

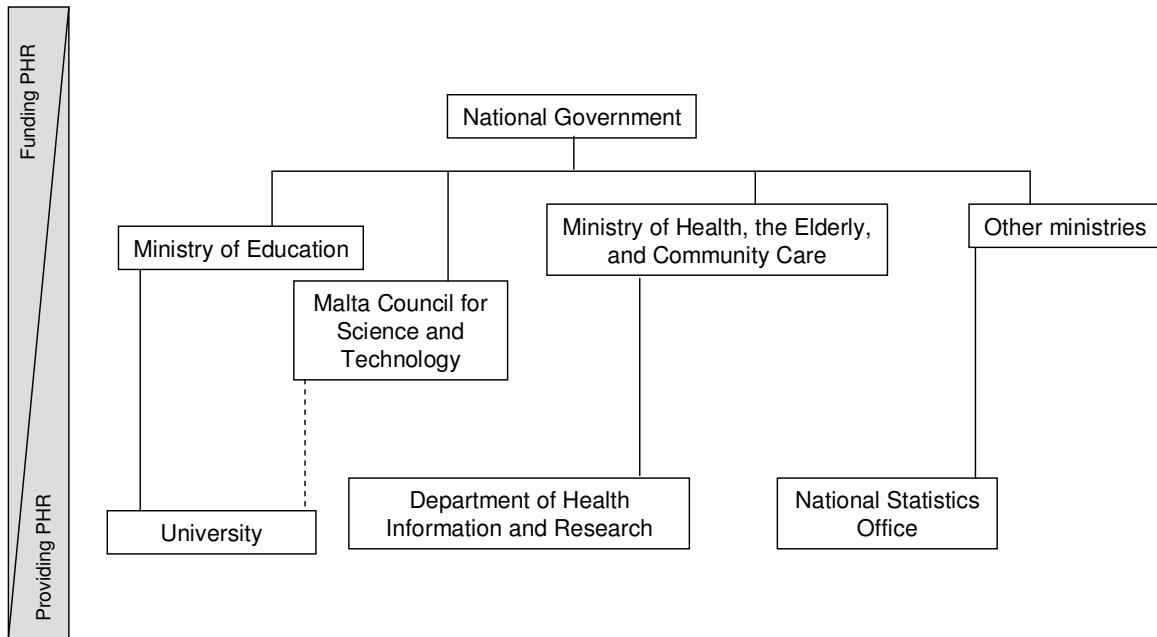
MALTA

This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research www.steps-ph.eu), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).



The organogram represents the hierarchical funding structure available for managing and providing public health research in Malta. The main organisations are also briefly described, together with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research are listed.

1. Organogram



PHR: Public Health research;
 —————> funding negotiated between government and agency/organization; includes direct commissioning
 - - - - -> funding competitive process where rules are more or less explicit and known in advance

2. Research Commissioners

2.1 Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care, <http://www.sahha.gov.mt>

The Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care is currently prioritising obesity, mental health, diabetes, cancer and sexual health. The Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases was launched in April 2010

2.2. Ministry of Science

Ministry of Education, employment and family, <http://www.education.gov.mt>

2.3. Other ministries or government

2.3.1. Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance funds the National Statistics Office (3.1.1)

2.3.2. The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST, <http://www.mcst.org.mt/>) is the national advisory body to Government on science and technology policy. The MCST is also the national agency responsible for the management of the local Research on Technology, Development and Innovation (RTDI) programme.

2.4. Regions

2.5. Foundations

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. The National Statistics Office (NSO, <http://www.nso.gov.mt>) is the executive arm of the Malta Statistics Authority. It is responsible for the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of a wide range of statistical information and related matters.

3.1.2. The Department of Health Information and Research (DHIR <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=41>) is responsible for the collection, analysis and delivery of health related information on Malta, including the management of national health data sets on mortality, cancer, congenital anomalies, organ transplant, obstetrics, hospitals information system and accidents and injuries as well as for a number of other databases on health service activity. It aims to provide high quality epidemiological information and indicators on the health of the population and health services, and develop research initiatives in the area of public health. Other Directorates carry out research in collaboration with the DHIR (but not within the framework of a formal programme or call).

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.3. Universities

The University of Malta (<http://www.um.edu.mt>) is the highest teaching institution in Malta. It is publicly funded.

3.4. Health Services

3.5. Independent organizations

3.5.1. DISCERN (www.discern-malta.org) is the research branch of the Catholic Church in Malta

4. Research Strategies

4.1. National Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation 2007-2010 – Building and sustaining the R&I enabling framework

<http://www.mcst.org.mt/RI%20report.pdf>

Malta Council for Science and Technology, 2006

5. Programmes and calls

5.1. Malta Government Scholarship Scheme – MGSS 2010

The scheme offers financial assistance to those who wish to pursue studies at Masters or Doctoral level. The Scholarships part is financed by the European Union Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 Empowering People for More Jobs for and a Better Quality of Life European Social Fund).

The key objectives of MGSS – Post Graduate 2010 are to:

- Assist exceptional applicants to pursue further levels of academic research
- Encourage and promote more participation at a post-graduate level of academic research, both locally and internationally
- Contribute towards research in identified areas of national priority
- Increase research activity at the University of Malta
- Increase the capacity and level of research, innovation and development activity in Malta

(Source: <http://www.education.gov.mt/mgss.htm>)

5.2. Strategic Educational Pathways Scholarships - STEPS

The Strategic Educational Pathways Scholarships (STEPS) scheme aims at providing more opportunities to promote further specialisation at higher levels of education particularly at a Masters and Doctoral level. It aims to:

- Assist high achieving students to pursue further levels of academic research
- encourage and promote more student participation at a postgraduate level of academic research, both locally or internationally
- reduce skills mismatches particularly within higher value added and expanding economic sectors
- support further research in science and technology
- increase the capacity and level of research, innovation and development activity in Malta

(Source: <http://www.education.gov.mt/steps.htm>)

5.3. The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is a scholarship that enables students from Commonwealth countries to study in other Commonwealth countries. The Plan funds most courses at Masters or PhD level (running for one to three years).

(Source: <http://www.csfp-online.org/>)

5.4. Chevening Scholarships (British Council)

The programme provides nearly 1,000 Scholarships at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK for postgraduate students or researchers from over 130 countries. It also provides over 200 Fellowship places for mid-career professionals who are already working in fields related to the FCO's policy goals. The programme is largely funded by the FCO. The Scholarship scheme receives significant contributions from HEIs and other

organisations in the UK, and from a wide range of overseas sponsors including governmental and private sector bodies, with which the FCO or its overseas Posts have partnership agreements. It is managed by the British Council, on behalf of the FCO, both in the UK and overseas.

(Source: <http://www.chevening.com/>)

5.5. Ad Hoc Scholarships as issued by Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family
Published via Department of Information

(Source: <http://doi.gov.mt/EN/scholarships.asp>)

6. European contacts

6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)¹

6.1.1. Martina Castillo, Malta Council for Science and Technology, <http://www.mcst.gov.mt>

6.1.2. Joanna Pullicino, Malta Council for Science and Technology

6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point²

6.2.1. Renzo Pace Axiak, Public Health Programme Focal Point,
renzo.pace-asciak@gov.mt

6.2.2. Mary Scicluna, Ministry of Health the Elderly & Community Care,
mary.a.scicluna@gov.mt

¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010

² Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm last assessed in October 2010