

Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level

Type of plan

Strategy

Source: Planning Authority (2015): Planning Authority - Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development, p.30. Available at:

<https://www.pa.org.mt/en/strategicplan>
(Accessed 23 May 2022).

Planning system of Malta					
Planning level	Plan type	Plan content	Plan authority	Plan status	Plan scope
National	Strategic Plan for Environment and Development (SPED) of 2015 (replaces the plan as the Spatial Strategy)	Strategic spatial development reflecting national economic, social and environmental policy and priorities	Chapter 552 Development Planning Act (DPA) of 2016	Malta Planning Authority (as approved by Parliament)	Binding for lower tier spatial plans and policies
National	Subject Plans	Policy/procedure/State management and related environmental management	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 47	Malta Planning Authority	Plan applies to all relevant areas of the Spatial Strategy such that it supersedes any other plan or policy
Regional (not conforming to NUTS aggregation)	Local Plans	Details with specific planning matters of an area for setting out zoning and building height parameters that are not taken into account by the SPED	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 48	Malta Planning Authority	Binding localities falling within the region
Sub-regional/Sub-Local	Action Plan/Management Plan	Details with a specific time in local plans that requires thematic/focused action (e.g. Green Action Plans)	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 49	Malta Planning Authority	Binds sub-regional/sub-local areas
National spatial thematic	Other policies e.g. Planning Guidance	Details with a specific matter on a national scale e.g. Rural Planning Guidance	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 50	Malta Planning Authority	National in a thematic context
Site specific	Development brief	Details with a specific site or specific small area	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 51	Malta Planning Authority	Site specific

Facts on the National Plan

Legal basis

Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) as delineated by the Environment and Development Planning Act of 2010 and repealed by the Development Planning Act of 2016.

Competences

The Development Planning Act of 2016 requires the preparation of the SPED and its replacement, the Spatial Strategy. The preparation of the SPED and its eventual successor is the competence of the Malta Planning Authority.

Binding force

The SPED is approved by the National Parliament of the Republic of Malta.

Tasks and content

The plan provides a strategic spatial policy framework for both the environment and development up to 2020, complementing the government's social, economic and environmental objectives for the same period. The SPED is based on an integrated planning system which:

- (i) ensures the sustainable management of land and sea resources together with the protection of the environment; and
- (ii) guides the development and use of land and sea areas.

Process, duration, participation

The SPED approved in 2015 is the result of a three-year process engaging national stakeholders and the general public.

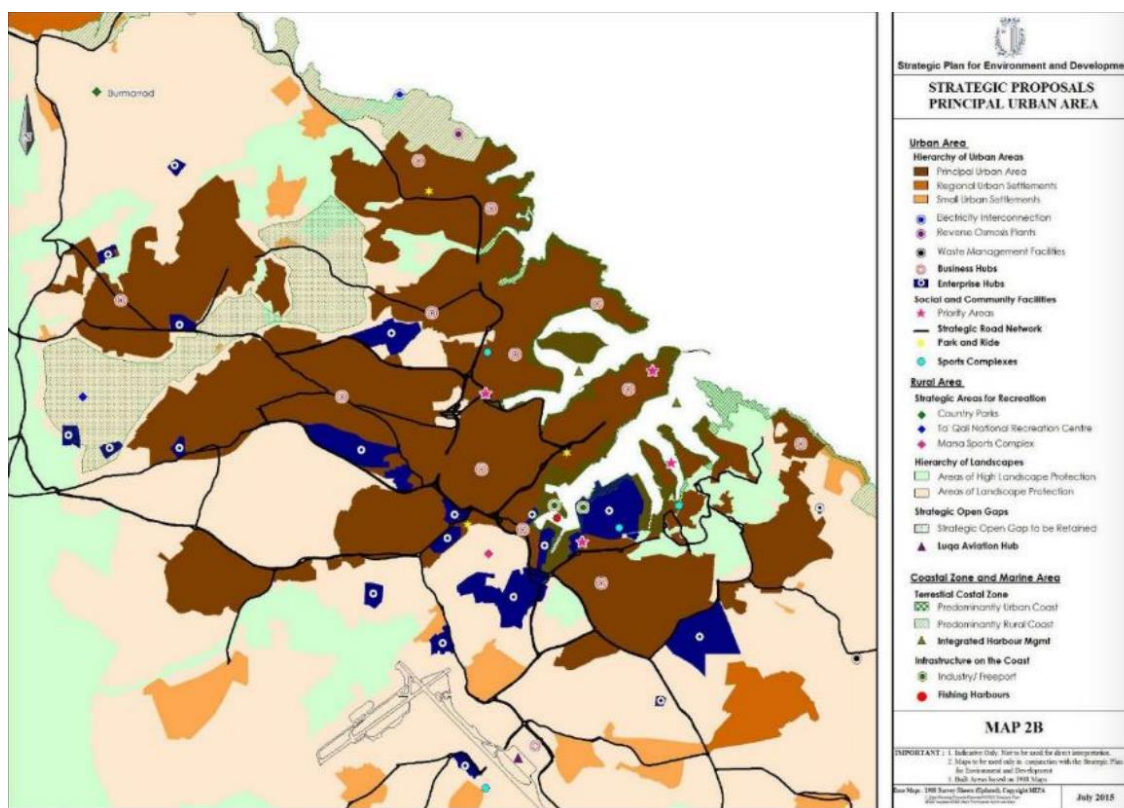
Besides information events, workshops and public consultation meetings the plan was discussed publicly by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Environment and Development Planning and was the subject of a plenary session of the Malta parliament.

The 2000 revised version of the regional plan came into force in August 2015.

Duration of validity

The plan was approved in 2015 with a first milestone review in 2020. The review of the SPED is currently underway.

Details of the plan



Source: Planning Authority. (2015): Planning Authority - Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development, MEPA. p.31. Available at: <https://www.pa.org.mt/en/strategic-plan> (Accessed: 23 May 2022).

Characteristics

The Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) is the official recognised document which addresses the spatial issues of the Maltese islands. It is based on an integrated planning system that regulates the sustainable use and management of land and sea resources. The strategy is to focus development of a national and strategic nature within the principal urban area to create a carrying capacity in terms of resources and infrastructure whilst at the same time limiting urban sprawl beyond the urban area. The plan prioritises the reuse and redevelopment of existing sites. The SPED ensures that the preparation of sectoral plans is in line with the Territorial Agenda, which has the aim of ensuring implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy according to territorial cohesion principles, where the internalisation of spatial influences is an integral part of sectoral plan formulation. The SPED provides the spatial framework that supports the development of an integrated maritime policy at a national level. The SPED's coverage extends to the 25 nautical mile limit of the Fisheries Conservation Zone.

Links

Planning Authority. (2015): Planning Authority - Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development. Available at: <https://www.pa.org.mt/en/strategic-plan> (Accessed 23 May 2022).