

SCREENING AND SCOPING
REPORT - BMVI
LOT 4

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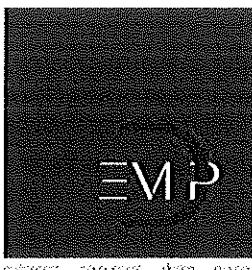
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SEA of the AMIF and BMVI
Operational Programmes
2021 - 2027, Malta.

October, 2021

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Screening and scoping for the ESIF, JTF, AMIF, BMVI and CAP
Programmes/Plans for 2021-2027

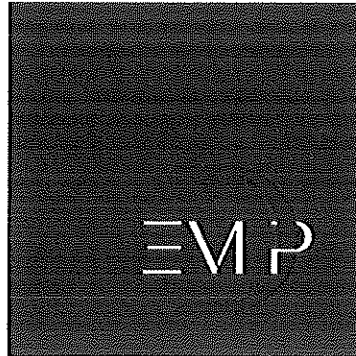
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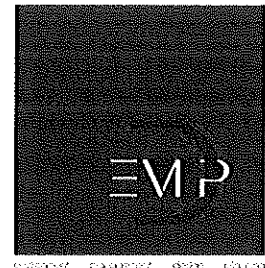
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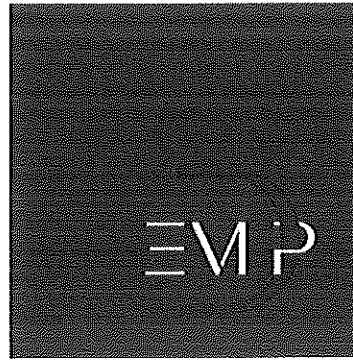
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REVISION SCHEDULE

REV	DATE	DETAILS	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY
00	August 21	Submission to Client	George Paraskevopoulos	Marthese Debono
01	Sept. 21		Iraklis Panagiotakis	
02	Oct. 21			



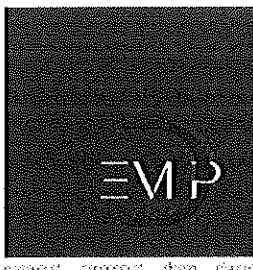
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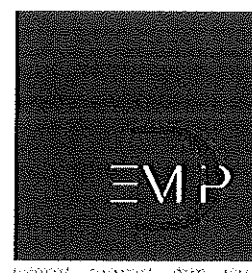
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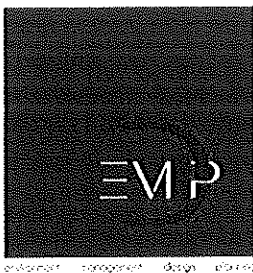
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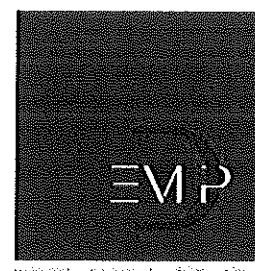
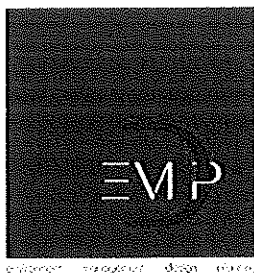


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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1.1 The scope of this assignment is to fulfil the obligations deriving from the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC as incorporated in the national legislation with the law LN 497 of 2010, as amended, for the BMVI (Border Management and Visa Instrument) Malta's Programme for the programming period of 2021 – 2027.
- 1.1.1.1.2 According to Article 21 of Regulation EU 2021 /1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council dated 24 June 2021, Member States shall prepare, in cooperation with the partners referred to in Article 8(1), programmes to implement the Funds for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.
- 1.1.1.1.3 The above obligation includes the BMVI Programme, which is one of the EU Programmes that shall be implemented in Malta (among other EU members) for the programming period 2021-2027. This Programme shall aim at promoting the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening, and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration. The BMVI, which is being drafted by the Strategy and Implementation Division within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), shall be implemented by the Funds and Programmes Division, also within the OPM. More concretely, the BMVI will contribute to:
 - 1.1.1.1.3.1 Facilitating legitimate border crossings, preventing and detecting illegal immigration and cross-border crime and managing migration flows; and
 - 1.1.1.1.3.2 Supporting the common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel.
- 1.1.1.1.4 The present document is the Screening and Scoping Report of the contract entitled "SEA of the AMIF and BMVI Programmes 2021-2027" and more precisely refers to the Strategy and Implementation Division (SID), within the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta as the contracting authority (CA).
- 1.1.1.1.5 Normally, screening and scoping reports are prepared separately, since a screening decision is required to proceed into scoping. Under this specific assignment, the screening report is attached as Annex, while a scoping report is prepared in any case (screen in/screen out decision – refer to Table 9).

2 SEA process

2.1 General process

2.1.1.1.1 The SEA Directive 2001/42 EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment was first transposed into Maltese legislation in 2005 (LN 418/2005) which was subject to a minor amendment in 2008 (LN 327/2008). A review of the first transposition showed the potential for simplification and the reduction of administrative burdens on government entities and as such the SEA Regulations were revised once again in 2010 retaining full compliance with the provision of the Directive (S.L. 549.61 (STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS) of the Environment Protection Act (CAP. 435)), as amended by the L.N. 82 of 2019 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT (CAP. 549).

2.1.1.1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of implementing Plans or Programmes. The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of plans and programmes are assessed both during their preparation and prior to adoption. The SEA process also allows interested parties to comment on the environmental consequences of implementing plans or programmes and to be kept informed during the decision making process. In particular, SEA is an iterative process which:

2.1.1.1.2.1 predicts, analyses and assesses the likely significant effects of plans and programmes on the environment, including cumulative/synergistic impacts which may be difficult to address through case-by-case assessment of individual projects;

2.1.1.1.2.2 evaluates reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures to avoid or minimise such environmental impacts;

2.1.1.1.2.3 seeks the views of stakeholders and the public on these effects; and

2.1.1.1.2.4 influences the plan preparation process in order to address environmental issues at an early stage.

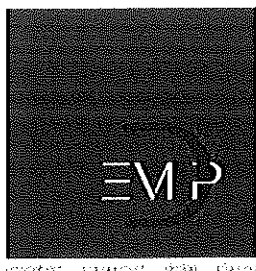
2.1.1.1.3 The SEA process shall comprise of the following steps:

2.1.1.1.3.1 Screening, which shall determine whether the programme is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether a SEA is required based on the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive;

2.1.1.1.3.2 Scoping, which shall determine the coverage and level of detail of the environmental report. In this regard, a Screening and Scoping report shall be drafted;

2.1.1.1.3.3 Environmental Assessment and preparation of an environmental report: based on the results of the scoping stage, it shall include an environmental baseline study, and identification of the potential environmental impacts, an analysis of indicators, an assessment of institutional capacities to address environmental challenges and conclusions and recommendations for the formulation of the BMVI Programme;

2.1.1.1.3.4 Consultation on the approved revised draft of the Environmental report in line with Article 7 (3) SEA of the Regulations as well as any other interested party, both public and private that



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may be deemed to have an input in the process taking into account any feedback provided by SID;

- 2.1.1.1.3.5 Evaluation of the submissions and observations made on the Environmental Report and inclusion of such (as applicable) in the SEA report together with the Consultant's assessment;
- 2.1.1.1.3.6 Issuance of the Adoption and Monitoring Report, including the results of the consultations with the stakeholders, and how any relevant changes have been implemented as a result of these consultations, as well as the level of monitoring required and remediation proposals for any impacts that the CA may have identified.

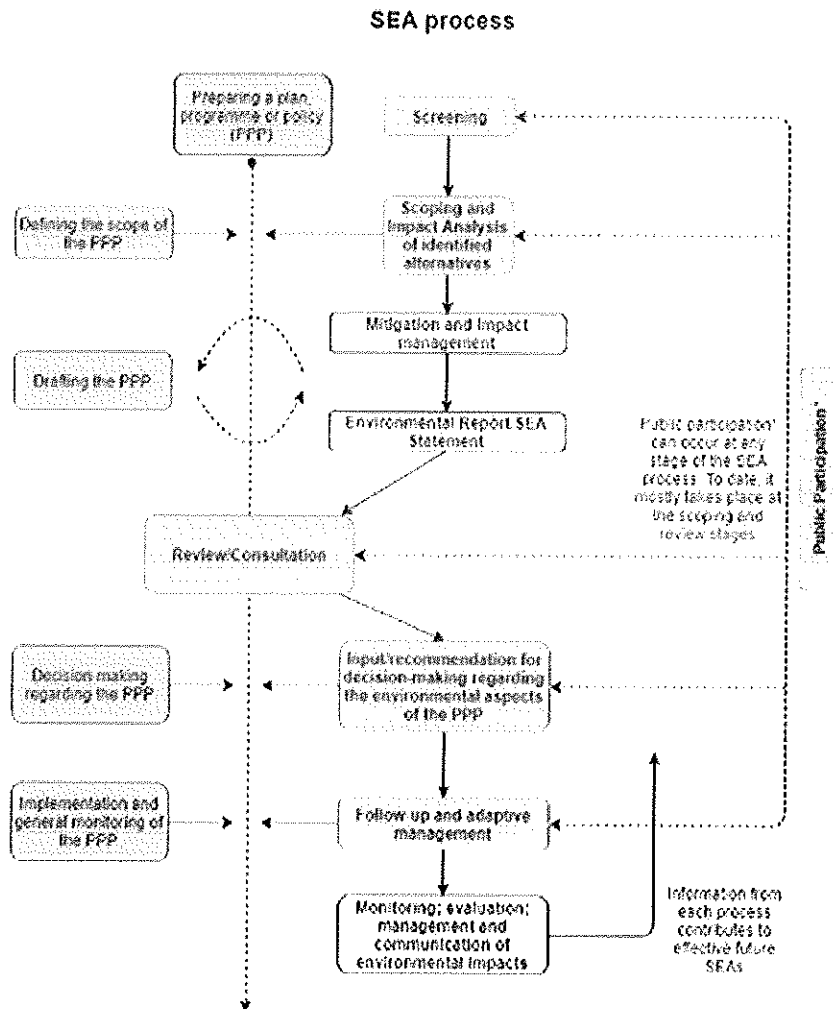


Figure 1. Steps of the SEA process

2.1.1.1.4 As defined in the LN 82 of 2019 Environmental Protection Act (CAP 549) for Strategic Environmental Assessment (amendment) the designated authorities to be consulted which, because of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes, shall include the following:

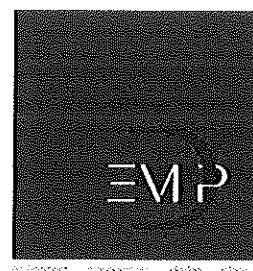
- 2.1.1.1.4.1 the Environment and Resources Authority or any successor entity responsible for the environment; and where applicable- the Regulator for Energy and Water Services or any successor entity or entities;

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- 2.1.1.1.4.2 the competent authority responsible for agriculture;
 - 2.1.1.1.4.3 the competent authority responsible for fisheries;
 - 2.1.1.1.4.4 the competent authority responsible for health.
 - 2.1.1.1.4.5 any other authority which is deemed by the responsible authority to have an input into the strategic environmental assessment process."
- 2.1.1.1.5 The outcome of such consultations is included as Annex 3 of this report.

2.2 Current Stage

2.2.1.1.1 The purpose of screening is to determine whether the proposed development plan requires a SEA and what level of SEA is required – e.g., quick or comprehensive as it is presented in the following figure.

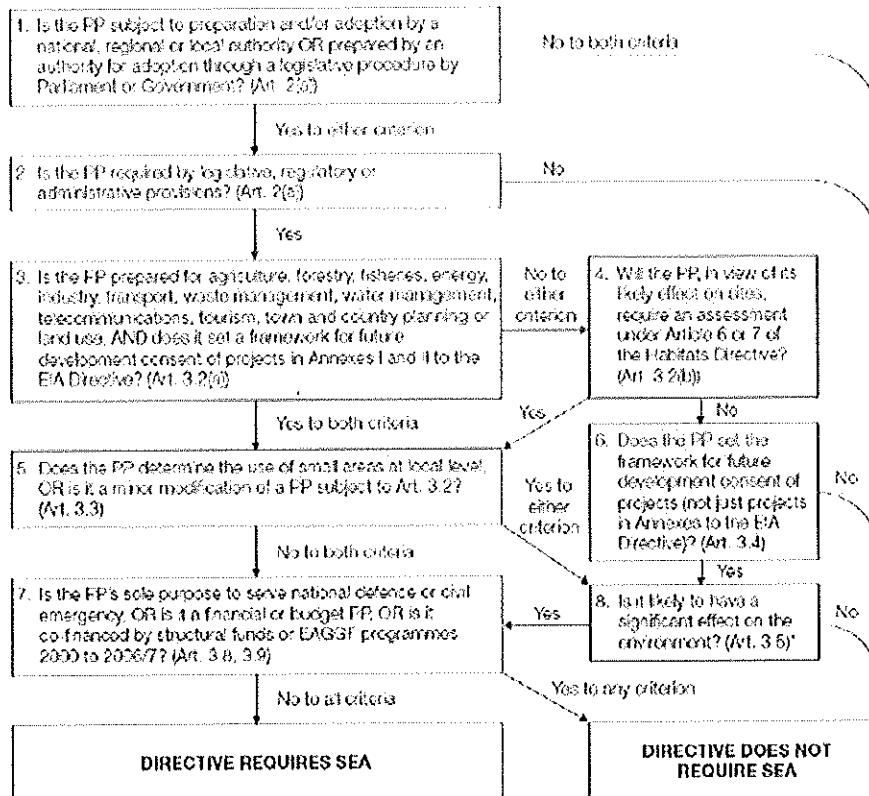
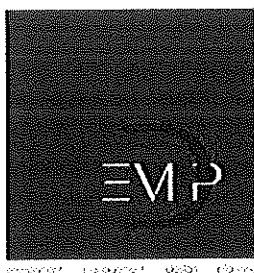


Figure 2. Guide to the criteria for application of the SEA Directive for plans and programs.

2.2.1.1.2 Scoping, as well as screening, is an open, interactive process that involves stakeholders and lays the foundation of a SEA by identifying time and space boundaries of the assessment, the information necessary for decision-making, a summarized baseline assessment referring to all environmental and social parameters, and evaluation of alternatives, the key issues, and potential impacts to be considered and a presentation of the Terms of Reference of the SEA report. The current report will give the Stakeholders a general idea about the key elements of the Programme.



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- 2.2.1.1.3 The main objective of this scoping process is to identify key issues of concern that should be addressed in the assessment of the Plan and the appropriate level of detail to which they should be considered if the Plan is screened in regarding environmental and social issues. The scoping exercise should answer the following questions:
- 2.2.1.1.3.1 What are the relevant significant issues to be addressed by the SEA, if SEA is needed?
- 2.2.1.1.3.2 Against what environmental objectives should the potential options be evaluated?
- 2.2.1.1.4 The steps for scoping are defined below.

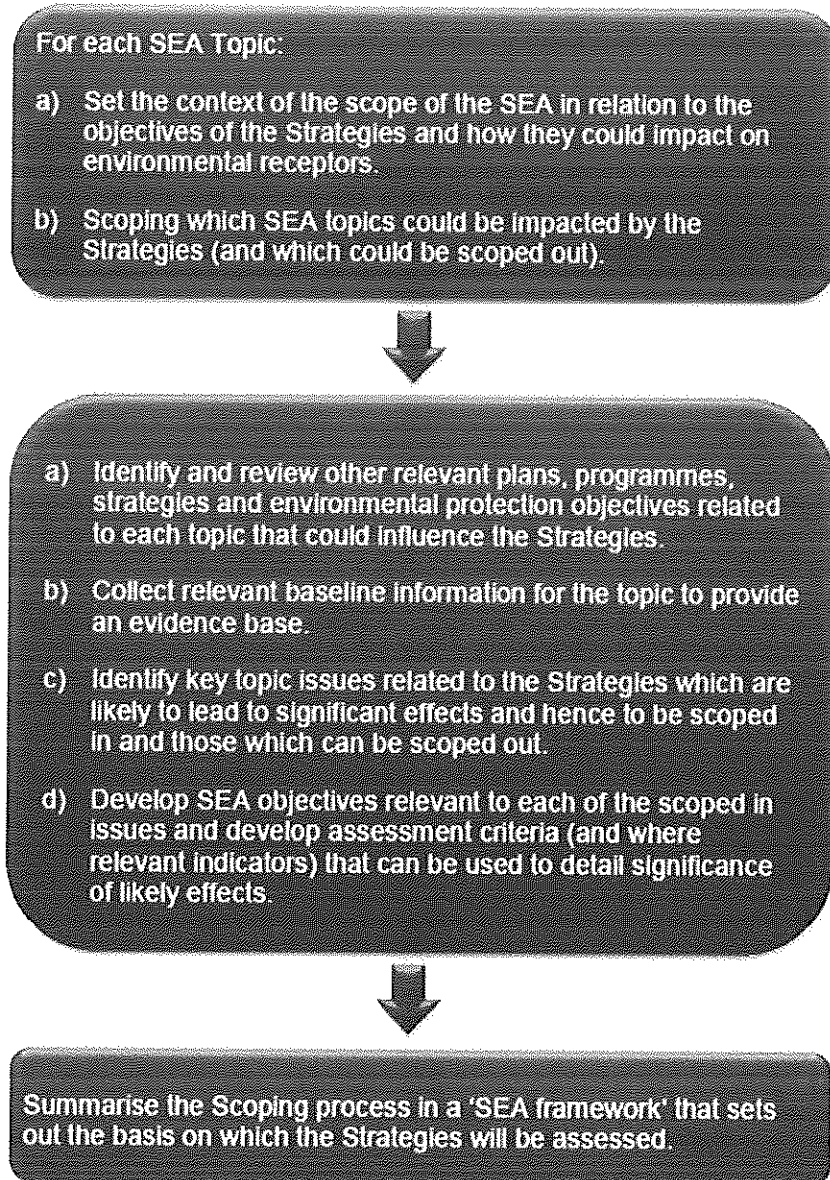
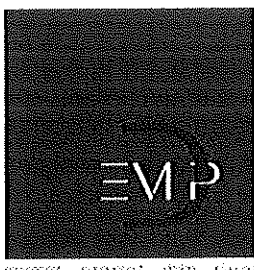


Figure 3: Steps of scoping

3 Relation with other Plans and Programmes

- 3.1.1.1.1 The BMVI Plan is part of a hierarchy of local, regional and national plans. While it should be consistent with higher-level plans such as those of a regional or national nature, it must also guide or direct plans and programmes at a lower level hierarchically.
- 3.1.1.1.2 The research has taken into consideration four main categories, while the documents considered fall below in the table:
 - 3.1.1.1.2.1 International Commitments
 - 3.1.1.1.2.2 EU requirements
 - 3.1.1.1.2.3 National Environmental & Planning Documents
 - 3.1.1.1.2.4 National Sectoral Policies and Strategies



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Table 1 – Legislation, Plans/ Policies/ Programmes

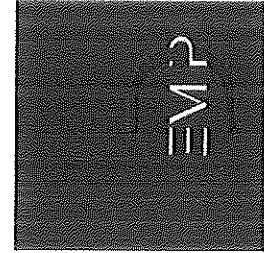
International	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) • Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983) • Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) • Ramsar Convention – The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971) • United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) • Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002) • Paris Agreement (2015) • Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990) • The World Heritage Convention (1972) • Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (1998)
European	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Green Deal (2021) • Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) • Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005) • Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC, Directive (2016/2284/EC) • Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011) • Conservation of wild birds Directive (2009/147/EC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) (1985) • The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention) (1992) • The European Landscape Convention (2006) • The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) • Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (2006) • The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)

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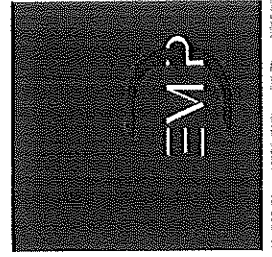


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- Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)
- A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy (2018)
- Promotion of the use of energy and renewable sources Directive (2009/28/EC)
- Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources Directive (2018/2001/EC)
- Environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Directive 2008/105/EC.
- A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe (2020)
- Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment Directive (2019/904/EU)
- Strategic Plan for the Environmental and Development (SPED 2015).
- The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC)
- Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
- Drinking-Water Directive (1998/83/EC)
- Directive on Bathing Water (76/160/EEC); and Directive 2006/77/EC repealing Directive 76/160/EEC (from 2014)
- Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EEC)
- Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
- Assessment and management of flood risks Directive (2007/60/EC)
- Council Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin

National Environmental and Planning Documents



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- Air Quality Plan for the Maltese Islands (2010)
- National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP - 2020)
- Malta National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (2012-2020)
- Localities with conservation value in Maltese Islands (2012)
- Common species used for landscaping in the Maltese islands (2009)
- Management Plans for Terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in Malta & Gozo (2017)
- National Strategy for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union Concern (Pets, Aquaria and Terrarium species)- 2020.
- Action Plans Addressing Escape from the confinement of IAS on Union Concern (2020)
- Guidelines on managing non-native plant invaders and restoring native plant communities in terrestrial settings in the Maltese Islands (2013).
- Green Paper on Greening Buildings in Malta: Initiatives for Green Walls and Roofs for Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Buildings
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC): Malta's Programme of Measures Summary Report.
- Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands. A resource management approach, 2014-2020 (MSDEC).
- Single-Use Plastic Products Strategy for the Malta 2020-2030.
- Red data book for the Maltese Islands (2009)
- Paris Agreement (2015)
- Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990)
- The World Heritage Convention (1972)
- Dossier on wild fauna in the Maltese Islands, Capture, Killing and exploitation (2011).
- Guidelines on trees, shrubs and plants for planting and landscaping in the Maltese islands (2002).
- Guidelines on managing non-native plant invaders and restoring native plant communities in terrestrial settings in the Maltese Islands
- Green Infrastructure – Information Document (2019)
- Updated Noise Action Plan
- State of Environmental Report (ERA).
- Water Catchment Management Plan (2011).
- Construction and Demolition Waste Strategy for Malta 2020-2025 – Managing Construction & Demolition Resources.

