



Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility 'PSF'

Kick-off meeting of the Peer Review of the Maltese R&I system

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Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility

- Launched in 2015
- With the objective to help MS/AC "to improve the design, implementation and evaluation of R&I policies"
- Supporting evidence-based policy-making
- Drawing on the combination of learnings between peers and high-level experts advice and assistance

PSF Services



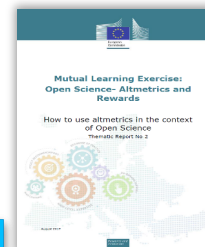
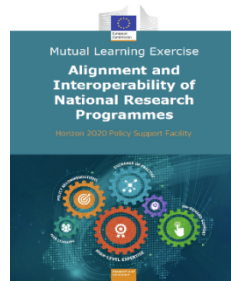
**6 Peer Reviews of
National R&I Systems**

**9 Specific Support to
Countries**



**11 Mutual Learning
Exercises**

**PSF Knowledge
Center**



Key success factors

- Optimal timing in policy cycle
- High-level country commitment and full engagement of national administration
- High-quality experts, with willingness/ openness to understand country's specificities ("from analysis towards understanding")
- Start from a clear understanding of country's needs
- Early mobilisation and involvement of stakeholders in the country
- Tailor-made, targeted recommendations

A Team Work

Maltese authorities MCST

Johann Caruana
Ramona Saliba Scerri
Jennifer Cassingena Harper

PSF panel

Chair: Dieter Imboden

Rapporteur: Claire Nauwelaers

Experts: Maja Bučar, Ana Costa
Freitas, Jan van den Biesen

Peers: Dermot Mulligan & Tiago
Santos Pereira

European Commission DG RTD

Anca Dumitrescu Goranov

PSF Contractor

Project Management

Viola Peter (back-up: Valentina
Parziale)

Senior experts

Analytical support: Brian Restall

Quality review: Bea Mahieu

Methodology

Phase 1: **DESIGN** and **PREPARATION**

Selection of experts	Roadmap
Collection of background data and reports	Engagement of all relevant stakeholders



Phase 2: **ANALYSING** and **UNDERSTANDING**

Background analysis: Background Report; Documents provided by the country authorities	First country visit: assessment -> draft recos Second country visit: feedback
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Phase 3: **REPORTING**

Discussion of draft Peer Review report with national authorities of the host country	Final report with recommendations Dissemination event: presentation to all relevant stakeholders
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Roadmap of the Peer Review

	2018						2019			
Phases	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Janv	Feb	March	April
Preparation phase	M - Kick-off	R - Background report, national documents, stakeholders questionnaires								
Analysis phase				F - 1st country visit	M - meeting Bxl 1. 1st draft Peer Review report 2. Draft agenda & structure 2nd country visit	R - 1st draft Peer Review report	F - 2nd country visit			
Reporting phase							R - 2nd draft Peer Review report	M - meeting Bxl - discuss & finalise Peer Review report	R - Final report	F - Dissemination event of Final Report (MT)

Final Report

- Executive summary with key overarching policy messages
- Limited set of evidence-based recommendations
- Rationale for the recommendations should be made explicit, in a very clear manner: logical flow from the diagnosis
- Case studies/ country boxes (good practice examples)

Malta's Peer Review

Letter from the the Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation of Malta to EU Commissioner (Nov. 2017)

Request for **PSF Peer Review** of the Maltese R&I system

Peer Review will analyse **Malta's R&I Strategy**; holistic exercise, first of its kind

Overall objective: to provide **recommendations** for informing the design of the next **National R&I Strategy post 2020**

Questions to be addressed by the Peer Review

1. To what extent does Malta have adequate and appropriate **policies** in place to achieve the above-stated goals?
2. To what extent does Malta have adequate and appropriate **structures and resources** in place to achieve the above-stated goals?
3. To what extent does Malta have adequate and appropriate **measures and instruments** (incl. monitoring and evaluation) in place to achieve the above-stated goals?

