

National factsheet on separate collection

Malta

Note: This ‘National factsheet’ has been prepared within the EC study “**Assessment of separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU**”. The document represents the status-quo of the EU Member State (MS) in September 2015. The information included in this document has been elaborated for all 28 EU-MS based on publically available documents, i.e. national legislation, Waste Management Plans, Waste Prevention Programmes, strategies, implementation reports, and statistics. All information is cited in the factsheet, a complete list of information sources can be found at the end of this document.

For quality assurance purposes the ‘National factsheet’ has been sent to the EU Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members on waste for verification and commenting, the comments received are included in this final version.

1 General requirements on separate collection based on national legislation

The Maltese Regulation L.N. 184 of 2011 (Environment and Development Planning Act (CAP. 504) The Waste Regulations, 2011) implemented in 2011 transposes the requirements of the WFD into domestic law.

The Maltese regulation **generally implements to WFD one:one**, however, the legislation also includes additional clauses that modify the interpretation. In addition, the Maltese legislation sets an earlier deadline for the implementation of separate collection systems, and specifically includes co-mingled collection in the definition of separate collection.

Table 1: Overview of national law(s) that implement separate collection

Year and Abbreviation	Title of the law
[MT 184 2011]	L.N. 184 of 2011 Environment and Development Planning Act (CAP. 504) The Waste Regulations, 2011

Table 2: Overview on evaluation categories

Evaluation	Explanation
additional	The requirements of the WFD have been transposed and additional information or requirements are set out in the national legal requirement, i.e. additional definition, precision of requirement that goes beyond the text of the WFD
one:one	The requirement of the WFD has been transposed exactly / literally or transposed analogously. No additional requirements or explanations are set out.
deviating	The requirements of the WFD have been implemented into national legal requirements but have been adjusted, left out or deviated
not included	The requirement of the WFD is not transposed into national law

Table 3: Assessment on national transpositions

Law & Article	Evaluation	English	Original text
1. Article 3 (11) WFD: Definition separate collection: "separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment"			
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 4.	one:one		Reg. 4. "separate collection" means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment;
2. Article 10 (2) WFD: "waste shall not be mixed with other waste/material with other properties"			
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 9	deviating		Reg. 9 (1) An establishment or undertaking which collects, transports or receives waste which has been separately collected shall not mix that waste with other waste or other material with different properties. (2) The prohibition in sub-regulation (1) of this regulation applies only where keeping waste separate facilitates or improves recovery.
3. Article 11 (1) WFD: "measures to promote high quality recycling"			
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 10.1	deviating		Reg. 10.1 Subject to regulation 9, local councils shall by the 31st December, 2013 set up separate collection (which includes co-mingled collection) for at least the following: (a) paper, (b) metal, (c) plastic and (d) glass, in order to promote high quality recycling.
4. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if technically practicable"			
[MT 184 2011] Schedule 5 8.	one:one		Schedule 5 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans 8. Policies in relation to separate collection Measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 10.3	one:one		Reg. 10.3 The duties in this regulation apply only where they are: (a) technically, environmentally and economically practicable; and (b) appropriate to meet the quality standards necessary for recycling.
5. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) separate collection if economically practicable			
[MT 184 2011]	one:one		Schedule 5 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans

Law & Article	Evaluation	English	Original text
Schedule 5 8.			8. Policies in relation to separate collection Measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 10.3	one:one		Reg. 10.3 The duties in this regulation apply only where they are: (a) technically, environmentally and economically practicable; and (b) appropriate to meet the quality standards necessary for recycling.
6. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if environmentally practicable"			
[MT 184 2011] Schedule 5 8.	one:one		Schedule 5 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans 8. Policies in relation to separate collection Measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 10.3	one:one		Reg. 10.3 The duties in this regulation apply only where they are: (a) technically, environmentally and economically practicable; and (b) appropriate to meet the quality standards necessary for recycling.
7. Article 11 (1) WFD: "separate collections (...) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors"			
[MT 184 2011] Schedule 5 8.	deviating		Schedule 5 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans 8. Policies in relation to separate collection Measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
8. Article 11 (1) WFD "by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic and glass"			
[MT 184 2011] Reg. 10.1	deviating		Reg. 10.1 Subject to regulation 9, local councils shall by the 31st December, 2013 set up separate collection (which includes co-mingled collection) for at least the following: (a) paper, (b) metal, (c) plastic and (d) glass, in order to promote high quality recycling.

