

WHO re-assigns Islands and Small States Institute in Malta as collaborating centre



PUBLISHED APR 29, 2022

BY [WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION](#)

The Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) of the University of Malta, has been re-assigned as the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health Systems and Policies in Small States. The Institute was first designated as a WHO collaborating centre in 2017.

ISSI will work on 3 main topics: (i) the development of policy recommendations on building health-system resilience in small states; (ii) the interrelationship between tourism, health systems and sustainability, with a focus on islands and small countries, through a planetary health and equity approach; and (iii) the development of a toolkit on health information, digital health and evidence generation in small states.

Known as a centre of excellence on issues pertaining to islands and small states, ISSI has a notable track record of high-calibre policy research on resilience, economy, and environment and health issues affecting small states. The institute is currently supporting a WHO project aimed at gaining a better understanding of the interplay between health and tourism, with a focus on sustainable tourism in small states.

Malta is a member of the WHO/Europe Small Countries Initiative, a network of 11 Member States in the WHO European Region with populations of 2 million or less, established in 2013. The Initiative is coordinated by the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice, Italy.

Press release distributed by Wire Association on behalf of World Health Organization, on Apr 29, 2022. For more information subscribe and [follow](#) us.

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