



INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION'S  
1<sup>st</sup> ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS  
FAROE ISLANDS - SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2024

THE  
ENERGY  
& WATER  
AGENCY

# Ensuring the cohesive management of freshwater resources in the Maltese Islands

Manuel Sapiano, Michael Schembri, Henry  
Debattista

Energy and Water Agency  
Malta

# Introduction

Total surface area: 316km<sup>2</sup>.

Population density: 1690inh/km<sup>2</sup>

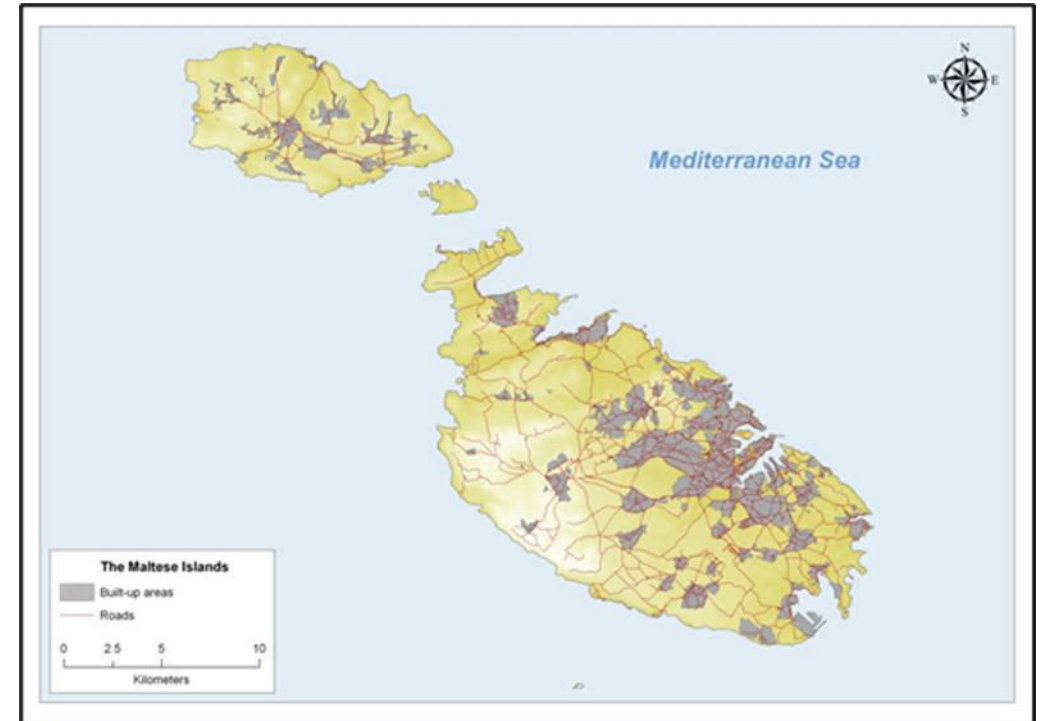
Urban land-cover: >25%

Climate: Semi arid Mediterranean

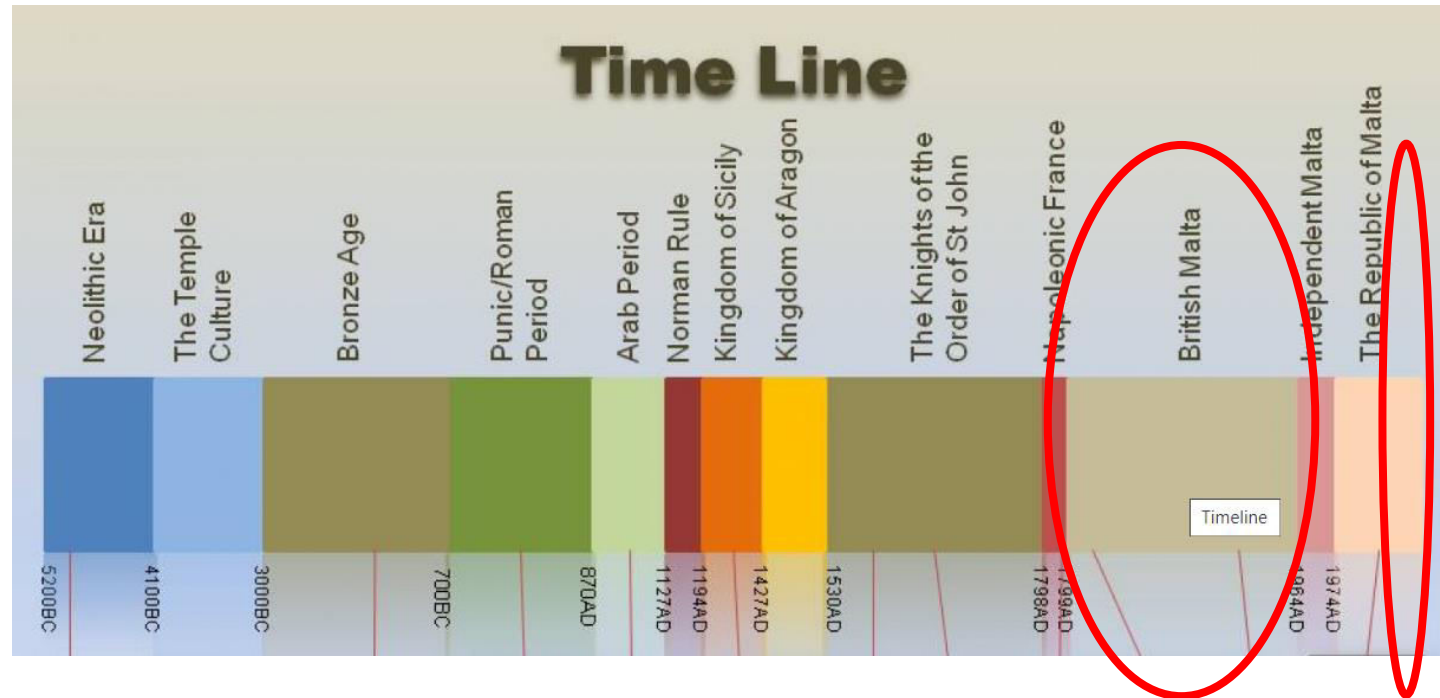
Mean Annual Rainfall: 550mm

High inter- and intra- annual variability

Natural water availability:  
70m<sup>3</sup>/cap/day



# Introduction



- Main Influences on the development of Legal and Governance Frameworks:
- British Period (1800 - 1964)
  - Member of the European Union (2004 - )

