

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Malta 

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Waste prevention programme

This **country fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires Member States to have adopted their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention, is considered the most desirable option.

MALTA FACT SHEET



Source: Eurostat

Gross domestic product (GDP)

EUR 11 billion (0.1 % of EU-28 total in 2017)

Per person GDP

EUR 29 300 (in purchasing power standard)
(98 % of EU-28 average per person in 2017)

Use of materials

6 million tonnes domestic material consumption (DMC) (0.1 % of EU-28 total in 2017)
11.8 tonnes DMC/person (88 % of EU-28 average per person in 2017)
Resource productivity 2.05 EUR/kg (91 % of EU-28 average in 2017)

Structure of the economy

Agriculture: 1.1 % (2017 est.)
Industry: 10.2 % (2017 est.)
Services: 88.7 % (2017 est.)

Surface area

315 square kilometres (0.01 % of EU-28 total)

Population

469 000 (0.1 % of EU-28 total in 2017)

Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
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2.	Type of programme	Part of waste management plan
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3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Waste management plan for the Maltese Islands — a resource management approach http://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Waste%20Management%20Plan%202014%20-%202020%20-%20Final%20Document.pdf
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4.	Duration of programme	2014-2020
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5.	Languages	English
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6.	Contact person	Darren Cordina (contact.waste@mepa.org.mt) Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)
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7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	<p>On the basis of the waste management statistics as well as the consultations held, the priority areas established for the Maltese waste prevention programme are (p. 181):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Heighten awareness of the need to reduce waste arisings through appropriate behavioural changes that minimise the amount of purchases that generate waste, either through smarter shopping practices or through extending the life span of goods.2. Reduce municipal solid waste arisings:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. organic fraction;b. recyclable fraction.3. Promote reuse and repair initiatives.
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8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<p>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</p> <p>Yes, the waste prevention programme is expected to set out the waste prevention objectives in the context of existing prevention measures and evaluate the usefulness of the examples of measures indicated in Annex IV of the Waste Framework Directive or other appropriate measures. The aim of such objectives and measures must be to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste. The waste prevention programme must determine appropriate, specific qualitative or quantitative benchmarks for waste prevention measures adopted to monitor and assess the progress of the measures, and it may determine specific qualitative or quantitative targets and indicators.</p> <p>Examples of waste prevention measures as per Annex IV of the Waste Framework Directive, and to which proposed measures may subscribe, are reproduced below for ease of reference (pp. 173-175).</p>
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9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction and infrastructure; • manufacturing; • sale, retail, transport; • households; • private service activities, hospitality; • public services.
10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food/organic; • construction and demolition waste; • hazardous waste; • household/municipal waste; • paper; • packaging; • waste electrical and electronic equipment/batteries; • manufacturing waste; • bulky waste; • other (e.g. textiles, plastics other than packaging, animal by-products from the processing of meat and fish) (p. 10).
11.	Quantitative targets	<p>The Maltese waste prevention programme describes specific targets, especially in the field of food waste prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of committed food waste reducers by 10 % per annum (p. 188). • Promote food waste reduction in at least 30 interventions on radio and television and in newspapers (p. 188). • Distribute food purchasing tips to at least half of the aggregated number of schools, medium-to-large employers, supermarkets and local food stores (p. 189). • Aim to lower food waste from 22 % to at least 15 % over a period of 5 years (in percentage of the amount of food purchased ending up being wasted and directed to the solid waste stream) (p. 189).
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	<p>These include targeting at-source waste production (reduction at source) where a life cycle approach should be taken, targeting the product when it reaches its end of its life so that it is not discarded (avoiding waste), stimulating fundamental change in product design by extending a product's lifetime or considering options such as reuse (diverting waste) and product reuse, and considering consumption of resources, the environmental impact of products, etc. (p. 172).</p> <p>In addition to the above, the waste prevention programme describes a variety of measures that are aimed at the quantitative reduction of waste (for detailed descriptions of specific measures please see Section 14).</p>
13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	<p>Specific measures for qualitative prevention are not explicitly mentioned in the Maltese waste prevention programme.</p>

14. Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1-16)

12. Develop educational initiatives to provide a rolling programme of training for public administration employees, with a view to enabling them to practise waste minimisation both at their place of work and when be supported to ensure that future generations develop a sustainability mind-set. As far as possible, educational initiatives will try to permeate homes, with a view to guiding people towards better shopping habits (p. 183).

12. Develop an online directory of waste management facilities and a list of enterprises whose products contribute to minimising waste in a manner that may facilitate the identification of such enterprises by product, geographical location or any similar identifying criterion (p. 184).

8. Work with businesses in such a way that they will also become waste champions both operationally and by instilling a change in behaviour among their employees. Businesses will be provided with a manual of practical tips to implement in the workplace. They will also be encouraged to join the waste prevention campaign and display the campaign on their website and possibly on all their communication materials (p. 184).

16. Introduce outreach activities to support community reuse initiatives involving the transfer of goods that are no longer required by one person and that may be reused by another. These prolong the life of the object and prevent it from entering the waste stream at an earlier stage (p. 185).

4. Strengthen the producer's responsibility in minimising, through redesign, packaging material to lower packaging-related waste as well as to heighten awareness of which packaging may be recovered (p. 185).

