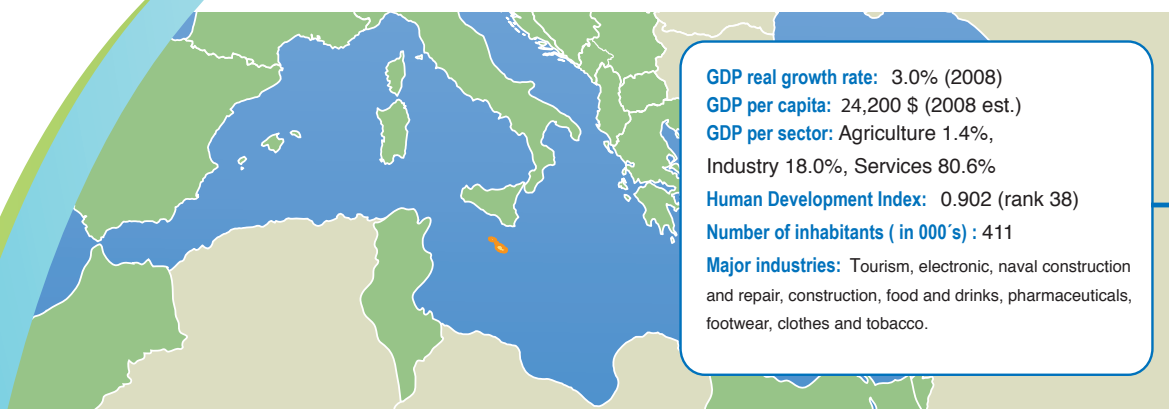


Malta



Main Issues related to SCP

Malta has become a transshipment point for goods, a financial centre and a tourist destination. In May 2004 Malta became an EU member state. Malta produces only about 20% of its food needs; it has limited freshwater supplies and few sources of energy. The major environmental concerns are the large amounts of inert waste and noise pollution generated by construction, the exploitation of quarries, and hazardous waste.

Energy & Atmospheric Emissions:

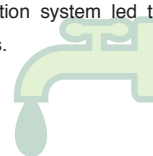
Renewable energy is not widespread in Malta. Solar energy in particular could be easily implemented. The government began to support the use of renewable energy in 2005, primarily to improve access to photovoltaic installations and micro-systems of wind power generation for domestic use. Moreover, the government has introduced financial incentives to promote bio fuels. Malta has no specific targets for accomplishment with the Kyoto Protocol. The level of emissions, however, was 49% lower in 2007 than in the reference year 2005.

Waste:

Construction and demolition, as well as hazardous waste remain the biggest environmental challenges. The country lacks special facilities for the treatment or the destruction of the most hazardous waste streams. In recent years, important efforts have been made to export such waste to appropriate facilities abroad. A semi state company responsible for organizing, managing and operating integrated systems of waste management has been created.

Water:

Water resources are scarce and under intense pressure. The government has invested in desalination plants. Efforts to decrease losses in the distribution system led to significant savings.



Policies and Strategic Framework

The draft of the Maltese National Strategy for Sustainable Development includes a sub-point related to SCP. However, unlike other chapters it does not specify any concrete activities or achievements. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development includes the promotion of SCP patterns to reduce waste and pollution, and the promotion of Eco- efficiency to review products that could be replaced by those respecting the environment.

Malta has launched a draft National Action Plan on Green Public Procurement. This plan was prepared throughout 2006 and is currently under review. The document is a renewable three-year plan that establishes the first steps that need to be taken in Malta, based on an understanding of the current situation and an analysis of best practices for national action programs in other EU Member States.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

The IPPC EU directive has been implemented by means of the basic rules for the integration of permits. All installations covered by Annex I of IPPC regulations must obtain a license or permit from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) to operate. In 2007, the concession process for industrial licences (and for intensive agricultural activities) was instigated and included a comprehensive training program for MEPA.

Since 2005 the government has established a number of economic measures to support electricity production with renewable energy and the use of alternative fuels. Tariffs have been applied to surplus power from small-scale photovoltaic systems and subsidies established for the purchase of thermal solar water heaters for domestic use.

Greening Industry and Society

The Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise of Malta has contributed to expanding the modern approach of CSR with seminars publicizing the best practices and initiatives. However, only limited additional activities related to CSR have been reported.

Moreover the European Eco-Label has gained remarkable acceptance in one of the country's main industries: tourism. The interest shown by hotels and the tourism industry may imply a gateway to a more integrated approach towards CSR. The home-grown voluntary tool Eco-Certification Scheme is also in operation: 13 hotels have already been certified. By the end of 2008, only one industrial plant in Malta had implemented EMAS. 5 companies have been certified according to ISO 14001.

Main Actors and Projects

The Environment Protection Directorate of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) is the agency within the **Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA)** that supports the development of SCP.

The Malta Standard Authority promotes the use of eco label and environmental management systems.

The centre for environmental education & research (CEER) has been established as a partnership between the University and the Government.

The Cleaner Technology Centre, a main actor of promoting CP and SCP in the country, grants a biennial award in different categories related to conservation and environmental initiatives in SMEs.

