



Malta

National Reform Programme

Annex Table 4

Reporting on SDGs: Description of Main Forward-Looking Measures and their Estimated impact

Ministry for Finance and Employment
April 2022

| | List of main contributing measures | Estimated impact of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative) |
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| SDG 1: No Poverty | Continue working with the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) and stakeholders with the aim of increasing the minimum wage and to find a common position that benefits both workers and businesses. | The measure shall impact all people on the minimum wage. The impact being, the raising of these people out of risk of poverty. |
| | For 2022, wages will see an increase of € 1.75 per week, which is calculated according to a formula established between all the Social Partners within the MCESD (the cost of living adjustment mechanism - COLA). This increase is given to all employees, pensioners as well as those on social benefits. Student stipends will be rising pro-rata. | Increase in wages and social benefits to adjust for rises in cost of living. This measures effects all workers providing them with increases disposable income in the face of increases prices. |
| | Protecting the families that are most vulnerable to inflation by discussing with stakeholders in this area to start the possibility of a new mechanism that works independently of COLA in circumstances where inflation rises sharply. | The impact on those affected would be the increased disposable income in the face of increases in prices. |
| | All social security pensioners will be increased : retirement, widows, invalidity, and non-contributory old-age pension recipients. | Around 100,000 pensioners will be impacted. The increase for all contributory and non-contributory pensioners is €5.00 per week. €1.75 cost of living and €3.25 additional increase. |
| | An increase in the Supplementary Allowance for all those entitled to this benefit, that is pensioners, elderly persons and also persons who are in employment as long as they do not have children under 16 years of age. | Around 29,000 persons will be impacted. The increase on the rates paid during the Year 2021 varies between €3.47 and €6.50 per week for married persons or couples and between €4.10 and €5.00 per week for persons considered as single. |
| | An increase in the Supplementary Allowance benefit for married persons or couples, whose income in 2022 will not exceed €14,318 | Around 29,000 persons will be impacted. The increase will vary between €3.47 and €6.50 per week, depending on their income. |
| | An increase in The Supplementary Allowance for single persons, including widows, whose income in 2022 does not exceed €10,221 | Around 29,000 persons will be impacted. The increase will vary between €4.10 and €5.00 per week. |
| | The widow's pension rate will be gradually adjusted to reflect that of their spouse in case of death. Subsequently, such widows will also continue to take all increases in rates announced by the Government. | Around 12,000 pensioners will be impacted. |
| | The amount of service pension overlooked for the purpose of assessment of the social security pension will increase again by €200 in 2022, therefore, the sum excepted this year will rise to €3,066 | 4,000 pensioners will be impacted. |
| | The cost of living bonus will gradually start to be paid in full to all pensioners who retired after 2008. | 100,000 pensioners will be impacted. |
| | An increase of €150 in the annual bonus for people who have reached retirement age, but do not qualify for a pension because they did not have sufficient social security contributions. | Around 15,000 persons will be impacted. |
| | People who are 80 years and over, who are in receipt of the Supplementary Aid will be automatically eligible for Senior citizens who are 80 years and over will benefit from an increase of €50 in the Grant for Senior Citizens. | 4400 persons will be impacted. Around 35,000 elderly who still live in the community or in a private nursing home, will benefit from this grant which has now increased to €400 per annum. |
| | The childbirth or adoption bonus increased by €100, therefore, increasing from €300 to €400. | About 3,200 families who receive the Bonus for birth or adoption will be impacted. |
| | The Disabled Child Allowance will increase by €5 , which will therefore increase to €1,560 per annum. | 1762 beneficiaries will benefit from this increase. |
| | The Carers taking care of severe disabled persons will benefit from an increase of €200 allowance, thus increasing from €300 to €500. | 550 parents who are not working in order to care for a child in receipt of the Increased Assistance for Severe Disability will be impacted. |
| Full compensation is granted for the cost of living adjustment for persons who are in receipt of Social Assistance. | 6 ,400 persons who are in receipt of Social Assistance will be impacted. Up to the Year 2021, Social Assistance Beneficiaries used to be awarded two thirds of the cost-of-living increase. As from the Year 2022, the full cost of living is being awarded to such beneficiaries. | |
| Donations up to a maximum of €20,000 made by persons of pensionable age to the children, will be excluded from the purpose of calculation of the pensioner's capital. | 150 pensioners will be impacted. | |
| Persons who are not entitled to a pension since they did not pay their social security contributions after 1979, but at least have paid 10 years' social security contributions, will start qualifying for the equivalent of the lowest two-thirds pension rate. | 1,200 persons will be impacted, qualifying for around €50 per week. | |
| An increase in the In-Work Benefit Scheme for working parents with children under the age of 23: · In cases were the couple works , the income threshold will rise from €35,000 to €50,000 per year; · In cases of couples where only one of the parents works, the income threshold will rise from €26,000 to €35,000 per year; · In cases of single working parents, the income threshold will rise from €23,000 to €35,000 per year. | 7,000 new beneficiaries will be impacted in all categories. | |
| As a result of the reforms in recent years in the disability sector, the Government has introduced new benefits and boosted them through improvements in their conditions in order to provide more support to persons with disability and their families. This was done by, amongst other things, introducing three different benefit levels, with the highest level not being bound by a means test. However, eligibility for the other two benefit levels is still dependent on a means test requirement for income that is not derived from employment. As from January this income means test will no longer be required such that no disability assistance will be subject to a means test. | An average of 50 beneficiaries of assistance for severe disability will be impacted. | |
| The number of households expected to be allocated a home ,through Rent to Assist 'Nikru biex Nassistu' scheme during 2022 is expected to rise to approximately 680 households. | 180-200 families will be impacted. | |

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| The country's first intergenerational housing programme will be operational, and will be located in a renovated building which will accommodate around 30 persons. | 30 residents will be impacted |
| In 2021 the Housing Development Fund has launched a study about the introduction of Care Plan. In the budget speech dated the 11th October 2021, the Minister for Finance and Employment, declared in Section 2.34.3 that the Government of Malta would commit 175,000 EUR for the implementation of a semi-specific programme aimed at addressing the core needs that cause people to resort to social accommodation. In this way we would be able to continue addressing such specific needs, while fighting dependence and promoting social mobility. Subsequently, an agreement was signed between the University of Malta's Faculty for Social Wellbeing and the Housing Authority on 20 October 2021, where the parties agreed to collaborate on the delivery of a care plan for social accommodation beneficiaries. | 1,400 social housing applicants and 10,000 families living in social housing will be impacted. |
| Review to make more people on low income eligible for free legal aid. | This measure is intended to reach more low-income persons who may benefit from legal aid assistance when needed. |
| Government is raising the maximum amount of exempt pension income to €14,318 so that the pension increases are not taxed. Couples receiving a pension and opting for a married computation will be entitled to a further €3,600 in tax-exempt income from other sources. | It is expected that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure. |
| In order to offer more possibilities and different alternatives for couples to buy their own property, Government will be exploring the possibility of creating a fund offering favourable rates and easier payment terms for low-income couples. | This measure will enable 300 households to become homeowners. |
| As from 2022, Government is granting an in-work benefit of €150 per year to those employees whose basic pay does not exceed €20,000 and who work atypical hours, that is, in the evening, on weekends and shifts, within the private sector in the following sectors: accommodation and food service activities, administrative and support service activities, manufacturing, transportation and storage, and wholesale and retail trade. | This measure will assist 40,000 people, and will contribute to further eliminate poverty. |
| The tax refund afforded in recent years will be increased in order to incentivise labour productivity. The value of the cheque will be between €60 and €140, with the highest refund being given to the lowest income earners. | This measure is an incentive to individual taxpayers who are in gainful occupation and will benefit an approximate 250,000 citizens. |
| First-time buyers who buy properties in Gozo that were built more than twenty years ago and have been vacant for more than seven years, for properties that are in a UCA, and for new properties that are built in a typical traditional Maltese style and architecture will receive a grant of double the value, that is €30,000. This measure is important to encourage more Gozitan young people and couples to build their future in Gozo. | This measure aims to incentivise and assist people buying their first residential property, contributing to affordable housing. |
| Government is extending by a further year the stamp duty reduction schemes applicable to first-time buyers, second-time buyers, and property acquisitions in Gozo. | This measure will give more spending power to the public. |
| The Equity Sharing Plus Scheme will be extended to those who are 30 years and over, with a view to increase their chances of becoming property owners. | 25 households will be impacted. |
| Other schemes such as the 10% deposit payment scheme made at the promise of sale stage, will remain open. Therefore, encouraging more young people to become home owners. | Around 100 households per annum will be impacted. |
| Other schemes such as the Home Assist scheme, will remain open. Such Scheme will contribute towards giving an opportunity to either single persons or low income households to be in a position to take a bank loan. | Around 60 families per annum will be impacted. |
| The Government has entered into an agreement with the Archdiocese of Malta to jointly be the founders of the Affordable Housing Foundation, which will be designing affordable housing programmes and ensuring a permanent provision of adequate housing that reaches different categories of income. The most targeted category of this foundation will be persons whose income exceeds the eligibility criteria for social housing, but who at the same time cannot access the property market without assistance. In agreement with the Archdiocese of Malta, the Government will be placing the sum of €300,000 per annum to cover the administration and operation of this foundation. | An estimated 6,637 people have an annual income between €12,000 and €24,000, and currently live in unaffordable housing. |
| Persons who as a result of previous medical conditions, or a disability, were not being considered as eligible to be granted a home loan. Such persons will now be eligible to a life insurance policy alternative. This initiative will be financed by the Housing Authority through a €3 million back-to-back guarantee from the National Social and Development Fund (NDSF). | Approximately 25 households per annum will be impacted. |
| The rate of tax on the sale or purchase of property will be deducted by half up to the first €200,000 in cases where such property is leased for at least ten years to tenants eligible for Rent Benefit, at affordable rates issued by the Housing Authority. If it is sold to the tenant himself, no sales and purchase tax will be paid. For those properties that have been rented for less than a decade, but more than three years, with affordable rates as a primary residence, the sales and purchase tax will be deducted by half. | 3,000 beneficiaries of subsidy schemes and 10,000 tenants living in a pre-June 1995 lease will be impacted. |