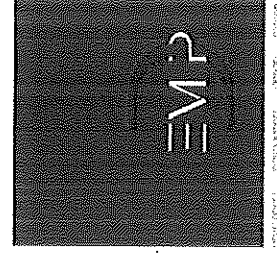
National Sectoral Policies and Strategies

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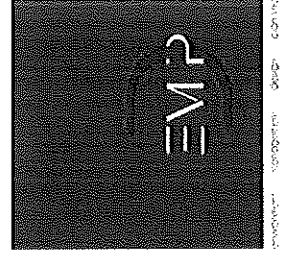
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- Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (SPED, 2015).
- Environmental Protection Act (Cap. 549)
- Fifta Nature Reserve Act (Cap. 323)
- Developing Planning Act (Cap. 552)
- Continental Shelf Act (Cap 535)
- Crimes Against the Environment Act (Cap. 422).
- Malta's Immigration Act (Cap. 217).
- Citizenship Act of 1964 (Cap. 188)
- Fisheries Conservation and management act (Cap 425)
- Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone Act (Cap. 226).
- Civil Code (Cap 16).
- National Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction and for Social Inclusion
- National Action Plan on Corporate Social Responsibilities for Malta
- Migration Integration Strategy & Action Plan (2020).
- Towards a National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015-2020
- Maltese Asylum Law (Cap. 420).
- Anti-discrimination (SL. 350.26; SL 452.95; SL 460.16; SL 460.16).



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4 Description of the Programme

4.1.1.1.1.1 The BMVI Programme will seek to implement interventions that fall within the scope of the objectives of the Fund. In this regard, two specific objectives were selected to address the investment priorities and development needs for Malta in the area of border management and visa policy. Within this context, the following actions were identified to support investments in the respective fields:

Effective integrated border management at external borders: Investments under this specific objective aim to increase inter-agency cooperation and maximizing the use of operation surveillance equipment, increase coverage of territorial waters through modernized equipment for surveillance purposes, developing capacity building measures to increase capabilities and efficiency in border management as well as facilitate the verification mechanism at Border Control Points. These measures will focus on implementation measures featured in Annex II of the BMVI Regulation on enhancing inter-agency cooperation at national level, improving border control and reinforcing the capacities for carrying out checks and surveillance at external borders, amongst others.

Common Visa Policy: Measures aimed towards maintaining the upkeep of IT systems to improve interoperability and enhance security; improve the efficiency of visa related services by strengthening capacity building opportunities and enhancing the administrative resources of consular posts. Such actions will focus on the implementation measures featured in Annex II of the BMVI Regulation involving the setting up, operation, maintenance of large-scale IT, provision of efficient and client friendly services to visa applicants and on ensuring the uniform application of Union Acquis in relation to visas.

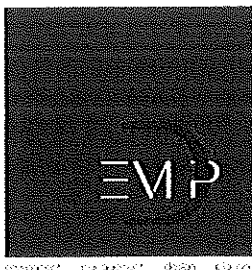
The above related areas of intervention will be financed under the following specific objectives of the BMVI Programme:

4.1.1.1.1.2 Specific Objective 1: Supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard as a shared responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and of the national authorities responsible for border management, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, to prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows

4.1.1.1.1.3 Specific Objective 2: Supporting the common visa policy to ensure harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping prevent migratory and security risks

5 Environmental and Social Baseline

- 5.1.1.1.1 In order to assess the likely significant impacts of the Plan, baseline data on the current state of the environment is collected and evaluated and the potential effects of the plan are predicted and considered. Therefore the purpose of the baseline description is to identify the current state of the environment, against which the likely effects of implementing the plan can be assessed. In accordance with legislation and guidance, the existing environment is described with respect to biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water (surface freshwater, coastal, transitional, groundwater, bathing and water services (drinking water and wastewater treatment), air, climatic factors, material assets (roads, transportation, energy etc), cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationships between these factors as appropriate. Any existing problems relevant to the new Plan are also identified at this baseline stage.
- 5.1.1.1.2 Identification of baseline environmental status provides for the identification of key resources and sensitivities within the Plan area and the identification of potential threats to the environment, thus allowing for the inclusion of mitigation measures later in the process that may need to be incorporated into the new Plan to ensure that it does not exacerbate existing problems. Assessment of the baseline environment also enables plan-makers to consider how the environment might evolve in the absence of the proposed plan.
- 5.1.1.1.3 The environmental baseline will be presented in the Environmental Report under a number of Strategic Environmental Assessment topic headings as follows:
- 5.1.1.1.3.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.2 Population;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.3 Human Health;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.4 Soil;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.5 Water;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.6 Air Quality and Climatic Factors;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.7 Material Assets;
 - 5.1.1.1.3.8 Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; and
 - 5.1.1.1.3.9 Landscape.
- 5.1.1.1.4 A summarized presentation of the baseline can be given below for the terms of scoping report.



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5.2 Environmental baseline

5.2.1 Climate

5.2.1.1.1 The climate in the Maltese Islands is typically the Mediterranean. Due to the fact that it is an archipelago, Malta is strongly influenced by the sea, with long, hot, dry summers and, short, mild winters, during which, along with autumn, the majority of rainfall events occur. The temperature is very stable throughout the year. The annual mean is around 18°C and the monthly averages vary between 12° C to 31°C. Winters are mild, with daytime temperatures that almost never fall below 10°C whereas, night-time temperatures never fall below 0°C. Summers are warm, dry and very sunny, with an average of 12 hours of sunshine. Most of the rainfall events in Malta occur during autumn and winter, mostly from thunderstorms and heavy downpours. According to the data collected from the rain gauge in Luqa by the Malta Airport METOffice, the average annual precipitation from 1940 to 2018 is 553 mm, spread on an average of 80 rainy days. Nearly three-fourths of the total annual rainfall falls between October and March, whereas June, July, and August are normally dry.

5.2.1.1.2 All relevant data in the case there is the necessity to draft an Environmental Report, will be acquired from the Environmental and Resources Authority (Strategies, Plans, Programmes and Policies, specifically the WFD¹ which was transposed to Maltese legislation through the Water Policy Framework Regulations (S.L. 549.100) and the MSFD²), from University of Malta, specifically from the Physical Oceanographic Research Group³, and Malta Met office and the Maltese National Statistics Office. The Malta Airport MetOffice makes effective use of its observations by monitoring current weather patterns and their rate of change. It also monitors the variability of the local climate, especially on a monthly and annual timescale, so as to build local climate statistics.

Table 2 The climate summary for the Maltese Islands (Source: NSO, 2011).

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temperature (°C)	12.2	12.4	13.4	15.5	19.1	23.0	25.9	28.3	24.1	20.7	17.0	13.8
Average maximum temperature (°C)	15.2	15.5	16.7	19.1	23.3	27.5	30.7	30.7	28.0	24.2	20.1	16.7
Average minimum temperature (°C)	9.2	9.3	10.1	11.9	14.9	18.4	21.0	21.8	20.1	17.1	13.9	11.0
Sunshine hours (hrs)	159	171	224	247	300	328	365	338	260	221	185	156
Sea level Pressure (hPa)	1018.2	1016.6	1016.1	1014.3	1015.3	1015.8	1015.7	1015.4	1017.4	1017.6	1017.9	1017.3
Rainfall (mm)	89	81	41	23	7	3	0	7	40	93	80	112

¹ Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)

² EU Directive 2008/56/EC – Marine Strategy Framework Directive

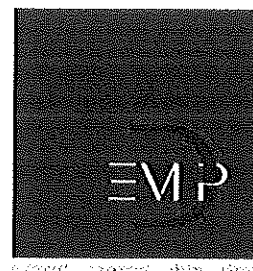
³ University of Malta - Department of Geosciences.

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5.2.2 Geology

- 5.2.2.1.1 The Maltese Authorities responsible for the Geological Survey of Malta are the Continental Shelf Department, the Planning Authority, the Malta Resources Authority, and the Department of Geosciences at the University of Malta. The bedrock geology map and data are available to the public as an interactive Geo-referenced interface⁴.
- 5.2.2.1.2 The bedrock geology of the Maltese Islands consists of relatively young sedimentary strata originally deposited as marine sediments about 30 to 5 million years ago during the Oligocene and Miocene epochs. The resultant rock sequence consists of five formations laid on top of each other (Lower Coralline Limestone; Globigerina Limestone; Blue Clay; Greensand; and Upper Coralline Limestone, kindly refer to 24). In some areas, the bedrock is covered by relatively thin Quaternary deposits consisting of terrestrial aeolian and alluvial sediments that were deposited following the uplift and emergence of the sequence⁵.
- 5.2.2.1.3 The northern and northwestern parts of the island of Malta are characterised by outcrops of the Blue Clay and the Upper Coralline Limestone Formations, while the predominant bedrock in the central and southeastern parts of the island is the Globigerina Limestone Formation. The surface geology of Gozo is more varied with the Blue Clay Formation being a prominent outcrop⁶.

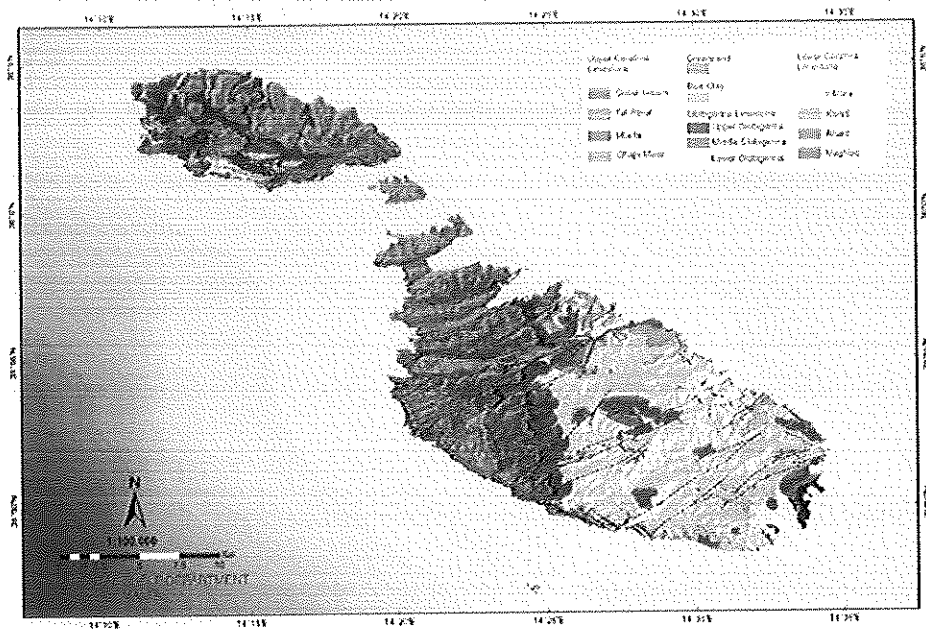
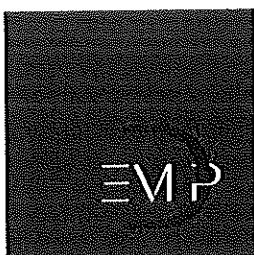


Figure 2 Geological map of the Maltese Islands. Source; Continental shelf Department (continentalshef.gov.mt).

⁴ <https://continentalshef.gov.mt/en/Pages/Geological-Map-of-the-Malteselands.aspx#:~:text=The%20bedrock%20geology%20of%20the,on%20top%20of%20each%20other>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid



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5.2.3 Soils

5.2.3.1.1 There are different types of soils in the Maltese Islands. Maltese soils are derived from local geology, are highly calcareous, and affected by cultural elements. D. M. Lang (1960) classified Maltese soils formations as Carbonate, Xerorendzinas, Terra and soil complexes, further subdivided into subtypes (series) named after the localities where the first examples were noted. Subsequently, additional information was developed through the Maltese Soil Information System (MALSIS) database which classified the local soil characteristics according to the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB Classification system).

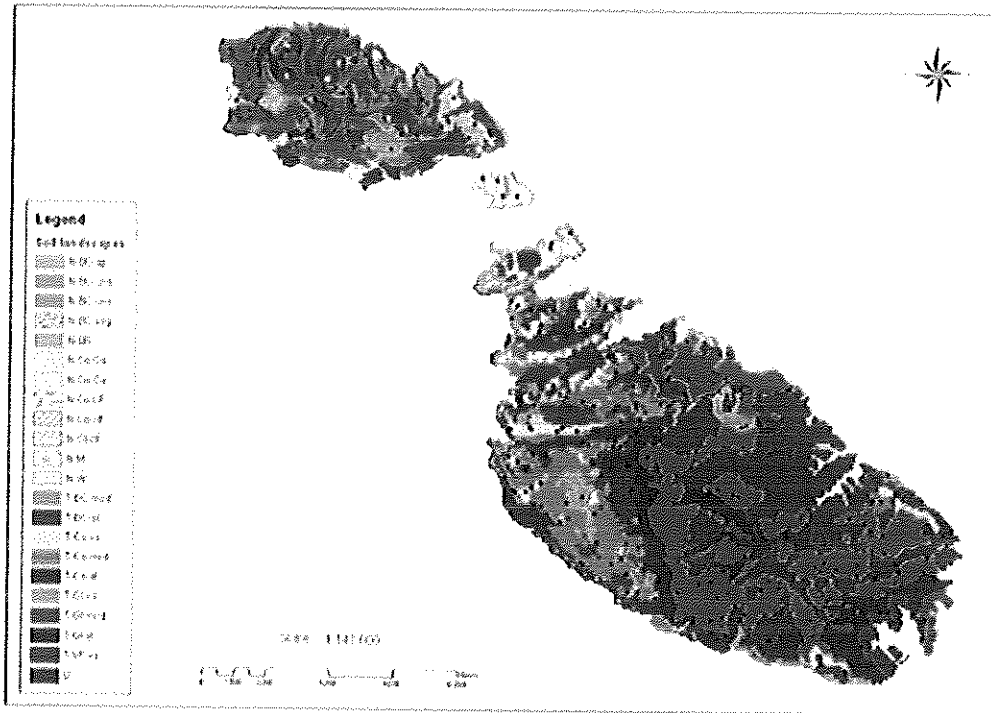


Figure 3. Soil landscapes and location of soil variability sites for a free survey. Source; EUROPEAN SOIL BUREAU – RESEARCH REPORT NO. 9, 2003.

5.2.4 Seismicity

5.2.4.1.1 The Seismic Monitoring and Research Group (SMRG) of the University of Malta maintains the Malta Seismic Network, which is the only facility in the country that monitors and studies earthquake activity around the Maltese Islands. The SMRG carries out real-time seismicity monitoring and earthquake location, seismic hazard assessment, and geophysical studies on the Maltese archipelago and Central Mediterranean⁷.

5.2.4.1.2 Since 1500, there have been seven strong reported earthquakes in the Maltese Islands, which have caused some damage, the last in 1923. The Maltese islands are perceived to have low

⁷ <https://seismic.research.um.edu.mt>

seismicity but there have been large magnitude earthquakes in the surrounding areas – especially in southern Greece and in Sicily.⁸

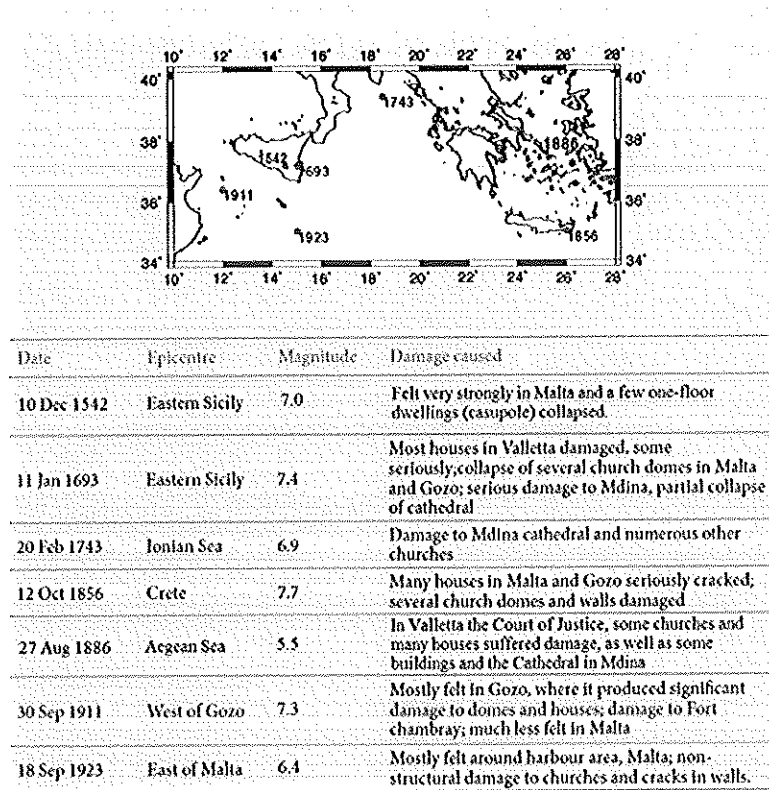
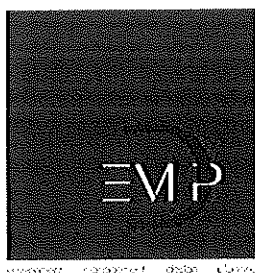


Figure 4. The major seismic events in the Maltese Islands. Source; <https://vassallohistory.wordpress.com/earthquakes-in-malta/>.

⁸ ibid



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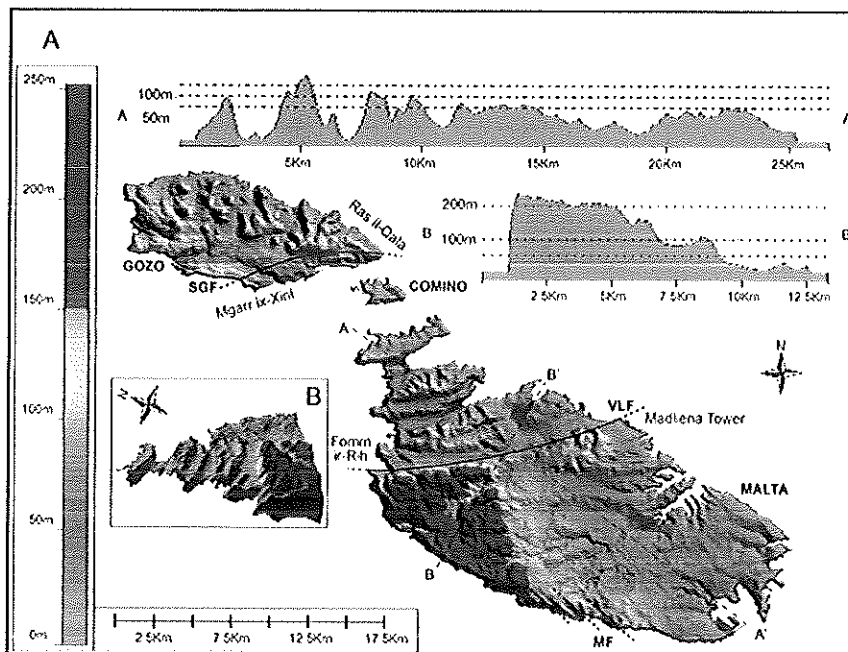


Figure 5. Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of the Maltese archipelago showing the main morphological evidence. VLF=Victoria Line Fault; MF=Maghlaq Fault; SGF=South Gozo Fault. B) Perspective view from west of the DTM highlighting the horst and graben structure of the northern part of the island of Malta. Source; proceedings of the International Conference, Georisks in the Mediterranean and their mitigation, 2015.

5.2.5 Noise and Air

- 5.2.5.1.1 Directive (EU) 2016/2284⁹ of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants came into force on 14 December 2016. Malta, as a Member State of the European Union, is obliged to implement the provisions laid down in this Directive and has therefore transposed the Directive into national legislation through S.L. 549.124¹⁰.
- 5.2.5.1.2 The new National Emission Ceilings Directive, also referred to as the NEC Directive¹¹, is intended to guide the Member States to further reduce air pollution and its associated risks to the environment and human health by establishing future anthropogenic emission reduction commitments for each Member State for the following pollutants, Nitrogen oxides (NO_x); Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC); Sulphur dioxide (SO₂); Ammonia (NH₃); and Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions.
- 5.2.5.1.3 The Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, has prepared a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)¹².
- 5.2.5.1.4 The ERA currently operates a fixed station network composed of four real-time air-monitoring stations: a traffic site in Msida, two urban background sites in Żejtun and Attard, and a rural

⁹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/2284/oj>

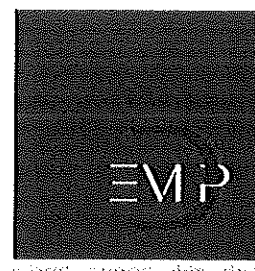
¹⁰ Limitation of Emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants regulations - Subsidiary Legislation 549.124 (<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.124/eng/pdf>).

