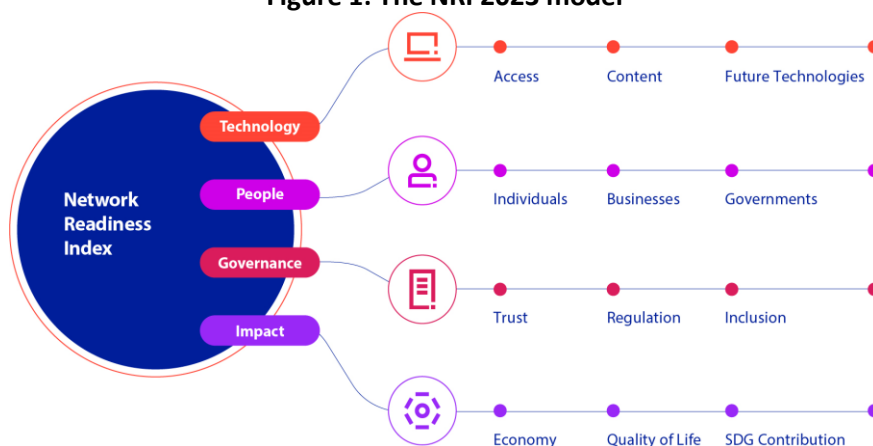




## Malta

*The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2023 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 134 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 58 variables.*

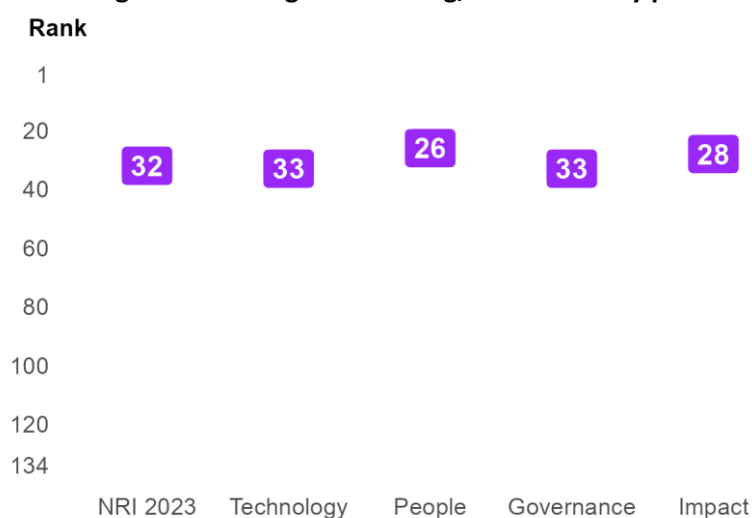
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



### Global NRI position of Malta

Malta ranks 32nd out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology and Governance.

Figure 2: Malta global ranking, overall and by pillar



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## Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Malta relate to Governments, SDG Contribution and Quality of Life, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Trust, Inclusion and Access sub-pillars.

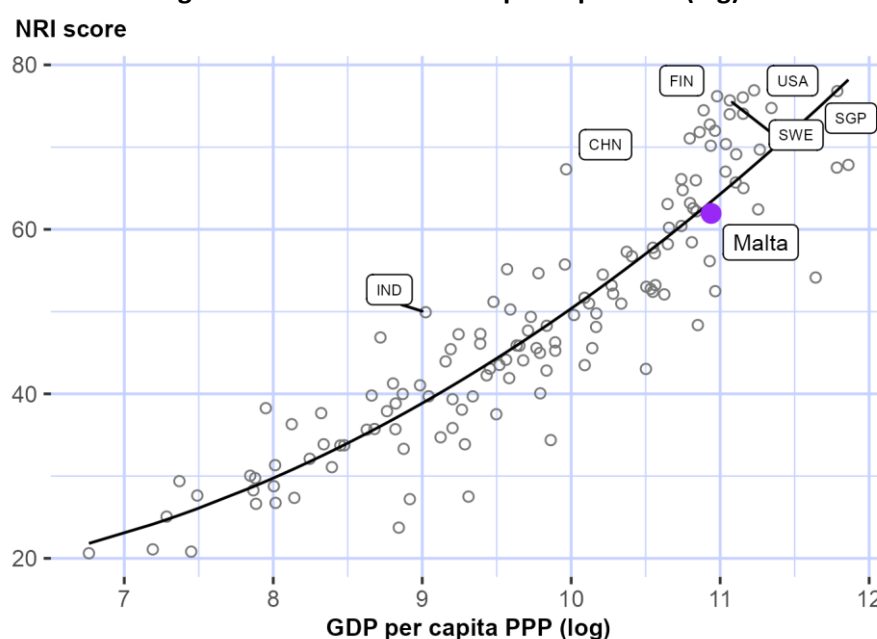
**Table 1: Malta rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Governments	22	Content	31
SDG Contribution	24	Businesses	33
Quality of Life	25	Individuals	34
Future Technologies	27	Trust	37
Regulation	28	Inclusion	38
Economy	30	Access	79

## NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Malta in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Malta is slightly below the trend line, which suggests that its network readiness is more or less in line with what would be expected given its income level.

**Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)**



Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Malta belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is United States of America (USA). The top performer of its region-Europe-is Finland (FIN).

