





Population 514 565



GDP per capita
24 634 €

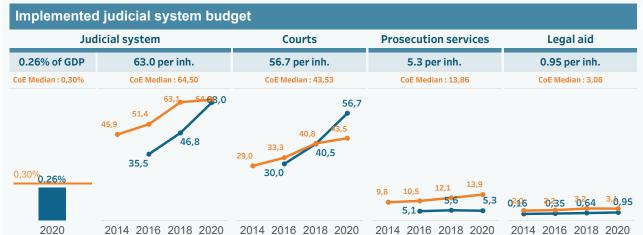
CoE Median 20 301 €



Efficiency

Avg gross annual salary 18 923 €

CoE Median 20 612 €



Budget: In 2020, Malta spent 32 406 996€ on the implemented Judicial System budget (i.e., 63 € per inhabitant, which is slightly below the CoE median). The recent increase of the budget per inhabitant allocated to courts (40%) and legal aid (49%) is mainly due to justice expenses, investments on new buildings and to the Legal Aid Agency's continuous improvement. The distribution of the budget of judicial system in Malta (90% for courts, 8,5% for public prosecution and 1,5% for legal aid) is more in favour of the courts' budget, compared to the median distribution in Europe.

Developments in Public Prosecution Services

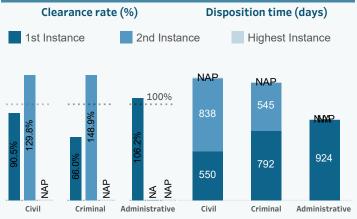
Following the amendments to the Attorney General (AG) Ordinance of 2019, the AG has taken up exclusively the role of prosecutor general. As a consequence, the number of prosecutors doubled between 2018 and 2020. However, the number of public prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants (7,4) remains below the CoE median.

Legal Aid

Over the period 2018 and 2020, the budget for legal aid rose by 50%. Indeed, since April 2020, the Legal Aid Agency has extended its services related to the provision of legal assistance for cases not brought to court. This support was specifically dedicated to giving free legal advice to the victims of domestic violence.

ICT in judiciary

Malta has an ICT index of 6,5, which is above the CoE median. The court budget for ICT is low and only used for the maintenance of the IT equipment, while the investments in computerisation are not done by the Court Services Agency. The Maltese government launched the first national digital justice strategy, supported by the CEPEJ.



Efficiency: Malta has a two-tier judicial system. It should also be noticed that the second instance administrative law cases are included in the Civil (and commercial) litigious cases, and they cannot be separated. Regarding the efficiency of the courts, the DT for first and second instance cases of all matters is well above the CoE median. This causes difficulties to reduce the number of pending cases.

It is evident that the effect of the COVID-19 is significant in Malta, especially on criminal cases of both instances but also on first instance civil and commercial cases. For these types of cases, both the number of incoming and resolved cases were remarkably reduced. This explains the further increase of pending cases and, consequently, the very high Disposition Time.



CEPEJ efficiency indicators

Clearance Rate (CR) = (Resolved cases / Incoming cases) *100

CR > 100%, court/judicial system is able to resolve more cases than it received => backlog is decreasing

CR < 100%, court/judicial system is able to resolve fewer cases than it received => backlog is increasing

Dispostion Time (DT) = (Pending cases / Resolved cases) *365

The Disposition Time (DT) is the theoretical time for a pending case to be resolved, taken into consideration the current pace of work

Instance Highest Instance 2nd Instance

1st Instance

		Clearance Rate			Disposition Time (in days)			Evolution of Disposition Time					
								2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Civil	Highest Instance	NAP		100% 103,0%	NAP	172	Civil	- NA	- NAP	- NAP	- NAP	- NAP	NAP
	2nd Instance	129.8%		104,2%	838	177		470	1065	1010	783	1120	838
	1st Instance	90.5%		98,1%	550	237		849	685	536	432	440	550
Criminal	Highest Instance	NAP		101,0%	NAP	120	Criminal	- NA	- NAP	- NAP	- NAP	NAP	NAP
	2nd Instance	148.9%		99,4%	545	121		438	780	824	1025	534	545
	1st Instance	66.0%		94,7%	792	149		■ 331	■ 291	■ 306	294	■ 299	792
Administrative	Highest Instance	NAP		101,2%	NAP	249	Administrative	- NA	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
	2nd Instance	NA		100,9%	NA	253		• NA	• NA	- NA	- NA	• NA	- NA
	1st Instance	106.2%		7,5%	924	358		<mark>2</mark> 758	1457	1408	.464	1057	924

Public prosecution services

Total number of criminal cases of 1st instance per 100 inhabitants Distribution of processed cases per 100 inhabitants 3,05

2,61 2,37 NA NA 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020

Discontinued during the reference year Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor Cases closed by the public prosecutor for other reasons Cases brought to court



Discontinued because the offender could not NA Discontinued due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation Discontinued by the public prosecutor for

Note: There are different methodologies on calculating number of cases in prosecution statistics by event or by perpetrator. CEPEJ collects data per case (event) but some countries present it by perpetrator.

Judiciary related websites

1. Legal texts

www.legislation.mt

2. Case-law of the higher court/s

www.ecourts.gov.mt

3. Information about the judicial system

www.ecourts.gov.mt; www.judiciary.mt