¹¹ National Emissions reduction Commitments (NEC) Directive (2016/2284/EU)

¹² *ibid*

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background site in Gharb, Gozo. In addition, work is ongoing to install a fixed monitoring station in the North of Malta, to act as a traffic site in the zone. This additional site aims to better understand the effect of traffic outside the agglomeration. The stations cover all pollutants that require monitoring and reporting under the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC). Real-time monitoring is also complemented by a Passive Diffusion Tube network, which consists of 100 sites for VOCs and NO₂, and a smaller network for SO₂ (SOER, 2018). In addition, the ERA annually compiles an emissions inventory as required by the NEC Directive and in accordance with the EMEP reporting guidelines and Guidebook, as described in Chapter 3.1¹³.

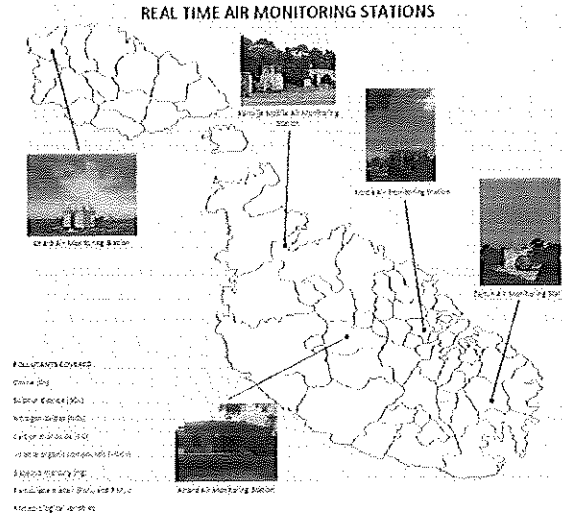


Figure 6. Location of real-time air monitoring stations (Malta's National Air Pollution Control Programme – ERA 2019).

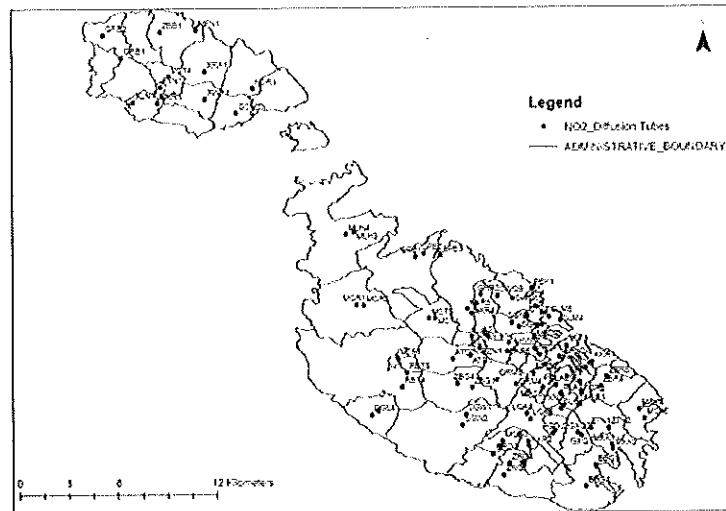
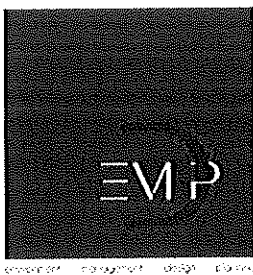


Figure 7 Locations covered by the diffusion tube network for NO₂ and VOCs (Malta's National Air Pollution Control Programme – ERA 2019).

¹³ Malta's National Air Pollution Control Programme – ERA 2019.



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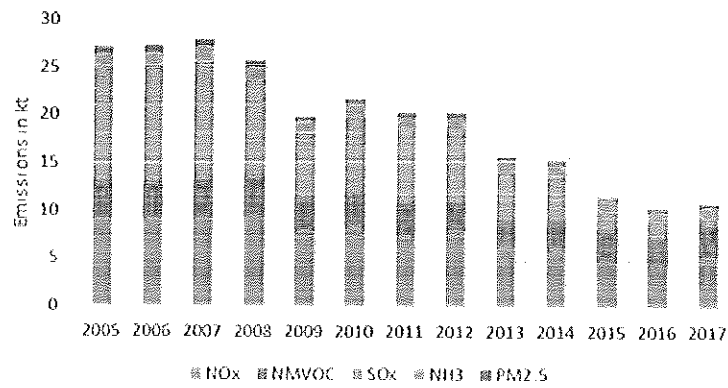


Figure 8 Time series of national total emissions in kt(Malta’s National Air Pollution Control Programme – ERA 2019).

5.2.6 Surface waters

5.2.6.1.1 Within a territory of 316km² characterised by a southern Mediterranean climate, the inland surface and transitional waters of the Maltese Islands are very small streams, watercourses, or standing waters that flow or have fluctuating water levels throughout the year¹⁴.

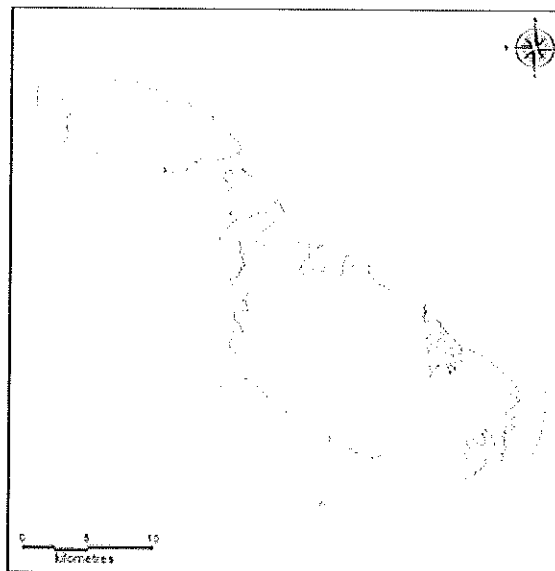


Figure 9 River Basin District.

5.2.6.1.2 Malta’s waters include inland freshwaters, transitional and coastal waters, as well as deep waters that extend above Malta’s continental shelf. Malta’s inland fresh surface waters are very small streams, watercourses, or standing waters. The watercourses are parts of larger valley

¹⁴ <https://era.org.mt/water-catchment-management-plan/>

systems, or 'widien', and the level of water and flow within these watercourses varies seasonally. Some watercourses are linked to springs that outflow from perched aquifers that form above blue clay outcrops, and these streams tend to be present throughout the year¹⁵.

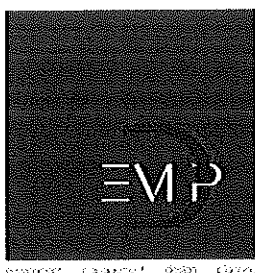
Table 3 Number of water bodies that have been delineated and/or designated by Malta for the implementation of the 2nd WCMP 2015-2021 (By category) (Source: 2nd WCMP 2015-2021).

Water Body Type	Water categories				Groundwater
	Surface waters		Transitional	Coastal	
	Water Courses	Ponds			
Natural Waters	2	1	0	7	15
Heavily modified waters	1	1	5	2	Not applicable
Artificial waters	0	0	0	0	Not applicable

Table 4 Delineated protected inland Surface and Transitional Waters (2nd WCMP 2015-2021).

Water Body Category	Water Body Name	Code	Water availability / regime*
Transitional waters	Is-Salini	MT TW 01	Water levels fluctuate between seasons Water depth range (max – min): 1.7m – 0.05m
	Il-Maghluq ta' Marsacala	MT TW02	Water levels fluctuate between seasons Water depth range (max – min): 1.4m – 1m
	Il-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk	MT TW 03	Dries out completely after the wet season Water depth range (max – min): 0.3m – 0m
	Is-Simar	MT TW 04	Water levels fall substantially after the dry season
	L-Ghadira	MT TW 05	Water levels fall substantially after the dry season
Water Courses	Wied tal-Bahrja	MT WC 01	Water present throughout the year, forming disconnected pools at the lower reaches as the dry season progresses
	Wied il-Luq	MT WC 02	Water present in the upper and middle reaches only after heavy downpours
	Wied il-Lunzjata	MT WC 03	Water present throughout the year, forming disconnected pools in the lower and upper reaches as the dry season progresses
Pools	Il-Qattara	MT SW 01	Perennial water pool, with fluctuations in water level from wet to dry season
	Ghadira ta' Sarraflu	MT SW 02	Perennial water pool, with fluctuations in water level from wet to dry season

¹⁵ Ibid



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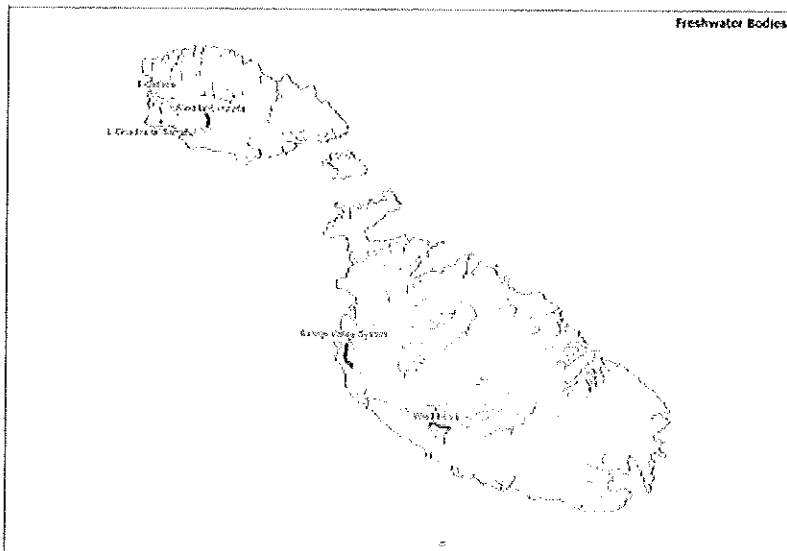


Figure 10 Small freshwaters in the Maltese Islands indicated by the red lines. The thin black lines represent refer to the dry river valley system considered to be of ecological significance in the Maltese islands (2nd WCMP 2015-2021).

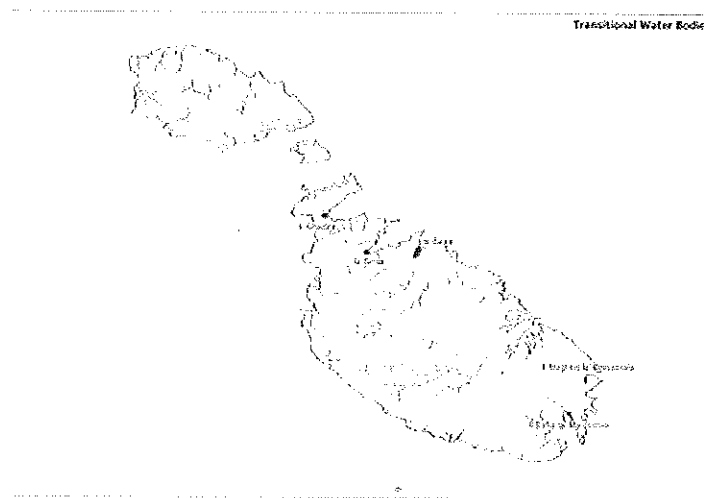


Figure 11 Transitional waters in the Maltese Island are indicated by the red lines. The thin black lines refer to the dry river valleys systems considered to be of ecological significance in the Maltese Islands.

5.2.6.1.3 The demand of the various water-using sectors in the Maltese islands is increasingly being addressed through the conjunctive use of four main water resources, namely¹⁶: groundwater aquifer systems, harvesting of rainwater runoff, desalinated sea-water, and treated wastewater.

¹⁶ The 2nd Water Catchement Management Plan for the Maltese Water Catchement District 2015-2021

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Water Resources - Supply Base

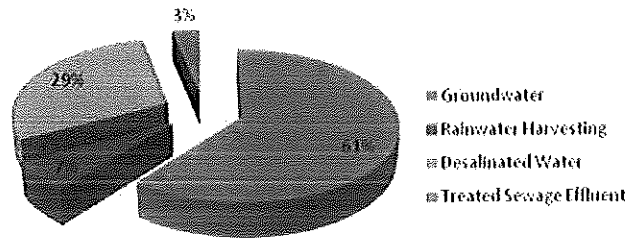


Figure 12 National Water Resources Supply Base (2014).

5.2.7 Floods

5.2.7.1.1 The Flood Risk Management Plan for the Malta Water Catchment District has been integrated within the 2nd Water Catchment Management Plan. The Malta RBD is composed of one single river basin district and one unit of management.

5.2.7.1.2 In Malta, the Energy and Water Agency, a government agency established via LN 340/2016 within the Ministry for Energy and Water Management and tasked with ensuring the coordinated development of the Government’s national policies in the energy and water sectors, is responsible (as competent authority of the Floods Directive). Figures 13 and below show the initial works being carried out to define risk and hazard maps.

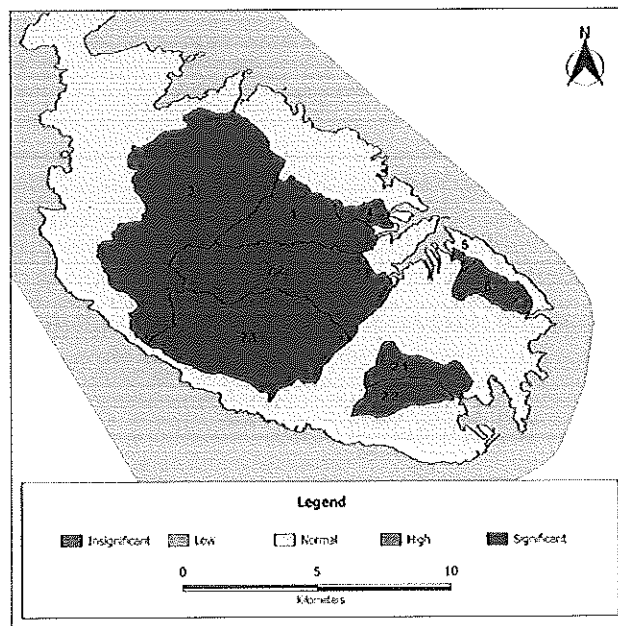
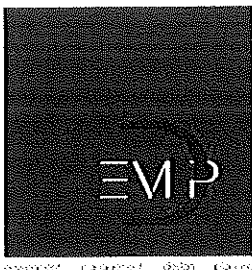


Figure 13 Areas with potential significant flood risk arising from a return period time of 5 years in Malta.



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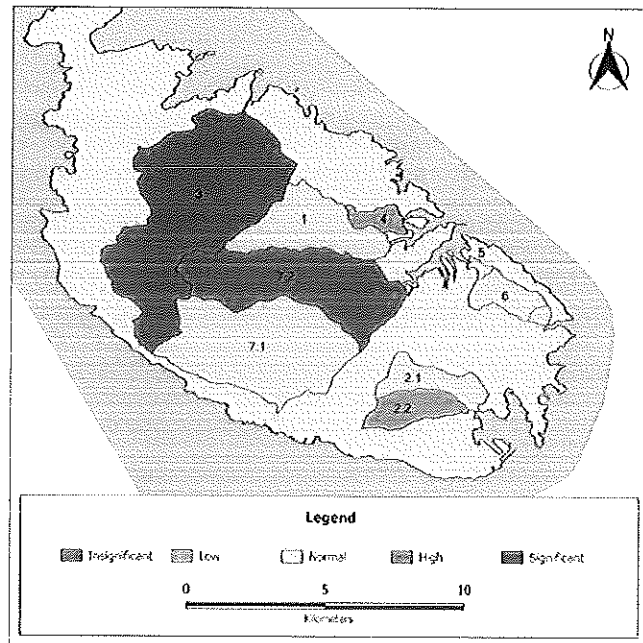


Figure 14 Areas with potential significant flood risk arising from a return period time of 50 years.

5.2.8 Groundwater

- 5.2.8.1.1 Under these specific conditions and depending on the physical features occurring in specific locations, the following typologies of groundwater bodies can be distinguished¹⁷:
- 5.2.8.1.1.1 Sea-level groundwater bodies developed in the Lower Coralline Limestone formation and take the form of freshwater lenses floating over seawater and referred locally as mean-sea-level aquifers (MSLAs). These are ubiquitous and occur extensively at sea level in Malta, Gozo, and Comino.
- 5.2.8.1.1.2 Unconfined (phreatic) perched groundwater bodies sustained in the Upper Coralline Limestone formation perched over the Blue Clay formation. The perched aquifers overlie, in western Malta and Gozo, the sea-level aquifers. Perched aquifers are completely absent in central and eastern Malta where the UCL and the clay aquitard have been completely eroded.
- 5.2.8.1.1.3 Coastal groundwater bodies occurring in depressed valley areas within the Upper Coralline Limestone formation where the clay lies below sea level and freshwater is laterally bounded at its contact with seawater. These small aquifer systems occur at Pwales, Mellieha, and Marfa.

¹⁷ Ibid

Table 5 Groundwater Bodies in the Malta River Basin District (Source: 2nd WCMP 2015-2021).

Groundwater Body Code	Groundwater Body Name
MT001	Malta Mean Sea Level
MT002	Rabat Dingli Perched
MT003	Mgarr-Wardija Perched
MT005	Pwales Coastal
MT006	Mizieb Mean Sea Level
MT008	Melleha Perched
MT009	Melleha Coastal
MT010	Marfa Coastal
MT012	Comino Mean Sea Level
MT013	Gozo Mean Sea Level
MT014	Ghajnsielem Perched
MT015	Nadur Perched
MT016	Xaghra Perched
MT017	Zebbug Perched
MT018	Victoria-Kercem Perched

5.2.8.1.2 The Nitrate Directive requires Member States to implement action programmes within 2 years of designating a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). Malta has designated the whole territory of Malta and Gozo as being nitrate vulnerable. Following transposition through the Protection of Waters against Pollution Caused by Nitrates from Agricultural Sources Regulations¹⁸ a key milestone in the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in the last few years was the development of the Nitrate Action Programme which was given legal effect by the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations¹⁹.

5.2.8.1.3 The Water Framework Directive identifies as 'protected areas' those bodies of water that are utilised for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption. In the Malta Water Catchment District, the bodies of water used for such purposes are as follows in Figure 15:

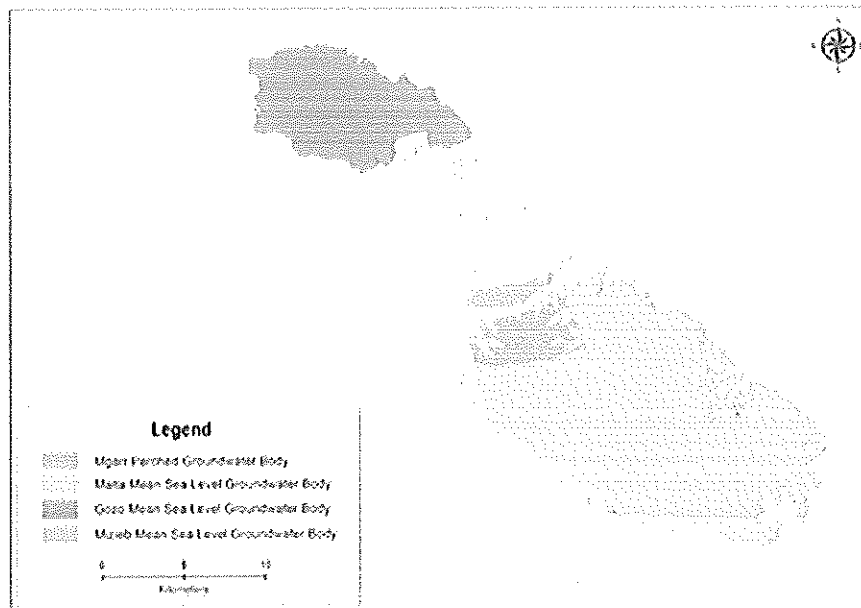
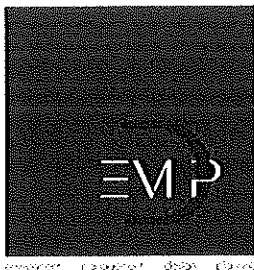


Figure 15. Groundwater bodies are used for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption.



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5.2.8.1.4 The following maps show the qualitative and quantitative groundwater monitoring stations.

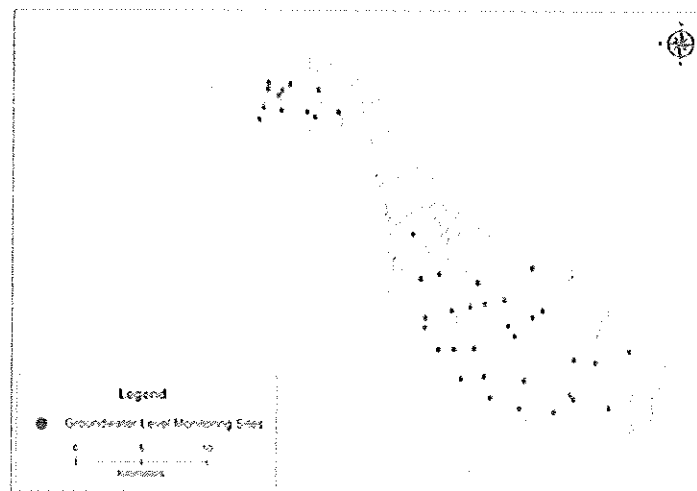


Figure 16. Groundwater Quantitative Status Monitoring Network (Source: 2nd WCMP – 2016).

