



# MALTA

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The National Focal Point team is composed of :

- **Mr. George CASSAR**,  
coordinator.
- **Mrs. Claudine CARDONA**,  
data manager.

The General Water Director is :

- **Mr. John MANGION**.

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*The Malta Resource Authority was designated as the National Focal Point (NFP) for Malta in 2002 by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Resources and Infrastructure, when changes were made to the legislation establishing the Water Services Corporation that had previously been carrying out the functions of the EMWIS NFP.*

*Maltese NFP has launched a national water information portal (available in English) in February 2001. More than 30.000 visits per year have been registered. This portal plays the role of reference source of information for the national water community and international users. Coordination was initiated with some stakeholders (water utilities, health department and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority) to enrich this national water portal.*

## DATA

- |                                      |  |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| • <b>Area</b> : 316 km <sup>2</sup>  | • <b>Access to improved water resource</b> : | • <b>Water withdrawal</b> :     |
| • <b>Population</b> (mill) : 0,4 *   | TOTAL : 100% *                               | irrigation : 26% **             |
| • <b>GDP per capita</b> : 12 400 € * |  | • <b>Access to sanitation</b> : |
| • <b>Water per capita</b> :          |  | TOTAL : 100% *                  |
| 252 m <sup>3</sup> /inhab./year **   |  |                                 |

Sources :

\* MEDSTAT 2006

\*\* World Factbook 2005

## Malta

### Legal Framework

The Maltese Islands have no national water law per se. While the Civil Code includes a clause dealing with entitlements to water from springs, it is the Malta Resources Authority (MRA) Act that sets out the regulatory arrangements for water resources. The MRA is mandated to “secure and regulate the acquisition, production, storage, distribution or other disposal of water for domestic, commercial, industrial or other purposes”.

### Right to Water

The right to water is defined by the Constitution of Malta whereby the constitution can be considered to formally vest in the Government of Malta the sole ownership of all groundwater resources in the islands.

### Main institution

Since March 2008, the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA) is in charge of water resources management. The Office of the Prime Minister is also responsible for water resources in so far as the environment is concerned. The two competent authorities are the Malta Resources Authority (MRA) falling under the former Ministry, and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) falling under the latter. MRA is the competent authority for “inland water” and must ensure good management and protect groundwater from pollutants. The MEPA is responsible for coastal and surface waters related to NATURA 2000 sites.

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs	✓			
MRA	✓			✓
MEPA	✓			
Water Services Corporation		✓		
Health Department			✓	
Department of Agriculture within the MRRA				✓

**The territorial water management :** There is no smaller unit or scale of management on the Islands. The authorities mentioned above are in charge for national, regional and local water management.

**Inter-ministerial coordination :** coordination is undertaken at technical level for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (MEPA and MRA) and for pollution abatement measures and best available technologies related to the integrated pollution prevention and control –IPPC- directive.

### Main issues of Water Resource Management

Water scarcity exacerbated by intensive human activity on a small land area is the main problem of Malta with limited natural water resources.

### Water pricing and cost recovery

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	MRA	40
Industry	MRA	60
Agriculture : Irrigation	MRA	4,5

### Water master plan

There is no single water master plan. A Water Policy is currently being drawn up by the Malta Resources Authority. A Storm Water master Plan is being prepared by the Water Services Corporation and Works and Services Division (Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs).

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