Thematic areas covered by the Peer Review

1. Quality of the public science base:

i.e. public R&D funding and its allocation, scientific performance, organisation of R&D performers, researchers' careers, international cooperation and ERA priorities

2. Quality of public-private cooperation:

i.e. project-based funding, TTOs, researchers' sectoral mobility

3. Framework conditions for innovation:

i.e. Private R&D expenditure, type of innovation activities, economic/firm structure

Horizontal issues: overall R&I policy governance, smart specialization, specialisation patterns

Research questions for reporting

Is the R&I policy mix **relevant** vis-à-vis Malta's R&I needs and stated objectives/ambition?



1. How well do the objectives of the R&I Strategy (and other key policies) fit with the country's needs and ambition?
2. Is the R&I policy-mix well-balanced between the 'research' and the 'innovation' priorities?
3. Is the 'R&D/technology intensive' focus' of current policies relevant, given the country's economic structure?

How **coherent and well-built** is Malta's R&I policy mix?



1. Are measures/instruments coherent with the R&I Strategy overall objectives?
2. Is there evidence of a holistic/integrated approach to the R&D&I cycle at the level of policies and measures?
3. Should Malta have separate research and innovation strategies post 2020?

Organisational aspects & efficiency



1. How well does the current R&I policy governance work
2. Are there sufficient resources available for MCST?
3. How to improve policy coordination, development and implementation, based on peers examples?

Developing **awareness** and an **evaluation culture**



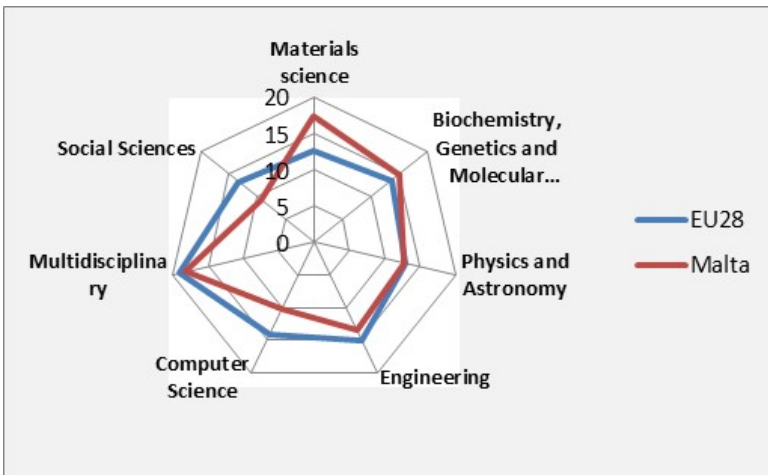
1. Are all relevant stakeholders/public authorities involved?
2. Are feedback loop mechanisms to inform stakeholders and policy-makers about R&I issues?
3. How to improve monitoring and evaluation of R&I policies & measures?

Strengths of the Maltese R&I system

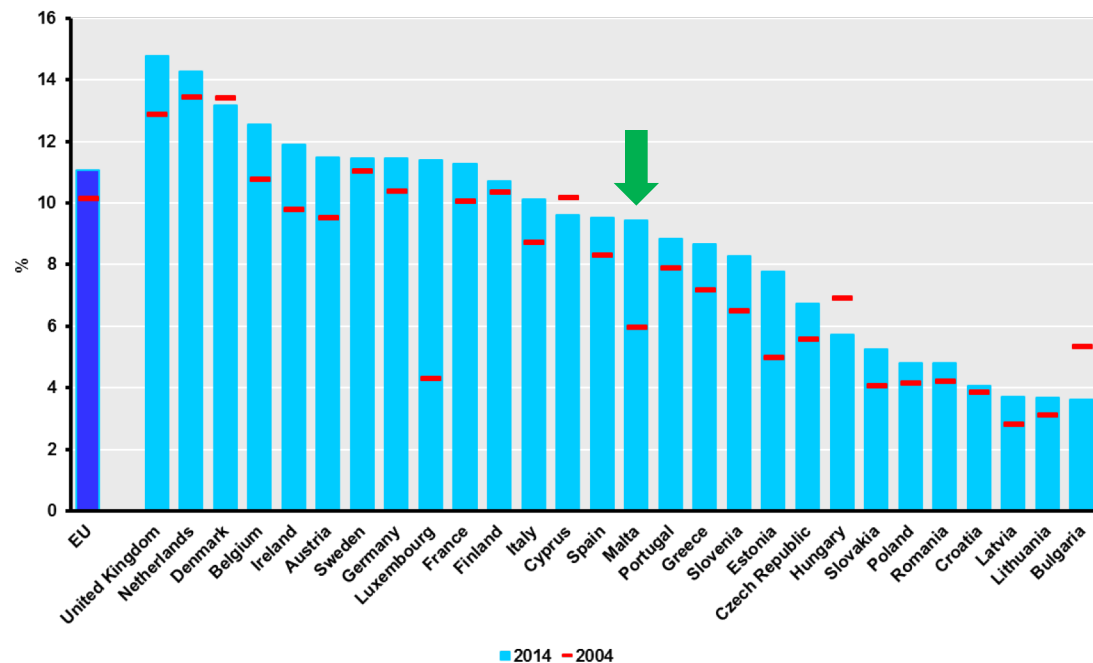
The **quality of the public science base** has improved significantly

