



Survey methodology

Number of participants : 250

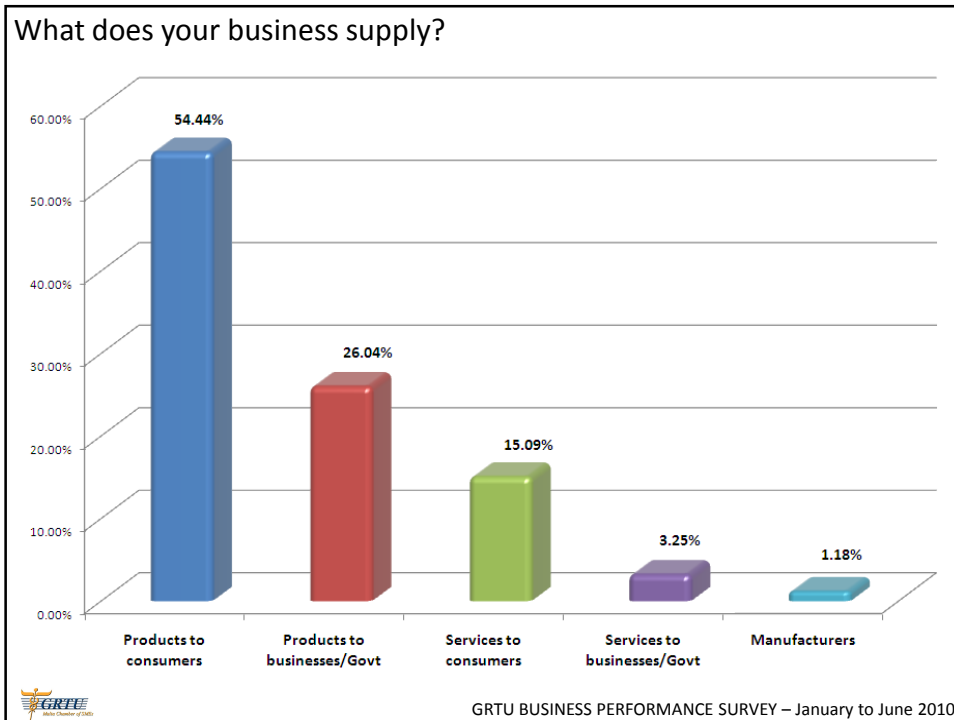
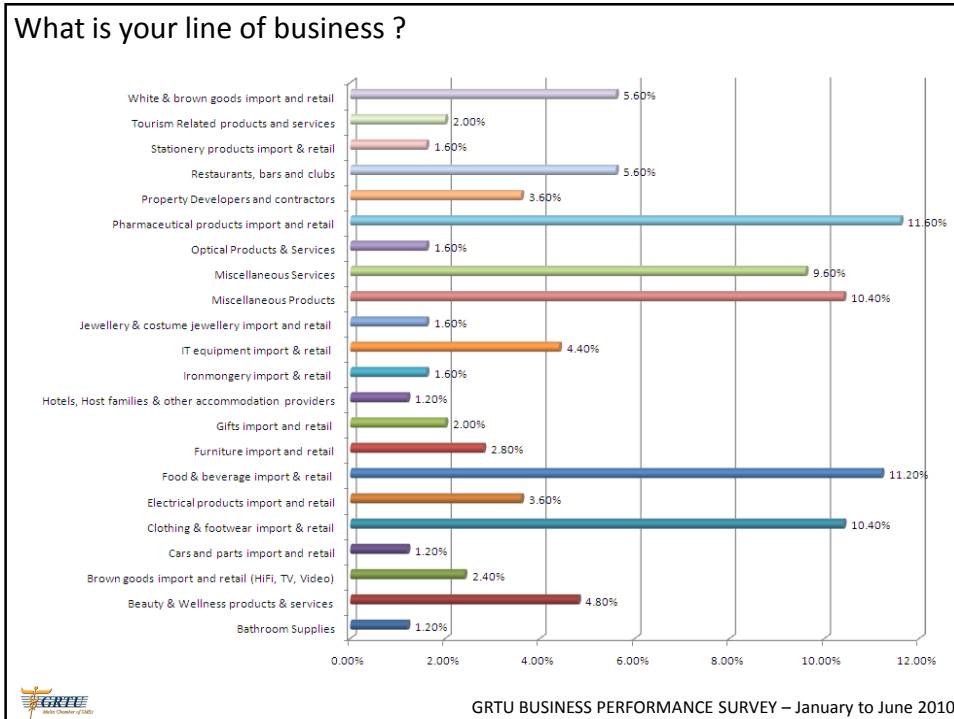
Selection : Random from membership base