# Introduction

High  
Population  
Density

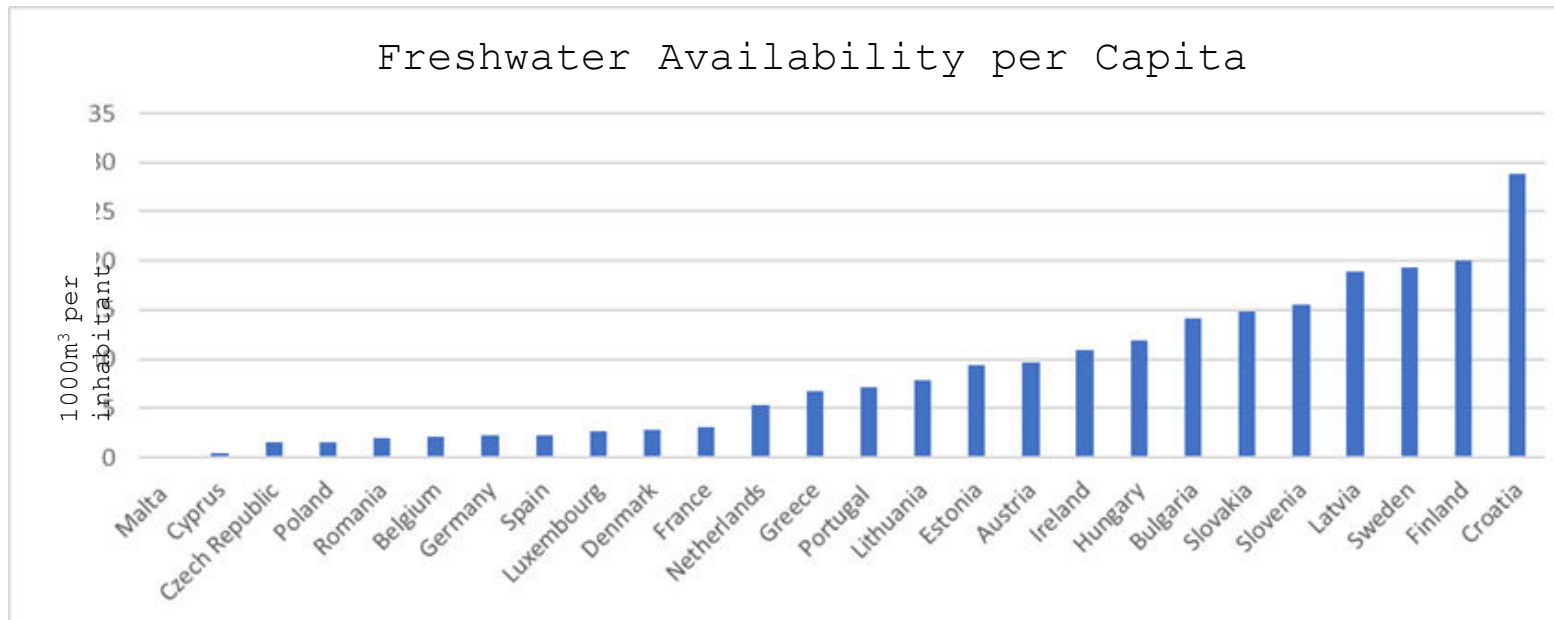


High Water  
Demand

Semi-Arid  
Climate



Low  
Availability  
of Natural

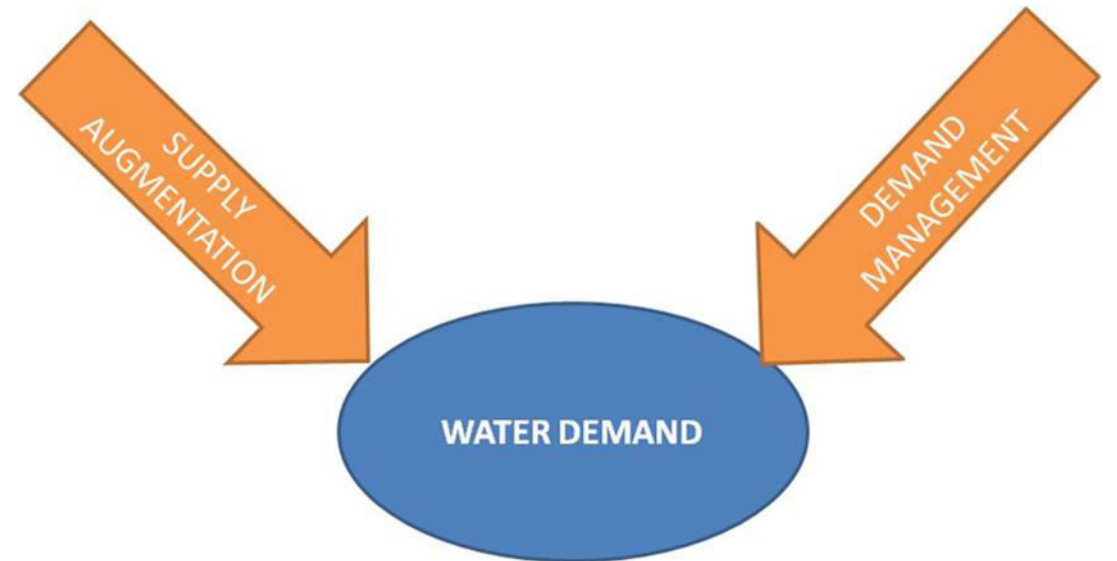


# Policy Framework

Under these circumstances, development of a water management framework needs to start with acknowledging reality.

Even if water demands are kept at highly efficient levels, there is insufficient natural freshwater resources to sustainably meet national demand.

Malta's water management framework is based on a two-pronged strategy to achieve water security: meeting water demand through the conjunctive use of water supply augmentation and water demand management measures, in an



# But .....



In theory, it seems the prelude to a perfect story. But it is not!!