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| | The rates of the property on which there is a subsidy associated with structural adaptation works needed to avoid potential situations of danger and houses subject to rent prior to 1 June 1995, will increase to 250,000. As a result, a subsidy amounting up to 25,000 will be granted, also leading to an increase in the number of potential beneficiaries. | 9,700 households will be impacted. |
| SDG 2: Zero Hunger | After having set up an Agency to take charge of the food sector in 2021, we will start developing a national policy for a stronger food chain with the aim of overcoming challenges and creating opportunities in the diverse fields related to food production. | During this year we will be looking at food from a holistic vision that starts with production, security, marketing, traceability, consumption and so on. A vision for the future is needed for a lasting national food policy, taking into account important European strategies, such as Farm to Fork and organic farming. This is crucial for a broad food policy that encompasses the entire food chain. |
| | The Agriculture Directorate is currently in discussion with the Commissioner for Tax to develop a scheme to incentivise more effective use of agricultural land by farmers and boost organic production in our country, incentives will be offered to landowners to enter into arrangements with farmers who wish to use the fields for organic production. | Increasing the organic farming sector in Malta to be also in line with the targets set in the Farm to Fork strategy. |
| | Following the implementation of the fruit and vegetable market (il-Pitkalija) reform in 2021, there will be further investment in the necessary facilities to enable the selling of farmers' fruit and vegetables in better packaging and with a more attractive presentation, in line with market standards and to enable them to stand out from other products. | The Pitkalija Reform is leading to greater controls and better governance in the operation of the organization. The reform will not change the current system but will give a better account of sales, will cover waste while farmers will have information on their sales and the current selling price. The proposed reform also covers better packaging and presentation of agricultural products. As part of this Reform process, Pitkalija is also implementing a new IT system aimed at reducing food waste by helping people in need with food that is not sold on weekdays of the market. In addition, this new IT system will also make it possible to significantly reduce the amount of paper used to collect the data of the product sold in the Pitkalija Markets, as all operations will be switched online. This reform will help to better understand the local agricultural product and potentially bring higher financial income to Maltese producers. In addition, the product sold on the market will be of a higher quality in accordance with the regulations on marketing standards for fruit and vegetables (L.S. 117.36). |
| | Further assistance to farmers to improve the quality of their products and obtain certification. | The Directorate of Agriculture is working on a new campaign to promote the three certification schemes administered by the Directorate under one brand and one holistic campaign called Agri Quality. This campaign will seek to target both producers and consumers, increasing awareness and appreciation of local agricultural products and encouraging greater participation. It will also contribute to improving the quality of local produce which is more in line with the regulations on marketing standards for fruit and vegetables (L.S. 117.36). |
| | In order to maximise the utilisation of agricultural land for food production while meeting the targets of the Farm to Fork strategy, a carbon farming initiative will be launched. Through this initiative grants up to a maximum of €8,000 will be given to motivate farmers whose agricultural land is not currently being used for cultivation or is out of production or is being used for low-value production, to convert it into agroforestry systems based on fruit trees. | Through the implementation of this carbon farming initiative, a number of environmental benefits will be reaped, in particular through afforestation through tree planting, as well as the creation of new agroforestry systems. This will also contribute to a number of European measures and strategies, including the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy as well as that of the EU Forest Strategy 2030. This measure will indirectly help to cultivate more dilapidated agricultural land, and to add more fruit trees which will also serve the objectives of the EU Pollinators Initiative. In addition, farmers are being encouraged to switch to more environmentally friendly methods, which will further help with carbon emissions in the air. |
| SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being | The annual Carer at Home benefit will be increasing from €6,000 to €7,000. This measure will continue to make it easier for elderly persons to remain in the community while at the same time supporting informal carers to remain active in the workforce. | In 2021, the maximum subsidy rate was increased from €5,291 to €6,000 (an increase of €700 per year) to those who employ a full-time carer. This increase was also reflected on pro-rata basis to the beneficiaries who employ a carer less than 40 hours. As end of December 2021, 573 beneficiaries were benefitting from this measure. With effect from January 2022, around 573 full-time carers will be paid €583.33 (€7,000 per year) instead of the rate of €500 per month (€6,000 per year). This increase will also be reflected pro-rata for those beneficiaries who employ a carer for less than 40 hours per week. |
| | The subsidy rate of the Home Helper of Your Choice scheme will increase from €5.50 to €7 per hour, and hence incentivise more elderly persons to choose their own helper. | There are currently 50 beneficiaries receiving the Helper of your Choice scheme grant. |
| | A specialised CT scan facility will be installed within the Rużar Briffa Complex at the St Vincent de Paul Long Term Care Facility, as part of the Day Hospital project | 7,500 residents in St Vincent de Paul and other care homes as well as elderly people (65+) who are still living in the community will be benefitting from this. This measure will promote access to radiological investigations of CT scans to diagnose and take the necessary treatment without delay. |
| | The Provision of an X-Ray machine within Rużar Briffa Complex at the St Vincent de Paul Long Term Care Facility. | 7,500 residents in St Vincent de Paul and other care homes as well as elderly people (65+) who are still living in the community will be benefitting from this. This measure will promote access to radiological investigations to diagnose and take the necessary treatment without delay. |
| | The setting up of a garden for persons with dementia at the St Vincent de Paul Residence. This garden will be designed in such a way as to address the specific needs of persons at different stages of this condition. | This measure is to be enjoyed by 1500 residents along with their families and visitors. |
| | The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including oncology medicines for the treatment of various cancer types | 22-million-euro budget dedicated for treating cancer patients with innovative medicines |

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| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including Osteoporosis treatment. | 5.5 million euro budget is dedicated for this measure that will benefit around 20,000 patients |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including new medicines for the treatment of circulatory diseases. | 5.5 million euro budget is dedicated for this measure that will benefit around 7,000 patients |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including psychiatric medicines. | 3 million euro budget is dedicated for this measure that will seek to address the needs of around 5,000 patients and reduce the duration of hospital stays for psychiatric treatment. |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including new medicines for the treatment of fibromyalgia. | 370,000 euro budget is dedicated for this measure that will help around 2,600 beneficiaries. |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including treatment of anaphylaxis, which is a severe allergic reaction that is potentially life-threatening. | 4.6 million euro budget is dedicated for this measure that will benefit around 1,400 patients. This treatment is to be provided in 325 schools to be administered to students in cases of emergency. |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including treatment for patients suffering from inflammatory diseases | 5 million euro budget is dedicated for this measure. |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including new medicines for the treatment of rare diseases | 900,000 euro budget is dedicated for this measure. |
| The Government will continue to extend its formulary list by including free medicines for IVF patients. | 500,000 euro budget is dedicated for this measure. |
| Work will continue on the new Outpatients building project. | This new building is vital for the health sector in Malta to continue to meet the growing demands for Outpatient-based specialised services. Treatment for patients with conditions who are currently being admitted to hospital will be carried out on an Outpatient basis. |
| Works will continue on various Health Centres. | <p>The expected results of this measure include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reducing morbidity and mortality as a result of increasing the capacity of Community Health Centres and Clinics and expanding services to achieve the growing demand for primary health care services that reflects the growing and aging population. •Prevent up to 37 susceptible deaths per year through prevention, early detection and timely intervention. •Save around € 3.7 million in annual costs, due to the transfer of 116,640 patient visits per year from MDH to Primary Health Care. The cost savings are the result of a lower cost per consultation visit to the Health Centres compared to MDH. •Better management of patients in need of urgent care as a result of the anticipated reduction in waiting time in the Emergency Department. This is due to the removal of two services from MDH, known as Triage 4 and 5, which deal with the least urgent medical cases. •Decreased waiting lists for consultations as a result of either the provision of new or enhanced services by Primary Healthcare or investment in medical equipment that allows for a correct diagnosis in this environment. •Reducing socio-economic inequality through greater accessibility to the services offered by Primary Health Care in Community Health Centres and Clinics. |
| Investing in the extension of the project for the construction of a new blood bank, together with a specialised centre for the collection of blood, and processing and storage of tissue and stem cells. | This measure is expected to provide up-to-date standards of the highest quality in healthcare, in order to ensure that the service offered to citizens is based on international quality criteria. |
| Investing in the infrastructure of the Accident and Emergency Department | The demand for Emergency Department services has continued to increase in line with the increase in the local population. Changes are also needed to operate safely in a pandemic situation. This project will also ensure that patients have a one stop shop service for the various Emergency services offered by the hospital. |
| Investing in the infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department | The demand for diagnostic services, as well as interventions using medical imaging is increasing rapidly. This requires investment in additional equipment and the entire plant to operate it. Therefore the footprint of this department needs to grow. |
| Investing in the infrastructure of the third Cardiac Catheterisation Suite | To date, MDH relies on two Cardiac Catheterisation Suites that have been installed since 2007. Today, both the demand of the population and the medical guidelines for the treatment of heart emergencies require investment in this new equipment. |
| Investment will be made in MR Linac, which equipment will be providing advanced treatment of its type as well as a shorter treatment period, for certain types of cancer. | With the installation of MR Linac in SAMOC Malta will have the most advanced technology in the world currently in the treatment of cancer when it comes to radiotherapy treatment. The ambition is for SAMOC to reach the level of Centre of Excellence in oncology. |
| Additional facilities will be leased by Mater Dei so that the ever-increasing demand for acute and elective care services is addressed in the most efficient and effective manner. | Nowadays MDH's facilities for operating theatres are no longer sufficient for the hospital to meet the demand for elective interventions. This facility will address this need. |
| Continuing with the construction project of the new Acute Psychiatric Care Hospital, in the vicinity of Mater Dei Hospital. An acute psychiatry hospital facility will be leased, until the new hospital is completed. | This measure will improve acute psychiatric facilities for patients currently admitted to a Mental hospital, amounting to more than 1,500 people each year. |
| Increase in the capacity of the services offered at Mount Carmel Hospital, which is expected to translate into various initiatives that support assisted community living. | Whenever possible mental health care is increasingly being shifted from an inpatient environment to community care. About 20,000 people will benefit from these Community Services. |