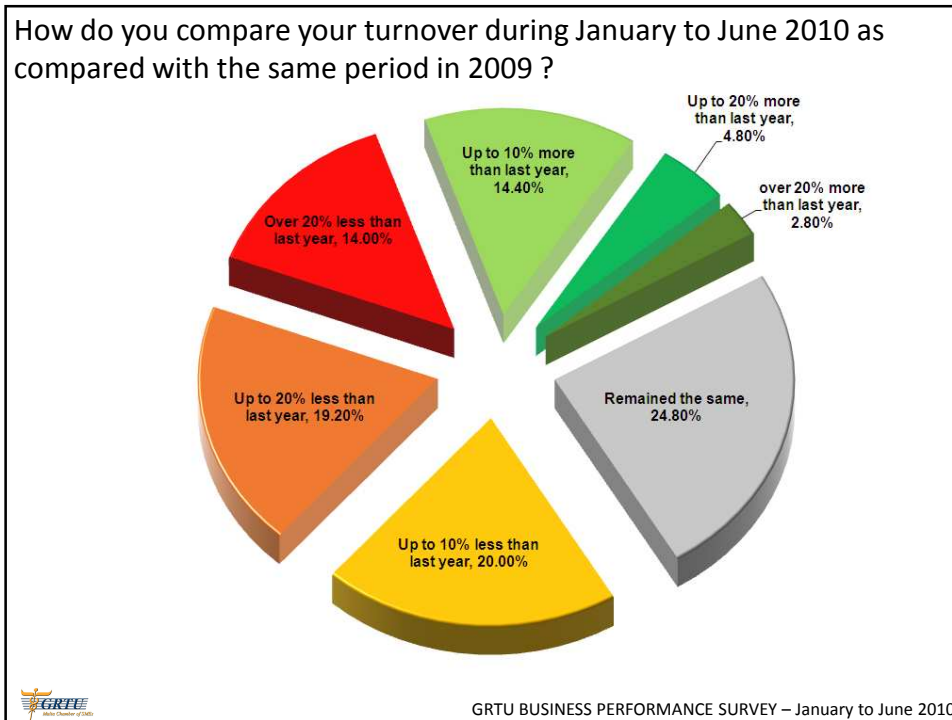
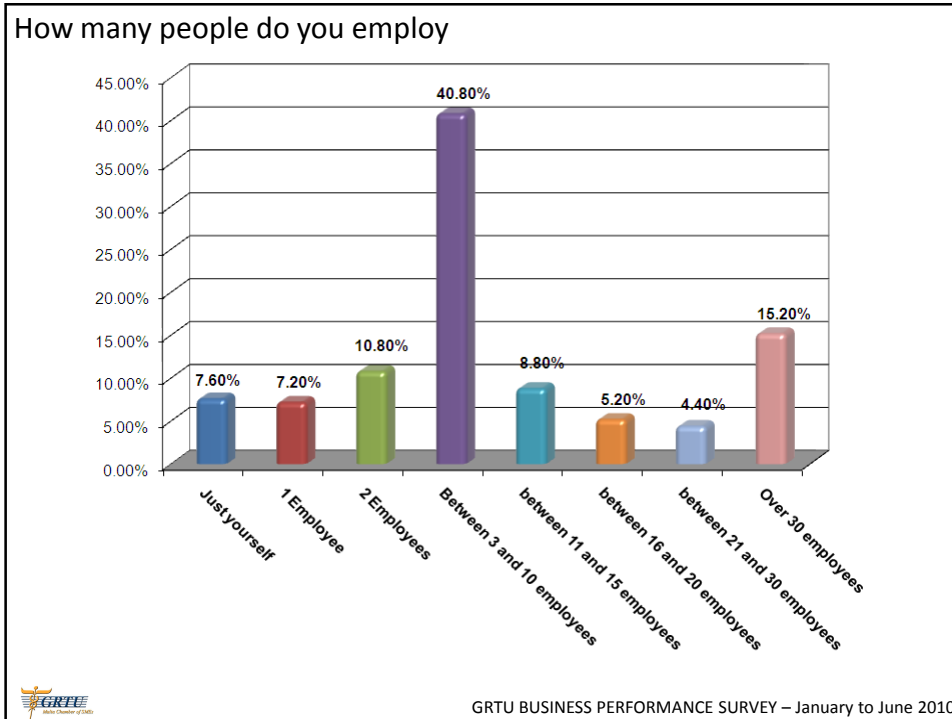
Method : Telephone

