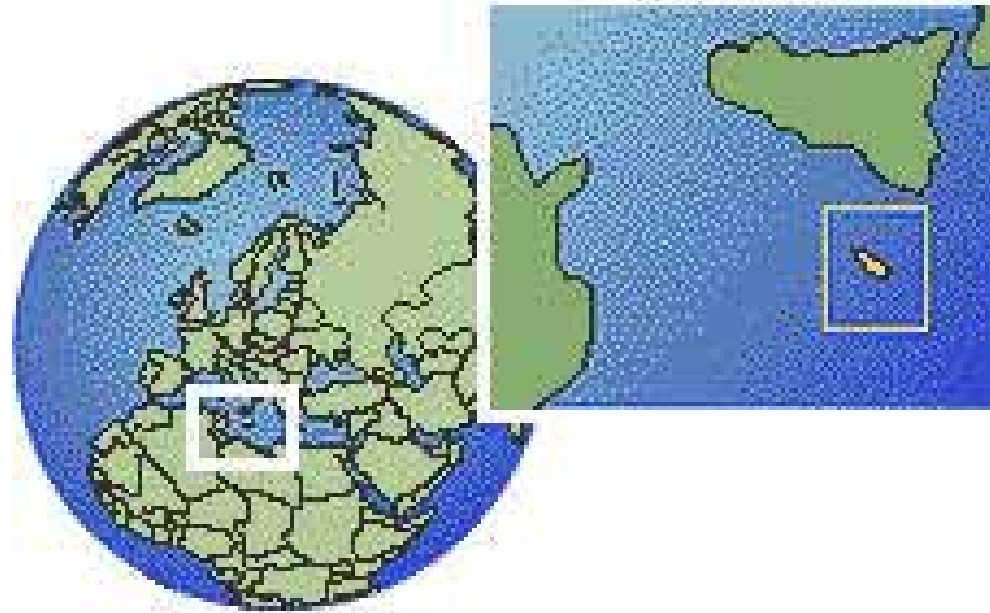


# IFER: Integrated Fire Engineering and Response? COST in Malta! Welcome



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# Malta....



# Malta

- 50 miles south of Sicily and 150 miles from North Africa
- 400, 000 inhabitants.



- First inhabitants 7,000 years ago during the Neolithic period, when the megalithic temples were constructed.

# Neolithic Temples in Malta



- since 3600 BC, at over 20 sites in Malta and Gozo.
- god(dess) of fertility are same shape as the temples.



# Neolithic Temples in Malta



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- god(dess) of fertility are same shape as the temples.



Figurines from Hagar Qim, 2800 BC



Mnajdra complex, Zurrieq, 3000 BC

- highly complex: structure aligned to summer equinox
- first scholarly/industrial synergy?
- is big beautiful?

# Malta



- The first known inhabitants in historic times were the Phoenicians, followed by the Carthaginians and Romans and Arabs.



- The Knights of the Order of St John, founded before the First Crusade (1099) arrived in 1534, after King Charles of Spain donated the island to them.

# Malta



- The earliest members of the Order came from throughout Europe and were of noble birth. Its distinctive emblem the Cross of Malta, whose eight points represent the Beatitudes, and also 8 'langues' of the order.
- Eight pointed cross - **First mini EU?**

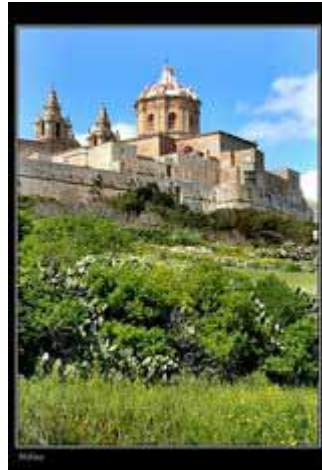


- An annual feudal tax was paid to the Kingdom of Sicily, though it was largely symbolic, that included a "Maltese falcon."
- Grand Master La Valette strengthened defences and built new capital city (Valletta).

