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Design Policy Mapping in Europe

The following content is drawn from the “Design Policy Mapping in Europe” report. Access and download the complete report using the link:

https://madres.beda.org/en/publications/design-policy-mapping-in-europe/

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Sep 2025

Country Profile: Malta

Country Size: 315 sq km
Citizens: 563,443 (2024) | Tendency: rising
GDP per Capita: 42,347.3 $ (2024) | Tendency: rising
EU Innovation Scoreboard: Moderate Innovator (2025) | 107%
BEDA Member Organisations: Valletta Design Cluster (VDC)

Dedicated design policy status

No

Design in other policy agendas

- **CCI Strategy** – *National Cultural Policy* not only recognises design as a sector, puts emphasis on design education and design as a driver of business innovation; but also includes specific design actions. [Championed]
- **Innovation Strategy** – National Research and Innovation Strategy 2023–2027 advises strengthening support for non-technological innovation, including design, marketing, and organisational innovation. It highlights iterative co-design of R&I funding measures and suggests exploring a Government Policy Lab. [Integrated]
- **Industrial / Development Strategy** – Malta's Sustainable Development Vision 2050 references design in relation to circular economy, repairability, product and building design and consumer-facing design solutions. [Mentioned]
- **Circular Economy Strategy** – Towards a Circular Economy Strategy 2020–2030 calls for material and product design approaches that reduce waste and embed circularity. [Integrated]
- **Digital Strategy** – Malta Digitali 2022–27 Strategy incorporates service design principles in public digital transformation. [Integrated]
- **Architecture Strategy** – No dedicated strategy identified.

Observations

Malta integrates design in a relatively systematic way across multiple strategies, from cultural policy and R&I frameworks to circular economy and digital agendas. The explicit recognition of design education and its role in innovation and public sector transformation suggests an emerging cross-sectoral vision, even in the absence of a dedicated design policy. While the country has yet to establish a comprehensive

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national framework, the presence of targeted measures across agendas indicates a clear recognition of design's value for innovation, sustainability and governance.

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