultative Council, the Small Business Advisory Committee and the College of Regulators.
- **Revise discriminatory legislation.**
- **Enable Community Cooperatives.**
 - This would facilitate members of a community investing in a good collectively for the benefit of the community.
- **Enable Home & Housing Cooperatives.**
 - This would enable individuals living, or aiming to live with a building to pool resources together effectively and allow greater flexibility on types of housing.
- **Ensure Cooperatives are part of the relevant educational curriculum.**
- **Foster Social Enterprise Educational Courses at Tertiary level.**

Malta Stock Exchange

In an effort to encourage listings & liquidity in Malta's Stock Exchange, a process of privatisation should take place with a qualified strategic partner.

- **Create & execute a Privatisation Strategy** for the Malta Stock Exchange in collaboration with current, and also potential stakeholders with the following conditions;
 - Introduction of an experienced 'Strategic Partner'
 - Increasing accessibility for SMEs to be listed
 - Increasing accessibility for traders to participate in the market
 - Increasing internationalisation of investors
 - Creating a bastion for North African, Middle Eastern & European companies
 - Overseen by an Integrity Pact
 - Short-selling
 - Introduction of Derivatives, Options, Futures & FTEs
 - Modernisation

Corporate Income Tax

- **Reduce the Corporate Income Tax to 28% for Maltese-run businesses.**
 - Amend the tax refund & credit systems to ensure that the rate paid by the companies benefiting from them, is still effectively the same as when the corporate tax was 35%.
 - e.g if the company was paying 5% effective tax, the company will continue to pay 5% effective tax.