Malta's water strategy has been developed through a long learning curve, and is based on:

**Embracing new technologies**

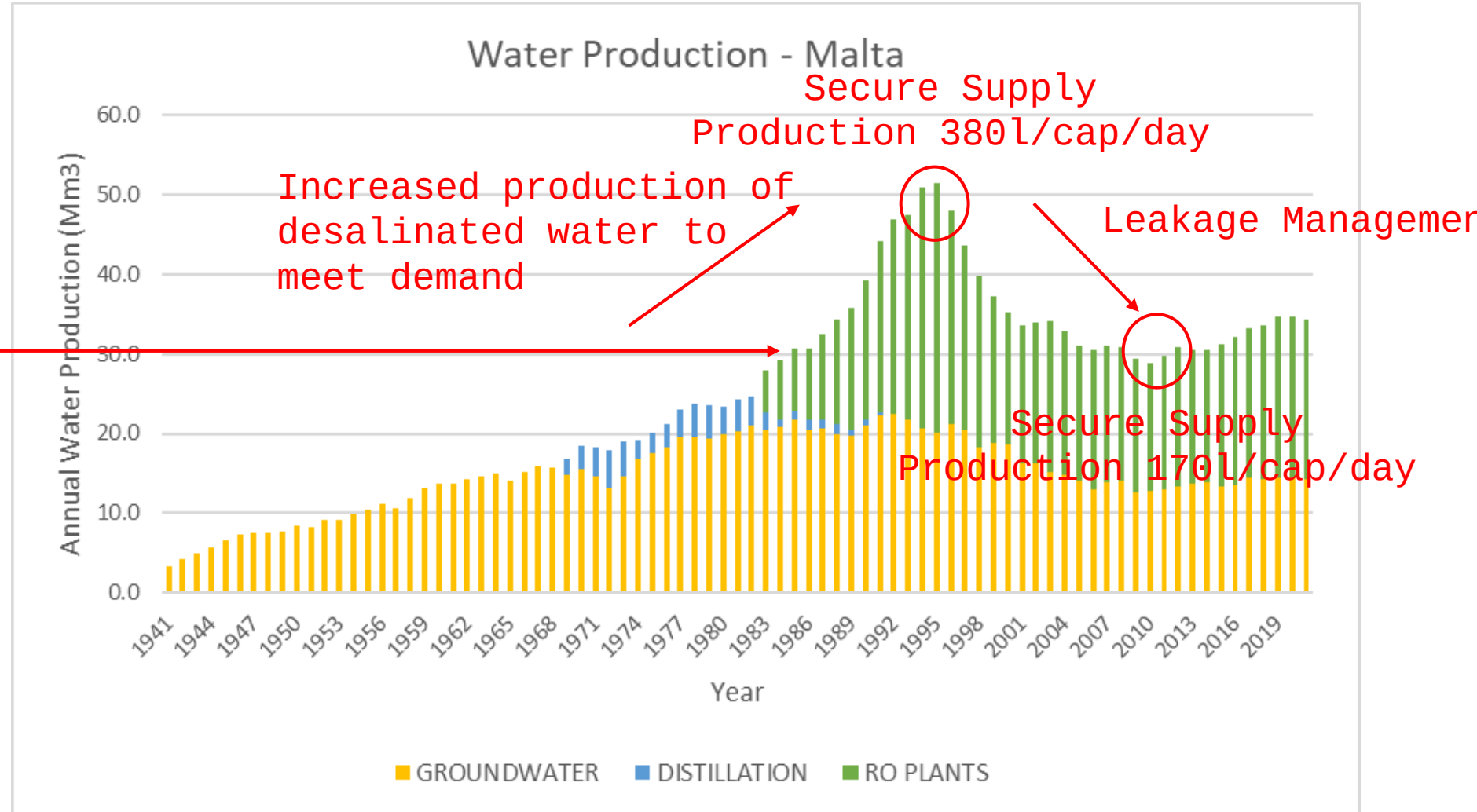
**Making (big) mistakes**

**Taking (important) corrective actions**

# Historical Context



Street Protests due to water rationing



# Policy Implementation

Three levels of governance:

<b>Policy</b>	The policy function is a central one for which Government is responsible. It aims to develop government's intent into a tangible direction.
<b>Regulation</b>	Regulation is often carried out by autonomous or semi-autonomous entities of government and focuses on ensuring that regulations are being complied with as well as development regulatory frameworks that translate government's policy direction and their subsequent enforcement.
<b>Operational</b>	Operations involve the delivery of services. Both government and the private sector can deliver services and as such they are regulated by existing legislation which falls under the jurisdiction of the regulatory bodies.



