

MEPA's Environment Protection Directorate (EPD) generally agreed with the presented assessment and recommendations in the SEA Environmental Report for the European Territorial Cooperation, MED Cooperation Programme 2014 – 2020 (March 2014). MEPA's comments were as follows:

1. **Chapter 5** (environmental baseline), section 5.3.3, includes a Map showing that there are no Waste Water Treatment Plants in Malta. This needs to be revised since sewage in Malta is treated up to the required standards through operational Sewage Treatment Plants prior to discharge at sea.
2. **Chapter 7:** the recommendations in the Environmental Report should be taken forward in the revision and implementation of the Med Programme, including those relating to pre-environmental assessment of projects. Subsequent detailed environmental assessments may also be required once the details of the individual proposals are available at a later stage.
3. **Chapter 7:** the recommendations regarding protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, also need to take into account wider biodiversity objectives and its importance for the maintenance of the landscape.
4. **Chapter 7:** the implementation of the Programme needs to ensure that projects coming forward under particular Thematic Objectives, mainly TO1 and TO4 (e.g. local renewable energy sources), do not prejudice or adversely affect other important objectives in the Programme (e.g. those relating to biodiversity and natural ecosystems).