



## Malta

In Malta, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the formal, informal and non-formal sectors is mainly addressed by the Education Division (the Government's agency responsible for formal education), the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), the University of Malta and various environmental NGOs. The sustainable development dimension is increasingly being featured in the various professional courses offered by several faculties at the University of Malta, notably the Environmental Education Unit (EEU) of the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Science and the Islands and Small States Institute. Informal and non-formal environmental education has become more varied and has characteristically involved an input from a host of governmental and non-governmental organisations. Consequently, a large proportion of community resources (e.g., nature reserves, industry and historical sites) are increasingly being mobilised and used as sites of ESD. Opportunities for public participation in environmental decision-making relating to the approval of development projects have become a regular feature.

### Consultations

The **National Environmental Education Strategy** (NEES) for Malta was developed in 1995. This was launched during a National Training Workshop on Environmental Education held on 26-27 May 1995. The workshop set out to bring together all local environmental education organizations to

- become aware of the state of environmental education in Malta
- identify the problems, needs and support required for the successful implementation of environmental education initiatives and
- discuss the possibility of co-ordinating these initiatives so as to improve their effectiveness (Pace, 1996).

NEES was proposed in line with Agenda 21's guidelines, that would "... focus its action on the formal and informal sectors of education with the goal of directing educational processes towards the development of a new environmental ethic - education for sustainability." (University of Malta, 1995). Acknowledging that every citizen has a valid contribution to make towards the achievement of a sustainable society, a consultative process was initiated with different target groups, including government/policy making organizations; environmental, social and business organizations; the mass media and the arts; national associations of educators; and religious organisations.

### Projects/Initiatives

In 2006, the MALTA ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING AUTHORITY convened a project "Plug IN2 the Environment- An Eco Interactive Experience". The objectives of the initiative were to:

- make the State of the Environment Report 2005 more accessible to the younger generation
- provide students with the opportunity to explore the relevance of local environmental issues to their lives

- help students express their understanding and feelings about these rules
- empower students to befriend the use of the digital media

The initiative helped the students to bring forward their views and concerns on the environment to the Parliament. The initiative also helped in establishing a high credibility level among the local media houses that can benefit and develop new avenues in ESD with the stakeholders.