

RISE & SHINE 2026

11th Mediterranean Tourism Forum | Thursday, 26 November 2026 | 10:00-12:00

YOUR TALENT. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR MEDITERRANEAN.

OPEN TO ALL SCHOOLS ACROSS MALTA AND GOZO

RISE & SHINE 2026 is a youth-focused initiative of the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation, organised in collaboration with the Malta Visual & Performing Arts School. It invites students from all schools across Malta and Gozo to discover their talents, develop life skills and explore careers in tourism, creative industries and public service. Through conversations with industry leaders and professionals, the programme shows how different careers contribute to Malta's economy, community wellbeing and reputation as a safe, welcoming destination.

WELCOME, ADDRESSES & MALTA-SICILY PARTNERSHIP

10:00	Welcome & Introduction — Student Compères
10:03	Tony Zahra — President, Mediterranean Tourism Foundation
10:08	Andrew Agius Muscat — Co-Founder & Secretary General, MTF; CEO, MHRA
10:13	Marita Abdilla — Head of School, Malta Visual & Performing Arts School
10:18	Prof.ssa Rosaria Maltese — Head of School, Leonardo da Vinci School, Ispica, Sicily
10:23	Hon. Dr Byron Camilleri — Minister for Education and Sport — Opening Address
10:28	Hon. Dr Jo Etienne Abela — Minister for Tourism — Ministerial Address
10:33	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding — Malta Visual & Performing Arts School and Leonardo da Vinci School, Ispica; proposed cooperation in education, arts and cultural exchange
10:38	GRAND OPENING — RISE & SHINE 2026 — Live artistic performance

PANEL 1 — DARE TO DREAM: TOURISM CAREERS & GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Explore careers and entrepreneurship across the tourism industry, from hospitality and travel to innovation and international business.

10:48	Francisco Almeida — Vice President, Partner Services - Southern Europe, Forbes Travel Guide — A World of Opportunities in Tourism: Career pathways, skills and international opportunities across the tourism economy.
10:58	Hubert Alexander Ummels — Founder, GameChangers & Future Leaders Platform — Creating Your Own Opportunities: Entrepreneurship, initiative and leadership; turning ideas and ambitions into careers and businesses.

PANEL 2 — LIFE SKILLS: ART, CREATIVITY & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

How creativity, communication and self-expression build confidence and transferable skills for life and work.

11:08	Dr Luke Dalli — Executive Chairman, Arts Council Malta — The Power of Creativity: Arts as a source of confidence, discipline and professional opportunities.
11:18	Maria Galea — Chief Creative Officer, INIALA, Malta — Turning Creativity into a Career: Design, storytelling and innovation as pathways into hospitality and the creative industries.

CAREERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE — BUILDING A SAFER MALTA

Career opportunities that protect lives, strengthen communities and help Malta remain a safe destination for residents and visitors.

11:28	Malta Police Force — Community Policing — Safer Communities, Better Visitor Experiences: Careers in community policing, visitor assistance, public engagement and safer tourism neighbourhoods.
11:38	Civil Protection Department — Protecting Lives, Strengthening Destination Resilience: Careers in firefighting, rescue and emergency preparedness, including protection of tourism areas.

11:48	Mater Dei Hospital — Emergency Department — Saving Lives, Caring for Malta & Its Visitors: Careers in emergency medicine, nursing and healthcare for residents and international visitors.
11:58	Official Closing — Student Compères

Central message: Dream boldly. Develop your talents. Build your future. Make a difference.

Working programme. Speaker participation, professional titles and MoU arrangements remain subject to final confirmation.