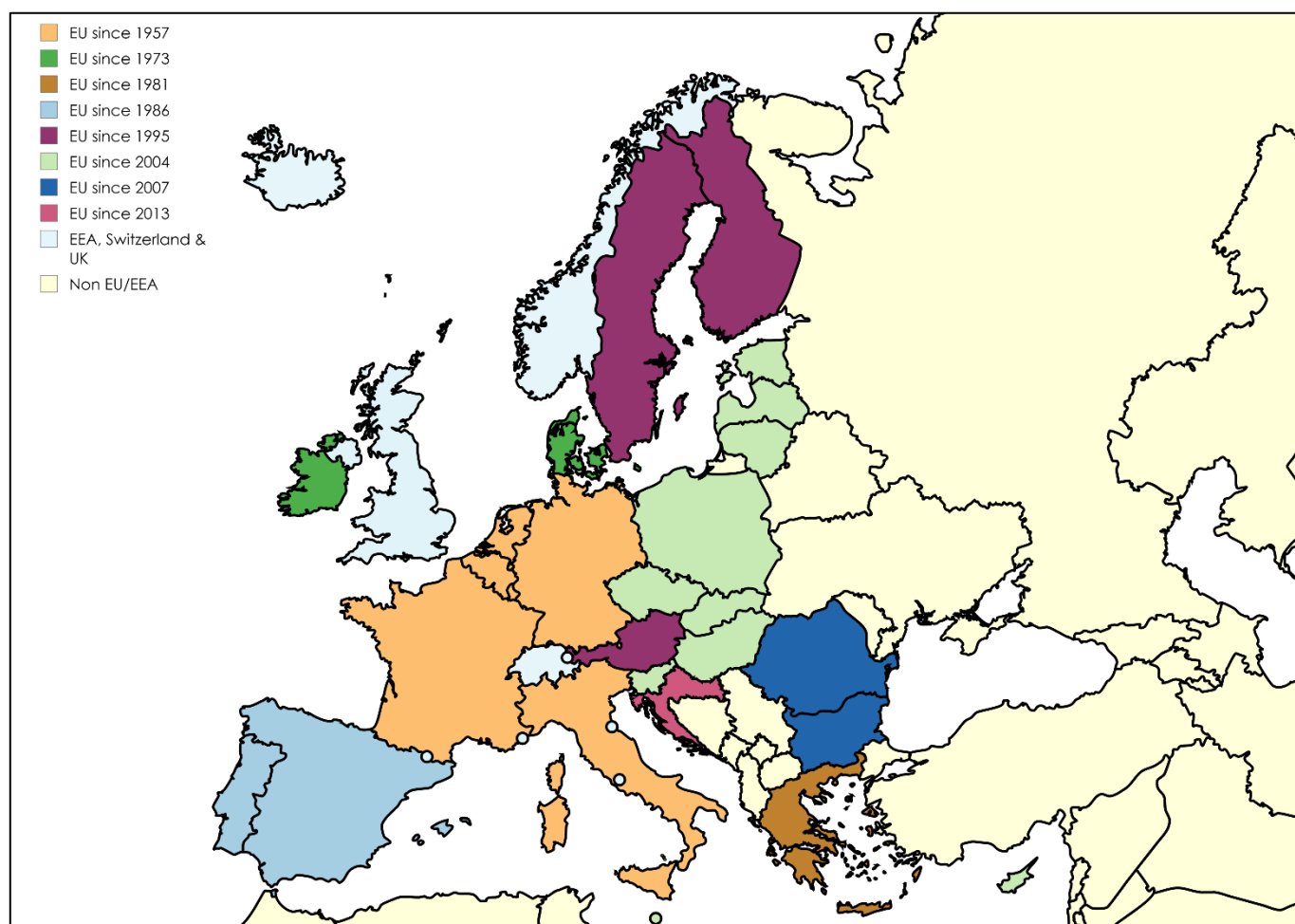


Council of European Dentists

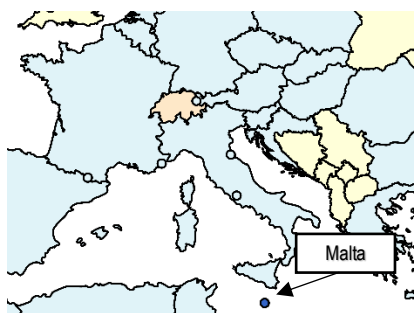
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Malta