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| | Modernisation works on the Mount Carmel wards. | Mount Carmel Hospital is the only acute psychiatric facility for the patient in Malta. More than 1,500 people are admitted to this hospital every year and therefore they will benefit from this measure. Even after the new Acute Psychiatric Hospital is available, the wards arranged at Mount Carmel Hospital will be used for chronic psychiatric patients and those patients who need longer periods of rehabilitation. |
| | Remote Patient Monitoring is a pilot project introduced with the aim of performing regular and continuous monitoring of sugar levels in children under sixteen years of age who suffer from Type I Diabetes. This initiative will be continued and gradually extended to cover also young persons aged between 17 and 21 who suffer from the same condition. | It is estimated that this measure will result in lower hospital admissions among patients participating in remote monitoring for Type I Diabetes. |
| | An improvement in the quality of life will also be experienced by adults who were born hard of hearing - these will keep receiving two hearing aids if this is clinically indicated. | It is estimated that around 300 patients with hearing disability can benefit from this measure each year. |
| | The Government will further its collaboration with Hospice Malta to start providing a palliative care service from St Michael's Hospice to patients who have unfortunately been diagnosed with terminal cancer. | To date, there is only one ward in the country that offers palliative care at the SAMOC centre, which is no longer sufficient to meet the demand for this treatment and therefore these patients are being treated at Mater Dei. |
| | SportMalta is embarking on a number of initiatives to increase sporting facilities locally including amongst others the Olympic sized swimming pool in Cospicua and the transformation of the Marsa Sports Complex into an international level sports hub. | The Olympic sized swimming pool in Cospicua will help young athletes and the surrounding schools to have a solid foundation to pursue sport, whilst the Marsa Sports Complex transformation will include sports facilities for various sports disciplines including gymnastics and weightlifting, as well as the investment in the national rowing tank to enable the training of this National sport. These varied investments are aimed to give the best possible facilities to athletes in varied sports disciplines. |
| | The drafting of the national strategy on the protection and proper treatment of animals. | A National Animal Welfare Strategy will provide a strategic framework that not only recognises the hard work done by authorities, NGOs, volunteers and activists, but also helps to build partnerships with stakeholders, improve coordination and reduce duplication of efforts. This strategy will also provide a more effective and consistent national approach to improving animal welfare. |
| | Exploring the possibility of opening a modern re-homing centre for the adoption of animals, including stray ones. | The aim will be to provide a state-of-the-art facility in which animals of various species, rescued and confiscated, will have the opportunity to be treated, rehabilitated and eventually returned to their homes. The site identified for this proposed project is centrally located in Ta 'Gali and covers an area of just over 23,000 sqm. This Budget Measure will contribute to the study needed to start the process for setting up this rehoming centre. |
| | Research study on LGBTIQ Wellbeing . This study will build on census data to explore key socioeconomic and other issues impacting LGBTIQ wellbeing and evaluate to what extent these drive inequalities. | The findings will be used to design targeted measures to be incorporated into the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy & Action Plan 2023-2027, so as to strengthen Malta's leading efforts in enhancing the wellbeing of the LGBTIQ community. |
| | Start of service provision through LGBTIQ Hub | The LGBTIQ Hub will enhance access to specialised support and other services provided by Government and civil society to the LGBTIQ community in Malta and their families by making these available under one roof. |
| SDG 4: Quality Education | Two autism units (physical spaces equipped with equipment and trained education personnel), have been set up in middle schools, with two (2) teachers and six (6) Learning Support Educators shall receive additional training in inclusive pedagogy and in the delivery of a functional curriculum. | These units are available for student usage as required (white room - water bed & bubble tube). A maximum of 16 students may benefit from the first two Autism Units set up. At least one (1) teacher and two (2) Learning Support Educators (LSEs) are available in each class. |
| | Two new multi-sensory learning rooms (MSLR) (physical spaces equipped with equipment and trained education personnel) will be set up in colleges, with teacher training delivered in-house by practitioners at the National School Support Services (NSSS). | These rooms shall be available for students' usage as required. One room shall be used as a sensory area and shall include items such as: ball pool, trampoline, peanut ball; and another shall be for general activity and shall include items such as: a kitchenette, a computer area and a calming area. There shall be at least one teacher in every class. |
| | Implementation of the Inclusion Policy 2021 - 2030. By 2025, implementation of at least twenty (20) measures (accounting for at least 50% of all measures) of the updated National Inclusion Policy Strategy leading to the achievement of smart targets identified in the Strategy shall be completed. | This will ensure greater educational inclusion through various initiatives such as the extension of the autism unit to the secondary sector, purchase of Braille's for schools, the introduction of a Masters in special education - teachers to work in Resource centres; whole school approaches for early intervention services and production of leaflets on tips for educators on supporting students with diverse needs as well as networking between schools on socio-emotional learning. |
| | Increase the number of students (6-7 years old) trained in the Reading Recovery (RR) Programme | Over the course of 2021 to 2024 a total of at least 1000 students shall have successfully completed the RR Programme becoming independent readers and writers as testified by a test at the end of the programme. |
| | Training for educators in the Reading Recovery (RR) Programme. | By 2023, 85 school-based complementary education teachers working with the hardest-to-teach children shall participate in a year-long intensive training to learn to use the Reading Recovery (RR) methodology. |
| | The introduction of a 'Skills Checker' by the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability (DRLLE) in the form of an electronic application and also on the Directorate's website for self-measurement of literacy, numeracy and digital skills levels. | The Skills Checker is to be relevant up to Level 3 MQF (Malta Qualifications Framework)) as an indicator and assistance to project further educational trajectory. |
| | Training for educators specialising in basic skills pedagogy, as well as the introduction of at least four (4) career guidance and general wellbeing coaching offers provided by the University of Malta. | At least 120 teachers to be provided with training in specialisation in basic skills pedagogy, with the career guidance and general wellbeing coaching also targeting students with basic skills who show an interest in improving their skills level and wish to join a lifelong learning course. |

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| | By 2023, measures included in the Roadmap on developing a guidance system, capacity building for adult learning professionals and establishing guidance networks shall be implemented | Increasing the uptake of lifelong learning supported by the establishment of a national hub, where any adult may ask for guidance for the trajectory towards upskilling and reskilling; training of at least four (4) guidance educators to enable them to meet the demands of adult learners; and providing career and general wellbeing guidance in every adult learning centre. |
| | In 2022 the e-College will be launched and become operational, including guidance unit, online hub and desk. | Increasing the uptake for upskilling and reskilling through the e-College, which shall be legally and practically operational with at least ten (10) courses covering different subject areas. The e-College shall possess at least a learning management system, a mentoring and guidance unit, an online hub and online coaches which assist learners. By 2024, at least 4800 learners shall be using the services provided through the new e-College platform. The target group is made up of adults from different socio-economic backgrounds, aged from 15 years and upwards who do not have MQF (Malta Qualifications Framework) level 3 qualifications or higher |
| | Continue increasing the number of educators in state schools, as well as increasing support to the teaching profession. In particular, a new law governing and further strengthening the status of the profession of educators will come into force. Furthermore, educators will continue to be supported through mentor programs for undergraduate teachers in collaboration between the Institute for Education, MCAST and the University of Malta, as well as continue to increase the number of courses available to each educator. | More professional status for all educators, including KGEs and LSEs, regardless of the level of education they teach. Enable continuing professional training throughout their career. |
| | Increase the provision of all-day ECEC for the Childcare Sector (0-3 years) by at least 11% . This will be an added incentive for supporting an uptake in those entering the teaching profession. Furthermore, free childcare is provided for parents who are both in employment or education with the aim to help families achieve a work/life balance. The scheme can also be extended to parents not in employment due to terminal illness. | Ensure equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) service provision for all children, particularly those who are considered at risk of exclusion, as well as ensuring the maintenance of the already very high rate of children attending kindergarten. |
| | Continued measures to support student enrolments in post-secondary and tertiary institutions, further supported through the recently launched University of Malta Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) Strategic Plan 2022-2027. New measures to support student enrolments in post-secondary and tertiary institutions include a 10% increase in students' stipends, including those that work part-time; further investment in apprenticeships, particularly in the technology sector; and an investment in the modernisation of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) subject facilities, with 180 science laboratories that will be benefiting from this. Furthermore, SEC exams will be taking place at the same schools where the students attended. | Further increase in student enrolments. During academic year 2019-2020, student enrolments increased by 3.1% over the preceding academic year. |
| | Launch of a new strategy on 'Early Leaving from Education and Training', which tackles prevention, intervention and compensation, with the goal to target certain indicators that have a high probability of non-continuation of education, like absenteeism. | Reducing the numbers of early leavers from education and training. There has been a steady year-on-year decline in Malta in early leaving from education and training, from 21.4% in 2010 to 12.6% in 2020. The goal is to reduce this further by 2%. |
| | Measures are being introduced to ensure that all students have access to digital tools for learning by providing a better infrastructure of the Network in the schools (for a better network and Internet connectivity for students and educators); a Digital Learning Assessment tool which could help students for their assessments even in adverse conditions, such as being sick at home or unavailable to the location; a mobile app which will help students in their following of their curriculum, especially in the early school stages; as well as the continuation of the One-Tablet-Per-Child project, with digital content to help students in their studies. | Latest available figures from Eurostat indicate that individuals' level of digital skills (until 2019) in Malta stood at 56%. The measures introduced will ensure the continued take-up of digital skills amongst students and young adults. Moreover, the most vulnerable in society were also provided with schemes for free internet and electronic devices such as laptops and tablets in order to ensure access to digital platforms. |
| | Continued investment will keep on ensuring modernisation and extension of schools in order to improve their infrastructure, such as electricity supply, and air-conditioning. | Modernisation projects in a number of schools across Malta and Gozo, as well as the construction of a new school in Victoria, Gozo, will ensure continued quality access to education for all students in a modern school environment capable of meeting their needs. |
| | Preparations are currently underway for Malta to host the Small Countries Games in 2023, as well as hosting the Special Olympics Invitational Games Malta 2022, an event which will see over 450 athletes from across Europe and beyond gathering to compete in various sports. | Malta's participation in hosting such events aims at ensuring further inclusion and participation in sporting activities, helping to garner additional interest in the pursuit of sport. |
| | Through the ongoing flagship reform in Education; 'My Journey: Achieving through different paths', a policy framework was established aiming towards a more inclusive and equitable programme, giving parity of esteem to general, vocational and applied subjects. | Through the My Journey reform, 71.1% of students in state schools, in 2019/2020 opted for at least one vocational or applied subject at lower secondary, an increase of 46% in comparison to the previous year. |
| | Implementation of the University of Malta Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) Strategic Plan 2022-2027. | Ensuring quality in higher education across all levels, from academic excellence to vocational subjects, with a specific focus addressing research endeavours. |
| SDG 5: Gender Equality | A new legislation will be implemented in 2022 to 'introduce carers' leave, increase paternity leave to 10 days and provide for paid parental leave. | This legislation will improve gender equality through sharing of caring responsibilities between genders. |
| | Equality mark certifying local companies / organisations that demonstrate a commitment towards best practices in the area of gender equality. | There were 123 certified companies employing around 29,250 employees by 2021. This measure implies equal access to opportunities by focusing on individuals' capabilities. |
| | Training on Maltese Government Guidelines on Sex, Sexuality & Gender | 300 individuals shall be trained each year from organisations in the public and private sector. The intended impact of this measure is to make facilities and workplaces more inclusive for LGBTIQ individuals and stimulate better interaction. Training sessions will be adapted according to the needs of each organisation and cohort. The training will involve sensitisation to stimulate better understanding and use of terminology and pronouns, and of how to interact with LGBTIQ individuals, as well as managerial-level changes that can be made such as training for staff on these issues. |