# Policy Implementat

## POLICY (6)

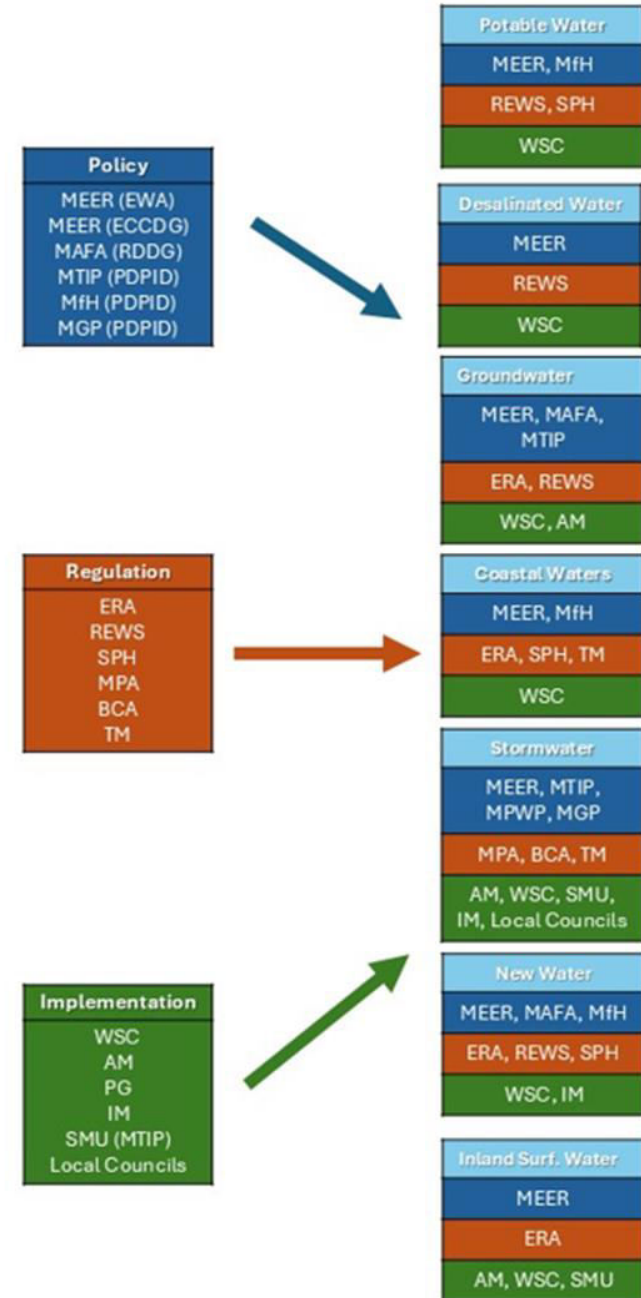
- **MEER (EWA)** – Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Regeneration of the Grand Harbour (Energy and Water Agency)
- **MEER (ECCDG)** – Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Regeneration of the Grand Harbour – (Environment and Climate Change Directorate)
- **MAFA (RDDG)** – Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (Rural Development Directorate General)
- **MTIP (PDPID)** – Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works (Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate)
- **MfH (PDPID)** – Ministry for Health (Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate)
- **MGP (PDPID)** – Ministry for Gozo and Planning (Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate)

## REGULATORY (6)

- **ERA** – Environment and Resources Authority
- **REWS** - Regulator for Energy and Water Services
- **SPH** – Superintendent of Public Health
- **MPA** – Malta Planning Authority
- **BCA** – Building and Construction Authority
- **TM** – Transport Malta