Malta



In the EU since	2004
Population (2025)	574 250
GDP PPP per capita (2023)	35 992
Currency	Euro € (EUR)
Official language	Maltese, English
The healthcare system of Malta follows universal health coverage, with all Maltese citizens, residents and EU citizens entitled to a broad package of services. Malta follows a mixed health system, through public and private providers, and is funded primarily through general taxation.	
Oral care is covered only for children and acute emergency care under the package of services. Voluntary health insurance is widely used for oral care, as well as out-of-pocket spending.	
Number of dentists (active)	285
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	49.6
Members of Dental Association	
There is a use of locally and overseas trained specialists. Only orthodontics and oral surgery are officially recognised specialities. Three professions of dental auxiliaries are recognised. CPD is not mandatory but is offered by several actors.	

Date of last revision: 06 June 2026

Government and healthcare in Malta

The Republic of Malta is an island state, that lies to the South of Sicily (Italy) in the central Mediterranean Sea. The country consists of three inhabited islands, Malta, Gozo and Comino. Malta gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1964, became a republic in 1974, and joined the European Union in 2004. It remains a member of the Commonwealth.

The Republic of Malta operates as a parliamentary democracy. The President is the Head of State, while executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Legislative power lies with the unicameral House of Representatives. The country is divided into local councils, which administer municipal affairs across the islands.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the planning of health care. A specific department under the Ministry of Health, the Superintendent of Public Health (also entitled Department of Health Regulation), is responsible for regulating, quality oversight, delivering licenses, monitoring and inspecting the provision of healthcare services in Malta.

The Superintendent of Public Health includes the Dental Public Health Unit, in charge of developing comprehensive oral health promotion services and well as monitoring the quality of care.

A rapidly growing community of foreign residents currently reside in Malta, accounting for over 20% of the total population. Both Maltese and English are official languages.

Malta operates a state-funded healthcare system based on the principle of universal coverage. Public healthcare is financed mainly through general taxation and national insurance contributions. Eligible individuals, including Maltese citizens, EU citizens and long-term residents, are entitled to a broad package of services.

This includes primary care, outpatient services, inpatient care, emergency care and specialist services delivered through 10 national Health Centres and hospitals, 54 Community Clinics as well as screening and occupational health centres.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	9.52%	2022	National Statistics Office (NSO) Malta
% of this spent by government	67%	2022	OECD

Oral health care is however not provided by state-funded services, except for children under 18 and for emergency dental treatment, provided at hospitals.

Dental care in Malta is provided through both public and private sectors, although most services are delivered privately, and through out-of-pocket payments or private health insurance. Public oral health care is provided under hospitals, under the dental departments of the Mater Dei and Gozo General Hospitals in Msida and Victoria. Emergency oral care is provided free of charge by the Mater Dei Hospital as well as in some health centres.

Public dental services focus primarily on preventive care, basic examinations and essential treatments, and are generally available free of charge to children and vulnerable population groups, including people living with diabetes. Advanced treatments—such as orthodontics, implants and specialised restorative procedures—are predominantly offered in the private sector. As a result, private spending remains a significant component of total dental expenditure in Malta.

A Mobile Dental Unit, established in 2015, provides free community basic dental check-ups and oral health advice across schools and villages in Malta. The National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2023-2030 develops initiatives for workforce development and capacity building, integrated care and referral pathways, health literacy and community empowerment and oral health promotion. This strategy includes, for example, the renewal of programmes for early childhood nutrition and oral health, both in home and school settings.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

There is one dental school in Malta, which is in the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the University of Malta. The school is publicly funded and is located in the city of Msida.

To enter the dental school, students must present a Maltese end-of-secondary school Matriculation Certificate and Secondary Education Certificate and meet sufficient grades in Maltese, English and Mathematics to enter the University. To study dentistry, students must also have acquired two advanced level passes with sufficient grades in Biology and Chemistry and an intermediate level pass with sufficient grades in Physics.

There are also possibilities for students having already graduated a degree in Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene and Dental Technology and demonstrating sufficient grades to apply the undergraduate dental course.

For international students, the admission process is accessible [here](#).

