

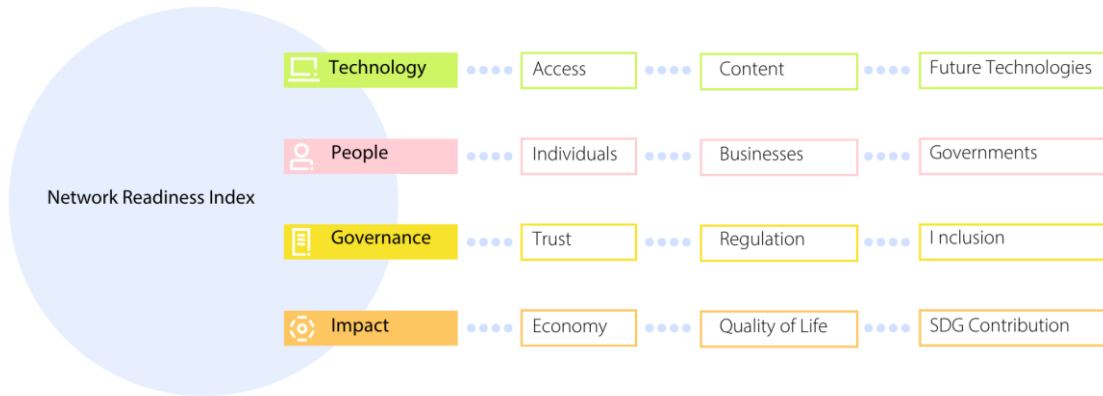
# Network Readiness Index 2024



## 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 2024 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 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 54 variables.

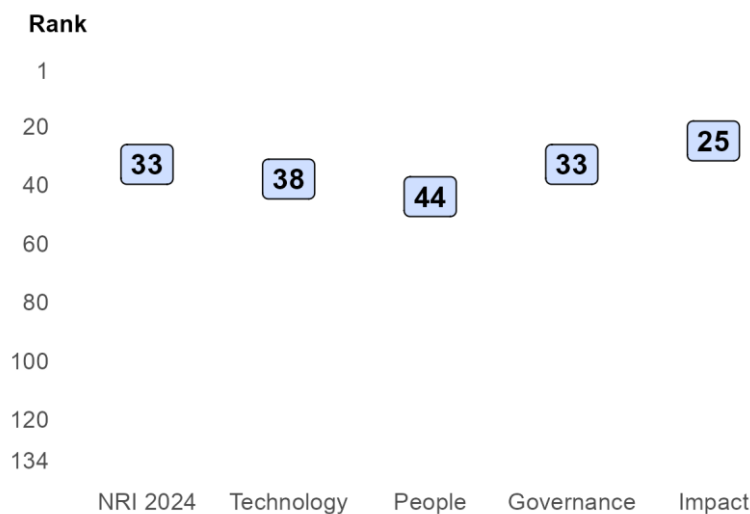
Figure 1: The NRI 2024 model



### Global NRI position of Malta

Malta ranks 33rd out of the 133 economies included in the NRI 2024 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Impact. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns People.

Figure 2: Malta global ranking, overall and by pillar



# Network Readiness Index 2024



## Performance at sub-pillar level

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

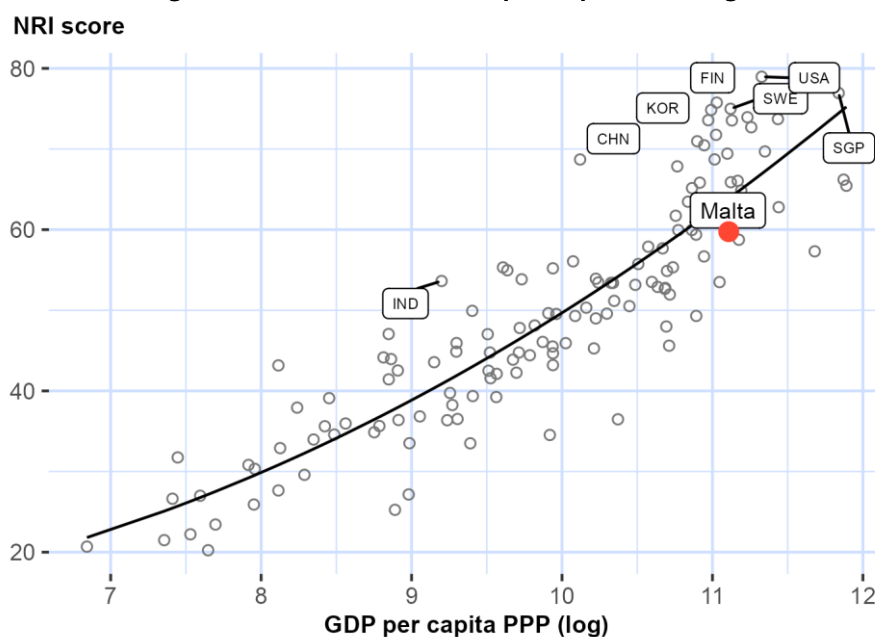
Table 1: Malta rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
SDG Contribution	25	Content	40
Quality of Life	28	Individuals	42
Regulation	29	Governments	42
Future Technologies	30	Economy	42
Inclusion	31	Businesses	58
Trust	38	Access	70

## 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 well below the trend line, which suggests that it is underachieving and that one would expect it could raise its network readiness in view of 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), SWE = Sweden (4), KOR = Republic of Korea (5), CHN = China (17), and IND = India (49). 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).