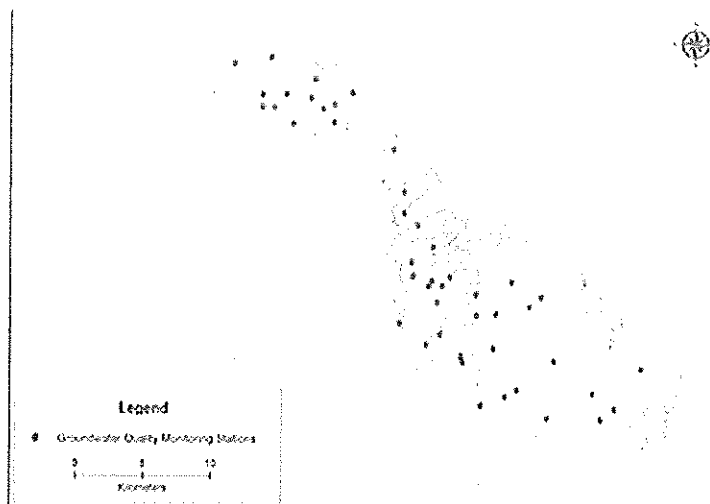


Figure 17. Groundwater Qualitative Monitoring Network (Source: 2nd WCMP – 2016).

5.2.8.1.5 Malta has designated Fifteen groundwater bodies under the Water Framework Directive processes. Thirteen are in good quantitative status, with poor quantitative status assigned to Malta's Mean Sea Level Aquifers (Malta and Gozo). Monitoring data of water (piezometric) level shows that this has remained stable.

5.2.8.1.6 In terms of qualitative status, most groundwater bodies show high nitrate levels, exceeding the 50mg/L threshold set by the EU Nitrates Directive. Mean sea level aquifers show stable nitrate levels, while perched aquifers show an upward trend in nitrate concentrations within the period under review. Chloride levels, which indicate the extent of seawater intrusion, are high in five water bodies out of fifteen.

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5.2.9 Biodiversity

5.2.9.1.1 The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2012 – 2020 for Malta serves as a national policy driver to integrate biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, especially those that can have a bearing on Malta's biological and natural resources.²⁰

5.2.9.1.2 While reflecting national priorities for biodiversity, these targets are also complementary to the 2020 global Aichi targets defined in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 under the framework of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as the targets defined in the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020²¹. There are a total of 318 protected areas in Malta, 52 Natura 2000 sites – 22 Special Protection Areas (Birds Directive) and 30 Sites of Community Importance (Habitat Directive) - as well as 263 sites designated under national laws. The protected area network in Malta is strongly influenced by national sites and their interaction with Natura 2000 sites, with nearly 100% of the total area covered by nationally designated protected areas and their overlap with Natura 2000 sites²².

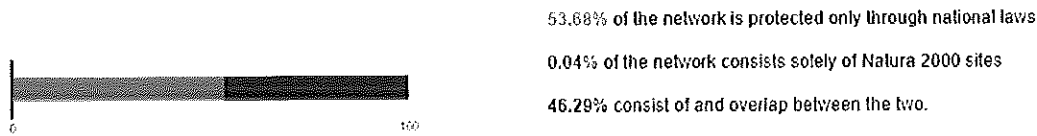
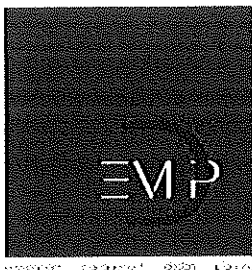


Figure 18 Percentage of protected areas network, Natura 2000 sites and overlaps (Source: Biodiversity information system).

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries/malta>



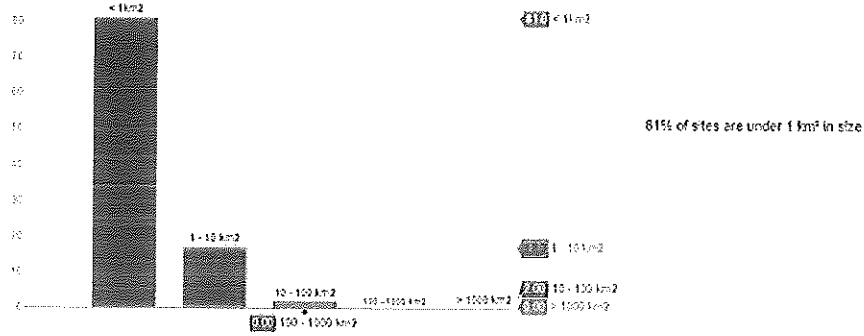
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Size distribution of Malta's land protected areas network



Size distribution of Malta's marine protected areas network

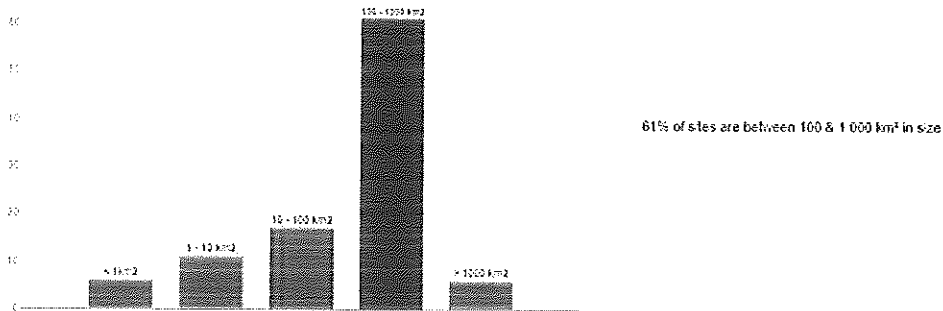


Figure 19 Size distribution of Malta's lands protected areas network (Above) and Size distribution of Malta's Marine protected areas network (Below) (Source: Biodiversity information System -EU).

- 5.2.9.1.3 The register of protected areas is a list of sites lying within the Maltese Catchment District which require special designation for the protection of the surface water and groundwater or the conservation of habitats and species directly dependent on water. A full list of areas under this registry, applicable to the Maltese Islands, is as follows²³
- 5.2.9.1.4 Areas designated for the protection of habitats and/ or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection.

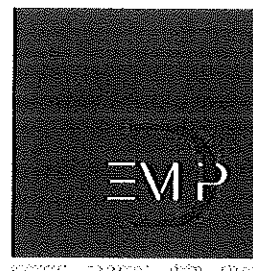
²³ The 2nd Water Catchement Management Plan for the Maltese Water Catchment District 2015-2021

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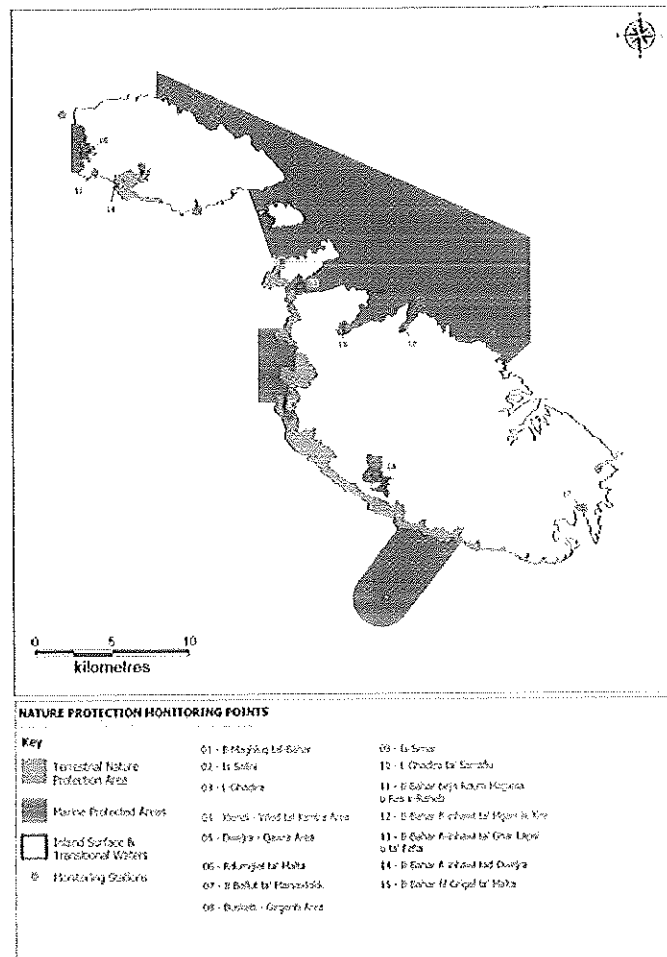


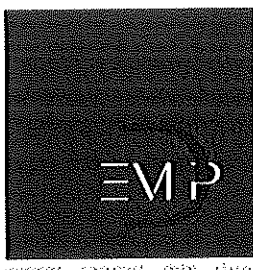
Figure 20 Map of the Maltese Islands indication the location of terrestrial and marine protected areas dependent on the quality of the surface waters. Location of monitoring stations (WFD) (Source: 2nd WCMP 2015-2021).

Table 6 The 10 Natura 2000 sites with the most number of species & habitats designated (Source: The biodiversity system for Europe).

Name	No. features	No. species	No. habitats
L-Inhaz ta' Għadira	152	144	8
Il-Smar (Invol ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)	118	115	3
Rdumjiet ta' Għadira: Ta' Ceno	44	44	
Rdumjiet ta' Malta: Il-Ramla ta' Orikwaw ta' Ponta ta' Bengħisa	40	21	10
L-Inhaz ta' Buqiet u ta' Għadira	34	20	8
L-Inhaz ta' Dwejra u ta' Qasra, Inklud Għadira ta' General	27	19	8
L-Inhaz ta' Ognj u ta' Wied ta' Kantra	26	20	5
Kemmuna u l-Għażer ta' Madwarha	24	13	11
L-Inhaz ta' Ramla ta' Torri u ta' Idjum ta' Madonna	15	7	8
L-Inhaz ta' Ta' Ceno	13	6	8

5.2.10 Marine Environment

5.2.10.1.1 The Maltese map highlighting the Fisheries Management Zone and the Area designated for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation by the WISE MARINE, Marine Information System for Europe can be observed in the figure below;



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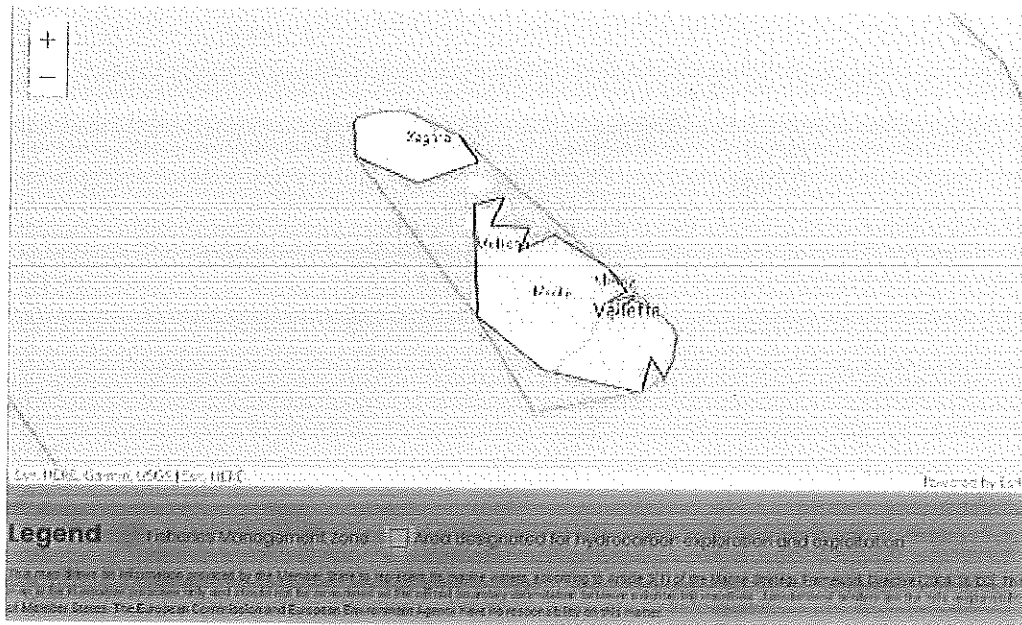


Figure 21 Maltese map highlighting the Fisheries Management Zone and the Area designated for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. Source; WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe

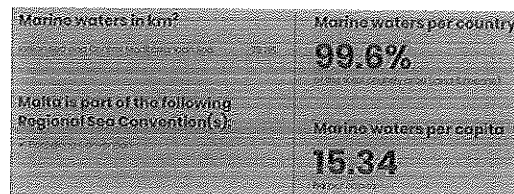


Figure 22. Maltese map highlighting the Fisheries Management Zone and the Area designated for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. Source; WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe.

5.2.10.1.2 Malta has assessed the environmental status of several features per descriptor under the 2018 update of MSFD Article 8, which was reported electronically to the European Commission. The following dashboard shows the marine waters' area where, for those features, the Good Environmental Status has been achieved, not yet achieved or is unknown or not assessed²⁴.

²⁴ Marine Strategy Framework Directive (<https://era.org.mt/Topic/msfd-second-cycle/>)

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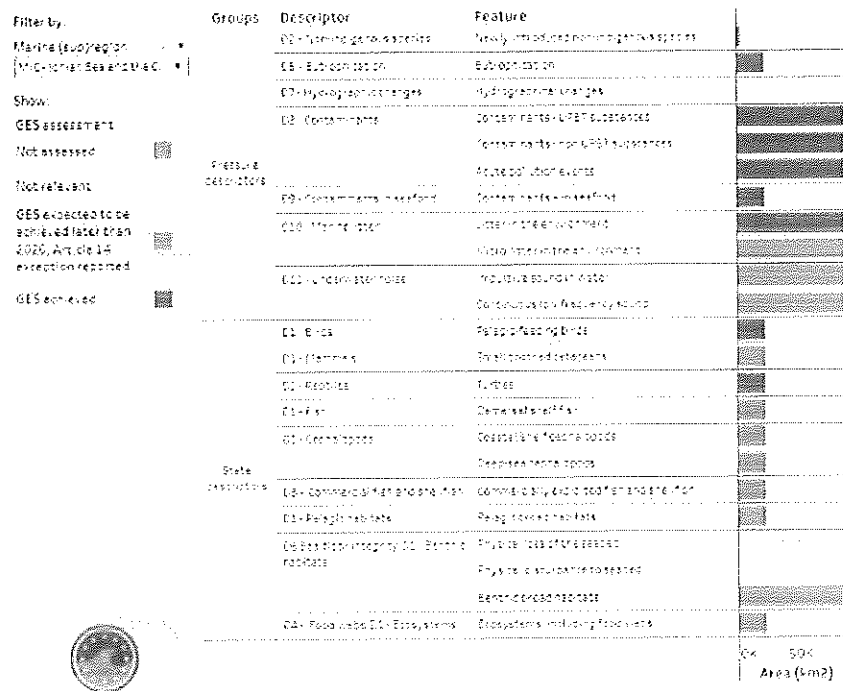


Figure 23. The environmental status of several features. Source; WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe.

5.2.10.1.3 The conservation status of the habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive annexes has to be assessed and reported to the European Commission under Article 17 every 6 years. The assessment is based on information about the status and trends of species populations and habitats at the level of the biogeographical or marine region. In the following dashboard, the assessments reported by Malta are presented, where they can be displayed as status or status and trend²⁵.

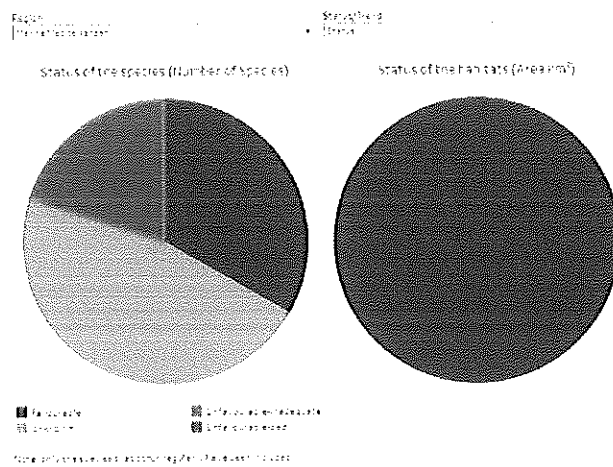
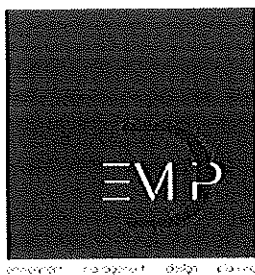


Figure 24. Status of marine species and habitats. Source; WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe.

²⁵ Ibid



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5.2.10.1.4 The ecological status of the water bodies is based on biological quality elements and supported by physicochemical and hydromorphological quality elements. On the other hand, a good chemical status is achieved when no concentrations of priority substances exceed the relevant EQS established in the Environmental Quality Standards Directive. The results reported by Malta on the first and second River Basin Management Plans are presented in the dashboard below²⁶.

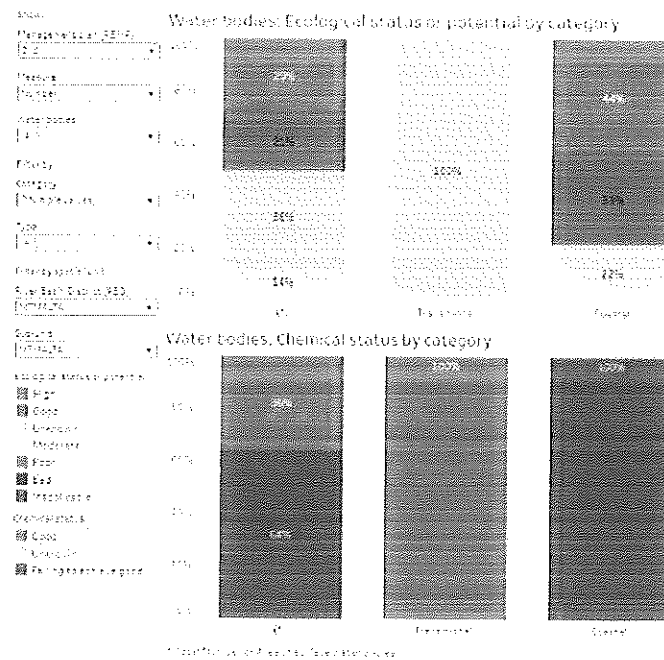


Figure 25. Ecological and chemical status of transitional, coastal and territorial waters Source; WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe.

5.2.10.1.5 The bathing waters sites are monitored under the Bathing Water Directive in regards to the values of two microbiological parameters (Intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli) and the results are reported yearly to the European Commission. Where bathing water is classified as 'poor', Member States should take measures such as banning bathing or advising against it, providing information to the public, and taking suitable corrective actions. The dashboard displays the results reported by Malta, wherein in 2019 most of the bathing waters were excellent or good²⁷.

²⁶ The 2nd Water Catchment Management Plan for the Maltese Water Catchment District 2015-2021

²⁷ WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe.

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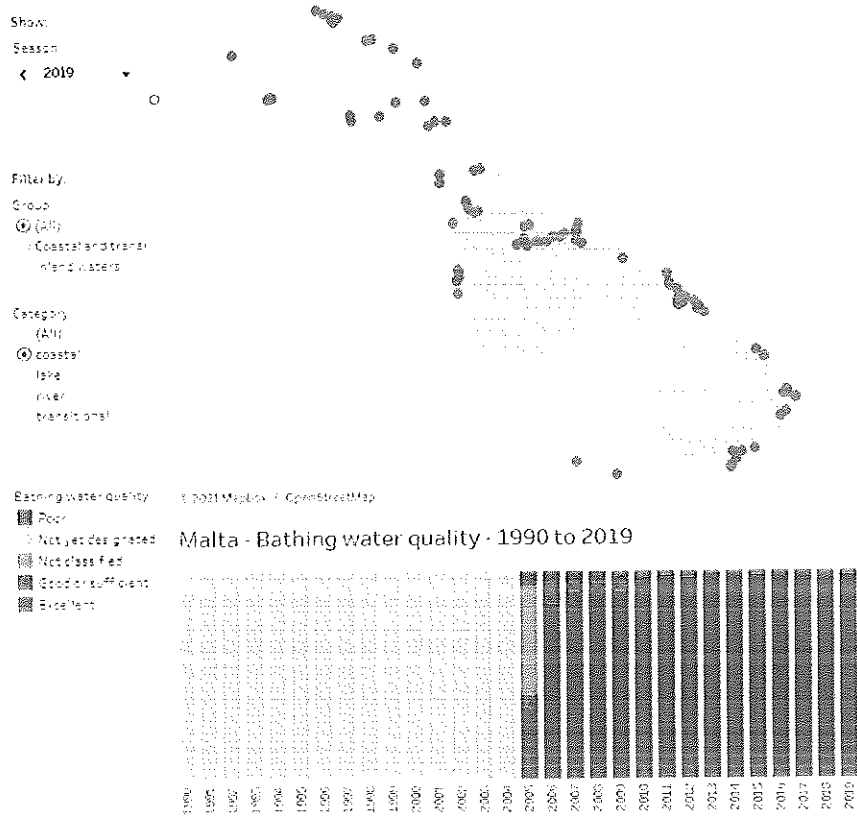
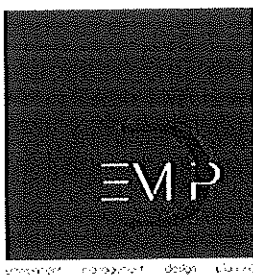


Figure 26. Status of bathing waters in transitional and coastal sites Source; WISE Marine, Marine information system for Europe.Population.