Malta's **scientific performance** is equal or above that of the EU28 in medical related scientific disciplines (e.g. medicine, immunology and microbiology) and other selected disciplines

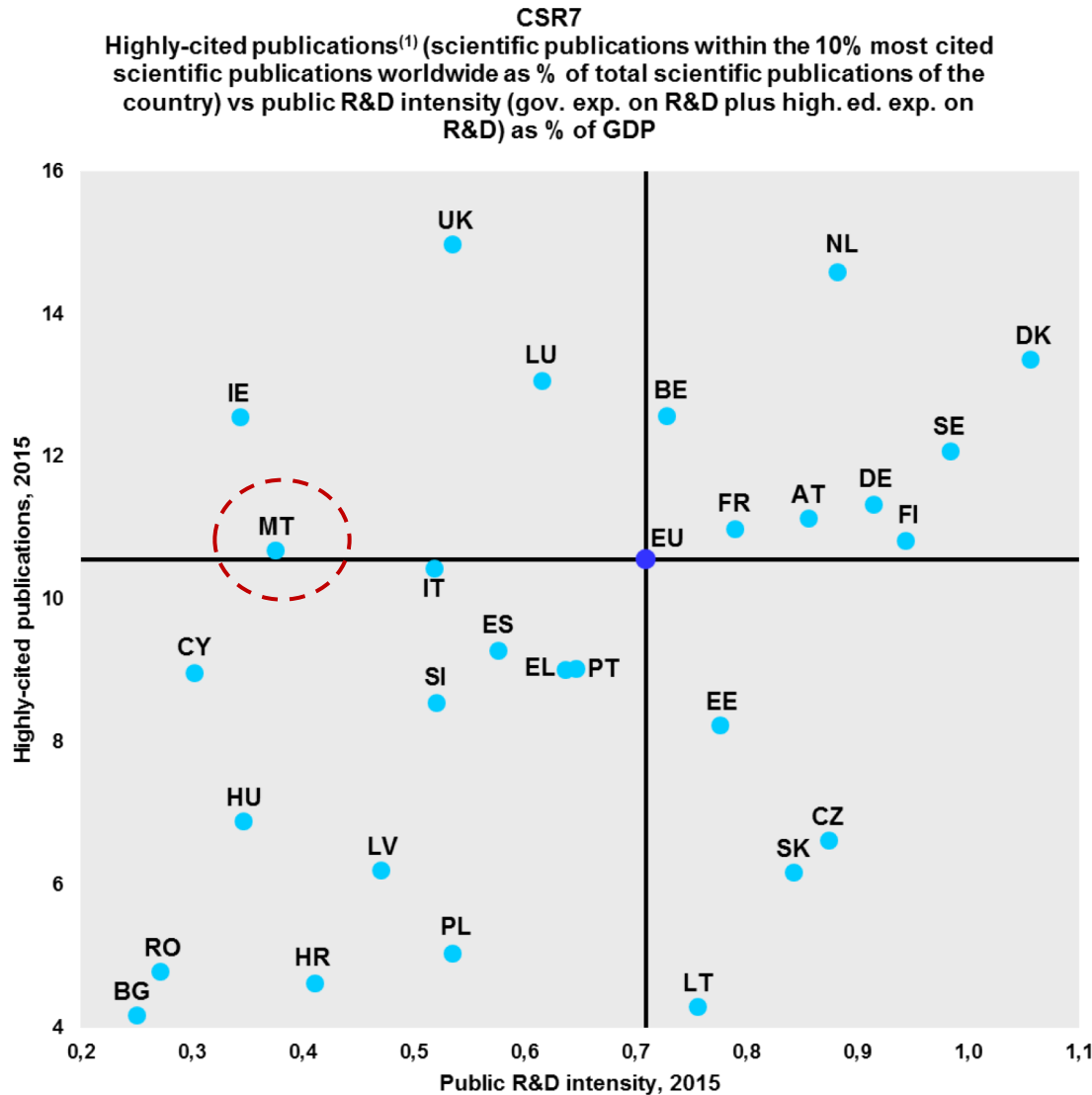
Malta's and EU28 outputs in the 10% top citation percentiles in selected scientific fields, 2010-2017



