

Europass CV

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Manuel Sapiano

Tova' (83), St Thomas Str, Rabat RBT2240, MALTA

00356 22292589  00356 99858124

manuel.sapiano@gov.mt

Sex M | Date of birth 30/12/1972 | Nationality Maltese

WORK EXPERIENCE

2018 - present

Chief Executive Officer

Energy and Water Agency (EWA)

From a regional perspective, represents Malta in the following initiatives:.....
[Policy Development and Implementation](#)

Chief Executive Officer of the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) within Malta's Ministry for Energy and Water Management. In this role, coordinates a team of experts with responsibilities for the formulation, evaluation, monitoring and implementation of national policies concerning the use of energy and water in a sustainable manner and the formulation of plans to meet National and EU energy and water resources management targets.

He also coordinates EWA's identification of and participation in research and development initiatives in the energy and water sectors, mainly focusing on issues such as the water and energy demand management and use efficiency, renewable energies, groundwater resources management and policy assessment and formulation.

2013 - 2019

Chief Policy Officer (Water)

Energy and Water Agency (EWA)

As Water Director for Malta, led the Water Policy Unit within EWA with responsibilities for

- the development of the National Water Management Plan and the undertaking of a National Water Conservation initiatives;
- the implementation of EU related water legislation in Malta (including the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Floods Directive), with particular reference to the formulation and implementation of Malta's 2nd River Basin Management Plan;
- the identification of national priorities for the water sector and the identification of the required funding instruments; and
- providing policy support to Government in issues related to the management of water resources and the water industry.

Within the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive, fulfils the role of Water Director for Malta. Furthermore, participates as one of the co-chairs with the EU Commission the Ad Hoc Task Group on Water Reuse and since 2004 has been the national representative on the CIS Groundwater Working Group. In this regard, he also chairs the national Inter-Ministerial Committee tasked with coordinating all the national public stakeholders involved in the implementation process of the Water Framework Directive in the Maltese Islands.

From a regional perspective, represents Malta in the following initiatives:

- Water Strategy for the Western Mediterranean under the 5+5 process,
- Mediterranean Water Agenda under the Union for the Mediterranean, where he is a member of the Water Expert Group (WEG).

In the latter initiative, he actively supported the process leading to the development of a Mediterranean Water Agenda which culminated in its official endorsement in the UfM Ministerial Meeting held in Malta in April 2017. As part of the implementation of the UfM's Water Agenda is currently co-coordinating with Egypt the development of a regional strategic vision for water supply and sanitation.

Furthermore, coordinates EWA's participation in EU funded projects. Current projects include a LIFE Integrated Project to support the implementation of Malta's 2nd River Basin Management Plan and the undertaking of a National Water Conservation Campaign, and the optimisation of hydrological monitoring infrastructure funded under the Cohesion Fund. Further projects include the Consume-Less and Castwater Projects funded under the INTERREG –Mediterranean Programme which focus on sustainable tourism water demand, and the AQUARES project under the INTERREG-EUROPE programme which deals with the development of water reuse policies. Implemented projects include MORISO focusing on groundwater protection funded the INTERREG Italia-Malta Programme, MARSOL focusing on managed aquifer recharge funded the FP7 programme, an ERDF funded project (ERDF-346) focusing on subsurface groundwater discharge and the FREEWAT project focusing on the development of groundwater numerical models funded under the H2020 programme.

During this period has also participated in TAIEX missions related to the Circular Economy Package in Morocco, and on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Serbia. Has also collaborated with the World Bank Group's Water Scarce Cities Initiative, participating in regional conferences in Morocco (2016) and Beirut (2017). In 2015 also participated in the 1st Peer Review Process supporting the review of the river basin planning process of the Autorita di Bacino dei fiumi dell'Alto Adriatico in Venice (Italy).

Acts also as focal point for the Energy and Water Agency in:

- the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), of which the Agency currently serves as Presidency, and
- EuroGeoSureys (EGS), where the Agency represents Malta in the field of groundwater resources.

[Policy Development and Implementation](#)

2002 - 2013

Senior Analyst (Hydrogeology)

Malta Resources Authority

Responsible for the national process for the implementation of the Water Framework (Dir 2000/60/EC) and the (new) Groundwater Directive (Dir 2006/118/EC). Actively involved in the formulation of the groundwater related aspects of the Article 3 (Definition of the River Basin District), Article 5 (Characterisation), Article 8 (Monitoring) Reports as well as Malta's 1st River Basin Management Plan, as required by the Directive. During 2007, participated in a Twinning-Light Project with the French Ministry of the Environment aimed at developing a Programme of Measures for the Maltese River Basin District.

Since 2004, National Representative on the following Working Groups of the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive:

- Working Group 'C' Groundwater
- Working Group on the Environmental Objectives.

Participated actively in the formulation of guidance documents published by these Working Groups. These include guidance documents on groundwater monitoring, groundwater status and trend assessment, exemptions to the environmental objectives and the Mediterranean Groundwater Report.

In 2011 participated in an EU Mission to the Yellow River in China as part of the EU-China RBMP Process following an invitation by China's Ministry of Water Resources. The scope of this mission was to support the development of the China-Europe collaboration for river basin management by identifying potential collaboration opportunities.

Participated also in 2002 in a research project led by the International Atomic Energy Agency which aimed to utilise natural isotopes for an improved understanding of the hydrogeology of the Maltese islands. Moreover, during 2008 coordinated a further research project which utilised natural isotopes as tracers of nitrate pollution. This project was funded under the Technical Assistance programme of the Common Agricultural Policy and was led by the British Geological Survey.

Involved in the Environmental Regulation of Groundwater Resources in the Maltese Islands. Participated and analysed various EIA and EPS reports for major proposed (potentially polluting) developments.