5.2.11 Landscape and land use

5.2.11.1.1 The Maltese Island cover was divided into twenty-two land-use types (kindly refer to 9).. The classification scheme excludes urbanised areas, bare rocks, and water surfaces from evaluation since these surfaces contain no soil. Discontinuous urban, green urban (semi-permeable surfaces), mixed forest (moderate soil cover), maquis (with little to no soil cover), beaches, dunes, sand plains, rocky steppe, and salt marshes as cover types of good management practice with a C factor value of less than 0.1. Maquis (with moderate soil cover), green urban (semi-permeable surfaces), sports and leisure (semi-permeable surfaces), pastures, and permanent crops are categorised as a land cover of moderate management practice with a designated C factor value between 0.11 and 0.4. Arable land abandoned and degraded agricultural areas, and degraded semi-natural areas are categorised as a land cover or low management practice of C factor values between 0.41 and 0.8. Land-use classes were allocated C values without considering seasonal variance.



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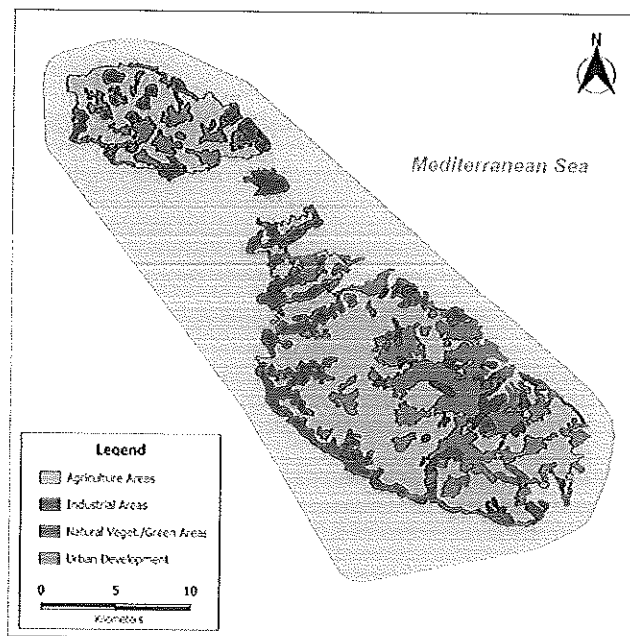


Figure 27 Land Use in Malta (Source: Corine Land Cover - 2018).

Table 7. Land-use classes, cover in km² and allocated C value (land-use listed below only includes those with a C value) Source; Sultana, D. (2015)²⁸.

Land cover type	Cover km ² (% of total land)	C factor value
Discontinuous urban	3.36 (1.06%)	0.10
Green urban (semi-permeable surfaces)	0.26 (0.08%)	0.15
Sports + Leisure (semi-permeable surfaces)	1.95 (0.62%)	0.20
Arable land	161.50 (52.1%)	0.50
Permanent crops	2.91 (0.92%)	0.40
Abandoned + Degraded Agricultural areas	9.56 (3.03%)	0.80
Mixed forest (moderate soil cover)	4.20 (1.33%)	0.10
Steppe + Garrigue	36.07 (11.42%)	0.25
Maquis (with moderate soil cover)	4.69 (1.49%)	0.20
Maquis (with little to no soil cover)	0.08 (0.03%)	0.15
Beaches, dunes, sand plains	0.12 (0.04%)	0.10
Bare rock / rocky steppe (little to no soil cover)	5.83 (1.83%)	0.05
Degraded semi-natural areas	7.28 (2.31%)	0.60
Salt marshes	0.15 (0.05%)	0.05

5.2.11.1.2 Agricultural land covers 48% of the Maltese islands and is its predominant land use. In 2011, the primary productive agriculture and fisheries sectors produced 1.8% of the National gross domestic product (GDP) and in 2010 the agricultural sector employed 10.6% of the financially active Maltese population. Agriculture is therefore a key economic production centre and plays a key role in Malta's long-term food provision and food security.

²⁸ Sultana, D. (2015). Numerical Modelling of Soil Erosion Susceptibility in the Maltese Islands using Geographic Information Systems and the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). Xjenza Online, 3:41–50

5.3 Social baseline

5.3.1 General

5.3.1.1.1 An important source of statistics, data and further references for social parameters baseline are the Regional Statistics Report, from the National Statistics Office, Malta – Version 2020²⁹. The smallest country in the European Union, the Republic of Malta carries with it great economic and strategic importance. Economically, Malta has been able to maintain a robust performance over the past years: household consumption and net exports have been the main determinants of economic growth.³⁰

5.3.1.1.2 Malta is relatively new to the European Union; it joined in 2004 and adopted the Euro as its official currency in January 2008³¹. It has few natural resources and only produces less than a quarter of its required food while dealing with a limited water supply and few domestic energy resources³². Malta lies between Europe and Africa, making it a target for illegal immigration. This has had a damaging effect on its economy, along with the global economic downturn and the surge in electricity and water prices. However, the country's reliance on the indigenous real estate market meant it escaped severe economic damage from the international economic crisis³³.

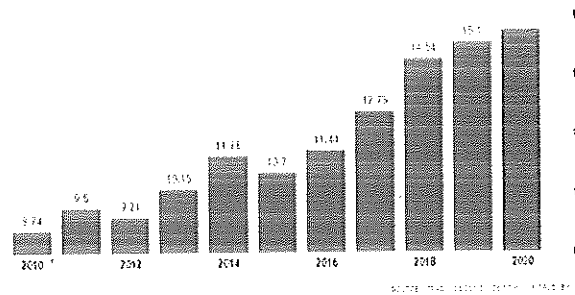


Figure 28 Economic History

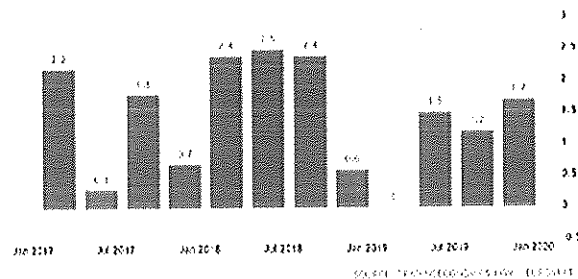


Figure 29 Malta's GDP Growth

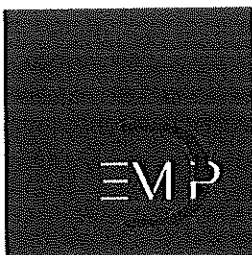
²⁹ Regional Statistics Malta – 2020 Edition, National Statistics Office, Malta,

³⁰ EU Economic and Financial Affairs – Country Report Malta 2016 http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/cr2016_malta_en.pdf 3 June 2016

³¹ CIA – The World Fact Book. "Europe: Malta" <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mt.html> 3 June 2016

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid



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- 5.3.1.1.3 Malta serves as a bridge between Europe and North Africa and has consistently fought for the peace and economic development of the Mediterranean region³⁴. It has also been forceful with creating and implementing legislative systems to encourage growth in key sectors while taking advantage of its geographic position³⁵. Between 1 January 2017 and 30 June 2017 Malta assumed the presidency of the Council of the EU, seeking to focus on issues of migration, single market, security, social inclusion, Europe's neighbourhood, and the maritime sector.³⁶
- 5.3.1.1.4 Today, Malta has 6 members of the European Parliament. In addition, Malta has 5 representatives on the European Economic and Social Committee and 5 representatives on the European Committee of the Regions.³⁷
- 5.3.1.1.5 In the regional statistics Report, from the National Statistics Office – Malta 2020, edition, specifically in chapter 4, Economy, there is explained a summary of the recent development in the Maltese economy, highlighting major changes in regional economic statistics by industry NACE A*10/11 during the period 2013 – 2018. In 2018, the GVA at basic prices in the regions of Malta, and Gozo and Comino was estimated at €10 422.2 million and €470.6 million, respectively; reflecting a corresponding increase of 8.7 and 12.3 per cent over 2017
- 5.3.1.1.6 All industries in Malta region registered increases in GVA during 2018. The largest increase was recorded in the industry of agriculture, forestry and fishing (A) at 26.7 per cent, and assumed a contribution of 0.9 per cent to total GVA. Similarly, the industries comprising of arts, entertainment and recreation; repair of household goods and other services (R, S, T and U) registered the second-largest increase in GVA at 11.4 per cent and accounting for a contribution of 15.5 per cent to the total. The industries of wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and storage; accommodation and food service activities (G, H and I) which comprised the highest share to GVA (21.3 per cent), registered growth in GVA of 7.5 per cent over 2017. The industries comprising public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities (O, P and Q) contributed to the second-largest share of the GVA (16.2 per cent), registered growth in GVA of 8.1 per cent when compared to 2017.
- 5.3.1.1.7 Some important data are exposed as follows: GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$21.3 billion (2020)³⁸; GDP (official exchange rate) : \$14.55 billion (2018) ³⁹; Real growth rate: 4.4% (2019) ⁴⁰ Per Capita: \$45,606 (2020)⁴¹; Composition by sector: Agriculture: 1.43, Industry: 10.6%, Services: 88.1%⁴²; Unemployment rate: 4.6%⁴³ (2020) Inflation(CPI) : 1.7%⁴⁴
- 5.3.1.1.8 Malta has handled the euro-zone crisis better than most member states because of its low debt-to-GDP ratio and financial banking sector. In 2014 – 2016, Malta led the eurozone in growth by expanding more than 4.5% per year. The following should be noted, Public Debt: 45.4% GDP⁴⁵; FDI Inflow (2020): \$4.1 billion

³⁴ U.S. Department of State. "Malta" <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5382.htm> 12 October 2018.

³⁵ Guide to Malta. "Malta at a glance" <http://www.guidetomalta.net/articles/malta-eu-member-state/> 12 October 2018.

³⁶ Council of the European Union. "The Presidency of the Council of the EU." <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/presidency-council-eu/> 10 February 2017

³⁷ European Commission. "Representation in Malta." https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries/member-countries/malta_en 12 October 2018.

³⁸ The Heritage Foundation- "Malta Economy" <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/malta>.

³⁹ The World Bank Data – "Malta" <https://data.worldbank.org/country/malta>.

⁴⁰ Trading Economics- "Malta GDP Annual Growth Rate" <https://tradingeconomics.com/malta/gdp-growth-annual>. December 2019

⁴¹ The Heritage Foundation- "Malta Economy" <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/malta>

⁴² CIA – The World Fact Book. "Europe: Malta" <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mt.html> 12 October 2018

⁴³ The Heritage Foundation- "Malta Economy" <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/malta>

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ibid

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5.3.2 Population

- 5.3.2.1.1 Malta is the most densely populated country in Europe, with an average number of 1548 inhabitants per square kilometre. Within the European context, this population density is an extremely high value, the second-most densely populated country in Europe is the Netherlands with 504 inhabitants per square kilometre⁴⁶.
- 5.3.2.1.2 According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), the number of inhabitants living in the Maltese islands as of the end of 2017 amounted to 475,701, with 442,978 residing in the Malta and 32,723 residing in Gozo. During the period 2011 - 2017, the population of the island of Malta increased every year with a total growth of 56,835 inhabitants over the period. Similarly, the population of Gozo increased every year, with an overall population growth of 1320 inhabitants⁴⁷.
- 5.3.2.1.3 Despite the small size of the country, Malta shows significant heterogeneity in population density among its 68 local councils. The islands of Gozo and Comino (14 districts in total) register a population density below 1000 people per square kilometre, except for the local councils of Victoria (capital city) and Fontana, respectively 2219 *inhab/km²* and 1945 *inhab/km²*. Malta, on the other hand, is divided into two zones: the western part has a low population density, largely because the area is mainly covered by agriculture and green areas rather than dense urban environments, whereas 92% of the population resides within the eastern and southern parts of the island⁴⁸.

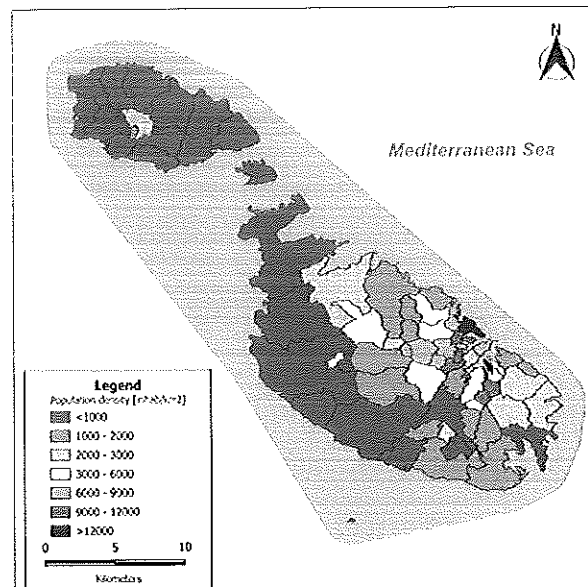


Figure 30 Population density per local council in the Maltese Islands.

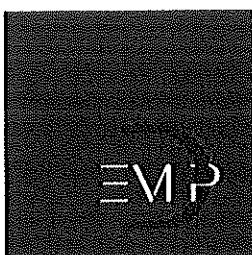
- 5.3.2.1.4 In its public registers and census, Malta does not disaggregate data on the basis of race or ethnicity, but only by language, gender, age, disability, place of birth, and citizenship(s)⁴⁹. The population of Malta is defined by a great degree of homogeneity: less than one in ten of Malta's

⁴⁶ Eurostat 2018

⁴⁷ National Statistics Office (NSO), <https://nso.gov.mt/en/Pages/NSO-Home.aspx>

⁴⁸ Eurostat 2018

⁴⁹ An overview of collected population data is available at NSO website: <http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Pages/Publications-by-Date.aspx> (Last accessed on 26 August 2016).



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residents identify as a religious or linguistic minority. As a result, most studies on ethnic minorities are qualitative.

The country has also been subject to the ongoing migrant crisis in the Mediterranean region. Serving as the home for thousands of African asylum seekers in the early 2000s, Malta has been able to almost virtually shut down the flow of migrants in 2015⁵⁰. Instead, the migrants are rather being taken to Italy and other European countries. However, because of Malta's geographic position, the number of illegal immigrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from the Libyan coast has been expected to increase with further closure of other European routes. It has the 47th highest migration rate in the world.⁵¹

5.3.3 Income distribution and poverty.

5.3.3.1.1 The Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) survey is an annual enquiry conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) among persons residing in private households in Malta and Gozo. This survey is carried out under EU regulation (EU. No. 1177/2003)⁵².

Table 8 Household Disposable income by/region/district and year

	€000s					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MALTA	3 690 362	4 001 554	4 350 619	4 579 535	4 945 274	5 225 113
Malta	3 428 476	3 741 875	4 098 540	4 312 520	4 658 021	4 919 524
Southern Harbour	611 193	674 291	682 615	688 634	731 547	789 456
Northern Harbour	1 121 852	1 267 731	1 401 211	1 492 021	1 609 825	1 700 095
South Eastern	476 449	615 039	660 465	696 145	730 425	819 117
Western	574 880	567 322	601 293	635 319	697 227	745 693
Northern	605 836	656 200	754 292	814 634	858 150	901 916
Gozo and Comino	261 947	259 681	262 110	267 015	267 253	305 789
Gozo and Comino	261 947	259 681	262 110	267 015	267 253	305 789
	Average per household (€)					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MALTA	25 506	24 695	25 796	26 189	27 466	27 830
Malta	23 611	24 931	26 116	26 542	27 610	28 131
Southern Harbour	20 864	21 116	22 625	22 438	23 085	24 183
Northern Harbour	23 361	25 159	26 601	26 359	27 091	27 123
South Eastern	24 479	25 630	26 503	27 724	29 548	30 419
Western	26 276	27 911	29 080	29 601	32 751	32 964
Northern	24 345	25 892	27 581	28 260	28 721	27 724
Gozo and Comino	22 214	21 734	21 444	21 557	22 667	24 741
Gozo and Comino	22 214	21 734	21 444	21 557	22 667	24 741

5.3.3.1.2 Based on the income year 2018, the number of at-risk-of-poverty persons living in Malta was estimated at 82,758, while the average gross household income for 2018 is estimated at € 34,627 while the average disposable household income is estimated at € 28,505, according

⁵⁰ The Economist – High wall, narrow sea <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21678248-migrants-once-flocked-malta-host-eu-african-migration-summit-not-anymore-high-wall> 14 November 2015.

⁵¹ CIA – The World Fact Book. "Europe: Malta" <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html> 12 October 2018.

⁵² Regional Statistics Malta – 2020 Edition, National Statistics Office, Malta,

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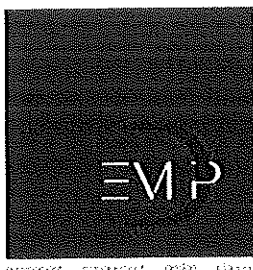
to the latest data published by the National Statistics Office, NSO after the survey on European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions was conducted.

5.3.3.1.3 In 2018, 2.2 per cent of Malta's social outlay was allocated to the Unemployment function. In expenditure terms, this amounted to €41.2 million, which was €0.8 million higher than in 2017. Benefits and services offered by Jobsplus totalled €18.4 million in outlay and explain the aforementioned increase. The additional €4.6 million funnelled into this scheme was partially offset by the drops recorded in each of the other schemes offering unemployment type benefits, in particular Social Security Non-Contributory Benefits (€3.1 million) and the MDD/MSCL/MSY Voluntary Retirement Scheme (€0.4 million) (Table below).

Schemes	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Share of Scheme (2018)
€ 000						
Social Security Contributory Benefits	2 398	1 682	1 293	892	729	01
Social Security Non-Contributory Benefits	25 027	31 174	26 831	21 204	18 124	97
Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households	7	8	8	8	7	01
Employment and Training Corporation/Jobsplus	9 824	8 506	12 125	13 789	18 501	1000
Subsidies on Utilities	5 016	2 738	2 526	2 359	2 172	951
MDD/MSCL/MSY Voluntary Retirement Scheme	3 910	3 383	3 002	2 155	1 751	1000
Total	45 123	47 891	45 786	40 396	41 195	-
% of social protection	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.2	-

Figure 31 Unemployment gross expenditure by the scheme (2014-2018).

5.3.3.1.4 In 2018, the total employed persons (full-time and part-time as a primary job) in Malta amounted to 245,983, an increase of 5.9 per cent when compared to the previous year. The shares of the Gozo and Comino region by place of residence and place of work stood at 6.8 and 5.3 per cent, respectively. Employed persons in the Malta region (by place of work), exceeded the total number of employed persons resident in the Malta region (by place of residence).



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5.3.4 Education⁵³

5.3.4.1.1 In Malta, the Education statistics are processed by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on an annual basis in accordance with European Regulations (EC) 452/2008 and (EU) 912/2013. These regulations establish the basis of information to be collected from educational institutions at all levels of education and all economic sectors. By adhering to these regulations, all education statistics collected and processed by the NSO are comparable to other European countries following the same regulatory standards. A total of 82227 students in non-compulsory and compulsory education were enrolled in the scholastic year in the period of 2017/18 in Malta. The majority of students were aged between 3 and 17 years, comprising 75.9 per cent of the total student body.

5.3.5 Human health

5.3.5.1.1 Two main documents summarize the human and public health in Malta:

5.3.5.1.1.1 State of Health in the EU Malta – Country Health Profile 2019⁵⁴

5.3.5.1.1.2 Public Health in Malta 1999-2019, MAPHM⁵⁵.

5.3.5.1.2 Malta's population enjoys generally good health and one of the longest life expectancies in the EU. Nevertheless, high obesity rates among adults and adolescents pose a serious threat to public health. The National Health Service provides universal coverage for a comprehensive benefits package, while the private sector plays a key role in the delivery of primary care. Strengthening primary care to improve efficiency and better serve those living with chronic conditions is an important policy goal⁵⁶.

5.3.5.1.3 Life expectancy at birth has increased substantially since 2000, reaching 82.4 years in 2017, which is among the highest in the EU. These gains have been driven by declining mortality from some treatable cancers and cardiovascular diseases. Maltese people spend the majority of their lives in good health, with 67 % of life after age 65 spent without chronic diseases and disabilities, a far higher share than the EU average. However, the prevalence of diabetes is growing and socioeconomic inequalities in life expectancy and self-reported health status persist⁵⁷.

⁵³ Regional Statistics Malta – 2020 Edition, National Statistics Office, Malta.

⁵⁴ OECD/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (2019), Malta: Country Health Profile 2019, State of Health in the EU, OECD Publishing, Paris/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, Brussels

⁵⁵ Public Health in Malta 2019-2019 (www.maphm.org).

