

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Malta 

2021

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General information

Name of the country/region	Malta
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into waste management plan
Title of programme and link to programme	<p>Long term waste management plan 2021-2030 https://environment.gov.mt/en/Documents/ministerialConsultations/longTermWasteManagementPlan.pdf</p> <p>Single-use plastic products strategy for Malta 2020-2030: Rethink Plastic https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Single-Use-Plastic-Products-Strategy-for-Malta-2021-2030-Rethink-Plastic.pdf</p> <p>Construction and demolition waste strategy for Malta 2020-2025 https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Construction-and-Demolition-Waste-Strategy-for-Malta-2021-2030-Managing-Construction-Demolition.pdf</p> <p>Towards a circular economy 2020-2030 https://cemalta.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/email-version-fin..pdf</p>
Duration of programme	2021-2030
Language	English
Development process of the programme/revision	
Budget envisaged for implementation of the project	N/A

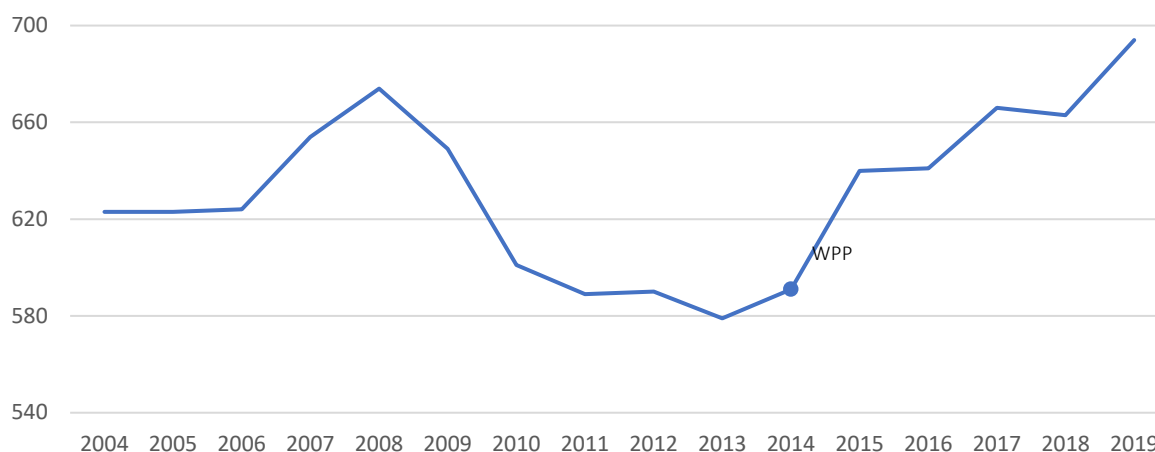
Waste generation

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Malta:

Municipal solid waste

- The generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita (see Figure 1) fluctuated between 2004 and 2019. The lowest levels of MSW generation occurred in 2013 (579 kg per capita) and the maximum in 2019 (694 kg per capita).
- After a steep increase between 2006 and 2008 (674 kg per capita), MSW generation per capita in Malta decreased significantly. However, after 2013, it started increasing, reaching the 2008 level again in 2017, and the upwards trend continues.
- Malta's MSW generation per capita remained above the EU average (502 kg in 2019) throughout period 2004-2019.
- Malta's first waste prevention programme (WPP) came into force in 2014. MSW generation can be influenced by many factors (e.g. population, household expenditure) and the implementation of the WPP has not shown any positive effects in decreasing MSW generation.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Malta (kg per capita), 2004-2019



