

Network Readiness Index 2025

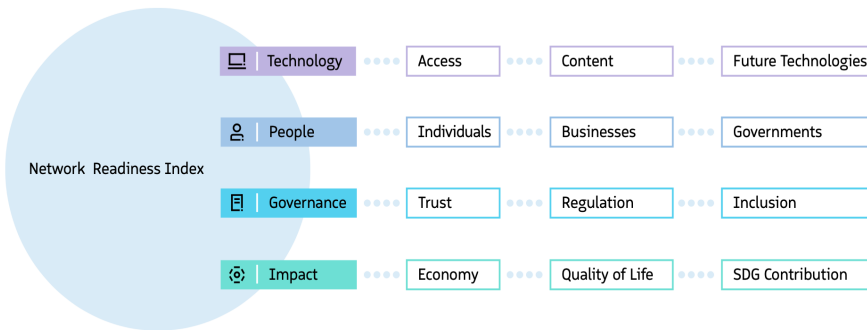
With support from:



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 2025 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 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 53 variables.

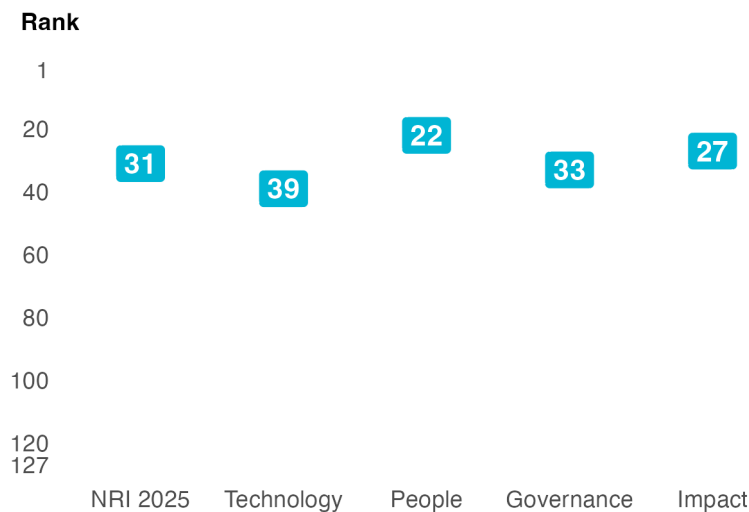
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Malta

Malta ranks 31 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology.

Figure 2: Malta global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

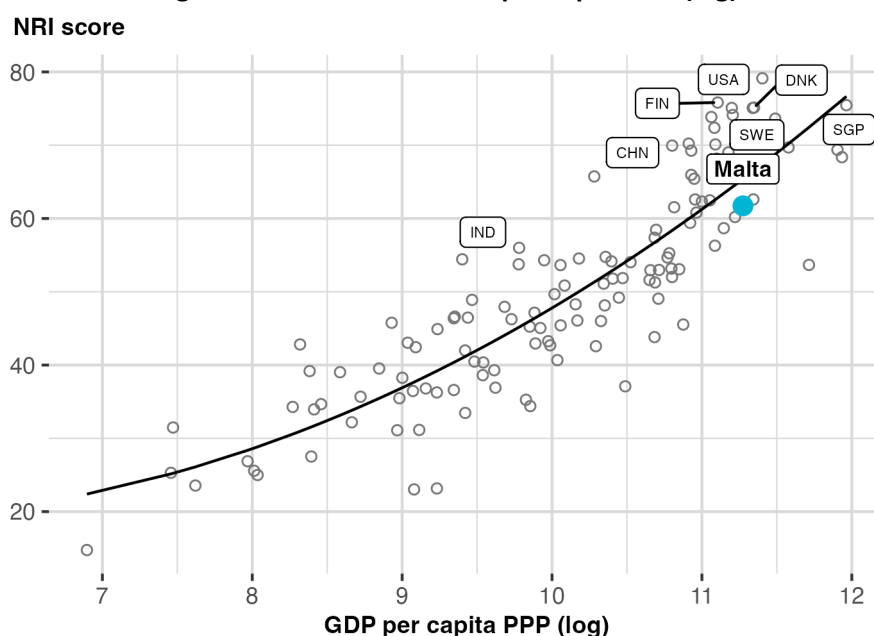
Table 1: Malta rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Businesses	6	Content	39
SDG Contribution	22	Individuals	42
Regulation	27	Trust	45
Future Technologies	33	Economy	45
Inclusion	33	Governments	51
Quality of Life	33	Access	66

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 of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Malta is ranked 30th 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: People. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in four of the twelve sub-pillars: Businesses, Regulation, Inclusion and SDG Contribution.

Europe

Malta is ranked 21st within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the four pillars: People and Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in seven of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, 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	61.72	62.71	61.14
Technology	50.48	55.47	53.04
People	55.46	52.36	50.07
Governance	75.82	77.18	76.41
Impact	65.14	65.84	65.05

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Malta

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 31 (out of 127)

Score: 61.72

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	39	50.48	C. Governance pillar	33	75.82
1st sub-pillar: Access	66	67.67	1st sub-pillar: Trust	45	73.27
2nd sub-pillar: Content	39	37.99	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	27	77.48
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	33	45.78	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	33	76.72
B. People pillar	22	55.46	D. Impact pillar	27	65.14
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	42	55.89	1st sub-pillar: Economy	45	37.66
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	6	64.71	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	33	75.55
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	51	45.77	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	22	82.20

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	39	50.48	C. Governance pillar	33	75.82
1st sub-pillar: Access	66	67.67	1st sub-pillar: Trust	45	73.27
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	15	88.38	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	58	67.67
1.1.2 Handset prices	42	82.63	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	54	92.09
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	115	6.63	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	3.1.4 Internet shopping	35	60.04
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	114	60.70	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	27	77.48
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	n/a	n/a	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	39	59.43
2nd sub-pillar: Content	39	37.99	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	16	90.62
1.2.1 GitHub commits	34	29.93	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	14	80.22
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	17	50.25	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	29	71.47	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	79	57.11
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	111	0.30	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	33	76.72
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	33	45.78	3.3.1 E-Participation	46	72.46
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	62	61.50	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	46	82.17
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	38	53.50	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	6	75.55
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a
1.3.4 Computer software spending	45	22.34	D. Impact pillar	27	65.14
B. People pillar	22	55.46	1st sub-pillar: Economy	45	37.66
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	42	55.89	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	16	47.46
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	112	2.21	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	118	33.93
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	46	58.82	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	37	59.72
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	61	70.38	4.1.4 ICT services exports	79	9.54
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	49	92.14	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	33	75.55
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	4.2.1 Happiness	46	68.28
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	6	64.71	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	54	77.21

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Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	16	88.10	●
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	14	41.33	●
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	n/a	n/a	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	n/a	n/a	
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	51	45.77	
2.3.1 Government online services	30	84.95	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	45	40.35	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	38	48.26	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	58	9.53	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	57	72.45	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	12	89.89	●
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	22	82.20	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	38	50.30	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	37	87.27	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	3	98.39	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	25	85.70	

NOTE: ● indicates a strength and ○ indicates a weakness.

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