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| | Malta will implement its first Gender Equality & Mainstreaming Strategy & Action Plan (GEMSAP) | This forthcoming national policy will strengthen gender mainstreaming in all stages and in various sectors of policymaking by committing Government to direct, targeted, and comprehensive measures to achieve full gender equality. GEMSAP will include measures targeting employment, women's economic independence, education, gender stereotypes, work-life balance and co-responsibility, gender balance in political and public decision-making, healthcare, social wellbeing, and justice. |
| SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation | The Domestic Cisterns Restoration scheme is a scheme for restoration of wells in residential homes. It is administered by the Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS) to further encourage the harvesting and use of rainwater in the domestic sector. This scheme is funded through national funds and applies to private individuals (natural persons) for use on their residential properties, and for organisations that are not carrying out an economic activity. | The scheme has the potential to target 40 households with a budget allocation of 40,000 Euro. |
| | The first reverse osmosis plant designed by the Water Services Corporation, located in Hondoq ir-Rummien in Gozo, is set to commence operations with an investment of about €11 million. | Increase in potable water production capacity by 9,000 cubic metres per day and a resultant increase in security of water supply, particularly for Gozo. |
| | New Water network extension project. | Providing better access to reclaimed water as an alternative to groundwater abstraction in agriculture. Access of New Water to be extended to cover circa 1,200 hectares of agricultural land. |
| | The consolidation of the sewage systems in the Northern areas of Malta. | Increasing wastewater treatment capacity to 20,000 cubic metres per day, circa double the existing capacity. |
| | The consolidation of the sewage systems in the Southern areas of Malta. | Elimination of sewage overflows in Triq is-Sajjieda, Marsa impacting circa 150 residents living in the area. |
| | New sewage treatment plant at Sant'Antnin. | Increase the Malta South wastewater treatment capacity by over 13,000 cubic metres per day, 20% increase on present levels. |
| SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy | In recent months Malta has kicked off the legislative process for a new concept aimed at deriving the full potential of its seas. With the introduction of the Exclusive Economic Zone, Government will start exploring opportunities for the use of Malta's sea space, such as for renewable energy generation among others. | This measure will provide information on possible activities including renewable energy activities within Malta's Exclusive Economic Zone, should such a zone be declared. |
| | Schemes consisting of a grant equivalent to a full refund of VAT paid on bicycles and electronic bicycles will be extended once again. | This measure is intended to encourage the use of bicycles and electronic bicycles as means of transport that reduce both pollution and traffic and, at the same time, encourage physical activity. Based on a 3-year average, it is estimated that approximately 2,900 applicants will benefit from this measure. |
| | Grants for business administered by Malta Enterprise, particularly: the Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant providing financial assistance to spur the transformation towards more sustainable and digital operations; The EV Grant designed to help enterprises replace their fuel-powered vehicles by electric ones, along with other solutions. | The Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant will provide business funding to support the undertaking of investments that lead to more sustainable and digitalised processes leading to the enhancement of competitive of enterprises through the optimisation of the use of resources in their activities. This includes measures to improve energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste minimisation, use of sustainable materials and sustainable digitisation. Furthermore, the EV Grant will support the transition to a more sustainable industry through calls for investment in mobility and distribution solutions based on clean transport. The scheme will cover part of the cost difference between the fuel-powered and the electric vehicles. Enterprises will benefit from this scheme when they replace their existing vehicles with new electric ones. |
| | Free house visits aimed at guiding the most vulnerable families on electricity use and replacement of home appliances by ones that are more energy efficient. This is tied to an information campaign about efficient technologies that can be used at home, with further information about how the Government can help. | It is anticipated that an uptake of 150 appliances will be achieving a minimum savings of 13,320 kWhrs. |
| | Leading Sport Organisations to Higher Energy Efficiency Scheme. The aim is to assist sport organisations in reducing their energy consumption by improving their overall energy performance through an increase in energy efficiency. Sport organisations duly registered with Sport Malta who own their premises or are using Government property as their premises can benefit from this scheme. Interventions that are considered eligible for this scheme include, improvements in equipment efficiency, energy related building envelope improvement, reduction of energy consumption for heating and cooling systems, improvement of lighting efficiency and any other action which is expected to result in energy savings of at least 20%. | It is anticipated that a minimum of 18 Projects in Voluntary Organisations will be supported. |
| | Following the success of the pilot project on batteries for renewable energy storage at Ghajn Educational Centre, the Energy and Water Agency will be launching two other projects in public buildings to demonstrate the application of this technology in Malta. This action is being done in collaboration with two Local Councils. | Extra energy saved in batteries that would have been exported to the grid would be used by the buildings in evenings when Local Councils events are taking place. |
| | Allocation of funds for Government buildings to be equipped with solar panel systems, where this is technically possible. The aim is to promote the initiative within 10 public buildings. | Increase renewable energy in public buildings. |
| | There will be continued support for more schemes for the investment of photovoltaic panels as well as batteries for energy storage. A grant will also be given for restoration of domestic cisterns and purchase of solar water heaters and heat pump water heaters. | This measure has the potential to target 1,600 households with a budget allocation of 5M Euro for PVs and 220 households with a budget allocation of 0.8M Euro for batteries. This measure has the potential to target 650 households with a budget allocation of 1.5M Euro for SWH and HPWHs. |

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| Financial grant to incentivise the purchase of new electric vehicles or Plug-In hybrids will be increased by 3,000. From 8,000 for the purchase of electric cars or plug-in hybrids this will rise to 11,000, rising to 12,000 in case the vehicle scrapping scheme is also to be used. | It is estimated that 600 grants will be issued. |
| Financial grant for the scrapping scheme for polluting vehicles will be increased by 1,000, bringing it to 2,000. | It is estimated that 30 grants will be issued. |
| Extension of the the measures relating to the purchase of electric vehicles including relief from registration tax and exemption from the annual road licence fee for a period of 5 years from the date of first registration, for electric vehicles and electric plug-in vehicles. | It is estimated that 600 grants will be issued. |
| Scheme to incentivise the purchase of motorcycles, scooters, pedicels and power-assisted bicycles will be extended. This allows a mix and match of purchase of new electric vehicles and pedelecs, and replacement of old vehicles. The grant shall support the purchase of: •Mopeds; •Motorcycles; •Tricycles; and •Quadricycles. The grant includes a scrappage scheme intended to provide further financial support to applicants who, while purchasing and registering a new petrol Category L vehicle (motorcycle), deregister a vehicle of category M1 (car) or N1 (Van) which is older than 10 years from its year of manufacture. The budgeted funds for this scheme amount to 370,000 EUR | It is estimated that 400 grants will be issued. |
| Grant to switchers for gas rather than petrol will be extended. | It is estimated that 50 vehicles will benefit from this. |
| Scheme targeting vehicles such as minibuses, coaches and trucks on which photovoltaic panels are installed. Subject to the applicable conditions, the following grant amounts shall be issued: •Equal to 15% of the investment costs required for the installation of approved photovoltaic panels; but •Not more than €900 in the case of a Category M3 vehicle (bus or coach); or •Not more than €450 in the case of a Category M2 vehicle (minibus). Persons who have retrofitted their passenger transport vehicle with photovoltaic panels in compliance with the requirements set out in this document during the past years may still apply for the grant. The de minimis Regulations and the respective thresholds shall apply when scrappage grants are issued to undertakings established in Malta. | It is estimated that 20 vehicles will benefit from this. |
| Scheme to encourage operators of minibuses and coaches as well as trucks to reduce smoke emissions from their vehicles through the installation of diesel particulate filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems. Eligible applicants shall be entitled for a grant of 10,000 EUR following the retrofitting of type-approved DPFs and SCR Systems on their heavy duty vehicles. The de minimis Regulations and the respective thresholds shall apply when scrappage grants are issued to undertakings established in Malta. | It is estimated that 10 operators will benefit from this. |
| Renovation including the retrofitting, of two public schools (St Benedict College Ghaxaq Primary School and Gozo College Nadur Primary School), will cover a total area of at least 9,710m2 and will cater for more than 500 students. | The objective of the investment is to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy demand, lower carbon emissions and limit energy waste in two public schools. The investment shall make the selected schools carbon neutral, increase the use of renewable energy and improve the learning environment within these schools through the optimisation of indoor health, air quality and comfort. This renovation, which is to be completed by the end of 2023, shall achieve a reduction of primary energy demand (PED) of at least 30%. |
| There will be an investment to build one new near-carbon neutral school, St. Theresa College Msida Primary School, complying with standard requirements of high-energy efficiency, taking into account resource efficiency, climate adaptation measures, adoption of digital technologies and affordability. This is meant to serve as a pilot project for future investments and to showcase the optimisation of indoor health, air quality, high energy efficiency, low carbon emissions and extensive use of renewable energy systems. Equal access for persons with disabilities shall also be ensured. | By end of 2023 the construction works of the near-carbon neutral school shall be completed. The school is estimated to cater for around 500 students, 40 classes, a childcare centre able to take approximately 120 children, a library with a capacity of 300 people, and a hall that shall also be available for the community. It will have a land surface area of at least 14,499 m2. The construction shall ensure that a Primary Energy Demand (PED) that is at least 20% lower than the NZEB requirement is met. |
| The revised document on 'Technical Document F: Conservation of Energy, Fuel and Natural Resources' which the architects use to draw up the Building Envelope Plan, and on which basis the engineers then draw up the Building Services Plans for the same site. | Buildings based on 'Document F' will consume less energy and an average of 7,000 applications will adhere to the provisions of this Document. |
| The Building and Construction Authority, "Irrinova Darek" (Renovate Your Home) Scheme. The scheme, which is still at a pilot stage, is being made available to upgrade properties in the Grand Harbour district. The Government will initially allocate the sum of €600,000 to embark on such an initiative; this will act as a baseline to potential further schemes. | "Irrinova Darek" Scheme enables the renovation of dwellings to reach the dual aims of saving energy in homes and turning these into cost-effective units to be sustained by families. The upgrades can be tailored to the dwelling's specific needs and are flexible such that several energy efficiency measures, integration of renewable energy sources and associated interventions are possible. |
| <p>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p>Introduce a new online portal with templates and samples of employment contracts (definite contracts / indefinite contacts: part-time/ full-time) so that the both workers and employers would be aware of what should be included in a contract of employment according to law. The online portal will also include information on working conditions</p> <p>At present , internal discussions are taking place to determine how this portal is going to be designed. It is envisaged that this portal will become live in November 2022.</p> | Improve working conditions for workers through better dissemination of information on working conditions and ensuring that conditions are in line with the law. |