⁵⁶ OECD/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (2019), Malta: Country Health Profile 2019, State of Health in the EU, OECD Publishing, Paris/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, Brussels

⁵⁷ Ibid

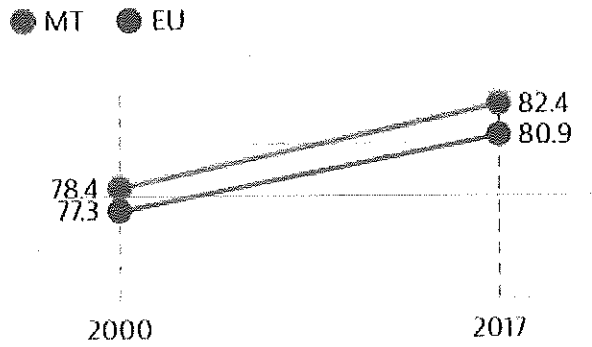


Figure 32 Life expectancy at birth

Figure 33 % of Adults

5.3.5.1.4 Malta recorded one of the largest increases in per capita health expenditure in the EU over the last decade. Health spending per person in 2017 was EUR 2 732, more than 60 % higher than in 2007, although it remains below the EU average. This equates to 9.3 % of GDP, also below the EU average of 9.8 %. Although the health system provides practically universal coverage, out-of-pocket spending in 2017 was the joint fourth highest in the EU (34.6 % compared to an average of 15.8 %), due to high private spending on outpatient services, primary care and pharmaceuticals⁵⁸.

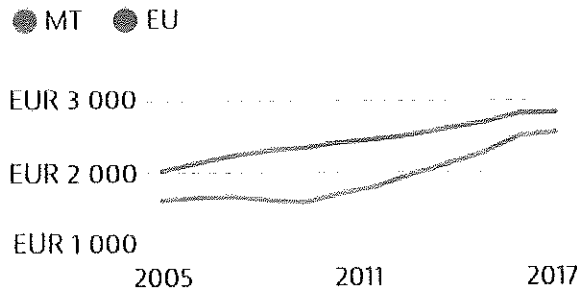


Figure 34 Per capita spending (EUR PPP)

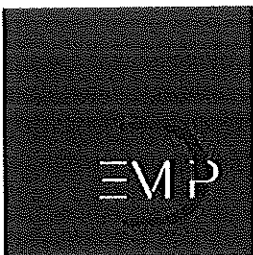
5.4 Material Assets

5.4.1 Transport routes, public transport, and pedestrian routes

5.4.1.1.1 Transport Malta is the Authority responsible for the Transport in the Maltese Islands. Malta has an extensive road network stretching over 2,400 kilometres of road in 2014. Malta also has one of the densest networks in the world with 762 km of roads in every 100 km² of land area⁵⁹. Roads are organised according to their function in Strategic roads and Supporting

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Source; NTS 2050, Transport Malta



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roads. Strategic roads consisting of Arterial roads and Distributor roads represent the backbone of the road network. Secondary roads (Local Access roads) provide access to the different localities (Figure 35). Dual carriageway roads account for 30% of the length of the Arterial and Distributor network⁶⁰.

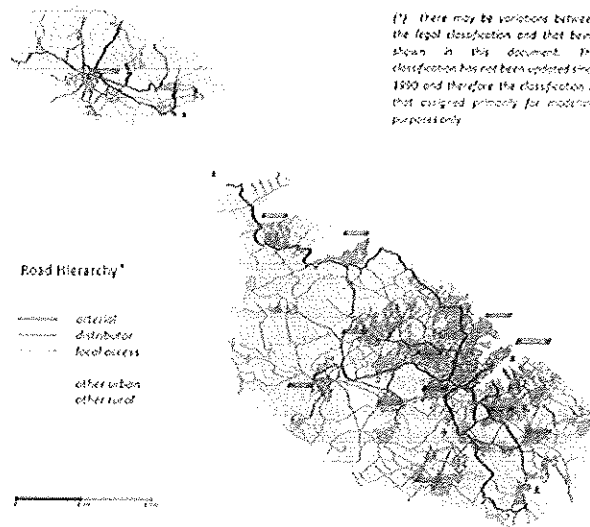
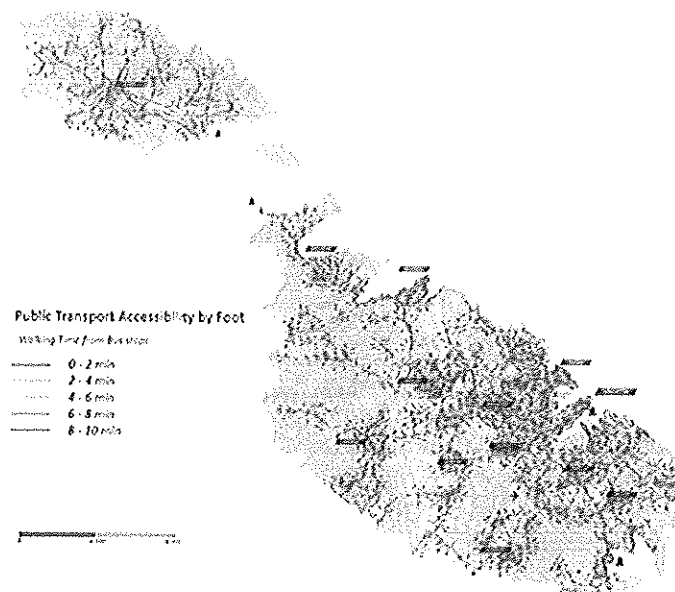


Figure 35. Road Hierarchy (Source; NTS 2050, Transport Malta).

5.4.1.1.2 Regarding the public transport accessibility by foot, Transport Malta through the National Transport Strategy for 2050 (NTS 2050) generated the map below that evidence the walk time between bus stops⁶¹.



⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid.

5.4.2 Waste Management

- 5.4.2.1.1 The Waste Management (Landfill) Regulations S.L. 549.29⁶², are the national legislation that regulates landfills and their impact and aim to transpose the provisions of the Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC⁶³.
- 5.4.2.1.2 The Landfill Regulations classify landfills into **three classes**, depending on the type of waste a landfill is permitted to receive⁶⁴: Landfill for Hazardous waste; Landfill for Non-hazardous waste; and Landfill for Inert waste.
- 5.4.2.1.3 The total amount of solid waste generated in Malta during 2019 amounted to 2.7 million tonnes; advancing by 2.6 per cent over that recorded during the previous year. Hazardous waste increased by 34.1 per cent or 10,932 tonnes, mainly as a result of higher amounts of chemical wastes. Likewise, non-hazardous waste went up by 2.2 per cent or 56,995 tonnes, with mineral waste from construction and demolition and the organic waste collection from households (classified under the animal and mixed food waste) being the main contributors towards this increase.
- 5.4.2.1.4 Waste treatment registered an increase of 30.0 per cent or 704,251 tonnes when compared to 2018. This happened mainly due to an increase, amounting to almost 1.0 million tonnes, in the recycling of mineral waste from construction and demolition. On the other hand, backfilling in quarries decreased by 14.6 per cent or 205,776 tonnes. Landfilling and incineration both increased by 54,531 tonnes and 1,102 tonnes respectively, whilst no amounts were recorded for disposal at sea and energy recovery. From the waste that was sent overseas for treatment in 2019, 63.0 per cent underwent recycling processes and 35.6 per cent was landfilled.
- 5.4.2.1.5 During 2019, the waste input into the Tal-Kus (Gozo) waste transfer station increased by 3.4 per cent or 584 tonnes. Increases of 168 tonnes, 203 tonnes, and 17,191 tonnes were also recorded at the Marsa Thermal Treatment Facility, the Sant' Antnin Waste Treatment Plant, and the Ghallis landfill respectively. Conversely, the input of waste at the Malta North Mechanical-Biological Treatment plant declined by 12.6 per cent or 11,352 tonnes.

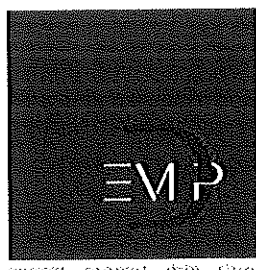
5.4.3 Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 5.4.3.1.1 The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is responsible for the scientific investigations related to cultural heritage assets found both on land and at sea. The Superintendence also regulates archaeological evaluations and monitoring of development works in order to guide on planning decisions and to safeguard cultural sites throughout ongoing works. Onsite surveillance of development is carried out by qualified and competent persons who are registered on the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage Services Register. The Superintendence keeps full records of the archaeological documentation resulting from these investigations. Further details on the procedures and standards required from the Superintendence are published on the 'Operating

⁶² <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.29/eng/pdf>

⁶³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31999L0031>

⁶⁴ <https://era.org.mt/topic/landfill-of-waste/>



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Procedures and Standards for Archaeology Services' (OPSAS) document. OPSAS document can be viewed from the below link⁶⁵.

5.4.3.1.2 Throughout 2020 the Superintendence consolidated its resources on converting its archaeology site data to spatial data, a key project which was initiated in 2019. The process consists in georeferencing the locations of known cultural heritage sites that were discovered since the setting up of the Superintendence (in 2002) as well as during the duration of its precursor – the Museum's Department (1903 – 2002). By the end of 2020, 2,292 locations with varying levels of cultural heritage significance were georeferenced along with 965 sites that are deemed as 'non-discovery sites'. Non-discovery sites are sites where some archaeological surveillance was carried out by the Superintendence but in which no archaeological discoveries were made.

5.4.3.1.3 The geo-referenced information is uploaded through a GIS platform onto a map of the Maltese Islands, to provide a visual representation of the location and distribution of sites of cultural significance. Consequently, sites that do not show evidence of any discoveries provide information on distribution patterns when combined with discovery sites.

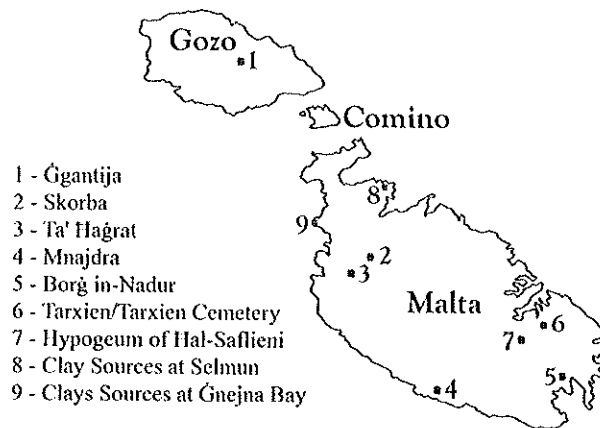
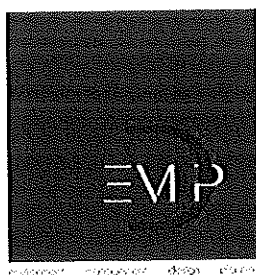


Figure 37. Cultural heritage monuments, locations on maps, data on the monuments.

⁶⁵ <https://culture.gov.mt/en/culturalheritage/Pages/CulturalHeritageSurveillance.aspx>

6 SEA Methodology

- 6.1.1.1.1 A key part of the SEA process is the development of the SEA Framework. The SEA Framework forms the basis for predicting and assessing the effects arising from the implementation of the BMVI plan. The Framework will be used to assess the individual options and the alternative programmes for the plan. An overarching set of SEA objectives and assessment questions to guide the assessment have been developed, as shown in the following table. These are linked to the SEA Directive topics and the key priorities for the Plan. However, none of the parameters is linked with the Plan and they are scoped out, something which means that no SEA indicators can be identified.



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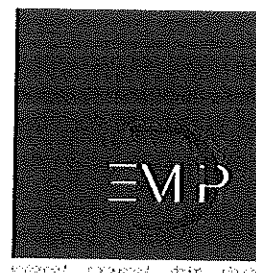
SEA Topic	Proposed SEA Objective	Assessment Questions/Sub-Themes
Biodiversity , flora and fauna	Protect and enhance biodiversity, priority species, vulnerable habitats and habitat connectivity (no loss and improve connectivity where possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Plan likely to affect the conservation status of any SPA, SACs, Ramsar sites, SSSI or locally designated sites? • Will the Plan protect and enhance aquatic and habitats and species, including freshwater fisheries and chalk rivers? • Will the Plan affect the marine environment, habitats and species? • Is the Plan likely to affect ancient woodland, Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and/or protected and BAP species? • Will the Plan affect any habitats that support legally protected species or species of conservation concern? • Is there potential for contribution to achieving 'favourable' conservation status or for the creation of new BAP habitats? • Is the Plan likely to have an impact on a current or future Nature Recovery Network? • Are there any opportunities for habitat creation or restoration? • Will the Plan contribute to the loss or gain in habitat connectivity?
Soil	Protect and enhance the functionality, quantity and quality of soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan affect high-grade agricultural land? • Will the Plan promote the efficient use of land? • Will the Plan prevent soil erosion and retain soil stocks as a natural resource? • Will the Plan promote soil health? • Will the Plan involve the use of brownfield or greenfield land? • Will the Plan prevent mineral sterilisation? • Will the Plan affect soil contamination or involve remediation? • Is the Plan likely to affect geodiversity?

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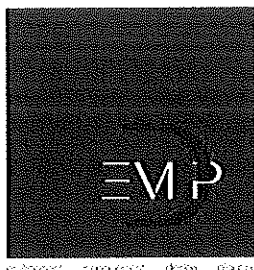
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SEA Topic	Proposed SEA Objective	Assessment Questions/Sub-Themes
Water	Increase resilience and reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Plan vulnerable to flood risk? • Will the Plan contribute to the risk of flooding?
	Protect and enhance the quality of the water environment and water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan affect surface water quality or quantity? • Will the Plan affect groundwater quality or quantity? • Is the Plan likely to contribute to or conflict with the achievement of WFD objectives? • Will the Plan affect bathing waters? • Will the Plan affect raw water quality? • Will the Plan reduce the flashy nature of surface waters? • Will the Plan slow the flow in upper catchments and reduce soil losses to river systems?
Air	Reduce and minimise air emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Plan in an air quality management area (AQMA)? • Will the Plan affect local air quality?
Climatic Factors	Reduce embodied and operational carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan affect carbon or other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions? • Is there potential for the Plan to incorporate climate mitigation measures to reduce its carbon footprint, such as lower embodied carbon or incorporating renewable energy? • Will the Plan affect carbon sequestration?
	Reduce vulnerability to climate change risks and hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Plan vulnerable to climate change effects? • Does the Plan include climate resilience measures? • Will the Plan create catchment resilience to drought?



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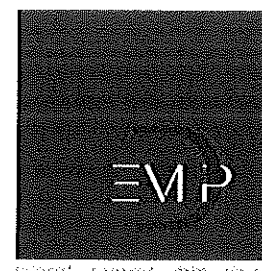
SEA Topic	Proposed SEA Objective	Assessment Questions/Sub-Themes
Landscape	Conserve, protect and enhance landscape, townscape and seascape character and visual amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan have an effect on the character of the landscape, townscape or seascape, including tranquillity and views? • Will the Plan improve access to the countryside? • Will the Plan create or improve green infrastructure which contributes to access to the landscape? • Will the Plan protect and enhance designated landscapes and features?
Historic Environment	Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment, including archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan affect designated or non-designated historic assets, sites and features? • Will the Plan affect the setting and/or significance of a historic asset? • Will the Plan affect archaeology (including unknown archaeology)? • Will the Plan affect heritage assets at risk? • Will the Plan affect conservation areas or historic landscape/townscape areas?
Population and Human Health	Maintain and enhance the health and wellbeing of the local community, including economic and social wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan allow for economic development? • Will the Plan allow for economic diversity? • Will the Plan have an effect on active lifestyles? • Will the Plan affect Public Rights of Way? • Will the local communities have been actively engaged to foster an inclusive environment and participate in decision making?
	Maintain and enhance tourism and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan maintain or enhance tourism? • Does the Plan improve access to the natural environment for recreation, including those living within deprived areas? • Will the Plan have an effect on freshwater fisheries for recreational purposes? • Will the Plan have an effect on marine fisheries for recreational purposes?

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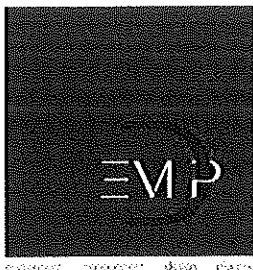
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SEA Topic	Proposed SEA Objective	Assessment Questions/Sub-Themes
Material Assets	Minimise resource use and waste production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan reuse existing infrastructure? • Will the Plan minimise the use of resources? • Will the Plan reduce the production of waste?
	Avoid negative effects on built assets and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Plan effect built assets and infrastructure, including transport infrastructure?



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7 Key environmental issues and opportunities

7.1.1.1.1 Determining which SEA topics are relevant to the BMVI plan and which should be scoped out (if any) is a key stage in the Scoping process. The SEA topics and the scoping determination for each are presented in the following table. The key issues and opportunities relevant to each topic, which were identified during the process, are also presented in the table.

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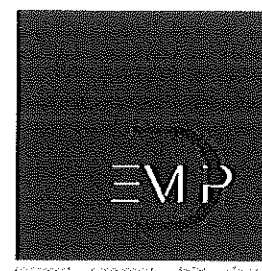
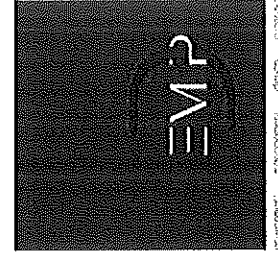


Table 9 Key environmental issues and opportunities

SEA topic	Scoped in/out	Implications	Opportunities
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna due to the nature of the "soft" activities foreseen.	• n/a
Water	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on water due to the nature of the "soft" activities foreseen.	• n/a
Soil	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on soil due to the nature of the "soft" activities foreseen.	• n/a
Air	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on air due to the nature of the "soft" activities foreseen.	• n/a
Climatic Factors	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any environmental impacts on climate factors.	• n/a



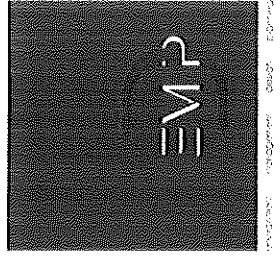
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SEA topic	Scoped in/out	Implications	Opportunities
Population, community and human health	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any environmental impacts on population, communities and human health.	• n/a
Historic environment	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on the historic environment.	• n/a
Landscape	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on the landscape.	• n/a
Material Assets	Out	The BMVI is not expected to have any impacts on material assets.	• n/a

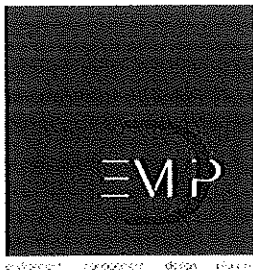


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8 Alternatives

- 8.1.1.1.1 The SEA Directive requires that an assessment must identify the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.
- 8.1.1.1.2 During the development of the BMVI, feasible alternatives considered by the Programming Unit will also be assessed from an environmental viewpoint against the SEA objectives, including the "do nothing scenario".



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9 Monitoring

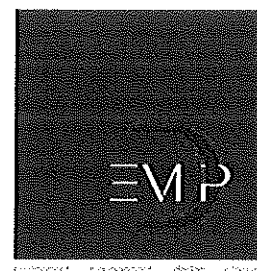
- 9.1.1.1.1 The Environment Report will include a section that describes how the success of the BMVI's implementation will be measured with respect to the SEA objectives, by measuring (monitoring) the significant effects of the BMVI on the environment.
- 9.1.1.1.2 The SEA will assess the monitoring arrangements proposed for the BMVI and may recommend the incorporation of new indicators based on the relevant environmental issues, objectives, and indicators for the programming document.
- 9.1.1.1.3 Again, it is noted that the correlation between indicators for monitoring and the BMVI objectives may be constrained because indicators may be affected by other initiatives, including private sector initiatives, other plans and programmes, and legislative measures that are outside the scope of the BMVI.

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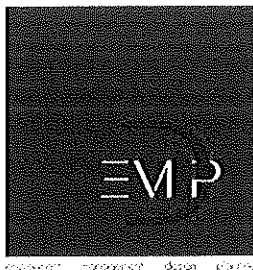
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10 Key findings, consultation and next steps

- 10.1.1.1.1 The BMVI is a Programme comprising mainly soft actions regarding the improvement of border management and VISA instrument improvement. The actions foreseen include several different actions such as upgrade of the existing coastal surveillance system, pilot training, national VISA information system technical enhancements etc. Based on the nature of these actions it is obvious that no significant environmental impacts are expected by the Programme itself.
- 10.1.1.1.2 The SEA Screening and Scoping Report will be issued for a consultation period to the statutory bodies: At this stage, any views would be welcome on the SEA Screening and Scoping Report including the following key questions:
- 10.1.1.1.2.1 Are there any additional plans or programmes at the international, national, regional or local level which have been excluded from the plans and programmes review, which your organisation thinks are relevant to the BMVI SEA?
- 10.1.1.1.2.2 Do you have any comments on the baseline information presented or any additional baseline information you think would be useful?
- 10.1.1.1.2.3 Do you have any comments on whether the most optimal environmental approach was adopted under the BMVI Programme?
- 10.1.1.1.2.4 Do you have any comments on the proposed SEA objectives, the assessment carried out, including questions/sub-themes as well as the outcomes and recommendations?
- 10.1.1.1.2.5 Do you have any other comments on the report?
- 10.1.1.1.3 Following the consultation period, all consultation responses will be carefully reviewed and tabulated, and taken into account as far as possible. Details of how the consultation has been taken into account, alongside the results of the SEA assessment, will be presented in the final Screening and Scoping Report.
- 10.1.1.1.4 In case the Screening and scoping report will be screened in, an environmental report will be prepared.
- 10.1.1.1.5 The Environmental Report will provide an assessment of the Plan by outlining the state of the existing environment and predicting how the environment is likely to change as a consequence of proposed measures. Mitigation and monitoring measures will also be outlined.