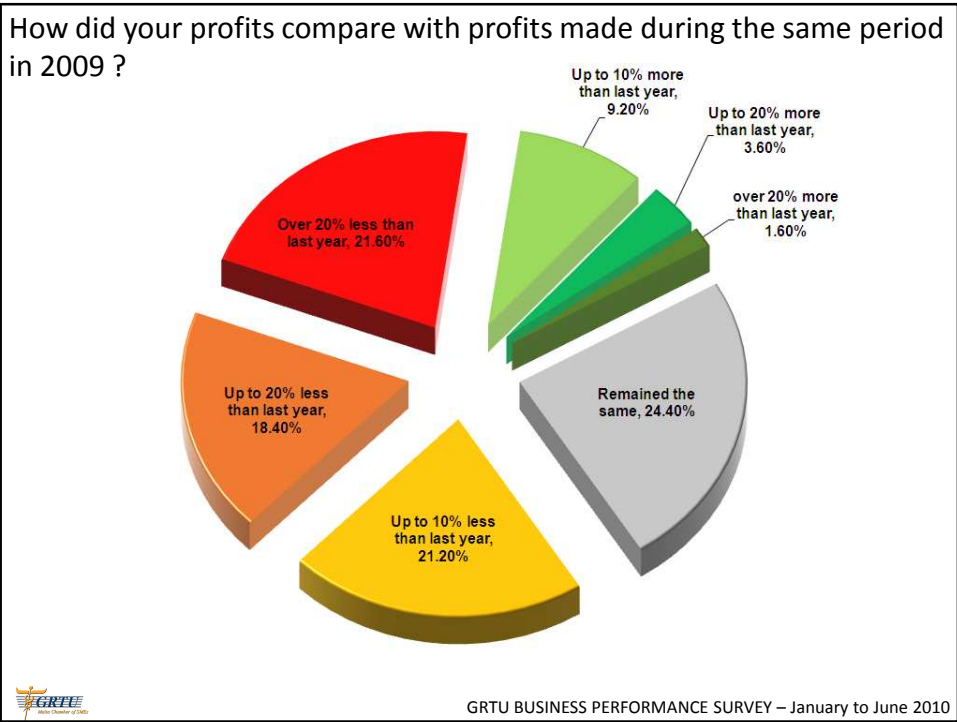
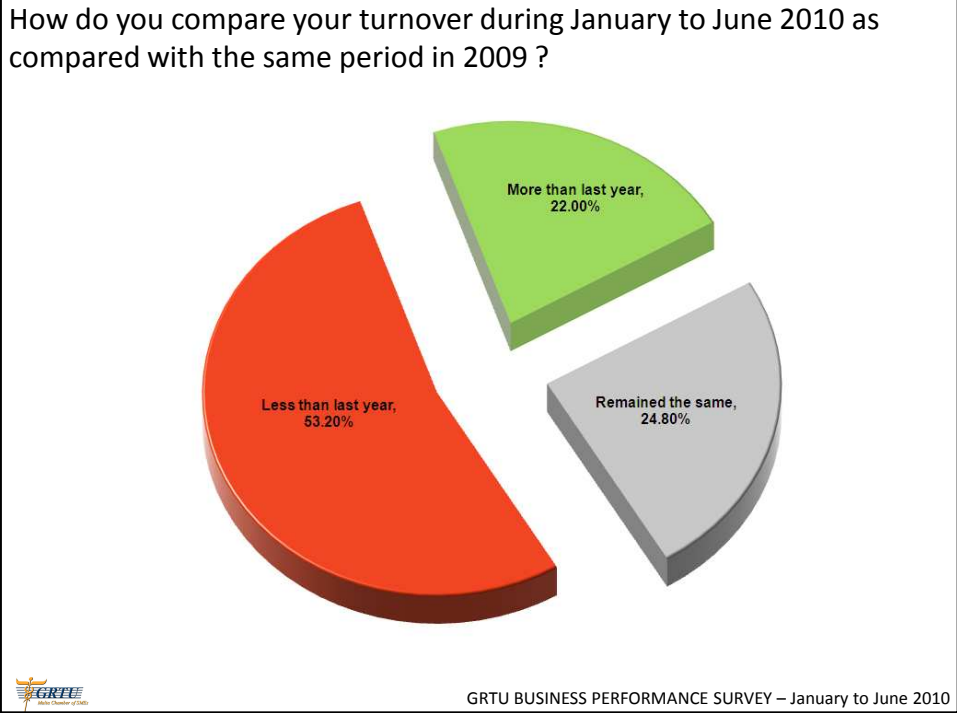
Time of calls : during office/shop hours

