TUNNEL LINK BETWEEN THE ISLAND OF GOZO AND MAINLAND MALTA

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13th MAY, 2017
### KEY TIMELINE EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>Society for the Union of the Maltese Islands (SUMI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Maltese government commissioned the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency of the Government of Japan to carry out a preliminary survey report on a possible permanent link between the two islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Gozo Business Chamber and Transport Malta commissioned a study on the economic and financial feasibility of alternative solutions. This study concluded that the ‘tunnel sub-sea-bed scenario’ is the most effective and viable alternative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>The ‘tunnel sub-sea-bed scenario’ option was endorsed by the Maltese government in March 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Double insularity
- An ageing population
- A higher relative educational attainment rate than
- Graduates (2010 - 2014)
  - Social Science, Business & Law (31%)
  - Health and Welfare (20%)
  - Education (18%)
- Tourism, which contributes to the economy of Gozo more than it does to the economy of Malta
GOAL OF SIA

To uncover the *a priori* opinions of stakeholders - holding cultural, political, or entrepreneurial interests - on the possible social impacts resulting from the building of a tunnel link between the island of Gozo and Malta.
TWO SOCIO-MORAL OBJECTIVES

1. The proposed tunnel link between the island of Gozo and mainland Malta requires ‘Gozo leadership’

2. One consistent theme in ‘island studies’ is that island habitats depend on networks with the mainland

What will be the social impact of a permanent tunnel link between the island of Gozo and mainland Malta on the Gozitan residents?
| (I) Profiling | Secondary sources research  
|              | Public involvement  
|              | Identification of alternatives  
|              | Profile of baseline condition |
| (II) Scoping | Interview research & Survey research  
|              | Projection of estimated effects  
|              | Prediction/evaluation of responses  
|              | Estimate indirect and cumulative impacts |
| (III) Mitigation | Thematic analysis  
|                  | Changes to alternatives  
|                  | Mitigation & Monitoring |
**POPULATION INCREASE**

- Manageable increase in population

- On one hand, a permanent tunnel link will slow down the present ‘push’ of Gozitan families to relocate to Malta and the ‘pull’ of Gozitan breadwinners to purchase dwellings for weekday accommodation.

- On the other hand, a permanent tunnel link will enable Maltese persons who own dwellings in Gozo to stay longer than the customary “hurried” weekend, especially in the summer months when school children have their seasonal holidays, as well as influencing the possibility that Maltese inhabitants take up residence in Gozo.
RELOCATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Buoyed by the possibility of a smoother and less time-consuming Gozo-Malta-Gozo trajectory, a number of Gozitan families may choose to relocate, voluntary, from Malta and back to Gozo, as they will be attracted by participating in a stronger and more extensive family-of-origin social networks.

“Malli professjonist Għawdxi jsib xogħol Malta, għax hawn ma tantx hawn fejn taqla’ l-flus, jibda jinduna kemm jaħli ħin tiela’ u nieżel, jixtri post Malta u ma tarahx iżjed. Triq bejn Malta u Għawdex iżżommu hawnhekk.”

Gozitan resident
This social impact assessment anticipated that the intended project of the permanent tunnel link will lead to an increase in the seasonal (leisure) population.

“Aħna ż-żgħar (sidien tal-ħwienet iż-żgħar) ma nistgħux naħdmu biss fil-weekends u fil-festi. Is-sajf tajjeb imma issa hawn ħafna kompetizzjoni. Biex Għawdxi jkollu negozju tajjeb irid ikollu bejgħ normali s-sena kollha u mhux daqqa fis-sakra u daqqa mejjet għal qatra... triq bejn Malta u Għawdex hija tajba għax tagħmel is-suq Għawdxi stabbli, tista’ tippjana”

Gozitan resident - shopkeeper
Are you in favour of a permanent tunnel link between Gozo and Malta? (N = 247)
Are you in favour of a permanent tunnel link between Gozo and Malta? By age (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are you in favour of a permanent tunnel link between Gozo and Malta? By education (%)
Are you in favour of a permanent tunnel link between Gozo and Malta? By employment (%)

- **Student**: 90 Yes, 10 No
- **Employed**: 90 Yes, 10 No
- **Pensioner**: 60 Yes, 40 No
Perceived Advantages

- Increasing the availability of quality jobs (33.0%)
- Attracting more private investment to Gozo (20.6 %)
- Enabling families working in Malta to reside in Gozo (13.6%)
- Decreasing travelling times between islands (13.6%)
- None (4.4 %)
- Smoother accessibility between islands' two hospitals (4.0%)
- Gozitan workers to provide quality time to children (3.0%)
- Quicker accessibility to Malta International Airport (2.8%)
- More Maltese making use of Gozo's tourist services (2.2%)
- More Gozitan residents to take up studies in Malta (1.1%)
- More frequent visits to relatives living in Malta (1.7%)
“Il-businessman Għawdxi moħħu jaħdem mat-timetable tal-vapur. Ikollok titlaq ġesrem minn meeting għax se titlef il-vapur, dejjem qalbek ittaqtaq jekk mhux se tiġik tajba...hawn naħdmu fil-weekend biss, ma tistax taħdem hekk, jekk għandek restaurant ikollok ġafna telf hekk. Il-mina ssolvielna tliet problemi, id-double insurality, li Għawdex periferija, jiġifieri aħna l-bogħod minn tas-Sliema u l-Belt (Valletta) fejn hemm ġafna kummerċ u turiżmu, u li aħna żgħar, fis-sens li ma hawnx nies biżżejjed għan-negozji li għandna”

Gozitan business-person
Perceived Disadvantages

- None (46.6%)
- Further construction of buildings in Gozo (16.2%)
- Increasing the number of cars in Gozo (14.0%)
- Adverse effects on the Gozitan environment (4.3%)
- Increasing taxation (4.3%)
- Higher tolls that the present ferry prices (2.8%)
- Negative effects on the sea-bed environment (2.8%)
- Removing the ferry crossing which is an attraction (2.5%)
- Bringing in more tourists than Gozo can deal with (2.5%)
- Depriving Gozo of its unique identity (2.2%)
- Spoiling the charm and tranquillity of Gozo (1.8%)
Jien imħasseb ħafna dwar it-terrapijn u l-ħmieġ li se jinqalgħu biex tinbena l-mina, x’se jsir minnu dan il-blat, se nħammġu kullimkien?

Gozitan resident

Wieħed jrid jaħseb dwar l-impatt ta’ iżjed nies fuq Għawdex. Parking, pollution, pereżempju. U xi nghidu għall-elettriku? Għandna vultağġ biżżejjed għal iżjed djar, hotels u ħwienet? Ma nafx kif Għawdex se jibqa' kwiet u trankwill b’din il-mina, nispera li jkun hemm ħlas mill-Maltin u ħlas ogħla mill-barranin...

Gozitan resident
Mitigation Issues

- Health and safety
- Environmental policy
- Traffic & Parking spaces
- Drainage system & electricity voltage
- Leisure industry
- Local Councils & Active citizenship
- Rural and coastal accessibility
- Social and medical services
- Corporate social responsibility
- Town-planning & Housing policy
- Ferry services
TUNNEL LINK BETWEEN THE ISLAND OF GOZO AND MAINLAND MALTA

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13th MAY, 2017