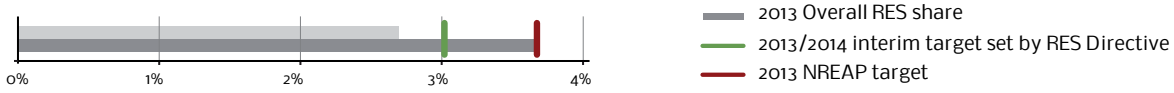
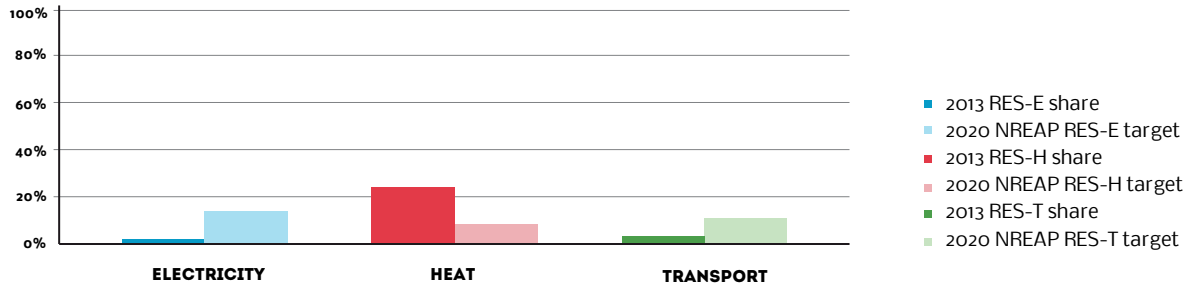
IS MALTA
on track?

- Malta has achieved both its 2013 NREAP target and the interim target 2013/2014.
- The targeted 2020 RES-H&C share has already been achieved. The RES-E share is below planned values in 2013, but if the high growth rate can be maintained, the 2020 target can still be achieved.

OVERALL RES SHARE

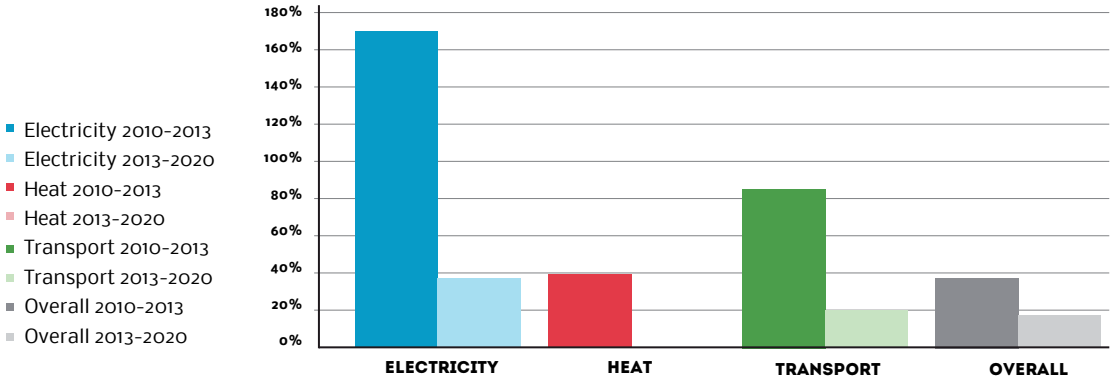


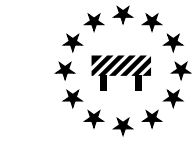
2013 RES SHARE COMPARED TO 2020 TARGET SHARE IN CORRESPONDING SECTORAL GROSS FINAL ENERGY DEMAND



	ELECTRICITY	HEAT	TRANSPORT	TOTAL
2013 actual share of RES in sectoral gross final energy demand	1.6%	23.7%	3.3%	3.8%
2013 NREAP target	3.7%	8.5%	3.6%	3.8%
2013/2014 interim target set by RES Directive	-	-	-	3.0%

AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES OF RES SHARES FROM 2010 TO 2013 COMPARED TO GROWTH RATES REQUIRED FROM 2013 TO 2020





BARRIERS
to RES deployment

ELECTRICITY

BARRIER	DESCRIPTION
INEFFICIENT GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES	Micro-wind turbines are being somewhat limited in the built environment by MEPA because of the requirements, which pose a large burden on the applicant. As for large-scale projects, a clear sharing of responsibilities is lacking, as MRA, MEPA and Enemalta refer to three different ministries and the responsibilities of each one are not clear to the other two.
INEXISTENT OR INSUFFICIENT SPATIAL PLANNING, COMPETING PUBLIC INTEREST	Large-scale RES installations are not possible in Malta. Furthermore, spatial planning is not done at a long-term level.
LACK OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE GOVERNMENT	The Government, and politicians in general, lack technical knowledge, as there is only one engineer involved in politics, the rest being architects, economists and lawyers. Technical know-how is given by external advisors, which makes energetic and environmental policy dependent on them and which therefore lacks continuity.

HEAT

BARRIER	DESCRIPTION
NO GUARANTEED LONG-TERM SECURITY OF SUPPORT MEASURES	There is only the Solar Water Heaters scheme in place for the promotion of domestic SWH. No more than one grant is currently available per technology. Hence the long-term security of the support measures is not guaranteed.

TRANSPORT

BARRIER	DESCRIPTION
NO LONG-TERM SECURITY OF THE SUPPORT MEASURES	There is no long-term security of the support measures mentioned in the NREAP. Regarding the supervision and non-fulfillment of the obligation, a pro-rata penalty is considered for importers/wholesalers. Furthermore, there are no specific support measures for 2nd generation biofuels.

KEY TRENDS IN THE RES SECTOR

• The planned offshore wind farm will not be considered further because of environmental and economic reasons. Instead, the majority of renewable electricity shall be generated from a high number of small-scale installations.

• Malta's energy policy aims at stabilizing its energy supply with an interconnector project to Sicily, which is expected to be operative by June 2015.

• The key policy instrument for RES-H&C is a subsidy scheme for solar water heating systems, funded only from the national budget.

• Biodiesel in Malta is retailed either directly from the manufacturers or from a number of petroleum filling stations. Biodiesel, though, has a separate pump at the filling station, forcing drivers to create the mix themselves by taking fuel from two separate pumps.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ELECTRICITY SECTOR

• Reduce the complexity of administrative procedures: Guidelines for RES installations exist only at micro level. As for large-scale project, there are no rules or guidelines or a clear sharing of responsibilities. Private investors have come to Malta to develop renewable energy projects. However, most of them have backed out because of administrative reasons (time costliness, unclear procedures...).

• An integration of RES-E in spatial and environmental planning is needed: The demographic and geographic characteristics of the country alone create issues for spatial planning, as Malta is a very small and densely populated state. Large-scale RES installations are not possible in Malta, for this reason.

• Reduce the duration of administrative procedures: The lead-time needed to establish grid connection, including the collection of all permits, may be several years.

HEATING AND COOLING SECTOR

• The implementation of a reliable RES-H&C strategy and support scheme is needed: The only support scheme in place is the promotion scheme for domestic solar water heaters.

• Raise the remuneration level for RES-H&C installations: Only solar thermal applications receive adequate remuneration.

• Implement regulations for a suitable installation of solar H&C technologies: Approx. 50% of the Maltese population live in apartment buildings. This means that they might not have access to the roof. In order to solve this problem facade instalments may be an option. However, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority does not easily issue permits, for aesthetic reasons or for lack of knowledge.

TRANSPORT SECTOR

• Establish technical regulations to mitigate barriers for biofuel blending: Biodiesel has a separate pump at the filling station, forcing drivers to create the mix themselves by taking fuel from two separate pumps.

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