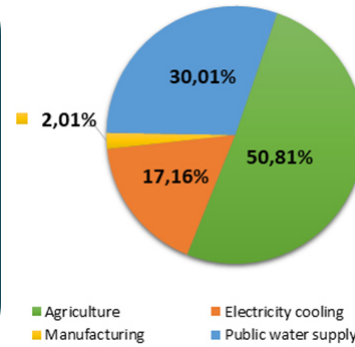


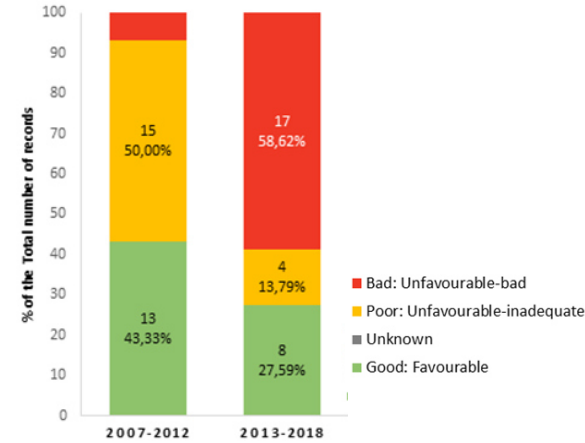


# -Malta-

# of inhabitants **0.5 million**  
 Surface area **316 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 GDP per capita **313 pps [1]**  
 Significant bodies of water (RBDs) **Malta**  
 Polity **decentralised unitary state and parliamentary republic**  
 Layers of government **central government; 6 regional committees; 68 municipalities**  
 Legislative powers at the sub-national level **No**  
 Decentralisation index **0.8 (26 out of 27) [2]**  
 Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) **29.6% (2019) [3]**



Water abstraction per sector in Malta - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Malta - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Malta - Source: EEA (2021)

## Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

### NEXUS PILLARS

### POLICY MAKING

### POLICY EXECUTION

#### Water

Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise

Energy and Water Agency; Environmental and Resources Authority; Regulator for Water and Energy Services; Water Services Corporation

#### Energy

Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise

Energy and Water Agency; Regulator for Water and Energy Services

#### Food

Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries & Animal Rights

Malta Food Agency

#### Ecosystems

Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise

Environment and Resources Authority

## WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

### CHALLENGES

- Address water scarcity issues and degrading quality of groundwater
- Prioritise the designation of Natura 2000 sites and implementation of conservation measures
- Diminish the pressures from development, construction, and infrastructure
- Reduce nitrates pollution from agriculture and continue monitoring
- Involve the agricultural sector in maintaining biodiversity through voluntary payment schemes

### OPPORTUNITIES

- **Malta**
  - develops baseline assessments on water demand and supply
  - explores water efficient technologies
  - elaborates master plans for 16 valley catchments[4]
- Investments are made to stimulate water reuse and reduce pressures on groundwater
- **Ambjent Malta agency** has now a new role in habitat restoration projects and dissemination of information on protected areas
- **Malta is involving business plans** in protecting biodiversity and promoting natural capital assessments



More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard  
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>  
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%  
 [4] <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/4816>

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