12. Create a greater awareness of the amount of food that a human being actually requires. This will be done by roadshows at local council level with a view to targeting members of the family who are free during the day and who are likely to be involved in the day-to-day shopping. Moreover, such a presence will also be encouraged at public events, with a view to reaching out to a wider audience (p. 187).

12. Work with a television production company to develop a reality show aimed at rewarding food waste reducers (p. 188).

12. Ask home economists to provide guidelines to better educate householders on their purchasing and consumption habits as well as leftover management (p. 187).

9. Seek strategic alliances with supermarkets to determine whether they are receptive to having authorised personnel available on the premises to advise customers on their consumption patterns and promote the wiser purchase of food. The government will also engage with the medium-to-large employers to use their employees as selected audiences for food waste reduction programmes. To this effect, the government will ensure that there are sufficient trained food champions to promote sustainable consumption in the community (p. 188).

12. Contact television programmes that feature cooking spots with a view to encouraging them to dedicate certain cooking spots to cooking with leftovers. Food champions will also be asked to recount their personal experiences to demonstrate the tangible nature of changes in behaviour (p. 188).

15. Organise waste audits in all government ministries across the whole of the public administration to determine existing gaps and address them accordingly (p. 191).

15. Undertake a baseline study to establish the extent to which waste-related activities have contributed towards the government's green public procurement. This will enable the identification of those products and materials, traditionally procured from the open market, that represent the best possible option for securing a shift towards tangibly demonstrating that waste can, indeed, be a resource (p. 193).

		<p>8. Unwanted post: current operators are encouraged to examine the opportunities that exist, or may be created, to enable them to develop a virtual distribution platform for those who may wish to make the tangible environmental choice of receiving material electronically rather than in physical format (p. 196).</p> <p>8. Encourage catalogue and directory companies and magazine publishers to move away from letterbox-to-letterbox distribution and towards online distribution (p. 196).</p> <p>8. Construction and demolition waste: discussions between MEPA, the KTP, MDA, FOBC and other relevant stakeholders should be undertaken, particularly when local plans are being revised, to factor in the need to limit unnecessary construction and demolition waste. This will promote the value of the limestone resource at the excavation stage and harness the potential of technology to make this process more resource efficient, rather than simply generating more construction and demolition waste (p. 199).</p>
15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	Promote loan and hire behaviours as a means to enhance the frequent reuse of common items without the need for their re-creation, which may eventually contribute to increased waste arisings (p. 185).
16.	Indicators proposed	No. The Maltese waste prevention programme does not define specific indicators for the whole waste prevention programme. Nevertheless, there are clear measurable objectives for priority areas and a variety of quantitative targets.
17.	Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p>Is the programme evaluated (mid-term, etc.)?</p> <p>The Maltese waste prevention programme does not envisage an evaluation of the programme in addition to the requirement for an evaluation every 6 years (Waste Framework Directive, Article 30) (p. 169). In addition to the latter, the Maltese waste prevention programme describes specific monitoring rules for the various prevention measures:</p> <p>Establish a baseline of the Maltese population’s behavioural and knowledge characteristics with respect to waste management.</p> <p>Establish an index for the measurement of waste prevention to achieve consistent data across the years for the monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the established targets.</p> <p>Measuring, on a biennial basis, the increase in awareness and the changing behaviour of the Maltese population is a response to the outreach initiatives that will help set future benchmarks.</p> <p>Establish a baseline for the percentage of households that reduce food waste.</p> <p>Establish a baseline of waste arisings in audited government entities. Monitoring will focus on the level of green public procurement achieved over and above the established baseline (p. 191).</p> <p>Compute the progress registered following waste audits and information sessions (p. 191).</p>

Conduct a survey to establish the average amount of promotional/unaddressed post that households receive (p. 191).

Conduct a survey to establish the perceptions of households towards promotional/unaddressed post (p. 191).

Conduct biennial awareness surveys on the importance of reducing food waste (p. 188).

Conduct a biennial survey to establish the number of committed food waste savers (p. 188).

Carry out a 5-year survey by the National Statistics Office to determine the amount of food waste from the domestic sector (p. 188).

Conduct annual surveys on the number of people who opted to benefit from a regulatory framework that permits the receipt of unwanted post as well as the number of companies that have opted to discontinue door-to-door distribution in favour of subscription-based distribution (p. 196).

Carry out surveys on the number of redevelopments undertaken that did not involve demolition (p. 199).

Monitor the volumes of inert waste generated (p. 199).

18. Target groups

The Maltese waste prevention programme is targeted at both waste generators (i.e. adults, workers/private and public sector, young people and children) and waste operators (i.e. waste collectors, waste dealers/brokers and waste facility operators) (p. 148).

19. Involvement of stakeholders

Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?

Yes, the Maltese waste prevention plan is underpinned by a wide-ranging consultation exercise. During an initial month-long consultation process, a number of one-to-one meetings with stakeholders were organised. The consultation process reaped a wealth of proposals from around 40 different stakeholders during the first round and another 32 during the second round (p. 179).

Yes, the waste prevention programme outlines the possibility of setting up a waste management stakeholders group so that the government can regularly engage interested stakeholders in the achievements and proposals being contemplated and may consequently seek constant feedback from those directly involved in the sector (p. 3).

20. Other comments

Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?

No, the Maltese waste prevention programme does not describe specific costs or savings related to waste prevention.
