

Summary of the MT peer-review report:

The peer review of the Malta National Cybersecurity Certification Authority (NCCA-MT) enabled the assessment of its preparedness and arrangements for implementing its responsibilities under the Cybersecurity Act (CSA). At the time of the review, no applications had been received for a number of the activities foreseen under the CSA framework and no European cybersecurity certificates at Assurance Level “High” had yet been issued in Malta. The assessment therefore focused primarily on governance arrangements, organisational structures, documented procedures and operational readiness.

No major findings were identified during the assessment. Overall, the peer-review team found that NCCA-MT has established a comprehensive and well-structured framework capable of supporting future certification-related activities. A number of strengths, areas for improvement and recommendations were identified with the aim of further enhancing operational clarity, transparency and security maturity.

The peer-review team particularly acknowledges the high level of cooperation, openness and professionalism demonstrated by NCCA-MT management and staff throughout the review. The establishment of the Regulatory Review Committee and the Enforcement Committee was also recognised as a positive governance practice, particularly for an NCCA operating with limited resources, as these structures provide additional oversight and support the integrity, impartiality and consistency of relevant decision-making processes.

From an organisational perspective, the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA), acting as NCCA-MT, has chosen not to establish a dedicated certification body within the authority. Instead, Malta applies the prior approval model under Article 56(6)(a) CSA for certification activities at Assurance Level “High”. Although no cases have yet been processed under this model, the peer-review team confirmed that the necessary governance arrangements, procedures and internal and external resources are in place and can be activated when required.

The documentation provided before and during the peer review was comprehensive, well-structured and generally easy to follow, with particular value noted in the extensive range of supporting templates. Nevertheless, certain procedures could benefit from additional clarification and practical guidance to ensure that they are fully self-explanatory and consistently applied by all relevant personnel. Furthermore, making selected documents, such as the authorisation procedure and associated forms, publicly available through the MDIA website could further enhance transparency and accessibility for stakeholders.

Finally, the review confirmed that MDIA coordinates its activities efficiently and makes pragmatic use of its available resources through flexible allocation of personnel and effective internal coordination. This approach, together with the existing governance and procedural framework, provides a solid foundation for the future development of certification-related activities and the continued implementation of the Cybersecurity Act in Malta.