# Network Readiness Index 2024



## Performance against its income group and region

### High-income countries

Malta is ranked 32nd 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 one of the four pillars: Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals, Regulation, Inclusion, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

### Europe

Malta is ranked 23rd within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the four pillars: Governance and Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in six of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies, Individuals, Regulation, Inclusion, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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

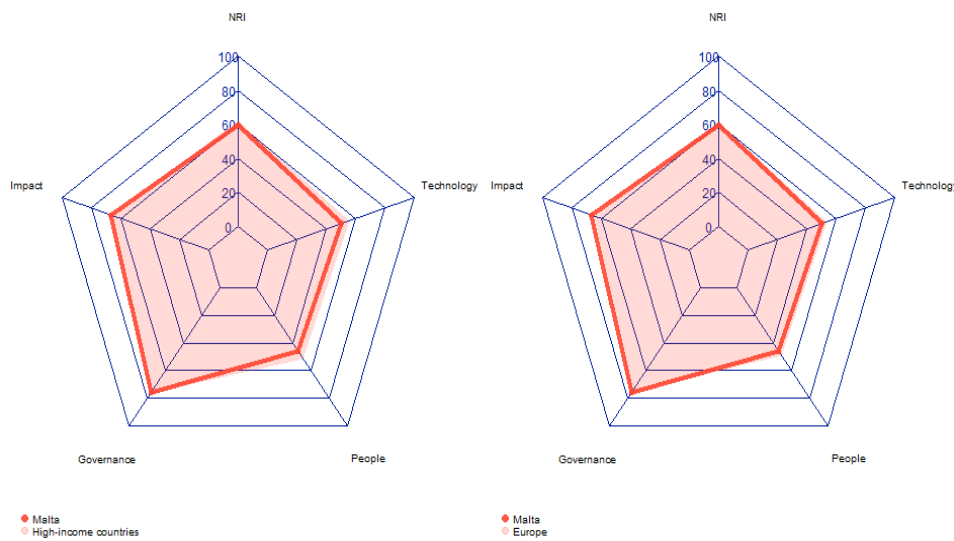


Table 2: Malta scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Malta	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	59.75	62.50	60.84
Technology	50.51	55.84	53.51
People	46.04	51.81	49.45
Governance	75.90	76.61	75.76
Impact	66.55	65.73	64.63

# Network

## Readiness Index

### 2024



#### 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 4.1.2 Domestic market scale, 1.2.4 AI scientific publications, and 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions.

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

<b>Strongest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Weakest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	62
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	4.1.4 ICT services exports	73
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	3	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	80
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	7	2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	93
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	9	1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	114
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	13	2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	115
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	14	1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	118
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	14	1.2.4 AI scientific publications	122
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	15	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	124
2.2.1 Firms with website	16		
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	18		
2.3.1 Government online services	18		
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	19		

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

# Network

## Readiness Index

### 2024



## NRI 2024 At-A-Glance: Malta

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 33 (out of 133)

Score: 59.75

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	38	50.51	C. Governance pillar	33	75.90
1st sub-pillar: Access	70	64.58	1st sub-pillar: Trust	38	70.84
2nd sub-pillar: Content	40	38.69	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	29	81.02
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	30	48.26	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	31	75.83
B. People pillar	44	46.04	D. Impact pillar	25	66.55
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	42	54.03	1st sub-pillar: Economy	42	39.35
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	58	37.29	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	28	78.72
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	42	46.81	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	25	81.58

### The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score	
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	38	50.51	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	33	75.90	
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	70	64.58	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	38	70.84	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	43	75.35	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	39	76.43	
1.1.2 Handset prices	47	80.12	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	57	83.67	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	118	6.75	○ 3.1.3 Online access to financial account	35	63.20	
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	114	60.70	○ <i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	29	81.02	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	NA	NA	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	41	63.84	
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	40	38.69	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	9	95.24	●
1.2.1 GitHub commits	32	35.55	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	14	81.74	●
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	18	44.04	● 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	19	74.71	● 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	80	64.26	○
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	122	0.46	○ <i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	31	75.83	
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	30	48.26	3.3.1 E-Participation	22	75.59	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	62	61.50	○ 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	
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	7	77.89	●

# Network

## Readiness Index

### 2024



Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
1.3.4 Computer software spending	36	29.77	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	29	74.97
<b>B. People pillar</b>	44	46.04	<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	25	66.55
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	42	54.03	<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	42	39.35
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	115	1.97	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	13	54.32
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	46	62.43	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	124	32.74
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	58	59.18	4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy	33	59.59
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	52	92.55	4.1.4 ICT services exports	73	10.73
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	28	78.72
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	58	37.29	4.2.1 Happiness	47	68.89
2.2.1 Firms with website	16	81.89	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	55	80.68
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	20	22.81	4.2.3 Income inequality	27	81.23
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	NA	NA	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	15	91.96
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	93	7.17	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	25	81.58
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	42	46.81	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	14	90.32
2.3.1 Government online services	18	87.28	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	38	50.30
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	45	40.35	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	38	88.03
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	38	48.26	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	3	99.12
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.

# Network

## Readiness Index

### 2024



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