

The island of Malta

Malta is the largest island within an archipelago of Maltese islands that are situated 80km south of Sicily. In 2013, Malta was inhabited by 446,547 people with a population density of 1,562 persons / km² (7th largest in the world). The economy is dependent on foreign trade (freight trans-shipment point), manufacturing (electronics and textiles) and tourism. Annually, Malta is visited by 1.6 million tourists, which is almost four times its population size. The island is mostly famous for its warm climate, the sea, recreational activities and a number of UNESCO world heritage sites.

The starting point

Since Malta lacks a domestic resource of fossil fuels, the primary energy demand has always been met through 100% oil imports. This has resulted in a steady incline of gross consumption and has led to issues with upholding to the EU's 10% renewable energy 2020 target.

The potential for solar and wind energy on the island is substantial. In fact, Malta's National Renewable Energy Action Plan was published in 2010 to propose a roadmap for attaining the 10% target. The roadmap has recently been modified, with the focus shifting from wind energy to solar as the main source of renewable energy, due to environmental concerns about the impacts of wind energy exploitation.

Since 2009, the government has made use of national and ERDF funds to promote wider use of renewable technologies; PV panels, solar thermal units and energy efficient technologies. In fact by 2012, the use of PV panels generated 0.6% of the island's electricity generation.



Thanks to Smilegov

Smilegov has offered Malta an opportunity to acquire experience and knowledge from other sustainable islands on best practices related to overcoming multi-level governance barriers. This knowledge has been disseminated to Local Councils, the Ministry for Energy and Health, and the Ministry for Gozo with the aim of incentivizing interested parties to adopt sustainable practices which have been proven successful in other islands. The experience gained from the projects of other islands is beneficial for Malta, which is working towards attaining the European 2020 target.

Smilegov has created an interest in Local Councils, the Ministry for Energy and Health, and the Ministry for Gozo to adopt sustainable practices that are attainable with the help of the capacity building tools.

This is what we achieved so far

- Inform Local Councils of the Pact of Islands & Covenant of Mayors and how they can do their part to meet the Europe's 2020 targets.
- Discussions with the Ministry for Gozo (representing one of the 5 regions in Malta and a total of 14 Local Councils) to adhere to the Pact of Islands.
- Explain the benefits of adopting sustainable practices in line with the EU 2020 targets to Local Councils and other stakeholders.
- Establish contacts with other islands facing the same sustainable energy problems.
- Use the project tools to help a number of bankable projects to overcome MLG barriers.

Future hopes and expectations

Malta is positive in achieving the EU 2020 targets by adopting sustainable energy practices/projects which seek to decrease fossil fuel dependence and help overcome MLG barriers. Being an island with limited resources, Malta sees the potential of sustainable energy technologies and commits to their widespread adoption.