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| <p>To obtain a clear and wide view of the skills of our country's workforce, a national workforce skills census will be undertaken in 2022. This census will be the first of its kind, not only in Malta but also in Europe, with a total investment of €2 million. Once this exercise is concluded, a digitalisation audit of workplaces will be undertaken to ensure that Malta is well-prepared for this new challenge.</p> | <p>The information collected via the Census will help Government to better respond to the labour market.</p> |
| <p>Numerous groups of companies involved in different industries and enterprises have had to support businesses that were impacted by COVID-19 through income from other operations as well as through reserves created by their hard work in the past. These same entities had already invested extensively in these sectors in preceding years, with the intention of creating more employment and prosperity.</p> <p>Government is introducing a temporary scheme to assist such groups of companies in their recovery. The scheme will enable them to derive the benefit of capital allowances on investments made in enterprises impacted by the pandemic, allowing them to be used against tax dues on the income of the companies that remained sustainable. This means that such groups will be able to benefit from the capital allowances in advance. Thus, their current tax bills will be lowered, resulting in the availability of more funds to be reinvested in the economy.</p> <p>Therefore, groups of companies having unabsorbed or unutilised capital allowances in 2020 and 2021 due to losses sustained during the pandemic will be able to apply for the relative tax deduction benefit against any taxable income derived by other companies forming part of the same group, for basis year 2021 (Year of Assessment 2022).</p> | <p>This measure allows companies that form part of a group of companies (as defined in the Income Tax Act Cap. 123) to surrender unutilised capital allowances accumulated during 2020 and 2021 to other group companies. This will reduce the tax bill of group companies, thereby increasing their potential to reinvest funds to sustain their business activities and promote growth. This measure may potentially impact up to 9,000 group of companies.</p> |
| <p>Malta's achievements in the social, educational and medical fields can only be sustained if each and every one contributes his/her share through tax payments. Consequently, Government feels that a clear and firm message needs to be given to the effect that, while help will be available for those who genuinely encounter economic and fiscal difficulties, unjustified flatering on tax payments will not be tolerated.</p> <p>In view of this, Government has announced that the system for remission of interest on tax balances will be considered only in strict reference to the proviso to regulation 2 of Legal Notice 361 of 2013 (SL 372.26). Therefore, it will not be the norm for everyone to benefit from interest remission.</p> <p>With effect from 1 June 2022, the interest rate on income tax and VAT balances will be 7.2% per annum.</p> | <p>Through this measure, inequality between those who pay their taxes on time and those who do not will be reduced.</p> |
| <p>As it has already done in the past years, Government will continue assisting family businesses to move forward while planning better for the future of the business. Consequently, the concession on a reduction in stamp duty from 5% to 1.5% when family businesses are transferred inter vivos to their children or younger generations, is being extended once again.</p> | <p>This measure will give more spending power to the public.</p> |
| <p>The arts, culture and entertainment sector is an essential part of the country's social and economic fabric. The Government will continue helping and motivating artists, producers and promoters of artistic, cultural and entertainment activities, so that these can keep contributing in full to the artistic and economic recovery of the sector. For this purpose, Government announced the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The income tax rate for artists will be 7.5% and this will apply as from basis year 2022. 2. For the purposes of artists' income tax, we will introduce a mechanism which will establish artists' income on the basis of a three-year average. | <p>A reduced rate of tax for artists strengthens efforts to preserve Maltese heritage and cultural diversity.</p> |
| <p>Malta Enterprise will set up the Blue Med Hub bringing together various experts in this field.</p> | <p>The Hub will collaborate with African and Middle Eastern entities to open up investment opportunities in this sector. The aim of attracting start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises, both local and foreign.</p> |
| <p>Start-Up Residence Permit mechanism to attract more start-ups and entrepreneurs. Apart from the schemes already offered by Malta Enterprise, the need is felt to establish a reference point which could better understand these entrepreneurs' needs, and for a Start-up Visa to be offered. Malta Enterprise will be working together with the Malta Residency Agency to set up a programme for non-EU nationals seeking a base that offers them a good package of grants, benefits and opportunities. Persons who qualify according to a set of conditions/criteria would be eligible to apply for this permit, relocate to our country and contribute to the Maltese economy.</p> | <p>The Start-up Visa would make the Malta package more attractive, offering flexibility for such start-ups to establish themselves in Malta in a way that pays off, both for their commercial activity as well as for our country.</p> |
| <p>Seed Fund coordinated by Malta Enterprise and the University of Malta.</p> | <p>Encouraging further researchers and entrepreneurs to obtain financial support and develop their innovative and sustainable ideas.</p> |
| <p>As from 2022, Malta Enterprise will also be introducing a scheme through which a tax benefit will be given to businesses if they reinvest a percentage of their retained profits in eligible projects in the same business and/or in another business, as long as the investment is made within two years starting on 1 January 2022. This assistance will be compliant with business assistance parameters.</p> | <p>The scheme will have a positive impact on enterprises and encourage further investments.</p> |

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| <p>SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</p> | <p>To sustain the drive to keep incentivising private sector investment in green projects that propel a more sustainable economy, Government will be extending eligibility for the SME Tailored Facility issued by the Malta Development Bank, to include financing for sustainable and environmental projects undertaken by the private sector.</p> <p>This measure will particularly address small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to diversify their operations and business through green and environment-friendly projects. This is because such businesses would be able to benefit from loans at attractive rates up to a maximum of €5 million.</p> | <p>Through this measure, direct investment by the private sector in projects that drive sustainable economic growth and above all create green jobs for Gozitan and Maltese workers, will be facilitated in a tangible way.</p> <p>The scheme will have a positive impact on access to finance to SMEs particularly for investments that have a positive impact on the climate.</p> |
| | <p>Road infrastructure works, which are estimated to be completed by end 2024, will continue to be undertaken on the Airport Intersection Project (AIP) and on the Imriehel Bypass. Such projects are being complemented by the surrounding embellishment, through planting of mature trees and other plants.</p> | <p>The removal of traffic bottlenecks will reduce traffic congestion in urban areas; thus, giving prominence to more sustainable transport as well as promoting further modes of transport including cycling and pedestrian facilities. The AIP includes the redevelopment of this critical junction of the Maltese road network to reduce travel times and accident risks to commuters travelling through the Kirkop Tunnels, to and from Kirkop, Mqabba, Orendi, Zurrieq and Safi, whilst introducing new facilities for alternative modes of travel. The new intersection design includes new footpaths and improved public transport amenities and also comprises new cycle lanes and safe cycle routes. It will also improve access to the Malta International Airport and to the Malta Freeport, two strategic locations for several sectors of the Maltese economy.</p> |
| | <p>Following the success achieved through the fast ferry between Malta and Gozo, works will continue to increase the number of quays so that alternative routes can be created and thus reduce dependence on private vehicles. In this respect, the pier building in Sliema, Cospicua, the rebuilding of quays as well as a new promenade between Birgu and Kalkara will be completed in 2022. The reconstruction of the Bugibba breakwater is estimated to commence in Q4 2022 with completion foreseen for end 2024.</p> | <p>The benefits of this are anticipated to extend to the entire population in terms of air quality and to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours by encouraging a modality shift to other forms of transport. This will also result in faster travel times. In particular, the landing places shall offer improved and modern facilities to further attract the public and to further promote and enhance the use of sea transportation by the public in general between the major cities surrounding the Grand Harbour and beyond.</p> |
| | <p>New research and innovation programme called 'Go to Market'. The programme is aimed at reaching a high level of advanced technology for its commercialisation both within the local as well as the international markets.</p> | <p>The 'Go To Market' scheme has an allocated budget of €400,000 and will have a positive impact on the Maltese R&I community.</p> |
| | <p>Through the Horizon Support Measures Scheme the participation of researchers and Maltese entities shall be facilitated through the provision of networking opportunities as well as assistance to enhance their proposals in order to utilise the funds from this programme and to encourage further participation.</p> | <p>The measures will improve Malta's success rate in the programme and assist possibly 100 researchers/entities. The budget allocated for 2022 to implement these measures amounts to 200,000 EUR.</p> |
| | <p>Implementation of Malta's Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) 2021-2027</p> | <p>The ultimate aim of the RIS3 is to channel public and private investments in carefully selected priority areas, through an 'entrepreneurial discovery process' (EDP). The priority areas (health and wellbeing, sustainable use of resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation, smart manufacturing, marine and maritime technology, aviation and aerospace and future digital technology) were identified based on a bottom-up approach by way of which these sectors were identified as the most promising areas for future national economic development, and growth through R&D and innovation. The above-mentioned investments in the identified sectors are thus envisaged to lead to a positive impact over the seven-year lifecycle of the Smart Specialisation Strategy.</p> |
| | <p>The R&I FUSION Programme, a national funding programme that drives and supports local Research and Innovation (R&I), as well as providing the necessary support for researchers and technologists to turn their innovative ideas into a market-ready reality. FUSION is supported through Malta Government funds and is managed by the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) as the Managing Authority. The main objectives of FUSION are: to raise the level and profile of locally funded research; to ingrain R&I at the heart of the Maltese economy; to spur knowledge-driven and value-added growth; and to sustain improvements in the quality of life.</p> | <p>FUSION is aimed to raise the level and profile of locally funded research, ingrain R&I at the heart of the Maltese economy, spur knowledge-driven and value-added growth as well as sustain improvements in the quality of life. These can be achieved since research results and innovation have the potential of translating themselves into commercial activities which generate a multiplier effect on the economy, by increasing Malta's competitiveness through the creation of additional high-value and knowledge intensive employment opportunities in Malta's priority industries. FUSION is a portfolio of various R&I support programmes. These programmes have been designed with the aim of offering the necessary mentoring and financial support for researchers and technologists to develop their ideas to the betterment of society. A budget of €3.5M was allocated in 2021 whilst a budget of €4.6M is planned to be allocated in 2022 to fund projects under the FUSION portfolio.</p> |
| <p>SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities</p> | <p>There will be a reduction of the waiting list of children awaiting their turn for an occupational therapy service. Every family who falls in this category will receive a number of vouchers to be used for occupational therapy services in the private sector.</p> | <p>In this way we would be meeting the early intervention aim for children with disability. It is estimated that around 500 children will benefit from this measure.</p> |
| | <p>A Community Hub service will be introduced in the Northern part of Malta, where persons with disability would be able to undergo specialised training on various aspects related to independent living.</p> | <p>It is expected that around 40 people with disabilities will be using this place for the year 2022. With this measure, the professionals of the Support Agency will be able to do qualitative work with people with disabilities in order to teach them skills that will make them more independent in the community.</p> |
| | <p>There will be an extension of the psychologist services for persons with disability and their relatives to continue facilitating timely assistance with the least possible delay.</p> | <p>It is projected that around 45 people/families will benefit from this measure which will assist social workers to continue to provide quality services to people with disabilities and help them holistically where psychological difficulties are being identified. This will help individuals to live a better quality life.</p> |