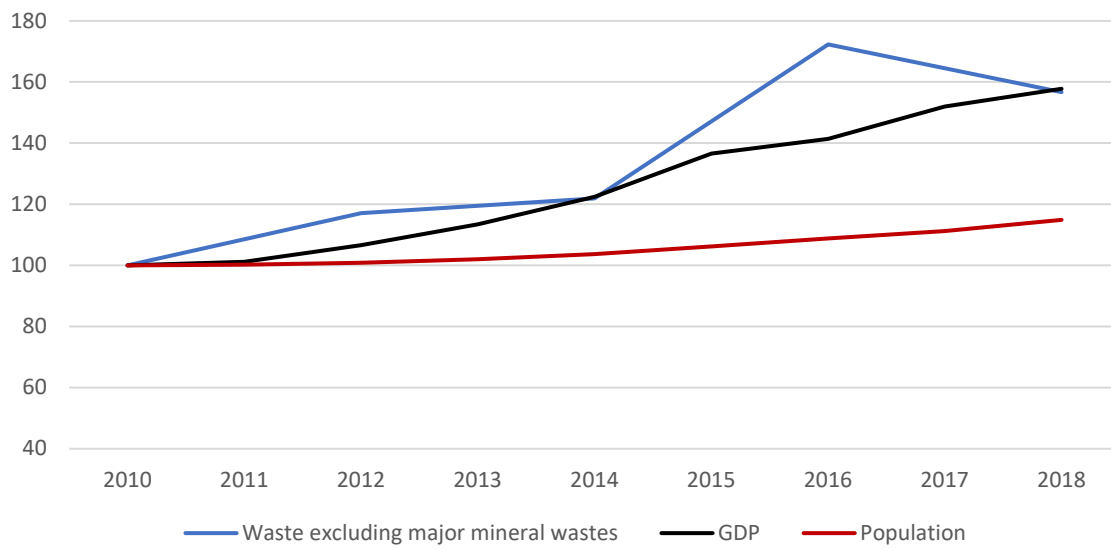
Note: WPP, waste prevention programme.

Source: Eurostat Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

Total waste

- Malta's waste generation (excluding major mineral wastes) increased between 2010 and 2018 (see Figure 2) and a similar growth rate can be observed for GDP.
- From 2016 onwards, however, Malta's waste generation has followed a decreasing trend, while it's GDP has continued to grow.
- Although a longer time series is needed to confirm any conclusions on potential decoupling trends, Malta might be on track to decouple its total waste generation from economic growth if waste generation continues to decrease in the future.
- Malta's population has also increased steadily over time; however, an link between waste generation and population growth cannot necessarily be drawn.

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP and population in Malta, 2010-2018 (2010 = 100)



Source: Eurostat.

Waste prevention programme

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster a culture of resource efficiency by encouraging alternative choices that contribute towards sustainable consumption, changing attitudes towards preventing unnecessary use, and encouraging the repair and reuse of items rather than discarding them early in their economic lifetime• Create new business opportunities for greener products, repair services and secondary markets• Provide economic incentives to support society in transitioning towards voluntary prevention and reuse initiatives (p. 91)
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial• Industry• Household
3. Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food (organic)• Packaging• Non-packaging paper• Single-use plastics• Textiles• Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE)• Construction and demolition material (p. 88)
4. Target groups	The Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning (MECP) will engage with stakeholders, learn from specialised expertise and collaborate across public and private sectors to make a difference, and instil a culture change that promotes waste prevention (p. 91)

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1. Indicators proposed	N/A
2. Quantitative targets	Notwithstanding the fact that no national targets are set in the long-term waste management plan, one of the overarching objectives is to achieve all of the targets emanating from the EU waste acquis
3. Monitoring of programme	To measure the effectiveness of the waste prevention measures, the Ministry will establish an index or a series of indices to monitor waste prevention data and the achievement of the targets. These will be aligned with EU waste prevention targets and reporting requirements and will also contribute to the progress of the plan and contribute to efforts on data management (p. 98)
4. Evaluation of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The evaluation will take place through a preliminary, midway and end review. In each case, there will be close communication with the stakeholders involved in the direct actions of the measures. The assessment will be based on the type of policy instrument used, the stakeholders involved and whether or not the outcome can be measured (p. 209)

Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive	<p>The Ministry has successfully implemented several measures from the waste prevention programme for the Maltese Islands 2014-2020, particularly focusing on outreach activities and communications (p. 89)</p> <p>In addition, Malta has also prepared two national strategies, the single-use plastics (SUP) strategy and the construction and demolition waste strategy, both of which place a strong emphasis on waste prevention through the proposed measures in their respective sectors</p> <p>Malta’s SUP strategy aims to protect the environment and human health from plastic pollution by reducing the consumption of SUP products and increasing the quality and quantities of SUPs collected for recycling (p. 89)</p> <p>The construction and demolition waste strategy, on the other hand, focuses on the construction industry in a holistic manner and aims to address current issues within the sector and to promote the waste generated from that specific sector being moved up the waste hierarchy through numerous proposed measures (p. 60)</p>
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Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	<p>Encourage retailers to offer discounts for customers who bring their own containers (p. 93)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This measure would act as an economic incentive for customers to bring their own containers and cups for food, beverages and other products. Other economic activities to which this initiative could apply include cafes, take-aways and similar establishments. To support these initiatives, the Ministry will look to facilitate a promotional platform for green retail outlets that are identified and qualify for a green label <p>Provide economic incentives to support packaging-free initiatives and products with less packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This measure could also include incentives to encourage the use of refillable products including laundry detergent and other cleaning products. The MECP will also explore fiscal incentives to ensure the prices of these items are competitive enough to attract consumers. This measure will also support the catering industry to limit excess waste when serving customers
Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and	Malta’s SUP strategy will encourage the use of more sustainable products through measures such as prohibiting/restricting certain products being placed

<p>absence of planned obsolescence), repairable, reusable and upgradeable</p>	<p>on the market and supporting more sustainable alternatives such as paper/textile carrier bags</p> <p>The construction and demolition waste strategy will promote innovation by developing national research and development schemes aimed at increasing the knowledge related to the placing on the market of recyclable construction products and by piloting new approaches towards resource recovery and use of construction and demolition waste</p>
<p>Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent those materials becoming waste</p>	<p>Proposed repair and reuse centres will allow EEE to be repaired and reused, either through the use of second-hand parts or repair facilitated through spare parts. Conversely, any critical raw materials present in such appliances will be prevented from becoming waste (p. 91)</p>
<p>Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products</p>	<p>The establishment of a reuse and repair centre will be supported (p. 91):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MECP would facilitate the creation of a centre where people can take items that are suitable for repair, upgrade or reuse. The centre can also serve as a hub for skills training or repairing items and will act as a blueprint for other reuse centres • Reuse, upgrade and repair activities will be promoted through positive economic incentives, quality assurances and warranties to improve confidence in second-hand goods (p. 92) <p>Fiscal incentives to promote repair and reuse activities will be developed (p. 92):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to level the playing field in favour of repair and reuse initiatives, the MECP will explore fiscal initiatives to make repair and reuse activities more economically viable <p>The construction and demolition waste strategy proposes the creation of resource recovery and storage deposits. This will encourage and incentivise the setting up of privately owned storage depots in which material from excavation activities and construction and demolition waste can be stored temporarily, for eventual reuse, recycling or recovery. The government will further aim to incentivise the setting up of recycling infrastructure at such locations to boost the supply of secondary raw materials. In addition, another proposed measure will set up ambitious reuse and recycling targets for construction and demolition waste</p> <p>A feasibility study will be carried out to assess current practices and the need to establish an extended producer responsibility scheme for textiles, as such waste represents a significant environmental impact in terms of management, and the requirement for separate collection of that waste stream may be</p>

	<p>catered for by an extended producer responsibility scheme</p>
<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety</p>	<p>The previously mentioned repair centres to be set up by the MECP will allow the repair of EEE using spare parts (p. 91)</p> <p>Guidance on the environmentally sound maintenance of vehicles will be published, which will provide guidelines for ensuring the correct dismantling of end-of-life vehicles, as well as covering areas such as parts and components and setting out requirements for used parts and components intended to be reused/sold in Malta</p>
<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques</p>	<p>The construction and demolition waste strategy aims to establish standards for the industry on appropriate excavation works with the aim of reusing excavated rock for the purpose of construction. Furthermore, environmental permits may be issued for on-site extraction of stone, in line with the above-mentioned standards, related to appropriate excavation works. Such material can be used on or off site</p> <p>Exploring fiscal incentives targeting recycled materials in construction (p. 94):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MECP intends to explore the potential to level the playing field and bring the price of recycled materials in line with that of virgin materials to reduce pressure on raw materials and incentivise the use of recycled materials
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030</p>	<p>Develop legislation for the diversion of food waste from landfill (p. 94):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MECP will consult with relevant stakeholders, such as food giveaways and food banks, on the development of legislation on food waste <p>Collaborate with farmers, volunteers and civil society organisations to encourage the practice of ‘gleaning’ (p. 97):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This involves voluntary organisations collecting unsold or surplus food from farms to redistribute to communities in need <p>Identify the source and reason for food waste occurring at the primary production level, including farms, fish farms and food factories, to gain a better understanding of ways to prevent food waste. This research could include site visits, surveys, waste composition analyses and interviews and will be aligned with EU requirements for food waste measurement (p. 100)</p>

<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products</p>	<p>Limit retail and distribution outlets from discarding unsold food Overcome barriers imposed by current legislation restricting the redistribution of food Through collaboration with relevant authorities, including public health authorities, an assessment will identify any possible amendments to regulations that can simplify food waste prevention measures</p>
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at EU level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to Article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021</p>	<p>This obligation has been transposed by Waste Regulation 10A in which the Minister, in consultation with the competent authority and the Agency, will take measures to promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products</p>
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling</p>	<p>One of the principles of the long-term waste management plan 2021-2030 is the prevention of waste. To this end, it introduces numerous waste prevention measures, some of which were already mentioned. The waste prevention measures apply to many waste streams, targeting food, packaging, non-packaging, single-use packaging and construction and demolition waste, among others Malta will look to develop new legislation that would divert food waste from the landfill, limit outlets from discarding unsold food, and overcome current legislative barriers restricting the redistribution of food Retailers will be encouraged to offer discounts to customers who bring their own containers, reducing the amount of packaging waste generated The use of recycled construction material will be encouraged through fiscal incentives, which would reduce not only the amount of waste generated, but also the pressure on virgin material</p>
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products; where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory</p>	<p>Malta has already transposed the market restrictions established by the Single-use Plastics Directive ((EU) 2019/904), prohibiting the placing on the market of products made from oxo-degradable plastic and the SUP products subject to such market restrictions in accordance with the directive, as of 1 January 2021. These products include cotton bud sticks, cutlery, plates, food and beverage containers, and cups for beverages made of expanded polystyrene In addition, Malta's SUP strategy outlines measures to prohibit the placing on the market of additional SUP products, namely pizza lid supports, lollipop sticks, kebab sticks and toothpicks</p>