Year of data	2022
Number of schools ¹	1
Student intake	20
Number of graduates a year	8-15
Gender balance (% of female students)	65%
Duration of studies	5

Students carrying out undergraduate studies graduate with a Master of Dental Surgery (MDS), after 5 years and 300 ECTS credits. Following graduation, students obtain the title of Dental Surgeons.

The school also offers programmes in dental hygiene, dental technology, dental surgery assistance and a pre-tertiary certificate in dental surgery assistance.

Registration

Graduate dentists must automatically register with the [Medical Council of Malta](#).

Dentists are given a licence to work by the Medical Council, which by law has a quasi-judicial board, as it has the power to erase dentists from the Register.

Dentists do not have the mandatory obligation to register with the Dental Association of Malta.

Cost of registration	38€
Yearly membership fee	38€

Vocational Training (VT)

Vocational training is not mandatory for dentist to practice in Malta.

Language requirements

There are no legal language requirements to practice dentistry in Malta.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing education is not mandatory under Maltese legislation.

The Dental Association of Malta, together with the Faculty of Dental Surgery, and the Dental Public Health Unit carrying out regular lectures and CPD courses which award CPD points to the participants.

Specialist Training Requirements

Two dental specialities are recognised in Malta, including oral surgery and orthodontics:

- Oral surgery – 3 years of study
- Orthodontics – 3 years of study

Graduates wishing to carry out specialist studies must apply to specialist courses under the Medical Council and must already automatically be registered with the Medical Council of Malta.

Specialists must then register and be granted authorisation and a positive authorisation by the Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee (DSAC).

Pathways for specialist registration include the completion of a Maltese-approved specialist training programme; mutual recognition of a recognised EU specialist degree; or initiating a recognition procedure for foreign-trained specialists.

Workforce

Dentists

Malta has a small but steadily growing dental workforce, shaped by the country's limited training capacity and strong reliance on foreign-qualified dentists. The only domestic provider of undergraduate dental education is the University of Malta Faculty of Dental Surgery, which admits approximately 15–20 students per year.

A substantial proportion of practising dentists in Malta qualified overseas, especially in the United Kingdom, Eastern Europe, and other EU countries.

Year of data	2022
Total Registered	371
In active practice	285
Dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab) *	
Percentage female	39%
Foreign-trained dentists	66
*Active dentists only	

All dental clinics in Malta undergo yearly quality of care and oversight inspections from the Dental Public Health Unit at the Ministry for Health.

The dental register is held by the Medical Council of Malta.

There is a large difference between the numbers registered and those “active”. The reasons are that Malta has a large number of dentists who are retired (but still registered), Maltese dentists who are studying or working abroad and retain their Maltese registration, and EU dentists who are registered in Malta but not practising there.

A notable number of registered dentists do not work clinically in Malta: some practise abroad, others are inactive, retired, or working in non-clinical roles such as academia, public administration or research.

Movement of dentists across borders

Malta experiences significant mobility of dentists across borders. Many Maltese dental students continue to pursue postgraduate specialisation abroad, most commonly in the UK, Italy, Spain and Eastern Europe. Malta also attracts foreign-qualified dentists from EU and EEA countries and neighbouring countries, particularly from Italy, Spain, Poland, Greece, Bulgaria and Germany.

Specialists

Two specialists are officially recognised and included in official registers in Malta: oral surgery and orthodontics.

A number of other specialists practice in Malta, from other EU countries, but are not officially recognised.

Year of data	2025
Oral Surgeons	10
Orthodontists	15

Specialist registration requires prior full registration as a dentist followed by accreditation by the Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee (DSAC).

Recognition can occur through Maltese specialist qualifications or EU-recognised specialist diplomas, as stated above.

Auxiliaries

There are 3 categories of registered auxiliaries in Malta.

The Council for Professions Complementary to Medicine holds a register for dental auxiliaries and oversees the quality of practice of auxiliaries.

Year of data	2025
Technicians	76
Dental Surgery Assistants	NA
Hygienists	45

Dental Technicians

Dental technicians are registered professionals under the Council for Professions Complementary to Medicine.

Training is also for 3 years, with 180 ECTS, in the government hospital, organised by the [Faculty of Dental Surgery](#), University of Malta. Students graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Dental Technology.