Share of highly-cited scientific publications in total scientific publications of the country, 2004 and 2014



Strengths of the Maltese R&I system (continued)



Modest but...**efficient** public R&D expenditure

Weaknesses of the Maltese R&I system

Malta - Evolution of business R&D intensity and public R&D intensity, 2000-2016



- Impact of Structural Funds on public R&D funding?
- Fluctuating private R&D expenditure (BERD)

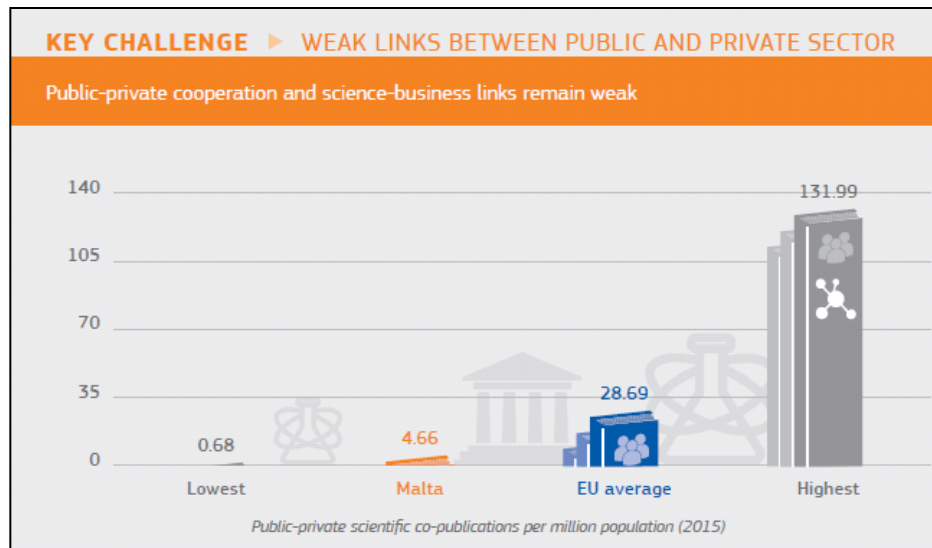
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Compound annual growth 2007-2016 (%)	EU average	Rank within EU
R&D Intensity (GERD as % of GDP)	0,55	0,53	0,52	0,61	0,67	0,83	0,77	0,72	0,77	0,61	:	1,2	2,03	25
Public expenditure on R&D (GOVERD + HERD) as % of GDP	0,19	0,18	0,19	0,23	0,24	0,35	0,37	0,32	0,37	0,22	:	2,1	0,69	26
Business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD) as % of GDP	0,36	0,35	0,33	0,37	0,44	0,48	0,40	0,40	0,40	0,39	:	0,8	1,32	23



TARGET: 2% of R&D intensity by 2020

Weaknesses of the Maltese R&I system (continued)

- Firm size and limited size of local market
- **Microenterprises and SMEs** accounted for 85% of BERD in 2014 (highest figure in the EU)
- **Top sectors** in terms of private R&D expenditure (ICT, electronic components and boards, pharma) are not amongst the top contributors to gross value-added
- **Service-oriented** economy
- ...business sector is **not R&D/technology intensive**



...resulting in **limited links** between public research and businesses

RESOURCES AND EC CONTACTS

List of PSF peer reviews

<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/peer-reviews>

PSF Specific Support to Malta on *Monitoring the National Research and Innovation Strategy (2015-2016)*

<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/specific-support-malta-monitoring-national-research-and-innovation-strategy>

CONTACTS

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