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## Performance against its income group and region

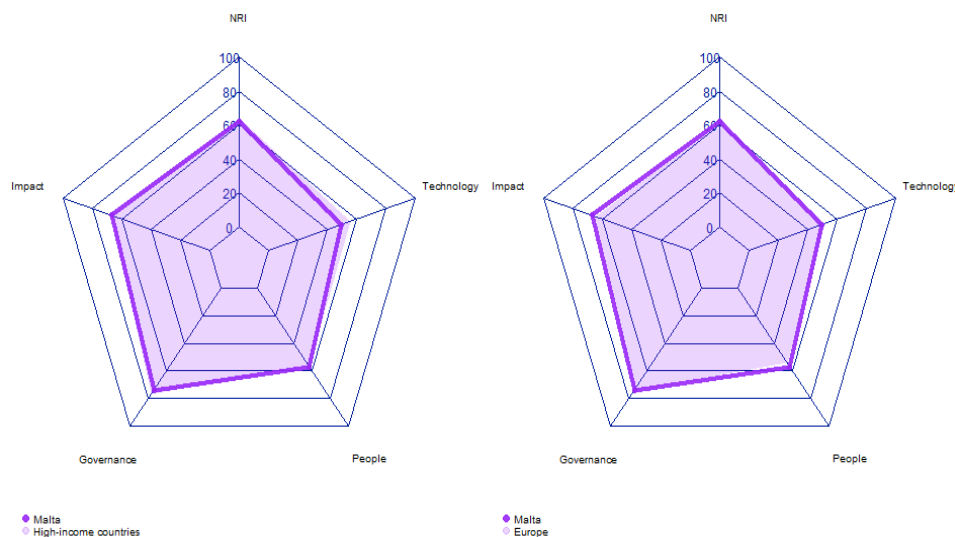
### High-income countries

Malta is ranked 31st in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in two of the four pillars: People and Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in four of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals, Governments, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

### Europe

Malta is ranked 22nd within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the four pillars: NRI, People and Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in nine of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

**Figure 4: Performance of Malta against its income group and region, overall and by pillar**



**Table 2: Malta scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar**

Dimension	Malta	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	61.94	64.07	61.25
Technology	49.71	55.76	51.90
People	57.05	56.99	54.16
Governance	73.95	76.81	74.33
Impact	67.04	66.73	64.61

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## Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Malta performs particularly well include 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network, 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, and 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.1.4 Domestic market size, 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions, 1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth, and 1.2.4 AI scientific publications.

**Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Malta**

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	107
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	113
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	3	1.2.4 AI scientific publications	113
4.1.2 High-tech exports	8	1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	116
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	9	4.1.4 Domestic market size	126
2.2.1 Firms with website	11		
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	13		
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	14		
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	14		
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	15		
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	18		
2.3.1 Government online services	18		

Note: For the full list of strengths and weaknesses, see At-A-Glance table.

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## NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Malta

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 32 (out of 134)

Score: 61.94

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	33	49.71	C. Governance pillar	33	73.95
1st sub-pillar: Access	79	60.65	1st sub-pillar: Trust	37	67.76
2nd sub-pillar: Content	31	39.60	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	28	79.80
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	27	48.89	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	38	74.31
B. People pillar	26	57.05	D. Impact pillar	28	67.04
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	34	53.97	1st sub-pillar: Economy	30	40.30
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	33	59.92	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	25	80.26
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	22	57.26	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	24	80.57

### The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	33	49.71	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	33	73.95
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	79	60.65	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	37	67.76
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	43	72.85	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	38	76.43
1.1.2 Handset prices	43	62.20	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	57	83.36
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	116	6.37	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	31	51.17
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	3.1.4 Internet shopping	34	60.06
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	113	61.84	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	28	79.80
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	NA	NA	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	38	67.98
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	31	39.60	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	9	95.29
1.2.1 GitHub commits	31	34.37	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	14	80.26
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	18	47.27	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	17	76.24	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	86	55.44
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	113	0.51	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	38	74.31
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	27	48.89	3.3.1 E-Participation	22	75.59
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	37	61.51	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	47	84.38
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	38	53.50	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	54	66.35



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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	37	70.29
1.3.4 Computer software spending	30	31.65	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	29	74.97
<b>B. People pillar</b>	26	57.05	<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	28	67.04
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	34	53.97	<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	30	40.30
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	107	1.40 ○	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	32	44.79
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	55	54.45	4.1.2 High-tech exports	8	59.89 ●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	36	74.49	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	19	42.22
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	30	46.42	4.1.4 Domestic market size	126	31.43 ○
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	52	93.09	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	33	59.59
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	4.1.6 ICT services exports	102	3.85
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	33	59.92	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	25	80.26
2.2.1 Firms with website	11	85.26 ●	4.2.1 Happiness	38	73.41
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	14	74.47 ●	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	57	77.06
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	21	69.70	4.2.3 Income inequality	27	79.40
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	NA	NA	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	13	91.17 ●
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	44	10.23	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	24	80.57
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	22	57.26	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	28	86.75
2.3.1 Government online services	18	87.28 ●	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	41	50.93
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	NA	NA	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	36	87.61
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	15	73.14 ●	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	3	90.17 ●
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	56	11.35	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	25	87.38

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.



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