	<p>In addition, coastal areas, camping sites, picnic areas and tourist areas are to be equipped with separate bins for the collection of plastic waste, while ashtrays will be provided by the producers of tobacco products on all beaches, including beach resorts. The release of plastic confetti and balloons will be prohibited at open-air events, and return schemes will be established for products such as beverage containers, as well as a voluntary scheme for detergent packaging and other containers for toiletries, in which people using the return scheme may be rewarded</p> <p>In line with the SUP Directive and the national SUP strategy for Malta, extended producer responsibility schemes will be introduced for a number of targeted SUP items and fishing gear. Producers of the targeted products will be obliged to cover the cost of collection of such products from public collection systems, the clean-up of litter and the cost of any awareness-raising measures</p>
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds</p>	<p>Pilot a smoking ban on several local beaches (p. 95):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this initiative would be to limit the amount of cigarette butts and cigarettes that are disposed of improperly and littered on beaches <p>As mentioned above, ashtrays will be provided at beaches, which will be financed by the producers of tobacco products</p> <p>In addition, the aforementioned market restrictions and prohibitions on specified products will further reduce the generation of marine litter</p>
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering</p>	<p>Develop an eco-label or accreditation for supermarkets, retail stores and catering establishments participating in environmental initiatives (p. 96)</p> <p>Prepare standardised waste prevention messaging for hotels and tourist accommodation</p> <p>Revisit the national minimum curriculum to promote waste prevention learning (p. 102):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This may include partnering with relevant stakeholders to introduce formal waste prevention education within schools and other educational institutions, such as food waste prevention within the Institute for Tourism Studies <p>Organise a series of cooking roadshows and community cooking lessons to promote local produce, healthy eating and food waste prevention across various localities (p. 102)</p> <p>Encourage the display of life span information and reparability information on electrical items at the point of sale, particularly for large appliances, such as refrigerators and washing machines, and consumer equipment, such as mobile phones and laptops</p> <p>Promote existing rental and loan schemes for clothing, particularly clothing for special occasions (p. 103)</p>

	<p>Carry out awareness-raising efforts to support uptake of recycled materials and greener construction practices</p> <p>Benefits for students and customers who bring their own reusable and refillable containers, with the benefits being clearly advertised to raise awareness</p> <p>Awareness campaigns to inform consumers of the impact of littering of SUP products and about available waste management options and sustainable alternatives for them. From 2023, producers of the targeted products will cover the costs of such awareness-raising measures</p>
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<p>Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive</p>	<p>Recruit ‘Green Champions’ to serve as spokespersons for waste prevention in businesses, schools and supermarkets (p. 97)</p> <p>Develop a continuous professional development programme on waste prevention (p. 97)</p> <p>Establish a waste prevention index (p. 98):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an index or a series of indices to measure waste prevention and to gather consistent data for the monitoring of progress towards achieving established targets. Such an index will be aligned with EU waste prevention targets and reporting requirements <p>Organise ministry-led activities to promote waste prevention in collaboration with key stakeholders, such as textile up-cycling events, repair cafes and surplus food cooking events (p. 98)</p>
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Food waste prevention

Food waste generation

According to the Maltese National Statistics Office, 22 % of food is wasted in the country. Household food waste is thereby estimated to be around 129 kg per capita, which equates to 56 812 tonnes per year ⁽¹⁾.

The amount of Maltese biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste has increased from 1 370 tonnes in 2014 to 7 460 tonnes in 2018 ⁽²⁾.

Measures to prevent food waste

Awareness-raising initiatives to prevent food waste, such as to ‘promote food waste reduction in 30 radio, television and newspaper interventions’ and to ‘seek strategic alliances with supermarkets to have authorised personnel available on their premises to advise customers on consumption patterns and wiser food purchase’, were achieved through numerous articles, television and radio adverts, and supermarket events. These promoted reducing food waste by creating awareness about purchasing and consumption habits and engaging with customers at supermarkets to advise on smarter food practices. Food waste prevention messages were also communicated through a roadshow at various locations with the support of a well-known chef who demonstrated how food scraps and leftover food can be used in new recipes to reduce waste.

⁽¹⁾ https://catalogue.unccd.int/1679_FoodWaste.pdf

⁽²⁾ https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_B3/Environment_Energy_Transport_and_Agriculture_Statistics/Documents/2019/News2019_197.pdf

The MECP will work towards developing legislation to divert food away from landfill, with the food going to food giveaways and food banks instead, and it will also focus on overcoming existing legislative barriers to the redistribution of food. Research will be conducted to identify the source of and reason for food waste occurring at the primary production level, including farms, fish farms and food factories. Food prevention initiatives will also be undertaken through digital channels and applications.