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| A "drive from wheelchair" vehicle will be purchased to enable persons with disability to access driving lessons and thus keep improving their level of independence. Through the "drive from wheelchair" initiative, a specialised training will also be delivered to several driving instructors so that these would be able to provide instruction to persons with disability. | People with disabilities who need a drive from a wheelchair will have the facility to learn how to drive a car with Agenzija Sapport. The existing service of driving lessons for people with disabilities will be strengthened through training for driving instructors who offer a service with the Agenzija Sapport. |
| In 2022, work will continue on the INK project, which was partly financed from the European Social Fund, to keep providing training and work experience opportunities with pay for persons with disability. | Estimated recurring cost - € 166,605. The INK project is currently a European Union funded project ending at the end of June 2022. Therefore this measure will come into force in July 2022 with the aim of starting to welcome the first customers in October 2022. |
| Enhancement of the scheme on exemptions/reductions related to vehicles for persons with disability so that more persons with special needs become eligible. In the 2022 Budget, Government proposed amendments to two categories of the scheme involving exemptions or deductions related to vehicles used by persons with disability, so that more persons with special needs become eligible. | Remove the inequalities in the benefits enjoyed by persons with disabilities, as more such persons will now be in a position to benefit from this scheme following the widening of the scope across the different categories of the said scheme. |
| During 2022 employees whose basic annual pay does not exceed €20,000 and who are not in a managerial position will be taxed at 15% on the first €10,000 overtime income. | 40,000 employees will benefit from this measure. |
| To encourage pensioners to remain active and continue working beyond retirement age, over a period of five years starting from 2022, pension income will gradually no longer be considered as part of the taxable income. | It is envisaged that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure. |
| Income tax rate for part-timers will be reduced from 15% to 10%. | It is envisaged that circa 27,000 workers will benefit from this measure. |
| The scheme for wheelchair-accessible vehicles used for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward will be renewed. | This will increase the availability of such vehicles and therefore facilitate the access to these vehicles by persons who need them. |
| Equality mark certifying local companies / organisations that demonstrate a commitment towards best practices in the area of gender equality. | There were 123 certified companies employing around 29,250 employees by 2021. This measure implies equal access to opportunities by focusing on individuals' capabilities. |
| Empowerment for Diversity Project managed by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) focusing on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics and gender expression. The project's target groups are: LGBTQI+ community, General Public, NCPE staff and relevant stakeholders. | Promotes and enhances equality through training and awareness raising activities. |
| Expansion of the programme "I belong" Programme. Together with MCAST and University of Malta, the Intercultural and Anti-Racism Unit offers Maltese and English language and Cultural Orientation courses at two stages. The language courses focus on daily use to facilitate a person's integration into society. The cultural orientation covers the social, cultural, economic, and historical aspects of Malta and the constitution, law and democratic values. All courses are free of charge. | Provide a holistic approach to integration. It gives migrants a start, enabling them to acquire vital skills and become better-equipped members of society. |
| Implementing the Anti-Racism Strategy for Malta, the first national action plan against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. | A comprehensive programme of activities aimed at progressively eliminating racism in all its forms, individual, systemic and societal and to stimulate and support intercultural inclusion. |
| Training of Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers personnel on making reception centres more inclusive of LGBTQI persons. There will be two sets of training sessions, the first designed for security personnel and facility officers, and the second designed for AWAS' professional staff, such as social workers and managers. | 200 AWAS personnel will be trained. This training aims to make reception centres more LGBTQI inclusive and enable reception centre officers to better understand and respond to the contexts and needs of LGBTQI asylum seekers. |
| Training of private sector employees on LGBTQI inclusive workplaces | 300 private sector employees will be trained, fostering a culture of LGBTQI inclusion in the workplace. |
| Research study on hate speech in Malta | This qualitative and quantitative research study will enable a better understanding within Government and across society of the situation of minority groups and their experiences of hate speech in Malta. The impact and main goal is to have a baseline of data on the matter. The availability of this data is essential as it will then inform future government policy to tackle hate speech and enable a critical evaluation of those policies. |
| Training on anti-racism to public officers | This measure aims to improve service provision to members of minority groups and migrant communities in Malta. The training for higher scale officers will also raise awareness about the topic to ensure its mainstreaming across all policy fields and, where possible, to stimulate the dissemination of the content of this training to lower scale officers in the future, achieving a multiplier effect. 500 public officers will be trained on anti-racism and intercultural inclusion (250 in 2022 and 250 in 2023). |
| Anti-Rumour Strategy | The Anti-Rumours Strategy aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify and address major rumours existing in Maltese society and affecting members of minority groups, as well as the way in which these are spread, through surveys and interviews - collect objective data and also emotional arguments to dismantle false rumours - create an anti-rumour network of local actors from civil society - empower and train 20 "anti-rumour agents" - design and implement anti-rumour campaigns to raise public awareness |

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| | Media Organisations' Code of Practice and training on intercultural standards and zero tolerance to racist language and stereotyping in coverage. | The Code of Practice and training for media professionals under this measure will stimulate industry-wide zero tolerance to racist language and stereotyping in media coverage. This will be achieved through enhanced standards and understanding among media organisations of the issues faced in reporting on topics relating to minority groups, diversity and intercultural inclusion. |
| | Political parties charter on zero tolerance to racist language. Political parties will be encouraged to adopt this standard in the vetting of candidates and organise regular training for party administrations, officials and candidates. | Political parties carry a responsibility to shape political discourse on sensitive topics such as immigration, inclusion, patriotism, and others. Whilst in no shape or manner hindering that robust debate and even sharp disagreement that characterises a healthy democracy, this measure will commit political parties to a pact for zero tolerance to racist language. |
| | The Human Rights Directorate will engage with social partners and private sector companies to develop and agree anti-racism and inter-cultural inclusion standards for recruitment and employment through a national anti-racism pact. | This measure will stimulate a holistic, whole-of-society approach to anti-racism and intercultural inclusion. |
| | Developing Intra-Ministerial Anti-Racism Action Plans addressing the policymaking, employment, and service provision functions relevant to each Ministry and their contribution under each of these functions to confronting racism and achieving intercultural inclusion. | Mainstreaming of anti-racism across Government. |
| | Information sheet on the rights and obligations of tenants. | The impact of this measure will be enhanced awareness among newly arrived migrants of their rights and obligations as tenants. This will be achieved by producing a 4-page information sheet translated in Arabic, English, French, Maltese, Serbian and Spanish to allow widespread dissemination and maximise reach. |
| | Workshops and the creation of a mechanism on disaggregated equality data collection. 5 workshops will be held with the participation of the National Statistics Office and other invited key stakeholders. | The impact of this measure will be the identification of gaps in current equality data collection and recording practice, and the evaluation of possible solutions. This measure also envisages the development of mechanism for collecting disaggregated data on hate crime incidents, including hate speech, on grounds of race, colour, language, religion, ethnic origin, citizenship, sexual orientation and gender identity, recording the specific bias motivation as well as the criminal justice response. |
| | Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online | This measure aims to bring about a voluntary commitment by digital platforms to review and, if necessary, remove illegal hate speech content. This will also serve to enhance awareness among the users of such platforms of their obligations under various legal provisions prohibiting hate speech and discrimination. |
| SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | Works on the Aquatic and Sports Centre is proceeding at a good pace. Thanks to this investment, the island and people of Gozo will be able to enjoy an Olympic level pool as well as a sports pavilion in the heart of Victoria, Gozo. This is the largest investment in the sports sector that has ever been made for Gozo. | This measure will ensure healthy lives and promotes well-being of citizens of all ages. Aquatic Sports Groups and the general public will benefit from this project that is unique in its kind in the island of Gozo. Furthermore, this project will promote sports tourism in Gozo when water sports tournaments and similar activities are organised. |
| | Capital gains tax and stamp duty will no longer be due on the first €750,000 of the sale price for properties that were built more than twenty years ago and have been vacant for more than seven years, for properties that are in a UCA, and for new properties that are built in a typical traditional Maltese style and architecture. This measure applies also where a promise of sale has been entered into, but the sale contract is yet to be concluded. In addition, first-time buyers of such properties in Malta will receive a grant of €15,000. | This measure aims to promote investment in the restoration and regeneration of properties showcasing Maltese heritage and old derelict properties. |
| | Anyone buying or already in possession of properties that were built more than twenty years ago and have been vacant for more than seven years, for properties that are in a UCA, and for new properties that are built in a typical traditional Maltese style and architecture, will also be given a grant on the value of VAT paid up to a maximum of €54,000 on the first €300,000 incurred in restoration and finishing works. This grant is being introduced as regenerating such properties entails higher than average costs, and the Government is committed to help in this regard. This applies also to those who have already purchased property and are in the process of carrying out restoration works. To prevent speculative activity and ensure that these measures are actually enjoyed by families, a set of regulations will be introduced, including that the property cannot be divided. | This measure aims to promote investment in the restoration and regeneration of properties showcasing Maltese heritage and old derelict properties. |
| | 1 million euros are being allocated in order to create a guarantee scheme for independent artistic activities with the aim of helping producers and promoters recuperate expenses that would not be recoverable due to unexpected restrictions that might be necessary in case of changed circumstances. Strengthening the scheme that gives assistance for seats that cannot be sold in case of new restrictions. For this purpose, 2 million euro will be allocated. | Help and motivate artists, producers and promoters of artistic, cultural and entertainment activities so that these can keep contributing in full to the artistic and economic recovery of the sector. |
| | Programme Support Scheme for independent artistic projects managed by the Malta Council for the Arts. | This scheme will help support and maintain Malta's creative and cultural ecology by enabling artists and cultural operators (whether they are organisations, collectives or freelance collaborations) to: 1. Restart their programming and production activity however possible 2. Operate in a sustainable manner even if circumstances require postponing the reopening of certain activities to the public. |