Conducted on : 15th July to 27th July 2010

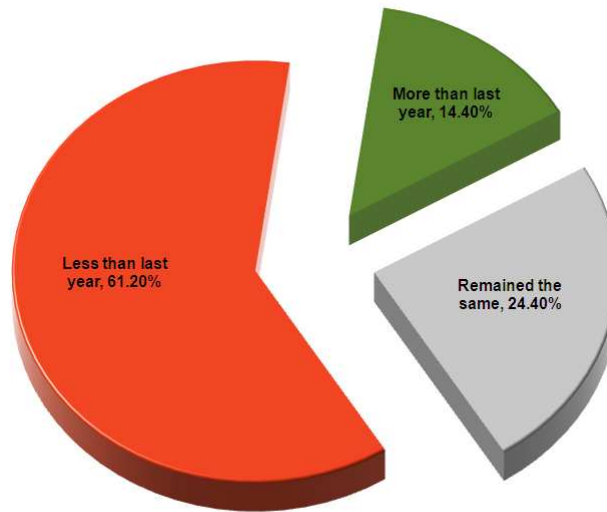
Conducted by : GRTU Research Unit







How did your profits compare with profits made during the same period in 2009 ?



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REASONS WHY LOWER PROFITS REPORTED

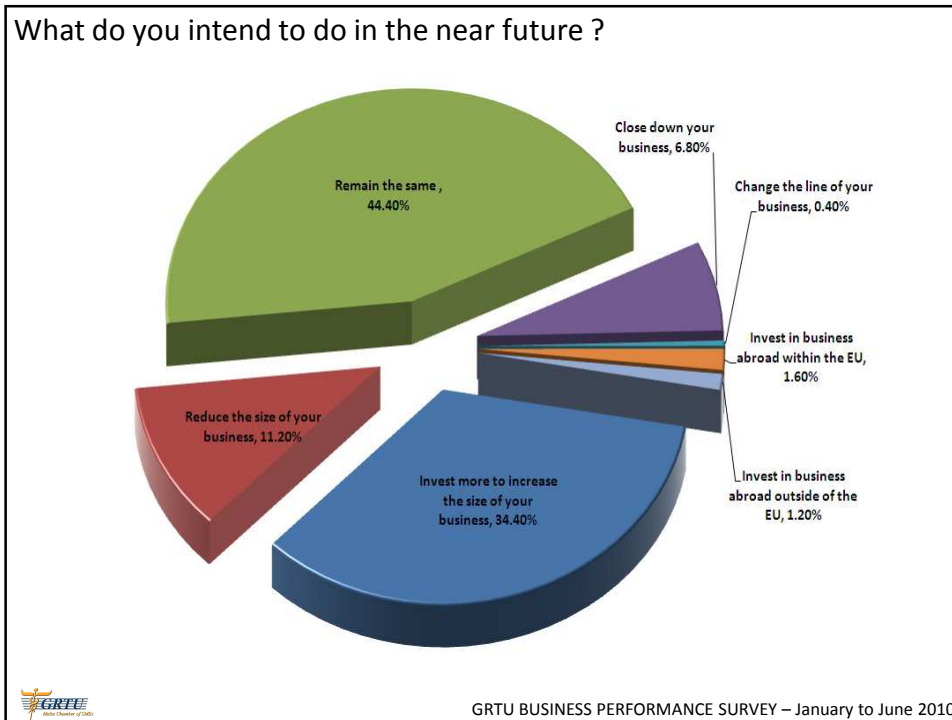
1. The effects of the financial crises.
2. High prices of utilities reducing consumer spending power.
3. Taxation reducing consumer spending power.
4. Expenses to run a business are always increasing.
5. Competition and too many businesses for the same consumers.
6. Competition from the Internet.
7. Competition from foreign businesses setting up in Malta.
8. Government is not guaranteeing a level playing field for SMEs.
9. Clients not paying on time
10. Quality of tourists – Students are not tourists.
11. The reduction of parking spaces in Valletta.
12. Construction works in Valletta.