## IMPLEMENTING (6)

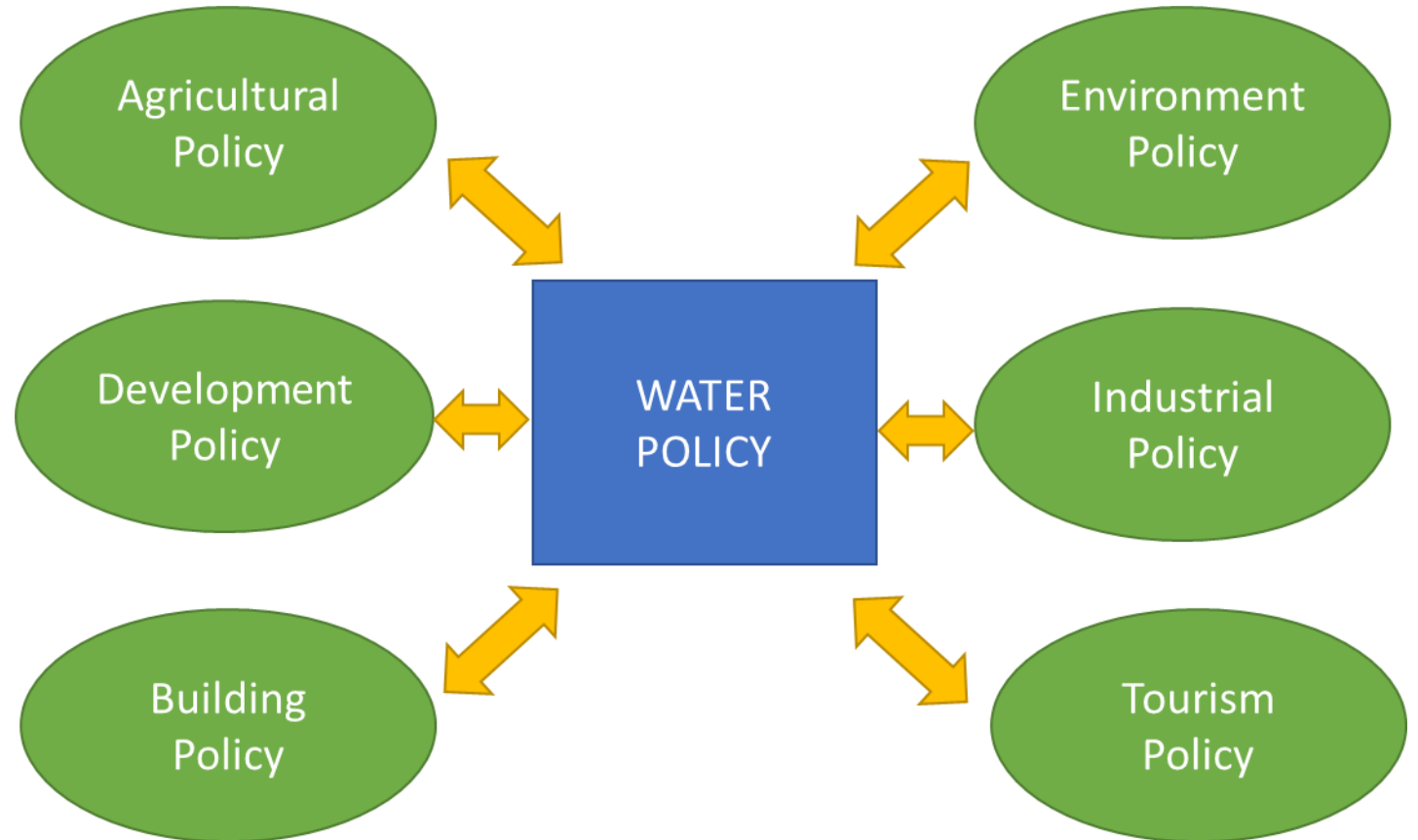
- **WSC** – Water Services Corporation
- **AM**- Ambjent Malta
- **PG** – Project Green
- **IM** – Infrastructure Malta
- **SMU (MTIP)** - Stormwater Management Unit
- **Local Councils**



# Transversal Perspective

But water policies also link up with other sectoral policies, due to the transversal nature of water.

