

# **Environment in Malta: Today and the Future**

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**Summary Report | October 2019**

## **Methodology and Demographics**

A sample size of 600 individuals was collected amongst the Maltese population of 16 years and over. The survey was carried out through telephone interviews and sample was stratified based on age, gender and districts. This sample carries a level of confidence of 95% and confidence interval +/- 4.0%. The data was collected between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## **Main Results**

1. The respondents gave an average of 2.49 when asked to rank how much they think our country's natural environment is being taken care of (from a rating of 1 to 5 where 1 = not taking care at all and 5 = we are taking very good care).
2. When the respondents were asked if environmental decisions should be taken in the best interest of the economic sector, in the best interest of the environment or there should be a balance, 66.5% of them responded that there should be a balance. Only 3.0% of the respondents said that environmental decisions should be taken in the best interest of the economic sector.
3. More than half of the respondents, 54.8%, think that environmental policies should be adopted according to the requirements of the different sectors. The rest (45.2%) said that the country should adopt a common environmental policy for everyone and every economic sector.
4. The respondents gave an average of 2.19 (Disagree) when asked to rank the following statement from 1 to 5: "The market should be allowed to operate freely and according to its requirements, irrespective of the impact on the environment". 47.7% of the respondents strongly disagree with the above statement.
5. Almost 90% of the respondents think that construction in Malta should be controlled according to environmental needs.
6. The majority of the respondents, 61.2%, prefer to have less parking space in order to have more open public spaces.
7. The majority of the respondents (79.5%) are willing not to drive through certain roads in your locality in order to improve air quality.

8. More than three quarters of the respondents, 76.7% prefer to have long-term solutions rather than short-term solutions in order to address a particular problem.
9. 56.3% of the respondents are willing to pay something for garbage collection in order to use this money for more enforcement on polluters.
10. The majority of the respondents, 78.5% are willing to change their lifestyle in order to help improve the environment.
11. The respondents gave an average of **4.12** when asked to rank how much they worry about the country's natural environment (from 1 to 5, where 1 = Not at all and 5 = A lot).
12. The respondents gave an average of **4.18** when asked to rank how much they worry about air pollution from 1 to 5.
13. The respondents gave an average of **4.13** when asked to rank how much they worry about sea pollution from 1 to 5.
14. The respondents gave an average of **3.90** when asked to rank how much they worry about noise pollution from 1 to 5.
15. The respondents gave an average of **4.03** when asked to rank their worry about the land that is being used for construction from 1 to 5.
16. The respondents gave an average of **4.22** when asked to rank their level of worry about traffic from 1 to 5.
17. The respondents gave an average of **3.38** when asked to rank their level of worry about the economy from 1 to 5.
18. Respondents were asked to rank five different characteristics in order of satisfaction in their life. Hence, respondents had to give 5 unique values to these 5 characteristics. These were ranked in the following order (starting by the least satisfied):

**Malta's environmental quality (2.23);**  
**Respondent's financial situation (2.81);**  
**Respondent's general health (3.21);**  
**Respondent's mental health (3.23);**  
**Respondents' family and social life (3.49).**

19. Based on the four scenarios defined by ERA, the following are the results/weights ordered by the level of importance according to the Maltese population:

<b>Scenario</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Wellbeing First	37.5%
Sector First	27.7%
Me First	19.8%
Market First	15.0%

**Main conclusion**

*This report is recommending that successful policies and strategies should take into account the above weighting in relation to the four scenarios. Although, some scenarios are more favourable than others amongst the population, for a more successful policy in this specific sector, one should take into account all scenarios, however, giving the respective weighting according to its level of importance.*