

OVERVIEW

As part of the 2005 National Transition Facility Programme for Malta, the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment received technical assistance from Austria “to explore long-term projects to manage specific waste streams in a more sustainable manner”.

This EU funded Twinning Project, amounted to a value of €675,000 and lasted for 21 months. Its overall aim was to further improve local expertise in waste management, by providing the technical assistance required by Malta to improve its national waste management competence in order to implement the solid waste management strategy in conformity with national and international obligations. The Twinning Partners were the Environment Policy and Initiatives Directorate within the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Austrian Federal Environment Agency.

The stakeholders and experts involved in the working groups dealt with two main areas of waste management, namely waste-to-energy technologies for non-hazardous residual waste and the management of construction and demolition waste. The focus of the project was to formulate long-term strategies for these two particular sectors.

The project consisted of three main packages.

1. The formulation of a strategy for the selection of an appropriate waste-to-energy technology for the Maltese islands. A number of short term experts from Austria visited Malta providing technical training and assistance to the Maltese experts and other stakeholders. Training workshops were used to elaborate the legal background, the advantages and disadvantages of different waste treatment technologies as well as to compile guidelines for licensing and commissioning of treatment plants.
2. The formulation of a strategy for the long term possibilities of reuse and recycling of excavation and construction and demolition waste in the Maltese Islands. Standards and practical standards for prevention, recycling and disposal of waste originating from the construction industry to be compiled.
3. Promoting both strategies amongst all relevant stakeholders.

Throughout the duration of the project members of the Maltese entities involved had the opportunity to visit various plants in Austria:

1. 2 representatives from WasteServ were sent on a training session on the operation of thermal treatment facilities and this complemented the commissioning of the thermal treatment plant in marsa;
2. 5 different representatives from various Maltese stakeholders including MRAE, MEPA and Nature Trust were sent on a visit to Austria with the scope of informing and training them on the different technologies for the treatment of Solid Municipal Waste;
3. 5 representatives from Maltese stakeholders were sent to visit several C&D waste recycling and disposal facilities in Austria.

Various information and training sessions on PR where held with MEPA, WasteServ and MRAE officials. PR campaigns for educating the public on waste-to-energy facilities and for educating the industry on the reuse of construction waste have been developed.