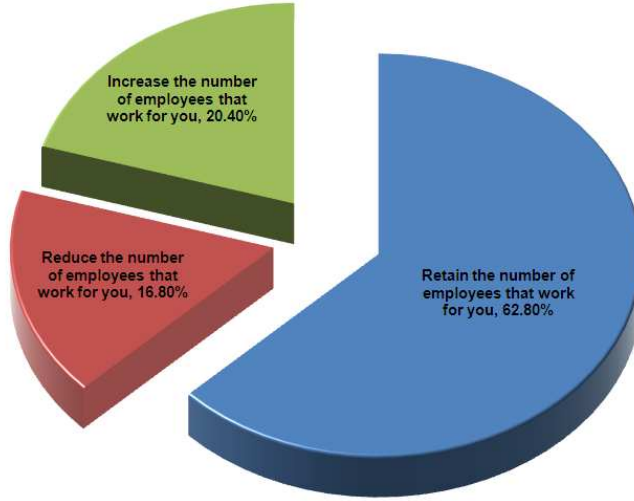
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REASONS WHY HIGHER PROFITS REPORTED	
1.	Cost cutting.
2.	Increased range of services/products.
3.	Invested more.
4.	Economy seems to be recovering.
5.	Advertised more.
6.	Changed line of business


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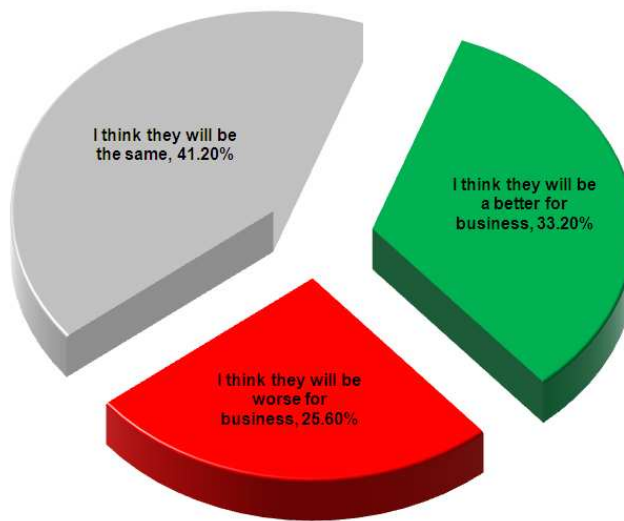


As regards your workforce, what do you intend to do in the near future ?