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10.1.1.1.6 The information that is proposed to be included in the Environmental Report, if this is deemed to be necessary, is listed below:

10.1.2 1. Non-Technical Summary

10.1.2.1.1 A non-technical summary will be prepared to summarize key environmental issues.

10.1.3 2. Introduction

10.1.3.1.1 This section will comprise a brief description of the SEA process in relation to the BMVI Plan. It will also look at the overall aims and implications of the SEA for the Strategy.

10.1.4 3. Related Plans and Programmes

10.1.4.1.1 This section of the Environmental Report will describe the policy context within which the Strategy is being developed and will also detail the legislation and other new guidance that informs or is informed by the Plan, including international, European Union, national and other sources.

10.1.5 4. Summary of Objectives of the Plan

10.1.5.1.1 This section will provide a brief overview of the Strategy and will provide an outline of the contents, main goals, strategic principles and objectives.

10.1.6 5. Summary of the Baseline Environment

10.1.6.1.1 This section of the SEA will provide a description of the current state of the environment in the study area and the likely evolution of the environment without implementation of the Strategy. The purpose of this section is to provide enough environmental baseline data to:

- 10.1.6.1.1.1 Support the identification of environmental problems;
- 10.1.6.1.1.2 Support the process of assessing the environmental effects; and
- 10.1.6.1.1.3 Provide a baseline against which future monitoring data can be compared.

10.1.6.1.2 The most important environmental parameters that will be investigated are listed below:

- 10.1.6.1.2.1 Climatic data from available meteorological stations.
- 10.1.6.1.2.2 Surface waters
- 10.1.6.1.2.3 Groundwater - hydrogeology

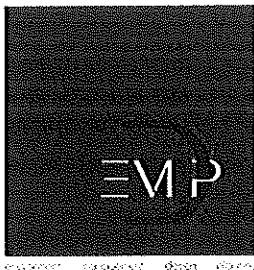
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- 10.1.6.1.2.4 Noise and air
 - 10.1.6.1.2.5 Biodiversity
 - 10.1.6.1.2.6 Waste management
 - 10.1.6.1.2.7 Geology
 - 10.1.6.1.2.8 Seismicity
 - 10.1.6.1.2.9 Soils
 - 10.1.6.1.2.10 Marine Environment
 - 10.1.6.1.2.11 Any other Geophysical characteristics that may arise.
- 10.1.6.1.3 The most important social parameters that will be investigated are describing in detail below:
- 10.1.6.1.3.1 Cultural heritage and archaeology
 - 10.1.6.1.3.2 Land use
 - 10.1.6.1.3.3 Local settlements and community services
 - 10.1.6.1.3.4 Transport routes, public transport, and pedestrian routes
 - 10.1.6.1.3.5 Social baseline
 - 10.1.6.1.3.6 Vulnerable groups and migration
- 10.1.6.1.4 All the previously mentioned data will be included in the following main baseline categories for SEA:
- 10.1.6.1.4.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.2 Population;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.3 Human Health;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.4 Soil ;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.5 Water;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.6 Air Quality and Climatic Factors;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.7 Material Assets;
 - 10.1.6.1.4.8 Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage; and
 - 10.1.6.1.4.9 Landscape.

10.1.7 6. Sustainability Criteria

- 10.1.7.1.1.1 This section of the Environmental Report will detail the Environmental Protection Objectives for the SEA. Each Environmental Protection Objective will be accompanied by corresponding target(s) and indicator(s). These SEA Objectives have been grouped under the SEA subject headings, i.e Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Population and Human Health, Soils and Land Use, Water; Air, Climate, Material Assets,



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10.1.8 7. Assessment of Alternatives

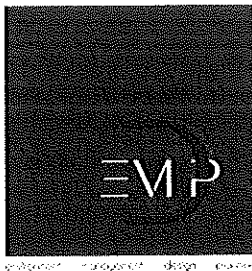
- 10.1.8.1.1 Alternatives will be assessed in terms of their potential positive and negative impacts, and the significance of these impacts on the environment against the Strategy and SEA objectives. The purpose of this is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of the Plan, highlighting any environmental problems that are likely to arise from the implementation of the Plan.
- 10.1.8.1.2 Where possible this assessment will be quantitative, with a graphical output to aid public appreciation and understanding of the implications of each proposed measure in the Plan.
- 10.1.8.1.3 The Plan will be assessed via a *Baseline Led Assessment*. This method will involve the assessment of each option available in the enactment of the Plan against each of the following headings/subjects:
- 10.1.8.1.3.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.2 Population and Human Health;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.3 Soils and Land Use;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.4 Water;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.5 Air;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.6 Climate;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.7 Material Assets;
 - 10.1.8.1.3.8 Cultural Heritage, including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, and
 - 10.1.8.1.3.9 Landscape.
- 10.1.8.1.4 Each alternative available in the Plan will be assessed in the short, medium and long term for likely effects, the significance of the effects, and whether they are positive or negative effects. Other impacts that will be assessed for significance are secondary effects, cumulative effects, synergistic effects, temporary and permanent effects, and the inter-relationship of effects. The scenario of "The Evolution of the Environment without the Plan" will also be assessed in the same format. This will be considered the *Do-Nothing Scenario*.
- 10.1.8.1.5 All potential positive and negative impacts will be presented individually, with a text description. In addition, a summary of the overall balanced potential effect will be presented for each environmental issue area.

10.1.9 8. Mitigation

10.1.9.1.1 This section will outline the mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment due to the implementation of the Programme.

10.1.10 9. Monitoring

10.1.10.1.1 The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan are monitored in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and in order to undertake appropriate remedial action. This monitoring programme will be based on the Targets and Indicators established in the SEA Objectives. This programme will aim to be realistic and achievable, with existing monitoring arrangements being used where possible.



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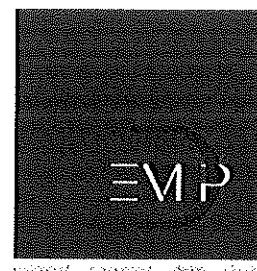
1 1 Annex I: Screening report

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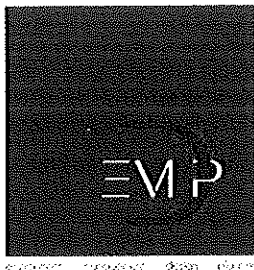
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Part A – Plan/Programme (PP) & Responsible Authority (RA)	
Title of PP: Border Management and Visa Instrument	
Responsible Authority: Office of the Prime Minister	
Contact Person: Ms Maria Pia Pace	Position: Director General
Contact Address: 32 House of Catalunya, Triq Marsamxett, Valletta, Malta	
Email: maria-pia.a.pace@gov.mt	Telephone: +356 22957604
Date: 06.10.2021	



environment management design planning

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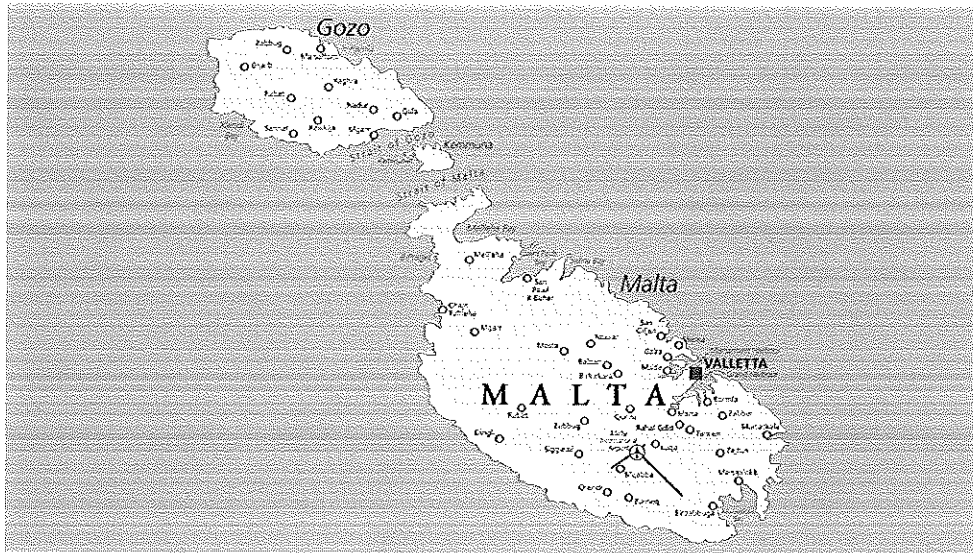
Part B – General Information about the Plan/Programme (PP)

Purpose of PP: to support the effective European integrated border management at the external borders implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard and the common visa policy.

Period Covered by PP: 2021 – 2027

Envisaged updates/modifications: 2021 – 2027

Area covered by PP (also attach map): Malta (the whole country)



Summary of PP content: The BMVI is an EU fund that shall be implemented in Malta (among other EU members) for the programming period 2021-2027, to promote the supporting the effective European integrated border management at the external borders implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard and the common visa policy in order to ensure harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel while helping prevent migratory and security risks. Malta's Operational Programme for BMVI focuses on two Specific Objectives as presented below which are facilitated by their corresponding measures. More specifically:

Specific Objective 1: Supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard as a shared responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and of the national authorities responsible for border management, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, to prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows

- Kiosks to be installed at MIA
- Upgrade of existing Coastal Surveillance System
- Midlife mission system upgrade of the AFM's Kingair Maritime Patrol Fixed Wing Aircraft

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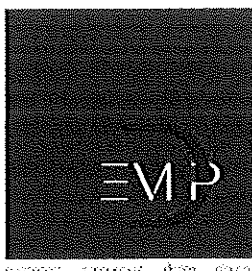
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- Pilot Training – AB Initio
- Simulator Training for AFM Rotary and Fixed Wing pilots (AW139 and KA B200)

Specific Objective 2: Supporting the common visa policy to ensure harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping prevent migratory and security risks.

- National VISA Information System Technical Enhancements
- National VISA Information System
- The administrative cost of consular posts
- Capacity building in self-auditing processes
- Hands-on training programme

Part C – Applicability of the SEA Regulations		
Criterion	Yes/No	Explanation
Exemptions – Regulation 4(9)		
Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency? OR	No	Although this Programme is also related to the national defence and civil emergency, these are not the sole purposes of the Programme. The Programme also aims to support effective European integrated border management at the external borders implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard as a shared responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and of the national authorities responsible for border management, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and effectively manage migratory flows. The BMVI Programme also aims at supporting the common visa policy to ensure



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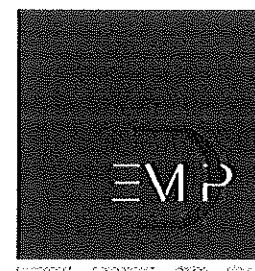
		harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping prevent migratory and security risks.
Is this a financial or budget PP?	No	The BMVI Programme is a Programme co-financed by the European Community.
Qualification of PP - Regulation 3		
Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional, or local authority? OR	Yes	The BMVI Programme is being prepared by the Strategy and Implementation Division within the Office of the Prime Minister.
Is the PP prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? AND	Yes	Approval of the BMVI Programme by the Cabinet will be sought.
Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes	According to Article 21 of Regulation EU 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council dated 24 June 2021, Member States shall prepare, in cooperation with the partners referred to in Article 8(1), programmes to implement the Funds for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027. The BMVI Programme is being drawn up to fulfil this obligation.
Regulations 4(1) to 4(4)		
The SEA Regulations require that a strategic environmental assessment, in accordance with regulations 5 to 10, shall be carried out by the responsible authority for PPs referred to in sub-regulations 4(2) to 4(4) which are likely to have significant environmental effects, as follows:		

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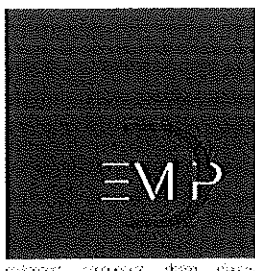
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- (i) Regulation 4(2) identifies PPs that are already considered to have a significant environmental effect. Moreover, Regulation 4(2)(b) requires liaison with the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) as the authority responsible for the Habitats Directive and protection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- (ii) Responsible authorities should determine, in line with the provisions of the SEA Regulations, whether PPs identified in Regulations 4(3) to 4(4) are likely to have significant environmental effects [also see Regulation 4(5) below].

Regulation 4(2) – SEA required automatically

<p>Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use? AND</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The BMVI is not a Programme prepared for the mentioned sectors. Given that the majority of the measures proposed relate to training and establishment and upgrade of Information and Surveillance Systems, the prementioned goals of the Programme do not cover and have no correlation with any of the pillars mentioned in the question. Should any of the sectors be affected, the effect is envisaged to be minimal.</p>
<p>Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU). [These Annexes are transposed as Schedule 1 in the national EIA Regulations] OR</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The proposed measures include the installation of kiosks, upgrading of systems (existing Coastal Surveillance System, midlife mission system of the AFM's Kingair Maritime Patrol Fixed Wing Aircraft), training initiatives e) and the establishment of Systems (National VISA Information System Technical Enhancements). Given that these activities have no correlation with the question asked, the BMVI does not set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I</p>



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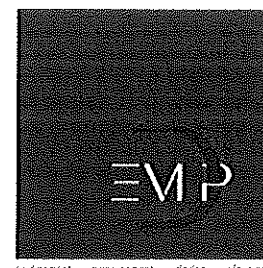
		& II of the EIA Directive and the national EIA regulations.
Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment (Appropriate Assessment) under Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)?	No	Due to the soft nature of the BMVI actions (for instance upgrading of existing Coastal Surveillance System, Midlife mission system upgrade of the AFM's Kingair Maritime Patrol Fixed Wing Aircraft National VISA Information System, the administrative cost of consular posts, capacity building in self-auditing processes and hands-on training programme), an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not expected to be required, since habitats will not be significantly affected by any Programme's actions, so biodiversity and protected areas will not be harmed.
Regulation 4(3) – Applied only for PPs referred in 4(2)		
Does the PP in 4(2) determine the use of small areas at a local level? <u>OR</u>	-	This section is for those programmes which require a SEA automatically as per section 4(2) above. The Programme does not require a SEA automatically.
Is it a minor modification of a PP referred to in 4(2)?	-	-
Regulation 4(4) – Applied only for PPs <u>not</u> referred in 4(2)		
Is the PP, which set the framework for future development consent of projects, likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	The measures set by the BMVI aim at the establishment and upgrade of systems as well as training, which are not envisaged to impact the environment. This can be justified by the fact that the measures are services which do not require the establishment

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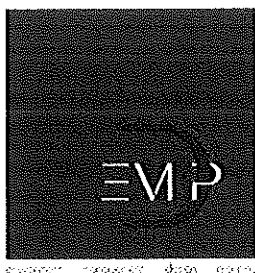
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		of any additional works that could harm the environment.
Part D – Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment referred to in Regulation 4(5) (Schedule II)		
Regulation 4(5) – Applied for PPs referred to in 4(3) and 4(4)		
Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No	Explanation on the significant environmental effects (both positive and negative)
Characteristics of the PP		
The degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating condition; or by allocating resources	No	The soft type of the BMVI actions ensures that no framework for projects and other activities, either regarding the location, nature, size and operating condition; or by allocating resources will be set. As outlined above, the measures envisaged under the BMVI Programme as outlined above, are activities that relate to services and works and therefore do not have impacts on other activities.
The degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	It is not expected that the BMVI will influence other plans and programs mainly due to its nature. However, potential synergies with the AMIF and ISF programmes may be possible.
The relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular	No	As mentioned above, the Programme is not generally related to the integration of environmental considerations with a view to



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with a view to promoting sustainable development		promoting sustainable development, due to the type of actions foreseen
Environmental problems relevant to the PP	No	Trivial to no environmental problems are expected by the BMVI Programme mainly due to its nature. The activities foreseen under this Programme are unlikely to provoke any environmental problems.
The relevance of the PP for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (eg. PPs linked to waste management or water protection)	No	The Programme is not generally relevant to the implementation of community legislation on the environment. The only issue that should be mentioned here is that the waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) generated by the Programmes (due to e.g., the upgrade of the existing Coastal Surveillance System and of the AFM's Kingair Maritime Patrol Fixed Wing Aircraft) should be managed as per the pertinent legislation and guidance.

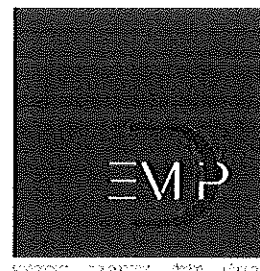
Characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected		
The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects	No	The BMVI is not expected to have significant environmental impacts due to the type of actions foreseen. Such activities are unlikely to provoke any environmental problems, so there is no ground to discuss in further detail in terms of probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of its effects.

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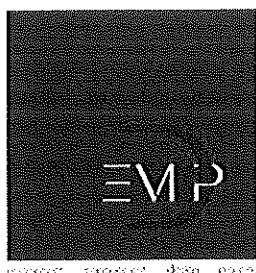
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The cumulative nature of the effects	No	The BMVI is not expected to have any cumulative environmental impacts due to the type of actions foreseen. The projects/works listed above are not envisaged to provoke any impacts of such a kind.
The transboundary nature of the effects	No	The BMVI is not expected to have transboundary impacts due to the type of actions foreseen.
The risks to human health or the environment (eg. due to accidents)	No	The BMVI is not expected to have significant impacts on human health and the environment (e.g., due to accidents) due to the type of actions foreseen, based on the premise that all health & safety regulations will be implemented for actions including the upgrade of the AFM's Kingair Maritime Patrol Fixed Wing Aircraft, the upgrade of existing Coastal Surveillance System and the installation of Kiosks at MIA.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The BMVI is not expected to have significant environmental impacts either at the local or national level. The Measures are not projects/works that entail a spatial extent since they are in the service sector
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: l) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	No	The BMVI is not expected to have significant environmental impacts either at the local or national level due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values and intensive land uses due to the type of actions foreseen.



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<p>II) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</p> <p>III) Intensive land use</p>		
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognized national, community or international protection status</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Activities under the BMVI Programme, such as kiosks to be installed at MIA, upgrade of existing Coastal Surveillance System, midlife mission system upgrade of the AFM's Kingair Maritime Patrol Fixed Wing Aircraft, National VISA Information System Technical Enhancements, capacity building in self-auditing processes and hands-on training programmes are services and therefore could not have impacts on areas or landscapes which have recognized national, community or international protection status.</p>
<p>Provide a comprehensive statement on the significant environmental effects of the PP.</p>		

<p>Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects</p>
<p>The BMVI is a Programme comprising mainly soft actions regarding the improvement of border management and visa instrument improvement. As outlined in the screening report, several different actions are foreseen, such as the upgrade of the existing coastal surveillance system, pilot training, national visa information system technical enhancements etc. Based on the soft nature of these actions, trivial to no environmental impacts are expected by the BMVI Programme.</p>
<p>Taking into account the assessment carried out by EMDP Ltd as well as the outcome of the consultation process, it is unlikely that the BMVI Programme will have any significant environmental effects. In this regard, neither a full scoping exercise nor an environmental assessment are deemed necessary.</p>

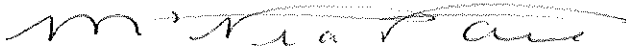
Part F – Screening Outcome

Following the screening, as required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations, including all required consultations, the RA is of the view that:

- A SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of regulation 4(2)
- A SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of regulation 4(3) and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- A SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of regulation 4(4) and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- A SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

MARIA PIA PACE

Name of Officer responsible for this report



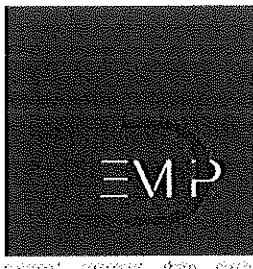
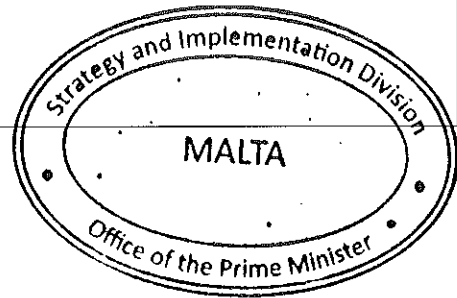
Signature of Officer responsible for this report

STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Name and Stamp of Responsible Authority

07.10.2021

Date



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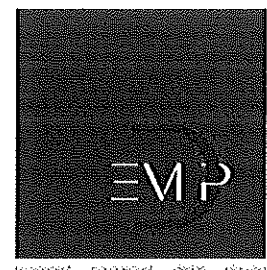
12 Annex II: Screening report

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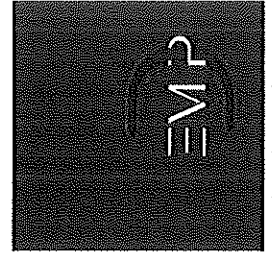
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International

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	Biodiversity	The aims are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to promote European cooperation. Particular importance is placed on the need to protect endangered natural habitats and endangered vulnerable species, including migratory species.
Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983)	Biodiversity	The Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Biodiversity	The Biodiversity Convention has three main aims which are to conserve biological diversity; to ensure the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
Ramsar Convention - The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)	Biodiversity	Provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The aim is 'the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world'. The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Climatic Factors	The stated objective is to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)	Climatic Factors	The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and ratified in 2005. It commits its parties to limit climate change by setting internationally binding targets for emission reductions. Covering the six main GHGs, it required the UK to reduce emissions by 12.5% in the first commitment period (2008-2012). This was successfully achieved, and a second commitment period has been agreed upon whereby European Union (EU) countries will aim to achieve a joint 20% reduction compared to 1990 levels.