Dental Technicians work in commercial dental laboratories, to construct prosthodontic and orthodontic appliances, to the prescription of a dentist, and they are not able to deal directly with the public. Although, legally, dental technicians must not have direct contact with the public, it is reported that people have their dentures repaired directly by them.

Most dental technicians work in the public sector but over a third work solely in private practice. Some of those who work in the public sector also work in private practice.

Dental Hygienists

Dental Hygienists are registered under the Council for Professions Complementary to Medicine.

They carry out a three-year course in Dental Hygiene at the [University of Malta](#) and must obtain 180 ECTS credits before registering as a professional.

Dental hygienists work under the prescribed instructions of a dentist, both in public or private practice. Their work includes scaling and normal dental hygiene, oral hygiene instruction, dietary advice and oral health promotion.

Most registered dental hygienists work in the public sector but a handful work privately, usually on a part-time basis.

Dental Surgery Assistants

Dental Surgery Assistants are registered professionals under the Council for Professions Complementary to Medicine.

Dental surgery assistants, similar to dental chairside assistants, carry out two years of study at the University of Malta, divided in two courses: a preparatory [Pre-Tertiary Certificate in Dental Surgery Assistance](#), followed by the diploma in [Dental Surgery Assistance](#).

Graduates obtain a Diploma in Dental Surgery Assistance and may continue, if desired, in the Bachelor programmes of Dental Hygiene or Technology.

Dental surgery assistants assist dentists during procedures, sterilize instruments, and take X-rays, as well as administrative tasks such as schedule appointments and manage patient records.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
Dental Association of Malta	
Malta Federation of Professional Associations, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira, Malta GZR 1633 Tel: +356 213 12888 Email: info@dam.mt Website: https://www.dam.mt	

Competent authorities

Ministry for Health and Active Ageing	The Superintendent of Public Health (or Department for Health Regulation) – Dental Public Health Unit (Under the Ministry for Health and Active Ageing)
Ministry for Health 15, Palazzo Castellania, Merchants Street, Valletta, VLT 1171 Contact details of the Health Minister: Email: jo-etienne.abela@gov.mt Tel: +356 2122 4071 Contact details of the Secretariat: <i>Head of Secretariat</i> Carmel Azzopardi Email: carmel.azzopardi.1@gov.mt Phone: +356 2299 2777 Website: http://www.ehealth.gov.mt	Superintendence of Public Health SLH/OPD Level 1 St Luke's Square G'Mangia, Malta PTA 1010 Tel: +356 2595 3302/3 Email: sph.health@gov.mt Website: https://superintendencepublichealth.gov.mt/en/ Webpage of the Dental Public Health Unit: https://superintendencepublichealth.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/services/
The Medical Council of Malta	Dental Special Accreditation Committee (For the accreditation of Oral Surgeons and Orthodontists)
Medical Council St. Luke's Hospital - OPD (Level 1), St. Luke's Square pieta', Malta PTA 1010 Tel: +356 212 55540 Email: Medicalcouncil@gov.mt Website: https://medicalcouncil.gov.mt/en/contact/	Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee St Luke's Hospital OPD (Level 1) St. Luke's Square Pieta' Malta PTA 1010 Phone: +356 212 555 38 Email: sac.dental@gov.mt Website: https://dentalsac.gov.mt/en/ Contact details for the registrar: Ms Pamela Abela Email: pamela.abela@gov.mt Phone: +356 21255538
Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine:	

Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine
St Luke's Hospital,
Ex-Outpatients Department (Level 1), St. Luke's Square,
Gwardamangia - Malta
PTA 1010

Tel: +356 259 533 17

Email: cpcm.health@gov.mt

Website: <https://cpcm.gov.mt/en/>

Main Professional Journal

The Probe

Dental Association of Malta,
Federation of Professional Associations,
Sliema Road,
Gzira, Malta
GZR 1633

4 times a year newsletter, by the Dental Association of Malta.

Editor: Dr David Muscat.

E-mail: editor@dam.com.mt

Website:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/9844>

Dental Schools:

University of Malta – Faculty of Dental Surgery - Msida

Faculty of Dental Surgery
Dar Ġużeppi Zahra
University of Malta
Msida MSD 2080
Malta

Tel: +356 2340 1172

Email: ds@um.edu.mt

Website: <http://www.um.edu.mt/about/uom>

Dentists graduating each year:

Number of students: