Minister Owen Bonnici: “Culture is essential to our Union”

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and economic development and cooperation on cultural heritage.

The Minister emphasised that the unity in cultural diversity paves the way for peaceful intercommunity relations and participation in this sector should be highly encouraged especially in youths, who are considered to be our future leaders.

He continued that culture should be seen as an element which intertwines with other sectors such as tourism, education, research, creative industries and new technology, adding that through culture we strive to leave a lasting legacy for our future generations. This belief is fundamental to the work we have done and are doing in Malta, even as we work towards Valletta 2018 through capital investments and infrastructural projects such as the new Museum of Fine Arts MUŻA, the MICAS project a space for contemporary arts, the Valletta Design Cluster, the digitisation of historic archives like the notarial archives and contemporary archives such as the public broadcasting archives regeneration and restoration projects, as well as the creation and investment in festivals, educational programmes in the arts and broadening of cultural knowledge at all levels of our society. The knowledge of and appreciation for culture are essential for a better society in order for us to be better persons, the Minister said.

Moreover, while the cultural sphere creates jobs in its own right, the rehabilitation and the promotion of cultural heritage attract tourists, thus boosting the economy and create employment. Minister Bonnici said that Malta worked on various projects whereby it kept the character of historic towns whilst urbanising such area.

The Minister also urged the audience to engage in a debate on the strategic approach to international cultural relations, in order to help creative industries to continue expanding, thus creating growth and jobs.