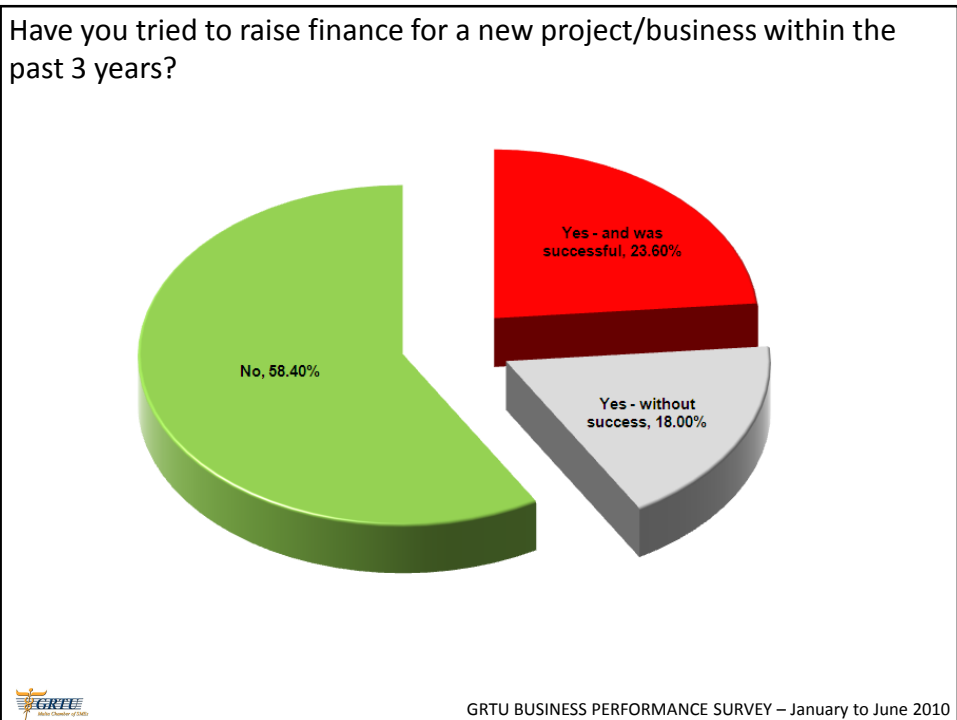
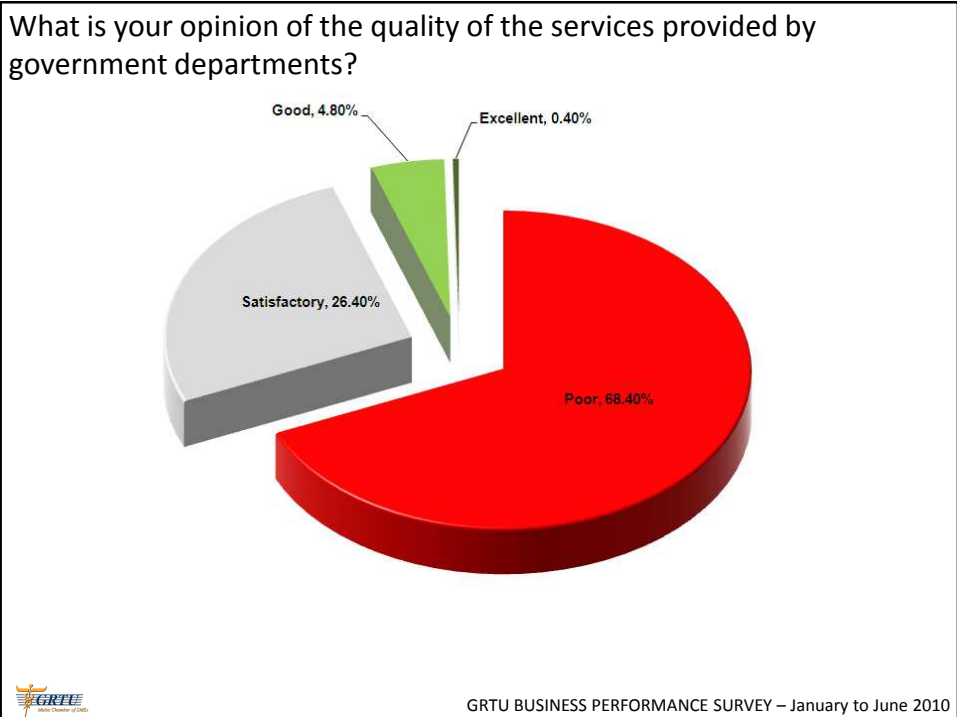


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What is your outlook for the next six months ?



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WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO TO HELP BUSINESS	
1.	Reduce bureaucracy
2.	Reduce taxes on business.
3.	Reduce the cost of energy for business.
4.	Help business by providing low interest loans such as the Micro Credit Scheme rather than tax credit schemes.
5.	Control unfair competition and provide a level playing field for business.
6.	Increase efficiency and reduce costs in government departments.
7.	Remove taxes such as eco contribution that give the illegal trader an advantage.
8.	Be more lenient when applying fines to businesses, at least in the current situation.
9.	Find a solution to the parking problems in Valletta.
10.	Foster an environment where it is a pleasure to do business.


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