Cohesive management is important – to ensure that different



# Policy Agency



Established in 2014, following the separation of functions in the water and energy sectors.

*LN 50 of 2014*

*Article 4*

*In the execution of its functions, the Agency shall have the following responsibilities:*

*(a) the design, development and cohesive coordination of conventional and alternative energy policies and measures together with water policy and secure governance across and within Ministries, Departments and government entities*

# Coordination

## **INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**

Brings together representatives of all Ministries (public entities) with an interest in water protection and use to coordinate the implementation of Malta's River Basin Management Plan.

## **NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WATER TABLE**

Brings together stakeholders from the public and private sector to discuss the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan's Programme of Measures.



28th MAY, MALTA



# Conclusion

Water Management is not just about building “towers” – specific policies.

But more about building the “walls” which link these “towers” – integrated management

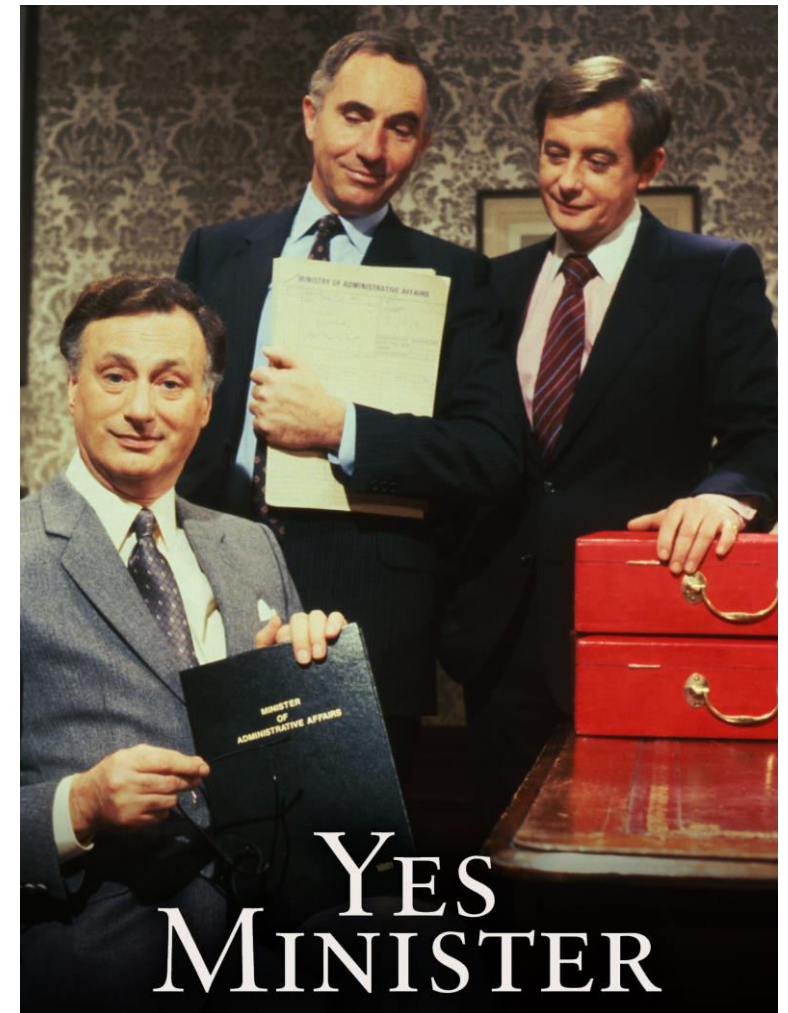
Ensuring that single policies reinforce each other



# Conclusion

*Sir Humphrey Appleby: "Yes, yes, yes, I do see that there is a real dilemma here. In that, while it has been government policy to regard policy as a responsibility of Ministers and administration as a responsibility of Officials, the questions of administrative policy can cause confusion between the policy of administration and the administration of policy, especially when responsibility for the administration of the policy of administration conflicts, or overlaps with, responsibility for the policy of the administration of policy."*

**Clear roles and responsibilities need to be established to underpin the effective implementation of any policy.**



Thank-you for your attention  
[manuel.sapiano@gov.mt](mailto:manuel.sapiano@gov.mt)