# Malta



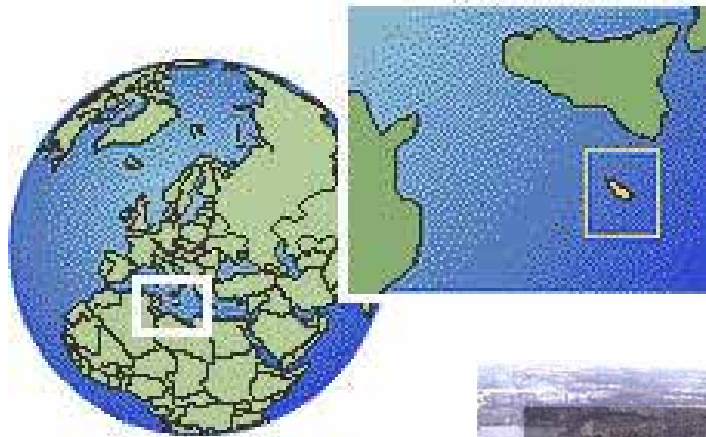
- The Maltese rebelled against French and it became a British protectorate and a base for the British Mediterranean Fleet in 1800.
- This resulted in the island suffering some of the heaviest bombing of World War II.



- The Island became independent in 1964 and a member of the European Union in 2004.



# Malta....



Grand Harbour

Marsamxett Harbour

Fort St Elmo



**VALLETTA**

# Research in Malta



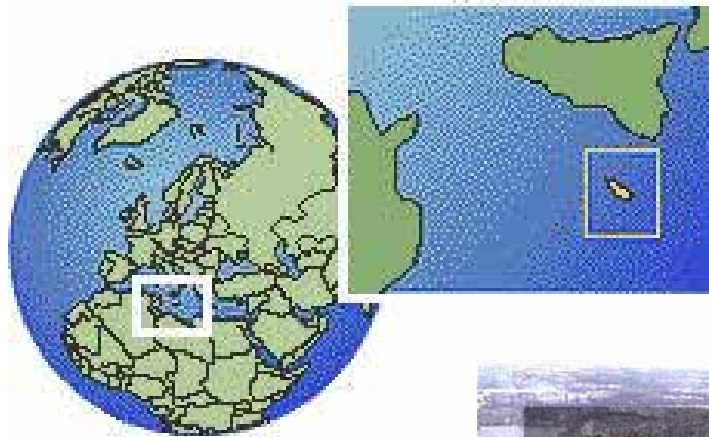
# Medicine in Malta...first research



- The main hospital, the Sacra Infermeria (Holy Infirmary) was built in 1574 by Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere.
- 900 beds for male patients who included knights, soldiers, sailors and foreigners.
- Maltese patients and slaves were accommodated in hall below.
- In 1676, a School of Anatomy and Surgery was set up in the building.
- The administration was entrusted to knights of the French Langue.
- It is now the Mediterranean Conference Centre.



# Malta....



Mediterranean  
Conference Centre

Grand Harbour



Hotel Excelsior

Marsamxett  
Harbour

Fort St Elmo



**VALLETTA**

# The University of Malta today





# The University of Malta today



- Founded in 1777, now 3 miles outside Valletta, a campus University, with separate premises for Medical School and Faculty of Health Sciences at the main teaching hospital.



- 10,000 students including over 750 foreign/exchange students from nearly 80 different countries.
  - **Thirteen faculties:** Architecture & Civil Engineering; Arts; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Laws; Medicine & Surgery; Science and Theology.
  - **Interdisciplinary institutes and centres :** Agriculture, Baroque Studies, Health Care, Linguistics, Public Administration and Management, Physical Education & Sport, Mediterranean Institute and Edward de Bono Institute for the Design & Development of Thinking; Centre for Communication Technology, European Centre for Gerontology, Centre for Environmental Education and Research.
- A centre on Malta's sister-island, Gozo, offers part-time courses.