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| <p>The introduction of the first Building Code covering demolition works, excavation and construction, and devoting particular attention to Third Party Property Rights. To ensure that the said Code is properly applied, the Building and Construction Authority will also push forward a legislation which will provide for the role of a Construction Project Manager on the building site, who will ensure that whatever is stipulated is executed in the most professional manner.</p> | <p>Such a Code will minimise the risk of damages to third party property or injury to persons that may result through the proposed works. This means that the approximately 8,000 sites per year will adhere to the new measures.</p> |
| <p>The Planning Authority will introduce an Aesthetic Policy as well as a set of measures to encourage development that is more comprehensive, uniform, and respectful of our country's urban environment.</p> | <p>The Aesthetic Policy will lead to the renewal and revision of planning plans and policies, by listing a number of parameters of architectural design and design of building facades. This should lead to legibility in the aesthetics of the buildings that respect the diverse context of the urban area.</p> |
| <p>Launch of the Built Heritage Restoration Scheme. To this end, the Authority has requested a request of 10M euro from EU funds through the ERDF, which request will be evaluated by the PPCD in case this project is part of the operational program.</p> | <p>Improve the urban and historical image of our cities and towns.</p> |
| <p>The implementation of urban greening projects in various localities across Malta, with the aim of improving existing public spaces and creating new open, safe and green spaces in our urban centres. The projects will be financed through the National Development and Social Fund (NDSF).</p> <p>Such projects include among others planting of trees and shrubs, construction of reservoirs to capture excess rainwater, improving current infrastructure to make existing public spaces more accessible and introducing outdoor GYM equipment and running track.</p> | <p>These measures will help in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mitigating heat in urban areas. - lower greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality - rainwater control. - increasing urban biodiversity. - foster social cohesion and promote healthy lifestyles. |
| <p>Further investments in the implementation of vertical green wall projects and the installation of green roofs which will increase green infrastructure in urban areas.</p> | <p>Creating spaces that are environmentally conscious, resilient to the challenges imposed by climate change, and aesthetically pleasing -- whilst enhancing the wellbeing of the general public.</p> |
| <p>Restoration of San Anton Gardens via structural repairs of the garden walls, pathways, and other historical features.</p> | <p>This measure will lead to capital investment in the protection and restoration of historic buildings.</p> |
| <p>Embellishment projects of gardens in various localities across Malta including Romeo Romano Garden in Santa Venera, Spencer Garden and Belvedere Garden in Marsa. These projects include among others the planting of trees and shrubs; removal of invasive alien species; the creation of a playground, a vegetable garden and a multifunctional area; the construction of water reservoirs, setting up of tree nurseries, and a planting of trees to create boundary walls that mitigate noise pollution.</p> | <p>These measures will help in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mitigating heat in urban areas. - lowering of greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. - rainwater control. - increasing urban biodiversity. - foster social cohesion. |
| <p>Santa Venera Regional Road Roofing Project. Various studies, including geotechnical ones, have already been carried out, and the Government is now exploring how this project can potentially be transformed into a public-private partnership. The proposal to roof part of a Regional Road in Santa Venera will not only help reduce the pollution generated on this main road, but it will also create a pedestrian area and a superstitious garden for the benefit of residents and tourists alike at a time when urban and villages continue to grow.</p> | <p>The benefits of providing a pedestrian and garden area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mitigating heat and humidity levels in urban areas. - rainwater control. - lower greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. - reducing noise pollution. - increasing urban biodiversity. - reducing the visual impact of the built environment - foster social cohesion and promote healthy lifestyles |
| <p>Commencement of feasibility studies on the pedestrianisation and greening project of St Anne's Street in Floriana. This project shall promote and give rise to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the large-scale pedestrianisation and greening of St Anne's Street with the formation of an underground carriageway. - the pedestrian amalgamation of both sides of Floriana, both in terms of pedestrian areas and amalgamation of gardens. - the creation of pedestrian links with monuments and points of interest. | <p>This measure will help in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - better air quality and surface temperature. - reduction of noise levels. - increasing urban biodiversity. - rain water control. - reducing the visual impact of the built environment. - reduction of vehicular movement at ground level - increasing pedestrian safety and promoting healthy lifestyle. |
| <p>SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</p> <p>LIFE FOSTER project consisting of direct and indirect actions aimed at raising awareness about the problem of food waste and optimal food storage in the catering sector. Apart from equipping personnel with the necessary skills to reduce consumption and waste, this project developed a methodology for measuring waste in the restaurant environment with a view to help restaurateurs become more efficient and buy responsibly. Other concrete actions which are envisaged to raise awareness about food waste include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train-the-trainer programme for ITS lecturing staff. - Training to ITS students. - Manifesto for food waste prevention. - Dissemination of information to the general public, schools and the industry. <p>This measure will be concluded by 31 August 2022.</p> | <p>Reducing food waste in the restaurant industry through training and education, prevention, and communication.</p> |

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| | <p>In collaboration with the Local Councils, Smart Waste Depots for residual and organic waste will be set up, such that they may be accessed 'on demand' by commercial establishments through the integration of Artificial Intelligence.</p> | <p>This initiative is part of the national effort to divert waste away from landfill, maximise the intrinsic resource value of waste, contribute to Malta's achievement of EU targets and to support in the transition towards a more resource-efficient and circular economy.</p> |
| | <p>Introduction of 4 (3 in Malta and 1 in Gozo) Reuse Centres in the Civic Amenity Sites, which will allow the reuse of objects such as toys, ceramics, books and furniture.</p> | <p>This initiative is part of the national effort to divert waste away from landfill, maximise the intrinsic resource value of waste, contribute to Malta's achievement of EU targets and to support in the transition towards a more resource-efficient and circular economy.</p> |
| | <p>Feasibility Study on the setting up of a Repair and Reuse Centre. Apart from offering repair services, the centre could offer opportunities for bartering of used items and also for transformation of objects for alternative use, better known as repurposing or refashioning.</p> | <p>This initiative is part of the national effort to divert waste away from landfill, maximise the intrinsic resource value of waste, contribute to Malta's achievement of EU targets and to support in the transition towards a more resource-efficient and circular economy.</p> |
| | <p>In the waste management sector, the Maltese Government will continue working on projects as part of the EcoHive project, which is the largest investment ever made in waste management in our country. The Waste to Energy plant, which is part of this chain of projects, with an investment of about €200 million, will be absorbing the larger part of the investment. Another capital allocation is aimed at strengthening and improving the Wasteserv's infrastructure.</p> <p>The 'Waste to Energy' project is being developed against a backdrop of increasing waste generation in the Maltese Islands (driven by population growth), low recycling (due to limited local markets) and an acute shortage of landfill capacity.</p> | <p>While providing an important element for solving the acute shortage of landfilling in Malta, the Waste to Energy plant will process waste in the most sustainable and resource-efficient way possible while also turning it into precious resources – energy. The Waste to Energy plant is projected to supply around 13-18 MW of electricity that will displace energy that is currently fossil-fuelled and thus contribute to the improved sustainability of Malta's future energy mix. The project will also help the Government of Malta to meet its obligations under EU Waste legislation, with a target to recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035 and to have no more than 10% municipal waste going to landfill by 2035, with interim targets also applicable in 2025 and 2030.</p> |
| | <p>Feasibility study on 'Greening our Economy - Promoting greener jobs and skills'. The study will be making recommendations on what can be done to further reduce the carbon footprint of activities at operational level by the sectors studied, with the aim of minimising the economic impacts on the environment.</p> | <p>This measure will result in lower greenhouse gas emissions and further improvement in air quality for the benefit of society. It will further result in the prevention of waste at source and promote sectors which are more geared towards optimising production and consumption.</p> |
| SDG 13: Climate Action | <p>'Towards the Decarbonisation of Tourism Accommodation' project. The tourism sector is highly vulnerable to climate change and at the same time contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). Accelerating climate action in tourism is therefore of utmost importance for the resilience of the sector. Once this project is finalised, the Government would be in a better position to monitor the carbon footprint of this sector, whilst leveraging the necessary investments to accelerate the decarbonisation of tourism operations, with a view to attain our overall climate ambitions and Sustainable Development Goals. This is also in line with our national Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the new Tourism Strategy 2021-2030 which includes an overarching vision: that of being a leading example of a carbon-neutral tourism destination, offering real solutions to the public and private sectors to become more competitive in the new paradigm.</p> | <p>Development of a long-term plan aimed at the decarbonisation of the tourism sector.</p> |
| | <p>Through The Grand Harbour Clean Air Project, the Government is also committed to provide shore supply in the Grand Harbour to enable berthed vessels to switch off their gas, or heavy-fuel-oil, fired engines and plug-in to shoreside electricity to power their onboard systems. Infrastructure works on the shore-to-ship project in the Grand Harbour will continue over the course of 2022 and is currently forecasted to be ready by end 2023 (Phase I).</p> | <p>Cruise liners will plug in to the onshore power supply whilst at berth rather than using their auxiliary engines. By switching off their auxiliary engines, cruise liners visiting Valletta will emit 93% less nitrogen dioxide, 92.6% less particulate matter and 99.6% less sulphur dioxide. These pollutants are among the principal causes of respiratory illnesses and other health issues. The first phase of the Grand Harbour Clean Air Project will also cut 39.6% of the cruise liners' carbon dioxide emissions, which contribute to climate change.</p> <p>Preliminary studies indicate that through this project, within 20 years Malta will save up to €375 million in costs linked to the measurable consequences of air pollution, such as impacts on health, the natural environment, infrastructure and agriculture. It will also reduce the impact of noise and engine vibrations in the Grand Harbour area, thereby improving the surrounding environment and quality of life of all persons living and working within the region of the Grand Harbour. By reducing air pollution in the region, the Grand Harbour Clean Air Project will contribute towards EU and national climate change objectives in line with the Paris Agreement, which obliges ports to reduce the carbon footprint of their land-based activities as well as the decarbonisation of shipping activities.</p> |
| | <p>Free Public Transport service will be provided to all Maltese and Gozitans and people resident in Malta and Gozo. This measure aims at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) converting car users to using the bus service 2) bringing back to using the service those passengers who because of the pandemic had gone back to using other modes of transport, primarily their private vehicles. | <p>Reducing CO₂ emissions and traffic congestion.</p> |
| | <p>From the first of the year 2023, the capping of plug-in hybrids vehicles will rise from 30 kilometres autonomy on the battery to 50 kilometres.</p> | <p>To note that this measure will not be published this year. Approx. 30 vehicles.</p> |
| SDG 14: Life Below Water | <p>Projects will be undertaken to upgrade the infrastructure of the water and electricity service pillars in fishing ports, as well as to improve the Landing Site facilities in Gozo. The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will be carrying out an infrastructure project where eight pillars offering electricity and water services will be installed inside the Marsaskala and Birżebbuġa localities.</p> | <p>This investment should lead to more modern port infrastructure and therefore local fishermen will be directly benefiting from the use of these services which are so beneficial to their work.</p> |