9. Article 22 WFD: Bio-waste - Member states shall take measures, as appropriate (...) to encourage: "a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste"			
[MT 184 2011] Schedule 5 9.	one:one		<p>Schedule 5 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans</p> <p>9. Policies in relation to bio-waste</p> <p>Measures, as appropriate, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of this schedule, to encourage:</p> <p>(a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste;</p>

2 General requirements on separate collection based on main strategies

Malta	589 kg MSW/capita 12.22% recycling
<p>Definition of Municipal solid waste (MSW):</p> <p>In the Maltese National Waste Management Plan, MSW is defined as “waste produced from households, and other waste which because of its nature and composition is similar to household waste”. Other waste may be commercial and industrial waste from e.g. hotels, restaurants, hospitals and bulky refuse [MT WMP 2014, p.66].</p>	
<p>Main strategies implementing separate collection</p>	
<p>The current Waste Management Plan [MT WMP 2014] for the Maltese islands includes the main strategy for the implementation of separate collection. It was issued in 2014 and covers the period until 2020. The plan’s overall aim is to propose specific measures for implementing the aims of the Waste Management Strategy. These aims include reducing the amount of waste generated and increasing source separation to promote recycling and reduce landfilling. The EU waste targets are reflected in the plan through the adoption of the waste hierarchy and the objectives of 50% recycled paper, plastics, metal and glass from households by 2020 and a maximum of 35% (by weight of the 1995 amount) of municipal bio-waste to be landfilled [MT WMP 2014, p.1-2].</p> <p>Among the measures proposed in the WMP to secure fulfilling the objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A review and improvement of the existing collection systems to ensure more recycling of paper, glass, plastic and metal, and discourage the production of mixed waste; - Better sorting and collection of bio-waste to secure its higher quality for MBT treatment, as well as diverting this waste from landfills [MT WMP 2014, p.1-2]. The Maltese strategy for municipal bio-waste defines two interim objectives – 75% (by weight of the total amount produced in 1995) of municipal bio-waste landfilled in 2010 and 50% by 2013 – on the way to achieving the 35% target in 2020 [MT WMP 2014, p.21]. <p>The implementation part of the WMP lists measures on a national level designed to achieve the individual targets, e.g. dry recyclables shall be collected two to three times a week from households and bio-waste shall be door-to-door collected three times a week. Also colour coded garbage bags have to be used to distinguish between recyclables, bio-waste and residual MSW and a differentiated financing of collection shall be introduced, with the lowest fee for bio-waste and dry recyclables (paper, metal and plastic) bags.</p> <p>The specific targets for recycling and recovery of packaging materials by 2013 are the overall recovery of 60%, overall recycling of 55%, glass recycling 60%, metal recycling 50%, plastic recycling 22.5%, cardboard recycling 60% and wood recycling 15%, aided by door-to-door collection, bring-in sites and Civic Amenity Sites [MT WMP 2014, p.101-106].</p>	

3 Implementation of separate collection

Overview on separate collection systems in place

Malta recycled rather little waste until 2003 (under 10 kg/cap), followed by an increase until 2010 and a sharp rise to 48 kg/cap in 2011 and 2012. The rates of composting and digestion fluctuated considerably between individual years in the period of 1998 to 2007, then dropping to zero in 2008 and increasing again to around 22 kg/cap in 2011 and 2012 [MT Eurostat 2014, 1]. The **overall recycling rate** was more or less stable between 1998 and 2006 (around 15%, with exceptions in some years), after which a drastic drop was followed by a recovery in 2011 to **12.1 % in 2012** [MT Eurostat 2014, 2].

