

## IFRS® STANDARDS—APPLICATION AROUND THE WORLD



### JURISDICTIONAL PROFILE: **Malta**

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This Profile provides information about the application of IFRS® Accounting Standards (Standards) in Malta. The Standards are developed and issued in the public interest by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The IASB is the standard-setting body of the IFRS Foundation (Foundation), an independent, private sector, not-for-profit organisation.

The Foundation has prepared this Profile based on information from various sources. The starting point was the answers provided by standard-setting and other bodies in response to surveys the Foundation conducted on the application of the Standards around the world. The Foundation drafted the profile and invited the respondents to the survey. The Foundation also invited others (including regulators and international audit firms) to review the drafts. Their comments are reflected in this Profile.

The purpose of the Foundation's Jurisdictional Profiles is to illustrate only the extent of implementation of the Standards across the globe. The Profiles do not reflect the intellectual property licensing status of the Standards within any given jurisdiction. The Standards are protected by copyright and are subject to licensing arrangements agreed upon within their jurisdiction. For further information, please contact [permissions@ifrs.org](mailto:permissions@ifrs.org).

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#### RELEVANT JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

Organisation	Malta Institute of Accountants (MIA)
Role of the organisation	The MIA is a professional body. The Maltese standard setting body is the Accountancy Board (a government agency).
Website	MIA: <a href="http://www.miamalta.org/">www.miamalta.org/</a> Accountancy Board: <a href="https://accountancyboard.gov.mt">https://accountancyboard.gov.mt</a>
Email contact	<a href="mailto:technical@miamalta.org">technical@miamalta.org</a>

#### COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

Has the jurisdiction made a public commitment in support of moving towards a Yes.

single set of high quality global accounting standards?	Refer to EU/1606/2002 Regulation on the application of international accounting standards (IAS).
Has the jurisdiction made a public commitment towards IFRS Accounting Standards as that single set of high quality global accounting standards?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Refer to the IAS Regulation adopted by the European Union in 2002.</p>
What is the jurisdiction's status of adoption?	Malta has already adopted IFRS Standards for all or some companies.
Additional comments provided on the adoption status?	<p>Malta joined the European Union as of 1 May 2004. Even before that, in 1995 Malta had adopted IFRS Standards (then known as IAS Standards) for all companies.</p> <p>As a member state of the European Union, Malta is subject to EU/1606/2002 Regulation on the application of international accounting standards (IAS).</p> <p>The EU IAS Regulation requires application of IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU for the consolidated financial statements of European companies whose securities trade in a regulated securities market starting in 2005. The EU IAS Regulation gives member states the option to require or permit IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU in separate company financial statements (statutory accounts) and/or in the financial statements of companies whose securities do not trade on a regulated securities market. See the Profile for the European Union for more detailed information about the EU IAS Regulation.</p> <p>In Malta, the regulated markets are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Wholesale Securities Market</li> <li>• Malta Automated Trading System</li> </ul> <p>Malta has used the option under the IAS Regulation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU in the separate company accounts of all companies whose securities trade in a regulated market.</li> <li>• Require IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU in both the consolidated and separate company accounts of all banks, insurance companies, some other supervised financial institutions, and larger companies deemed significant in the local economy.</li> <li>• Permit IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU in both the consolidated and separate company financial statements of all other companies.</li> </ul>
If the jurisdiction has NOT made a public statement supporting the move towards a single set of accounting standards and/or towards IFRS Accounting Standards as that set of standards, explain the jurisdiction's general position towards the adoption of IFRS Accounting Standards in the jurisdiction.	Not applicable.

## EXTENT OF IFRS APPLICATION

*For DOMESTIC companies whose debt or equity securities trade in a public market in the jurisdiction:*

Are all or some domestic companies whose securities trade in a public market either required or permitted to use IFRS

Yes.

Accounting Standards in their consolidated financial statements?

If YES, are IFRS Accounting Standards REQUIRED or PERMITTED?

In accordance with the EU Accounting Regulation, IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU are required for the consolidated financial statements of all European companies whose debt or equity securities trade in a regulated market in Malta.

Does that apply to ALL domestic companies whose securities trade in a public market, or only SOME? If some, which ones?

All.

Are IFRS Accounting Standards also required or permitted for more than the consolidated financial statements of companies whose securities trade in a public market?

Yes.

For instance, are IFRS Accounting Standards required or permitted in separate company financial statements of companies whose securities trade in a public market?

IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU are required in the separate company accounts of all companies whose securities trade in a regulated market.

For instance, are IFRS Accounting Standards required or permitted for companies whose securities do not trade in a public market?

IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU are required in both the consolidated and separate company accounts of all banks, insurance companies, some other supervised financial institutions, and larger companies deemed significant in the local economy. The larger companies deemed significant in the local economy are those that meet any one of the following criteria:

- Total assets more than €17,500,000.
- Total revenue more than €35,000,000.
- Average number of employees more than 250.
- A shareholder owning 20% or more of the outstanding shares requests use of full IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU.

IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU are permitted (but not required) in both the consolidated and separate company financial statements of all other companies.

If the jurisdiction currently does NOT require or permit the use of IFRS Accounting Standards for domestic companies whose securities trade in a public market, are there any plans to permit or require IFRS Accounting Standards for such companies in the future?

Not applicable.

*For FOREIGN companies whose debt or equity securities trade in a public market in the jurisdiction:*

Are all or some foreign companies whose securities trade in a public market either REQUIRED or PERMITTED to use IFRS Accounting Standards in their consolidated financial statements?

Yes.

If YES, are IFRS Accounting Standards REQUIRED or PERMITTED in such cases?

Required for some and permitted for others. Foreign companies whose securities trade in a regulated market in Malta (and generally in the EU) are required to report under IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU for their consolidated financial statements unless the European Commission has deemed their local accounting standards to be equivalent to IFRS Standards,

in which case they may use their local standards. Further details may be found on the 'Financial Reporting' page of the European Commission's website.

Does that apply to ALL foreign companies whose securities trade in a public market, or only SOME? If some, which ones?

All.

## IFRS ENDORSEMENT

Which IFRS Accounting Standards are required or permitted for domestic companies?

IFRS Standards as adopted by the European Union, which are IFRS Standards as issued by the IASB Board with some limited modifications such as the temporary 'carve-out' from IAS 39. However, the resulting financial statements of the majority of companies can still be in full compliance with IFRS Standards.

The auditor's report and/or the basis of presentation footnote states that financial statements have been prepared in conformity with:

IFRS Standards as adopted by the European Union.

Does the auditor's report and/or the basis of preparation footnote allow for 'dual reporting' (conformity with both IFRS Accounting Standards and the jurisdiction's GAAP)?

Yes.

Are IFRS Accounting Standards incorporated into law or regulations?

Yes.

If yes, how does that process work?

The process is described in the Profile of the European Union.  
  
Additionally, subsidiary legislation in Malta known as the Accountancy Profession (Accounting and Auditing Standards) Regulations prescribes that 'generally accepted accounting principles and practice' shall mean adherence to IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU.

If no, how do IFRS Accounting Standards become a requirement in the jurisdiction?

Not applicable.

Does the jurisdiction have a formal process for the 'endorsement' or 'adoption' of new or amended IFRS Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) in place?

Yes.

If yes, what is the process?

The process is described in the Profile of the European Union.

If no, how do new or amended IFRS Accounting Standards become a requirement in the jurisdiction?

Not applicable.

Has the jurisdiction eliminated any accounting policy options permitted by IFRS Accounting Standards and/or made any modifications to any IFRS Accounting Standards?

Yes.

If yes, what are the changes?

Details are in the Profile of the European Union.

Other comments regarding the use of IFRS Accounting Standards in the jurisdiction?

None

## TRANSLATION OF IFRS ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Are IFRS Accounting Standards translated into the local language?

Yes.

The European Union has 24 official and working languages. They are: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish. Before they are published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, and therefore become binding under EU law, individual IFRS Standards must be translated into all of those languages (other than English and Irish).

If they are translated, what is the translation process? In particular, does this process ensure an ongoing translation of the latest updates to IFRS Accounting Standards?

Pursuant to a copyright waiver agreement with the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission, the Commission takes care of the translation into the official languages according to their own translation process. The translation only covers the standards and mandatory guidance, which is then published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

In addition, some countries (usually the standard setter or institute) have a translation contract with the IFRS Foundation to produce an 'official translation' for publication of a bound volume of IFRS Standards (usually the 'Red Book') and publication, in some cases, of individual standards and exposure drafts.

## APPLICATION OF THE IFRS FOR SMEs ACCOUNTING STANDARD

Has the jurisdiction adopted the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard for at least some SMEs?

No.

If no, is the adoption of the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard under consideration?

No.

Did the jurisdiction make any modifications to the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard?

Not applicable.

If the jurisdiction has made any modifications, what are those modifications?

Not applicable.

Which SMEs use the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard in the jurisdiction, and are they required or permitted to do so?

Not applicable.

For those SMEs that are not required to use the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard, what other accounting framework do they use?

Some large companies whose securities do not trade in a public market and that meet the definition of SMEs in the *IFRS for SMEs* Standard are required to use full IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU. Those are companies that meet any one of the following criteria:

- Total assets more than €17,500,000.
- Total revenue more than €35,000,000.
- Average number of employees more than 250.
- A shareholder owning 20% or more of the outstanding shares requests use of full IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU.

All other SMEs may use full IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU or they may use the General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities in 2009 (GAPSE) adopted by the Malta Institute of Accountants in February 2009.

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Other comments regarding use of the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard?

MIA states that they developed GAPSE because they believe that the measurement and disclosure requirements of the *IFRS for SMEs* Standard are 'still considered to be too onerous for SMEs' in Malta.