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| <p>SDG 15: Life on Land</p> | <p>The project for the restoration and reconstruction of rubble walls all around Gozo, financed by European funds exceeding €10 million, is currently being implemented. The aim is to repair over 30 kilometres of rubble walls - across several localities in Gozo - which collapsed over the years and are presently in a dilapidated state.</p> | <p>Farmers within the project footprint shall have their soil deposits better safeguarded from soil erosion due to run-off and hence be able to increase the productivity of their holdings. The general public would be able to enjoy a more secure supply of fresh produce and reduce their dependency on imported agricultural products.</p> |
| | <p>Through a collaboration between the Environment and Resources Authority and Ambjent Malta, work will continue on the implementation of management plans for Natura 2000 Sites, via the implementation of habitat conservation interventions. These shall include the planting of indigenous plant species, restoration of rubble walls, restoration of existing wells and reservoirs, installation of irrigation systems, and also installation of surveillance and fire-fighting systems and prevention systems. These interventions will be stepped up at various sites, of which Comino, il-Maghluq at Marsascala, the Victoria Lines zone and Ghadira s-Safra.</p> | <p>This measure will lead to an increase in the restoration, conservation, monitoring and management of protected sites.</p> |
| <p>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p> | <p>Identity Malta will keep delivering and strengthening the eID service with the aim of championing the digital transformation strategy while reducing paper use.</p> | <p>Besides being environmentally friendly, this measure will result in greater nationwide efficiency, which will enable citizens to be in a better position to take on opportunities and diversify their options and possibilities.</p> |
| | <p>In the Disciplinary Corps a transformation strategy is being implemented, with investment being undertaken in infrastructure, specialised equipment as well as new vehicles and human resources training.</p> | <p>Better equipped law enforcement authorities and the disciplined corps in general will offer the citizen a greater sense of security by means of state of the art equipment and infrastructure.</p> |
| | <p>The Community Policing service will be extended to cover several new localities.</p> | <p>A significant reduction in criminal offences in particular violence-related crimes, which will lead to the reduction of accidents, all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</p> |
| | <p>With an investment of about €50 million, work is currently underway on the construction of a new vessel to be added to the Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces. This launch will be the largest one of its kind in our country and will contribute towards stronger surveillance and protection of Malta's maritime borders.</p> | <p>This measure will strengthen the operational capacity of the Armed Forces of Malta.</p> |
| | <p>The Civil Protection Department will keep investing in protective clothing and vehicle replacement, including further acquisitions of new trucks as well as investing in special vans that are suitable for our country's narrow streets. Furthermore, the Civil Protection Department will keep investing in equipment used by workers to reach high-rise buildings and in modern technology.</p> | <p>The operational capacity of the Civil Protection Department will be strengthened, meeting the established standards in civil protection and adjusting to the geographical reality of the Maltese Islands for the benefit of the whole nation.</p> |
| | <p>During the coming year, the Victim Support Agency will be further strengthened, while it will continue to improve its services across the various facets of victim rights, by remaining accessible in the most efficient way, while at the same time increasing the number of staff and professionals who serve within it.</p> | <p>There will be the provision of concrete support systems and mechanisms to victims of crime.</p> |
| | <p>The work of the Immigration Unit within the Malta Police Force requires additional staffing to carry out its functions in relation to both regular and irregular arrivals which current trends indicate that these will remain a challenge as well as a priority for Malta. Furthermore, the Unit requires additional personnel in order to meet requirements resulting from the revision of the legal framework on migration which has been set as a target for the Sustainable Development Strategy to be implemented by 2030. The recruitment at the International Protection Agency will aim to address:</p> | <p>The operational capacity of the Immigration Unit within the Malta Police Force and the IPA will be strengthened.</p> |
| | <p>The Attorney General's Office will continue to take on further additional prosecution functions in coordination with the Police with a view to develop a specialised prosecution service in the Attorney General's Office, while focusing the Police more on investigations into offences. This would provide a better-quality prosecution service and reduce delays in the criminal justice system.</p> | <p>The measure will have a positive impact on the quality of prosecutions carried out in lower courts. Such a measure would also ensure a higher quality of investigations on the part of the Police, which would have more time devoted to investigations of crimes. This measure entails an increase in resources (prosecutors and support staff) in the Office of the Attorney General in order to cover this additional prosecution work at the Attorney General's Office. This reform is being carried out gradually and in stages so that the prosecution service provided to society continues to be more composed. As a result of this reform the criminal trial period pending before the criminal courts will decrease.</p> |
| | <p>There will be continued investing in legal aid assistance through the creation of a digital system where prospective clients eligible for legal aid can apply online, as well as through the servizz.gov hubs located in regions and towns around Malta.</p> | <p>Through this measure, legal aid services will be reaching out to the people more closely than the villages where the servizz.gov hubs are located. Such a measure could reach around 400 persons per year who request to be assisted with legal aid. Eventually, the new digital system will offer more extensive service and the information on the cases assigned will be updated in a more timely manner.</p> |
| | <p>There will be an investment in the vehicle registration system where an average of 800 vehicles per month are registered annually.</p> <p>A way forward is still under discussion.</p> | <p>The new system will be catering for millions of transactions involving vehicles annually, ranging from about 27K new vehicle registrations and 56K transfer of ownership to 15K transactions involving garaging or degaraging of vehicles. The new state-of-the-art system will ensure that all the requirements are catered-for, easily adaptable and maintained, as well as 'future' proof. The platform will be one that is robust, easily catering for future expansion of the system.</p> |

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| | The Vessel Tracking System system will be changing to a more modern one, which will be serving the needs of both Transport Malta, which is responsible for port security, and the army. | This equipment is of national importance since, without this, shipping movements within territorial waters would be deemed to be unsafe and not compliant with international Shipping laws /VTMIS Directive. Without this upgrade, Malta would be in default of its obligations and requirements. This is also vital to the national interest of the country since the majority of commodities are transported by sea. Also, this combined system shall enable the army to improve their border control and search and rescue activities, thus better enabling national security. |
| | The establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, collaboration with Programme Development and Policy Implementation Officers for monitoring and reporting purposes, roundtables and consultation sessions with state and non-state actors to address the challenges in combatting trafficking in human beings. | Inter-institutional coordination and collaboration in the area of trafficking in human beings. |
| | Project leading to the design and implementation of National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, supported under the EU Technical Support Instrument. | The impact of the technical and financial support received under this project will be the design and implementation of a new national Strategy to combat Trafficking in Human Beings. This Strategy will see the development and implementation of new coordinating structures, policies, and processes to bolster Malta's institutional and administrative capacity to effectively combat THB, including early identification tools and training for public officers. This Strategy will adopt a rights-based approach with the aim of developing a sustainable system for the early identification and comprehensive support for victims. This would also seek to ensure the provision of timely and effective protection and access to justice, to provide victims with proper compensation for moral and material damages in accordance with the law. |
| | Collaboration with OSCE and Council of Europe on Trafficking In Human Beings | Identification of best practices, tools, and operation structure required to ensure the fulfilment of Malta's obligations emerging from international, regional, and EU instruments to prevent, protect and prosecute trafficking in human beings. |
| | Digital investment will be made to modernise the ship register so that Malta will continue to strengthen its place in the maritime sector. | The digitalisation of the Malta Ship Register shall contribute towards the promotion and higher take-up of eGovernment services by making the Ship Register fully digital, thus making ship registration services more accessible, simple and transparent for citizens to make use of. The project shall also contribute towards making Government services accessible through mobile devices, allowing the re-use of public sector information, extending government transparency, as well as stimulating greater collaboration between international partners, Government, local enterprises and citizens. Through the digitalisation of the Ship Register, citizens and organisations will be able to transact securely with Government for any ship registration-related services through the introduction of online forms, e-payments and e-invoicing. The Ship Register Digital platform will adhere to Government policy for e-services including 'once-only-principle', 'one-login' and 'service-personalisation'. Through the introduction of Maritime Analytics, the decision making process shall be supported and facilitated through the easier identification of gaps and opportunities. |
| | The setting up of the Building and Construction Authority, which will bring under one umbrella all Government entities related to the Building and Construction industry: the Building Regulation Office, the Masons Board, and the Building Regulation Board | The fact that the Authority has the said entities within it will be a point of reference for the common citizen and will serve as a 'one stop shop'. It is estimated that around 10,000 people will be able to receive a service from the Authority. |
| SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | <p>Official Development Assistance (ODA) fund. Through this fund Malta will continue providing financial and practical support to developing countries to assist them in their process towards sustainable development and the SDGs in particular. Development assistance continues to be focused on the African continent, with a particular emphasis on North Africa, West Africa and Sub-Saharan countries in general, with ongoing support for initiatives aimed at promoting access to education, employment opportunities and women's empowerment, among others.</p> <p>Malta's partnerships also involve humanitarian assistance because it offers support to other countries and international organisations under the UN umbrella. The aim of this assistance is to help individuals who are in urgent need of assistance following natural or man-made disasters. While this funding is aimed at individuals regardless of their location or national origin, Malta continues to play close attention to the needs of countries in Africa, in general, particularly as this relates to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the need for African countries to be able to access greater numbers of vaccines for the needs of their own populations.</p> | Malta's total annual budget for the furtherance of its development and humanitarian assistance policies totals approximately EUR 2.3M, of which at least 25% (EUR 575K) has been allocated humanitarian assistance, 40% (EUR 920K) for development assistance, and 18% (EUR 414K) for scholarships which the Maltese government provides to students from countries eligible for official development assistance (ODA) according to the OECD definition. |