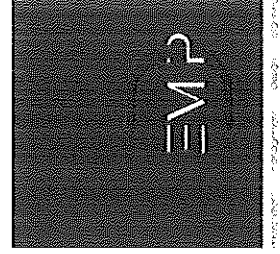
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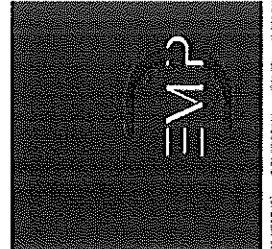
Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
Commitments arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)	Climatic Factors	Adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and built upon earlier declarations made at previous conferences and summits. It commits nations to take a collective responsibility to build a human, equitable and caring global society cognisant of the need for human dignity for all. The Declaration also reinforces the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social development at the local, national, regional and global levels.
Paris Agreement (2015)	Climatic Factors	The Paris Agreement came out of the COP21 and aims to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. It brings together 196 parties from across the world into a common cause and requires all parties to put forward nationally determined contributions to strengthen efforts in the years ahead. It also aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.
Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990)	Historic Environment	The charter lays down principles relating to the different aspects of archaeological heritage management. These include the responsibilities of public authorities and legislators, principles relating to the professional performance of the processes of inventurisation, survey, excavation, documentation, research, maintenance, conservation, preservation, reconstruction, information, presentation, public access and use of the heritage, and the qualification of professionals involved in the protection of the archaeological heritage. The Charter states that policies for the protection of archaeological heritage should constitute an integral component of policies relating to land use, development, and planning as well as cultural, environmental and educational policies.
The World Heritage Convention (1972)	Historic Environment	The Convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. It also sets out the duties of states in identifying potential sites and their role in preserving them.
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (1998)	Population and Human Health	The Aarhus Convention was created to give empowerment to citizens and civil society organisations in relation to environmental matters and is founded on the principles of participative democracy. It provides for access to environmental information; public participation in environmental decision making; and access to justice.
European		
EU Green Deal		It will improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations by providing: fresh air, clean water, healthy soil and biodiversity, renovated, energy-efficient buildings, healthy and affordable food, more public transport, cleaner energy and cutting-edge clean technological innovation, longer-lasting products that can be repaired, recycled and re-used, future-proof jobs and skills training for the transition, globally competitive and resilient industry



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Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)	Air	It establishes ambitious, cost-effective targets for improving human health and environmental quality up to 2020. The EU objective on air quality is 'to achieve levels of air quality that do not result in unacceptable impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment. The Strategy recognises the impact of air pollution on human health and the environment. It establishes interim objectives for air pollution in the EU and proposes appropriate measures for achieving them.
Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)	Air	Advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in 2006 indicated that the stock of the European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) is outside safe biological limits across European waters. The population has declined significantly, reducing to 5% of the original 1980s stock levels. In response to this advice, the European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, which requires the Member States to undertake a series of measures aimed at the recovery of eel stock. The goal is to achieve 40% escapement of adult eels, relative to that in absence of anthropogenic factors, to sea to spawn. The EU Regulation was transposed into UK law under The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.
Establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel 2007 (1100/2007)	Biodiversity	Eleven Eel Management Plans have been prepared, one for each River Basin identified in England and Wales. The plans outline the current situation and how we intend to achieve the targets required by the European Regulation. Such measures include a reduction in fishing pressure, improving access and habitat quality, and reducing the impacts of entrainment. The measures will require the installation of passes at obstructions and screens at abstraction and discharge points that prevent the migration of eels. Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity; • Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure; • More sustainable agriculture and forestry; • Better management of fish stocks; • Tighter controls on invasive alien species; and • A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011)	Biodiversity	



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The strategy is in line with two commitments made by EU leaders in March 2010. The first is the 2020 headline target:

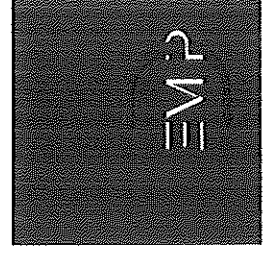
Fresh Water Fish Directive (2006/44/EC)	Biodiversity	<p>'Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss'; the second is the 2050 vision: 'By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided'.</p> <p>The Directive concerns the quality of freshwaters and shall apply to those waters designated by the Member States as needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life. This directive shall not apply to waters in natural or artificial fishponds used for intensive fish farming.</p>
Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (as amended)	Biodiversity	<p>Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended). This Directive ensures far-reaching protection for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. There are a number of components to this scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States are required to designate SPAs for 194 particularly threatened species and all migratory bird species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical for the survival of the targeted species, such as wetlands. They are part of the Natura 2000 ecological network set up under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; • A second component bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds (with a few exceptions); and • A third component establishes rules that limit the number of bird species that can be hunted (82 species and subspecies) and the periods during which they can be hunted. It also defines hunting methods which are permitted (e.g. non-selective hunting is

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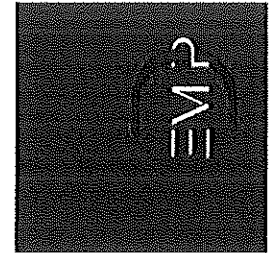
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Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)	Biodiversity	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. While the Directive makes a contribution to the general objective of sustainable development, it ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic species, including around 450 animals and 500 plants. Some 200 rare and characteristic habitat types are also targeted for conservation in their own right. The Directive provides for a ban on the downgrading of breeding and resting places for certain strictly protected animal species. Exceptions to the strict protection rules can be granted under very specific conditions. The Habitats Directive also establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. For these areas, it provides a high level of safeguards against potentially damaging developments. Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive forms the backbone of EU nature protection legislation.
Directive on Animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals (2006/88/EC)	Biodiversity	The Directive sets out rules on animal health concerning aquaculture animals and related products which apply to the marketing, importation and transit of such products. It also establishes measures aimed at the prevention and control of diseases in aquaculture animals as well as making further provisions regarding the authorisation to aquaculture production businesses and processing establishments.
Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius - The way ahead for 2020 and beyond (2007)	Climatic Factors	This is a set of binding legislation to ensure the EU meets its climate and energy targets for the year 2020. The targets are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% reduction in GHGs • 20% of EU energy from renewables



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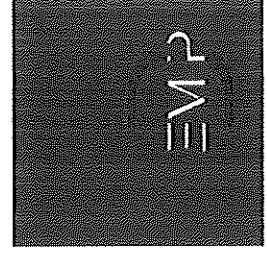
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- 20% improvement in energy efficiency

<p>A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy (2018)</p>	<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>The long-term strategy sets out Europe's commitment to lead in global climate action and to present a vision that can lead to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through a socially fair transition in a cost-efficient manner. It looks into the portfolio of options available for the Member States, businesses and citizens, as well as into how these can contribute to the modernisation of our economy and improve the quality of life of Europeans, protect the environment, and provide for jobs and growth.</p>
<p>Promotion of the use of energy and renewable sources Directive (2009/28/EC)</p>	<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>The Directive sets ambitious targets that the EU will reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector. It also sets out to improve the legal framework for promoting renewable energy.</p>
<p>Energy Act 2013</p>	<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>The Act makes provisions a framework for delivering secure, affordable and low carbon energy. It includes provisions for decarbonisation and the duties in relation to it.</p>
<p>Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Cross-cutting</p>	<p>The Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) deals in an integrated way with economic, environmental and social issues and lists the following seven key challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate change and clean energy; 2. Sustainable transport; 3. Sustainable consumption and production; 4. Conservation and management of natural resources; 5. Public health; 6. Social inclusion, demography and migration; and

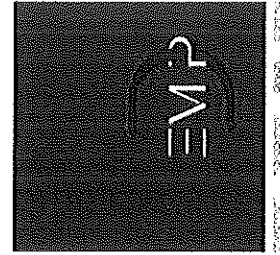
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7. Global poverty

European Commission Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	Cross-cutting	The Directives relates to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (ELD) and establishes a framework based on the polluter pays principle to prevent and remedy environmental damage. The Directive defines "environmental damage" as damage to protected species and natural habitats, damage to water and damage to the soil.
Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (2001/42/EC)	Cross-cutting	The Directive, known as the SEA Directive, sets out the requirement for the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment. A SEA is mandatory for plans/programmes which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive. SEA is also required where plans/programmes have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) (1985)	Historic Environment	The Convention sets out to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical cooperation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European coordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention) (1992)	Historic Environment	The Convention aims to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.
The European Landscape Convention (2006)	Landscape	The Convention is also known as the Florence Convention and it aims to promote the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European cooperation on landscape issues.



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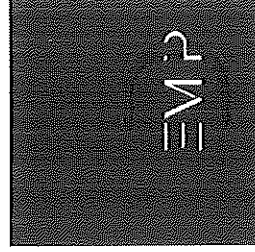
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The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Population and Human Health	The Directive is the EU's main instrument to identify noise pollution levels and covers the following three key action areas: the determination of exposure to environmental noise; ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects are made available to the public; and preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good. It applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, the noise created by neighbours, noise at workplaces or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
European Soils Charter (2003)	Soil	<p>The Charter sets out to protect the soil as a complex natural resource which is fundamental to life. It recognises that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is a precious asset; • Soil is a limited resource which is easily destroyed; • The land has a wide variety of uses and a proper planning policy is needed by Governments for urban development and civil engineering projects; • Farmers and foresters must preserve the quality of the soils; • The soil must be protected from erosion and pollution; and • Further research and collaboration are required to ensure the wise use and conservation of soil.
Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (2006)	Soil	<p>The Strategy aims to protect soil and promote its sustainable use. It is based on the following guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions • Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil
The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	Water	The Nitrates Directive aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. This Directive forms an integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.

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The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) Water

- The WFD has the following key aims:
- Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater;
 - Achieving 'good status' for all waters by a set deadline;
 - Water management based on river basins;
 - 'Combined approach' of emission limit values and quality standards;
 - Getting the prices right;
 - Getting the citizen involved more closely; and
 - Streamlining legislation.

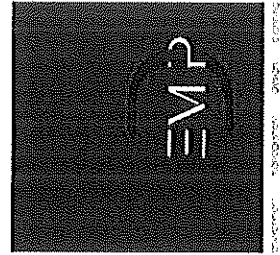
There are a number of objectives in respect of which the quality of water is protected. The key ones at the European level are general protection of the aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water. The Member States must aim to reach good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters by 2015.

Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) Water

The objective of this Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors. The Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of such wastewater.

Drinking-Water Directive (1998/83/EC) Water

- The Drinking Water Directive sets out the following objectives:
- Sets quality standards for drinking water quality at the tap (microbiological, chemical and organoleptic parameters) and the general obligation that drinking water must be wholesome and clean;
 - Obliges the Member States to regular monitoring of drinking water quality and to provide to consumers adequate and up-to-date information on their drinking water quality; and
 - Member States may exempt water supplies serving less than 50 persons or providing less than 10 m3 of drinking water per day as an average and water in food-processing undertakings where the quality of water cannot affect the wholesomeness of the



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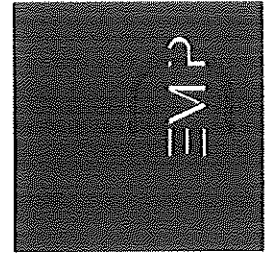
<p>Directive on Bathing Water (76/160/EEC); and Directive 2006/7/EC repealing Directive 76/160/EEC (from 2014)</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>The overall objective of the Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing, but the revised Directive also offers an opportunity to improve management practices at bathing waters and to standardise the information provided to bathers across Europe and aims to set more stringent water quality standards and also puts a stronger emphasis on beach management and public information.</p>
<p>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>This directive establishes a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. The directive establishes quality criteria that take into account local characteristics and allows for further improvements to be made based on monitoring data and new scientific knowledge. The directive thus represents a proportionate and scientifically sound response to the requirements of the WFD as it relates to assessments on the chemical status of groundwater and the identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations. Member States will have to establish the standards at the most appropriate level and take into account local or regional conditions. The groundwater directive complements the WFD. It requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater quality standards to be established by the end of 2008; • Pollution trend studies to be carried out by using existing data and data which is mandatory by the WFD (referred to as 'baseline level' data obtained in 2007- 2008); • Pollution trends to be reversed so that environmental objectives are achieved by 2015 by using the measures set out in the WFD; • Measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater to be operational so that WFD environmental objectives can be achieved by 2015; • Reviews of technical provisions of the directive to be carried out in 2013 and every six years thereafter; and

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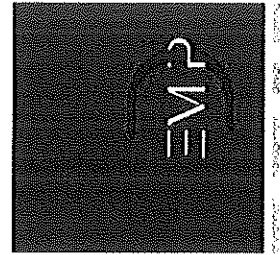
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- Compliance with good chemical status criteria (based on EU standards of nitrates and pesticides and on threshold values established by the Member States).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EEC)	Water	The aim of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve Good Environmental Status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Directive enshrines in a legislative framework the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities having an impact on the marine environment, integrating the concepts of environmental protection and sustainable use.
Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC)	Water	Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive requires the Member States to first carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones, they would then need to draw up flood risk maps by 2013 and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness by 2015. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU.
Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)	Waste	The Waste Framework Directive lays down some basic waste management principles. It requires that waste be managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • without endangering human health and harming the environment • without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals • without causing a nuisance through noise or odours



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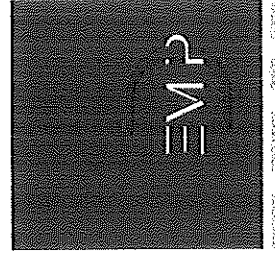
* and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest

<p>Assessment and management of flood risks Directive (2007/60/EC)</p>	<p>Floods</p>	<p>Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks entered into force on 26 November 2007. This Directive now requires the Member States to assess if all watercourses and coastlines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk. This Directive also reinforces the rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process.</p>
<p>A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe (2020)</p>		<p>It is one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal, Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth. The EU's transition to a circular economy will reduce pressure on natural resources and will create sustainable growth and jobs. It is also a prerequisite to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss.</p>
<p>Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment Directive (2019/904/EU)</p>	<p>Waste</p>	<p>Single-use plastic products (SUPs) are used once, or for a short period of time, before being thrown away. The 10 most commonly found single-use plastic items represent 70% of all marine litter in the EU. The EU aims to reduce the volume and impact of specific plastic products on the environment through Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. This is commonly referred to as the Single-Use Plastics Directive. The Directive commits member states to introduce a range of measures to deal with the most common single-use plastic items and is to be transposed by 3 July 2021.</p>
<p>Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC, Directive (2016/2284/EC)</p>	<p>Air</p>	<p>With a view to moving towards achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment, this Directive establishes the emission reduction commitments for the Member States' anthropogenic atmospheric emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH₃) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Further, it requires a national air pollution control programme.</p>

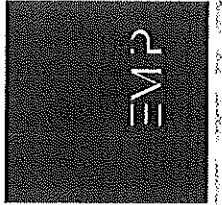
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<p>Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources Directive (2018/2001/EC)</p>	<p>Energy</p>	<p>The proposed Directive lays down the principles according to which Member States need to ensure that the share of renewable energy in the EU final energy consumption reaches at least 20% by 2020, and establishes national overall targets for each Member State. Three sectors are concerned with renewable energy: electricity, heating and cooling and transport.</p>
<p>Environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2008/105/EC.</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>This Directive lays down environmental quality standards (EQS) for priority substances and certain other pollutants as provided for in Article 16 of Directive 2000/60/EC. The aim is to achieve good surface water chemicals, in accordance with the objectives specified in article 4 of the Directive above-mentioned.</p>



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13 Annex III – Consultation Process

13.1.1.1.1 The BMVI Programme is an EU Programme which shall be implemented in Malta under the 2021-2027 programming period. The BMVI Programme shall aim at promoting the efficient management of migration flows, whilst strengthening and developing a common Union approach towards asylum and immigration. Although this Programme does not fall under the scope of Directive 2001/42/EC directly, a Strategic Environmental Assessment has been commissioned to ensure that the measures envisaged under such Programme do not impinge upon the environment.

13.1.1.1.2 As part of the SEA process, the stakeholder engagement launched in line with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.

13.1.1.1.3 The schedule of the consultation procedure adopted was as follows:

- i. **23/09/2021;**
 - The consultation process was launched by EMDP Ltd. .
- ii. **27/09/2021;**
 - Online meetings were proposed with the Stakeholders to present an overview of the Screening process, however, this was postponed to 30/09/2021 further to liaison with the stakeholders.
- iii. **30/09/2021;**

Two stakeholders submitted feedback by the 30th of September 2021 (MAFA and MFH).
- iv. **5/10/2021**

Any pending feedback was received by 5th October 2021.

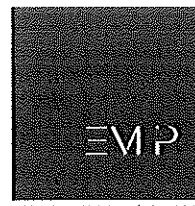
13.1.1.1.4 The stakeholders that were invited were the following:
13.1.1.1.4.1 the Environmental and Resources Authority (ERA).
13.1.1.1.4.2 the Regulator for Energy and Water Services.
13.1.1.1.4.3 the Ministry of Health.
13.1.1.1.4.4 the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Agriculture Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, and Animal Rights.

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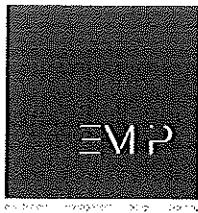
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- 13.1.1.1.5 The following queries were to be addressed:
- 13.1.1.1.5.1 Are there any additional plans or programmes at the international, national, regional or local level which have been excluded from the plans and programmes review and which your organisation thinks are relevant to the AMIF SEA?
- 13.1.1.1.5.2 Do you have any comments on the baseline information presented or any additional baseline information you think would be useful?
- 13.1.1.1.5.3 Do you have any comments on whether the most optimal environmental approach was adopted under the AMIF Programme?
- 13.1.1.1.5.4 Do you have any comments on the proposed SEA objectives, the assessment carried out, including questions/sub-themes, as well as the outcome and recommendations?
- 13.1.1.1.5.5 Do you have any other comments on the reports?
- 13.1.1.1.6 An online meeting to present an overview of the Programme, as well as the process undertaken by EMDP Ltd and Exergia SA so far, was held on 30th of September 2021 at 10:15 am (Malta time). By the 30th of September 2021, as MAFA already sent the feedback, ERA and MFH were the entities present on the consultations held where the participants were as follows:

- 13.1.1.1.6.1 For the Environmental and Resources Authority (ERA);
- Dennis Kasap; Team Manager, Strategic Assessment - Environmental Assessment
 - Abigail Debono; Environment Protection Officer - Environmental Assessment
- 13.1.1.1.6.2 For the Ministry for Health;
- Joseph Abela, Director, Programme Implementation
 - Andrew Cachia, Assistant Director, Programme Implementation
- 13.1.1.1.6.3 For the SID within the Office of the Prime Minister;
- Daniella Sammut, Programme Manager (EU Funds)
- 13.1.1.1.6.4 For Exergia;



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- George Paraskevopoulos, Environmental Engineer, MSc, MBA
- Iraklis Panagiotakis, Environmental Engineer, MSc, PhD
- Maria Politi, Environment Consultant

13.1.1.1.7 For EMDP;

- Giovana Pedrol de Freitas, Environmental Executive
- Danielle Sousa, Environmental Executive

13.1.1.1.8 The scope of this presentation was to present the main characteristics of the programme and its main environmental aspects. Based on the presentation none of the measures proposed is expected to have significant environmental and social impacts. Taking such measures into consideration, the recommendation is that a full environmental report is not necessary. The feedback received by the DAs is outlined below:

13.1.1.1.9 The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Agriculture Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights, responded via email that it had no comments in connection with the Programme (attached as Appendix A).

13.1.1.1.10 The Ministry for Health informed that the Ministry did not have any comments at this stage (attached as Appendix B).

13.1.1.1.11 Furthermore, the Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS) responded via email that it had no comments in this regard (attached as Appendix C).

13.1.1.1.12 The Environmental and Resources Authority (ERA) concluded that the 'measures proposed by the Programmes are generally very broad and 'soft' in nature, related to the provision of services, hands-on training, etc., without requiring any additional infrastructural works. In this regard, ERA considers that strategically these programmes are unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Nevertheless, certain projects might require further in-depth analysis at the project level. ERA's feedback is being attached as Appendix D.

13.1.1.1.13 Considering that the stakeholder consultation procedure has been completed, and given that no adverse remarks have been made on the BMVI report as well as its conclusions and recommendations, no changes are deemed to be necessary to the draft report.