Responsible for co-ordinating MRA's participation in two INTERREG Projects; Interreg IIIA Italia Malta – INWATERMAN (Management of water resources in arid and semi-arid insular environments and the re-use of treated effluent), Interreg IIIB Archimed - WATER-MAP (Development and utilisation of Vulnerability Maps for the monitoring and management of groundwater), an FP-7 (CLIMATEWATER) and two FP-6 (MELIA and SAFEWATER) Projects. Participated in the following EU Projects: BaSeLiNe [(EVK1-CT-1999-00006) - Natural baseline quality in European Aquifers: a basis for aquifer management]; WASAMED [(ICA3-CT-2002-10013) - Water saving in Mediterranean Agriculture].

Environmental and Economic Regulation of Water Resources

1997 - 2002

Consultant

Water Services Corporation

Provision of consultancy services to the Water Services Corporation on groundwater management issues in the period leading to Malta's accession to the European Union. During this period was specifically involved in various projects including:

- The Delineation of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (according to Directive 91/676/EEC) in the Maltese islands;
- The Delineation of Groundwater Vulnerability Maps for the Sea Level Aquifer systems in the Maltese islands; and
- A comprehensive analysis of the Corporation's groundwater monitoring networks and methodologies.

Research and Development

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1995 - 1997

Master of Science

University of Malta

- Hydrology, Hydrogeology

1992 - 1995

Bachelor of Science

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University of Malta

- Physics, Chemistry

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Maltese, English

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Replace with name of language certificate. Enter level if known.					
Italian	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Replace with name of language certificate. Enter level if known.					

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Short Courses

- Natural Isotope Hydrology – International Atomic Energy Agency, Joanneum Research Centre (Austria) – 2002, 2008
- Sustainable use of Water on Mediterranean Islands – University of Munster - 2003

Computer skills

- Groundwater Modelling software, Visual Modflow and Seawat
- Groundwater quality management software, Aquachem

Driving licence

B, C1

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

Mangion, J., Sapiano, M. 2005. Meeting the Demand – Enhancing the Availability of Water Supplies in Malta, in International Conference of the LIFE – 3rd Countries Project: *Development and implementation of an integrated system for the control and monitoring of the urban wastewater treatment plants in Cyprus*.

Mangion, J., Sapiano, M. 2005. Theoretical timeframes required for the remediation of groundwater in line with the achievement of the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive, in: *Report – Water Framework Directive Workshop, IFOK, Berlin, Germany*.

Sapiano, M. 2006. Assessing the Impact of Different Water Policy Options in Agriculture, in Karam et al (eds), *Integration of Water Saving Options and Policies, Options Mediterraneennes*, CIHEAM, Valenzano, Italy.

Mangion, J., Sapiano, M., 2006. Malta Water Resources Review. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Rome, Italy.

Mangion, J., Sapiano, M. 2007. The Mean Sea Level Aquifer – Malta and Gozo, in: Edmunds et al. (eds), *Natural Groundwater Quality*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Attard, G., Sapiano, M., 2008. The evolution of Water Culture in Malta, in proceedings of the 1st MELIA Conference, *Options Mediterraneennes*, CIHEAM, Valenzano, Italy.

Sapiano, M. 2008. Measures for facing Water Scarcity and Droughts in Malta. *European Water* 23/24: 79-86.

Corbelli, V., Manos, B., Patrikaki, O., Polemio, M., Sapiano, M., and Voudouris, K. 2008. Aquifer vulnerability maps and decision support systems for the sustainable management of groundwater resources in the Mediterranean area, *Geophys. Res. Abstracts*, EGU, 10, 6903.

Stuart, M.E., Maurice, L., Heaton, T.H.E., Sapiano, M., Micallef Sultana, M., Goody, D.C. & Chilton, P.J. 2010. Groundwater residence time and movement in the Maltese islands – A geochemical approach. - *Applied Geochemistry*, 25, 609-620.

Heaton, T.H.E., Stuart, M.E., Sapiano, M. & Micallef Sultana, M. 2012. An isotope study of the sources of nitrate in Malta's groundwater. - *Journal of Hydrology*, Vols. 414/415, 244–254.

Sapiano, M., Schembri, M., Brincat, C. 2013. State of water resources in Mediterranean Islands, in *MEDIWAT, Sustainable management of environmental issues related to water stress in Mediterranean islands*, Final conference proceedings.

Sapiano, M., Schembri, M., Brincat, C. 2013. Assessing the environmental impact of artificial recharge by highly polished treated effluent on an unconfined aquifer system, in *MEDIWAT, Sustainable management of environmental issues related to water stress in Mediterranean islands*, Final conference proceedings.

Sapiano, M. (co-author) 2013. *MORISO Monitoring of the underground water resources, interventions to control marine intrusions and reduction in pollution from agricultural activities*. Final Publication.

Viola, F., Sapiano M., et al. 2014. The State of Water Resources in Major Mediterranean Islands *Water Resources*, 41 (6), 639-648

Coppola, E., Sapiano, M., Schembri, M., Szidarovsky, F. 2015. Application of Optimization Models and Decision Support Systems in Drought ; in *Handbook of Drought and Water Scarcity*, Francis & Taylor.

Sapiano, M. (co-author) 2015. *SWMED Sustainable domestic water use in the Mediterranean Regions*. Final Publication.

Sapiano, M., Capone, F., Fernandez Escalante E., Schuth C., MARSOL Demonstrating Managed Aquifer Recharge as a solution to water scarcity and drought. Policy document for decision makers.

Publications

Fernandez Escalante E. et al., MAR Implementation Guidelines and Benchmarking. MARSOL : Demonstrating Managed Aquifer Recharge as a Solution to Water Scarcity and Droughts

