

Sustainable localities the key to a better nation

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Working on having sustainable localities should be the bottom-up approach to decision-making where local authorities take a central and important role, Parliamentary Secretary for public dialogue and information Chris Said said.

He was addressing a 3-day conference with the theme "Zooming on sustainability".

The conference, which is organised by MEUSAC, gathered over 150 participants from European cities which are twinned with local cities and villages. The aim behind the conference is the exchange of ideas and to provide examples of best practice on key issues in the area of sustainability.

Working groups will focus on particular areas of sustainable development and the promotion of active citizenship in environmental, cultural and social matters.

Chris Said said that at present, localities are facing challenges arising from demographic, economic, environmental and social realities and local councils should be the key players in changing things for the better.

"Local councils play a vital role in educating, mobilising and responding to the public to promote sustainable development and ensure that the actions taken today and in the future do not compromise the collective well-being of future generations," he added.

He also said that the government has committed funds for the implementation of initiatives related to the planning of sustainable development strategies on a local basis.

The first session of the conference was also addressed by Vanni Xuereb, MEUSAC head; Michael Cohen, head of the Maltese delegation at the Committee of Regions; Robert Vella, senior planning officer at MEPA and Martin Dalmas, the airfield technical manager at Malta International Airport.