A Government-established WasteServ Malta Limited (WSM) is responsible for organising, managing and operating integrated systems for waste management, including the collection, sorting and subsequent treatment of waste. Its services complement those provided by private contractors [MT WMS 2010, p.10]. **Local Councils are responsible for the funding of household waste management, the collection of which is undertaken by private contractors.** The collection of dry recyclables is however managed and funded by packaging producers [MT WMP 2014, p.44].

Household waste is collected primarily by door-to-door scheme with colour-differentiated bags – green or grey for mixed dry recyclables (paper and cardboard, plastic, metal) and a black bag for the residual waste which includes bio-waste. **Separate collection of glass from homes has been introduced in some localities** otherwise glass has to be brought to bring points or civic amenity sites [MT WAS 2015].






Malta also has a system of bring points – blue containers for plastic, white for paper, brown for glass and black for metal [MA WAS 2015]. There are 830 bring sites spread around Malta and Gozo. Approximately half of these are managed by private operators and half by WasteServ Malta Limited (WSM) [MT WMP 2014, p.44].

The **dry recyclables – both collected through door-to-door scheme and through bring sites** – are then sorted at a sorting facility and sold to brokers or other facilities for processing or export [MA WMP 2014, p.44-45] mainly to European and Asian countries [MT WAS 2015]. Bio-waste mechanically recovered from residual waste, is composted and digested at a MBT plant [MT WMP 2014, p.45].

Five civic amenity sites, established by WSM, serve for collection of mainly bulky and green garden waste [MT WMP 2014, p.45] but also accept dry recyclables [MT WAS 2015].

A **deposit-refund scheme was established in 1998** to secure returning of **refillable glass beverage through containers** [MT WMS 2001, p.18, 49] and dropped in 2007 after joining the EU. Since 2008, these containers have been included under the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging waste [MT TOD 2014]. Producer Responsibility schemes are established for certain waste streams, including packaging materials. Producers are obliged to register the amount of packaging material they introduced to the market every year and establish a collection and recycling scheme or join an authorised recovery scheme [MT EPA 2015].

Table 4: Overview of main separate collection systems in Malta

Collection type	Paper	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Bio-waste
Door-to-door collection 		Primary			
Co-mingled (door-to-door) 	Primary together with plastic and metal		Primary together with paper		
Bring points 	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	
Civic amenities 	Tertiary				Primary for green garden waste (home composting is encouraged)
Producer/retail take-back 					

4 Information sources

- [MT 184 2011]** Environment and Development Planning Act (Cap. 504) - The Waste Regulations, 2011, <https://www.mepa.org.mt/LpDocumentDetails?syskey=%201358>, accessed April 2015.
- [MT Eurostat 2014, 1]** Eurostat – Municipal waste generation and treatment, by type of treatment method, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdpc240&plugip=1>, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [MT Eurostat 2014, 2]** Eurostat - Recycling rate of municipal waste, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_rt120&pppplu=1, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [MT EPA 2015]** Malta Environment & Planning Authority webpage, <http://www.mepa.org.mt/waste-intro>, accessed on February 13th, 2015
- [MT TOD 2014]** Maltatoday – Abandoned deposit refund scheme for plastic bottles reconsidered, http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/budget_2015/46288/abandoned_deposit_scheme_for_plastic_bottles_reconsidered#.VOHsUC79hHB, accessed on February 16th, 2015.
- [MT WAS 2015]** WasteServ Malta webpage, <https://www.wasteservmalta.com/index.aspx>, accessed on February 16th, 2015.
- [MT WMP 2014]** Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands. A Resource Management approach 2014-2020, <http://environment.gov.mt/en/document%20repository/waste%20management%20plan%202014%20-%202020%20-%20final%20document.pdf>, accessed April 2015.
- [MT WMS 2001]** Ministry for the Environment – A Solid Waste Management Strategy for the Maltese Islands, <https://www.mepa.org.mt/file.aspx?f=178>, accessed April 2015.
- [MT WMS 2010]** Parliamentary Secretariat for Tourism, the Environment and Culture – A Solid Waste Management Strategy for the Maltese Islands, First Update, <https://secure2.gov.mt/SEA/file.aspx?f=5590>, accessed April 2015.