'Don't Waste Waste' campaign

'Don't Waste Waste' is an educational and awareness-raising campaign on waste management run by the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change in collaboration with Wasteserv and supported by the Environment and Resources Authority. The main idea is that businesses share their best practices to keep the general public informed about sustainable and green initiatives that are being undertaken by the business community and, furthermore, encourage other business to adopt similar sustainable and green innovative practices ⁽³⁾.

TRiFOCAL programme

The TRiFOCAL programme took place in 2019 and comprised three overall goals: (1) reducing citizens' avoidable food waste, (2) increasing citizens' food waste recycling, and (3) reducing the Maltese population's meat consumption. Key organisations involved in this project included the Directorate for Environment and Climate Change and Wasteserv ⁽⁴⁾.

Working with Wasteserv, Marsaskala local council and food and hospitality establishments conducted a pilot project of daily organic waste collections. Lasting 6 weeks, the pilot project also involved one-to-one food waste prevention and sustainable eating training with two of the establishments, using insight from the 'Your Business is Food, Don't Throw it Away' materials provided through TRiFOCAL. The activities of the project were successful in meeting the objectives of understanding the potential of food waste collection and the challenges and opportunities for commercial food waste recycling. The project yielded positive results by diverting 2.7 tonnes of food waste from landfill, giving an indication of the levels of food waste generated by hospitality businesses and providing a clearer understanding of where waste collection services can be improved.

For a more comprehensive mapping of country efforts to prevent food waste, please visit the [European Commission's Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#).

Reuse of products

Data

With regard to the Commission Implementing Decision (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC), this section will be updated by the EEA accordingly.

Measures to support reuse

The objectives of the construction and demolition waste strategy for Malta are to address the current issues in the construction sector and all the aspects with which these intersect, and to increase the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste (p. 89).

The Reuse.com.mt website will be rebranded and relaunched, while applications with similar functions may be developed. The website enables consumers to give away various types of unwanted items. This measure will help consumers save money and reduce waste generation while fostering community participation. Such activities may be carried out in the reuse and repair centres mentioned previously (p. 98).

⁽³⁾ <https://www.maltachamber.org.mt/en/don-t-waste-waste>

⁽⁴⁾ http://trifocal.eu.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Malta-Business-Case-Study_v1.pdf

The MECP will develop fiscal incentives to promote repair and reuse activities. This initiative will make such activities more economically viable, increase the life span of items and reduce the amount of waste generated (p. 92).

The Government will promote the establishment of systems to reuse packaging (not only beverage containers) in an environmentally sound manner. Due consideration will be given to the introduction of measures to promote the establishment of return systems for packaging at the level of producers (i.e. closed-loop systems). Such return systems will not compromise food hygiene and/or the safety of consumers (p. 168).

Reuse centres will open at civic amenity sites where used items that still have value can be donated and reused by other people. Such centres would help reduce waste and encourage sustainable consumption and will be based on similar projects in other European countries which have proved successful.

Best practice examples

'Saving Our Blue' campaign

Waste reduction and litter prevention measures were carried out in 2019 with the launch of the 'Saving Our Blue' campaign. Through this campaign, the Ministry embarked on various outreach initiatives to raise awareness about the harmful impact of SUPs and littering in public places. Outreach initiatives included awareness-raising events on local beaches, during which beach visitors were informed about the hazards of SUPs and improper waste disposal (p. 90).

Links to the circular economy

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	No	
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	For example, the creation of new business opportunities for repair services
Recycling	Yes	For example, new recycling targets have been set (p. 27) and setting up extended producer responsibility schemes will assist in reaching the recycling targets (Towards a circular economy 2020-2030, p. 52)
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	A set of measures on economic incentives (p. 91)
Circular business models	No	
Eco-innovation	No	
Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	For example, using reuse and repair centres as hubs for skills training (p. 92) and a continuous professional development programme on waste prevention with workshops to share knowledge (p. 97)