# Malta Council for Science and Technology

# Malta Council for Science and Technology



Set up in 1988

Scope: Science, Technology, Research & Innovation

Responsibilities:

- National R&I Strategic Plan
- EU Policy Initiatives
- FP7 National Contact Organisation
- National RTDI Funding Agency
- Science Popularisation

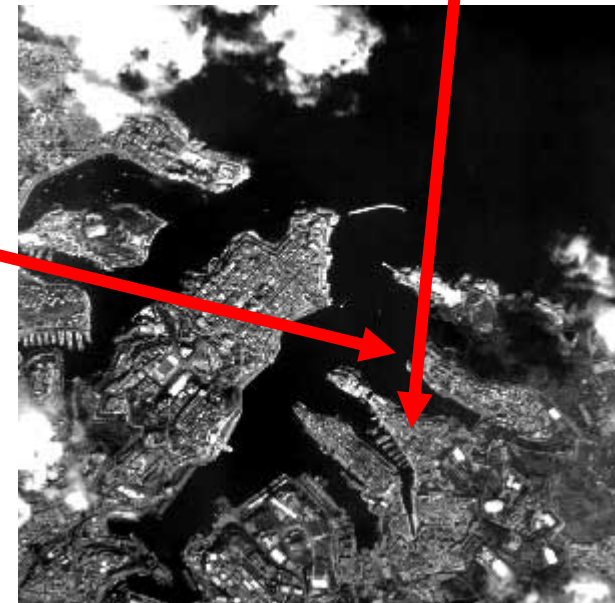
Staff (FT and PT): **35**, April 2011.



# Malta



**Malta Council for Science and Technology,  
Villa Bighi, Kalkara**



# National Strategic Plan



Vision:

*“Research and innovation are at the heart of the Maltese economy to support value-added growth and wealth”.*

Mission

*“ Building and sustaining of an R&I enabling framework”.*

- Seven strategic principles addressed through 66 recommendations.

# Overview of actions undertaken - 1



- Boosting HR in S&T and increasing researcher numbers –
  - *STEPS (€10 million ESF project) and MGSS schemes (approx €466,000 annually) have increased PhDs*
- Approximately €28 million in new or upgrading of research infrastructures at the University of Malta.
- €15 million in a Life Sciences Centre strategically positioned to combine research, innovation and higher education aspects.
- Science popularization campaigns.

# Overview of actions undertaken - 2



- Incentives package for industry (including grants and tax incentives).
- University Trust Fund set up.
- Pursuit of collaboration with international scientific organizations including possible access to research infrastructures.
- Awareness raising on the importance of patents.
- Financial support for researchers to participate in brokerage events.
- Increase in funding of the national R&I programme.

# The New R&I Strategic Plan 2011-2020

## - principles -



### An ecosystem approach to R&I

- Supporting innovation in its widest sense.
- Ensuring linkages and continuity of support from one stage to the next.
- Ensuring the right framework conditions are in place.

### Smart specialisation

- Identifying and investing in specific niches.
- Building critical mass, excellence and research competitiveness.
- Balancing advantages and risks of this approach.

### Grand Challenges

- Alignment with and capitalisation on European approach of using research investments to address societal challenges.
- Strive towards an analogous model supporting the alignment of national challenges to national research and innovation efforts.

# Where is research in Malta going?



Hypogeum underground Temple, Tarxien, 3000 BC

## 17 indicators of the innovation process covering

- Human resources
- Creation of new knowledge
- Transmission and application of new knowledge
- Innovation finance, output and markets

# Where is research in Malta going?



Sleeping Lady, Hypogeum, Tarxien 3000 BC

## Challenges:

- Lack of human resources in S&T
- Significant R&D funding lacking
- Low innovation activities in SME's



The Order of St John, St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, c1700

*'There should be no borders between industrial and academic research , the former working on products and solutions for tomorrow, the latter for the day after tomorrow.....'*





**famoses**  
modulares Schulungsprogramm  
Epilepsie für Familien

Thank you



Fungus Rock

