



# EHMA 2024

Shaping and managing  
innovative health ecosystems

## Applying Circular and Green Economy principles amongst Hospitals:

### The Case of an Acute Teaching Hospital in Malta

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# Background



Hospitals and labs emit 4.4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and are responsible for more than 5 million tons of waste each year.



The integration of Circular and Green Economy (CGE) principles within healthcare systems stands as a paramount strategy in addressing environmental sustainability challenges.



Through robust waste reduction and management strategies, hospitals have minimized waste generation by repurposing and recycling medical equipment, embracing reusable materials, and implementing meticulous hazardous waste segregation protocols.



Such initiatives have not only minimized environmental footprint but have also contributed significantly to cost savings within these healthcare facilities.

# Aim

To investigate how CGE principles are being integrated and applied in a hospital setting in Malta.

# Methodology

- A qualitative approach was adopted
- Document analysis was conducted on:
  - Policy documents
  - Internal hospital document

# Results

Policy Framework	Hospital Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malta Climate Adaptation Strategy (2012)</li> <li>• Malta Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021-2030</li> <li>• Malta Low Carbon Development Strategy (2021)</li> <li>• Malta Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050</li> <li>• Malta National Health System Strategy 2023-2030</li> <li>• EU Waste Management Law (Directive 2008/98/EC)</li> <li>• Green Public Procurement Regulation (COM -2008- 400)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some hospital wards are measuring how many bags of waste are discarded every week.</li> <li>• Waste separation system in place.</li> <li>• Educational campaigns amongst staff at different levels (i.e. cleaners, nurses and doctors).</li> <li>• QR codes applied on bins in order allow users to see a short video instruction on waste separation.</li> <li>• Procurement of energy efficiency equipment.</li> <li>• Reduced use of plastic in the hospital canteen.</li> </ul>

# Conclusion

- The integration of CGE principles within hospitals demonstrates a paradigm shift towards sustainable healthcare systems.
- The efficacy of these initiatives in not only reducing environmental impact but also in fostering economic viability and resilience within healthcare infrastructures.
- Although several initiatives are currently being implemented in the analysed hospital, further actions need to be taken in the near future.





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# Thank you

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