

PROMOTION

THE ROAD TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

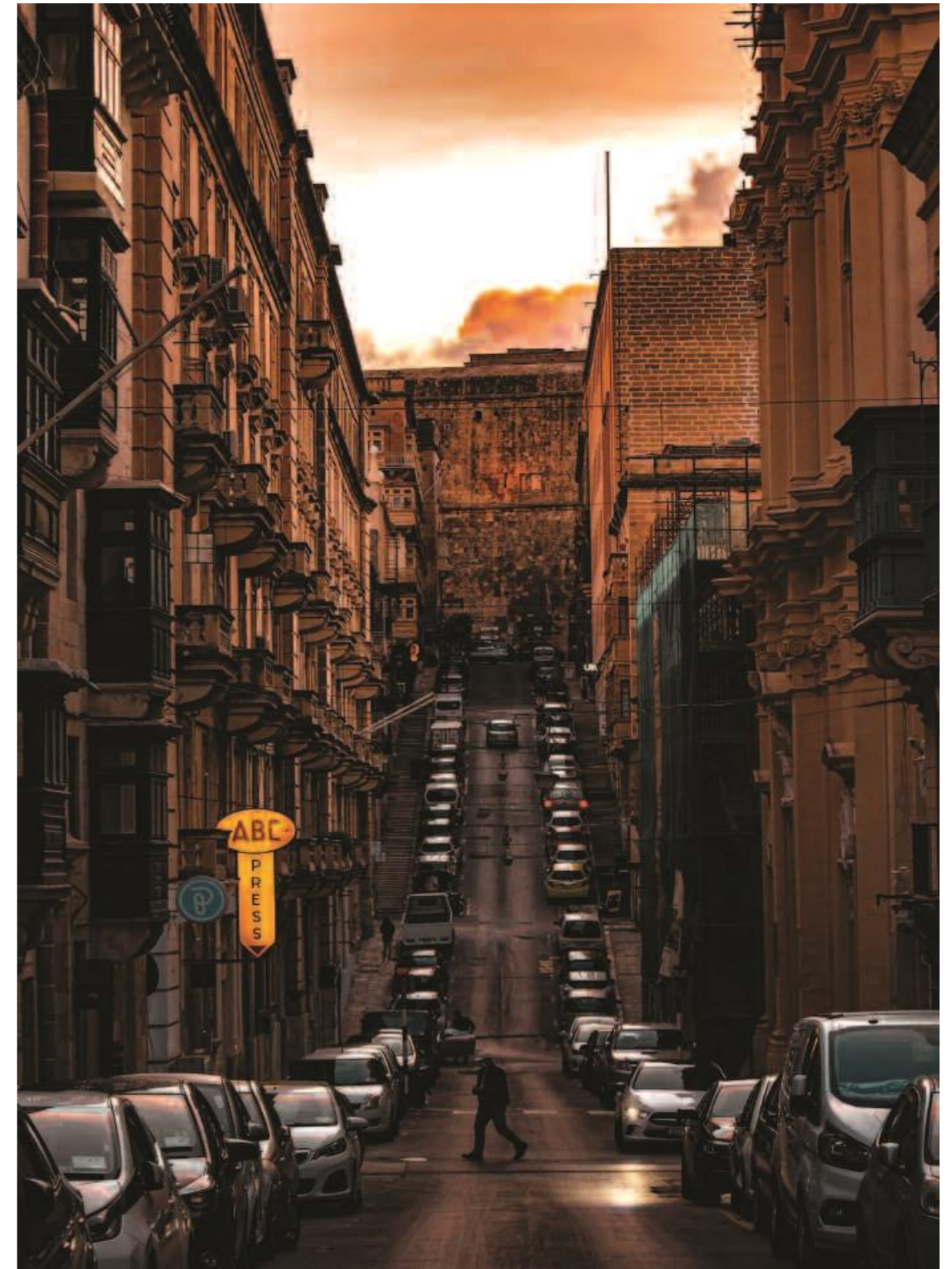
transport in Malta. The Authority is also crucial for the development of the

local transport scenario on the same lines as the changes occurring at

regional and international levels. This applies to all modes, particularly to

road transport, Transport Malta's role goes beyond the mere regulation of all

modes of transport. This document was written by the team at Transport Malta. Photography Isaac Struna.



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THE ROAD TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

Road transport is essential for various parts of life, having direct economic and social impacts. However, it also has a significant zero-environmental impact, particularly through the emission of pollutants and greenhouse gases from tailpipes, brakes, and wheels. transition. The incentives focus primarily on the purchase of today's Battery Electric Vehicles for all categories. It is also the first time that such financial help is being offered for the purchase of emission heavy-duty vehicles, such as trucks, buses, and coaches. There are also other incentives aimed at reducing the environmental impact of existing vehicles through the

Over the past two decades, we have seen a drastic reduction in pollutants, such as Nitrogen Dioxide - NO₂, Carbon Monoxide - CO, and Particulate Matters - PMs, emitted by road transport. However, the sector still emits more than 70% of the greenhouse gases generated by transport, which represents almost a quarter of Europe's total emissions.

It is therefore clear, also in view of Europe's decision to aim at Carbon Neutrality by 2050, that reducing the emission of greenhouse gases - GHGs from road transport is a priority to slow down Global Warming and mitigate related risks. However, the road to Carbon Neutrality will not be easy and requires various technical, economic, and social efforts.

Achieving this Carbon Neutrality requires a transition from fossil-fuel-powered vehicles to new propulsion methods, such as electricity and hydrogen. The transport industry has invested heavily in these technologies over the past decades and now we can see the fruit of this work as more electric vehicles, especially cars and vans, hit the market, and as new models, even those powered by Hydrogen, are expected to become available in the coming months.

higher than that of conventional ones. Important steps have been taken to support this change, like the waiving of registration taxes and licensing fees for the first 5 years. Moreover, since 2018, Transport Malta and the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP) have been giving direct financial help to anyone willing to invest in full electric or hybrid vehicles.

The financial incentives being offered in 2022 are by far the biggest and bravest. The total budget for this year is 20 million Euro, including 15 million Euro from Malta's Recovery and

have been taken in this regard, and more are needed. A key

transport Malta has been monitoring and preparing action that deserves special attention is that of free public for this transition to zero-emission vehicles for transport, which will be extended to the entire population in several years, knowing well that the cost of such October 2022. vehicles is, and will be for the foreseeable future, significantly Notwithstanding these promising results, there is still a lot

retrofitting of Photovoltaic Panels and/or Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) Systems, as well as the conversion of diesel engines so that they can simultaneously operate on diesel and LPG.

Moreover, the Maltese government has committed to pump a further 35 million Euro of EU Funds by the end of 2024 to further support this transition.

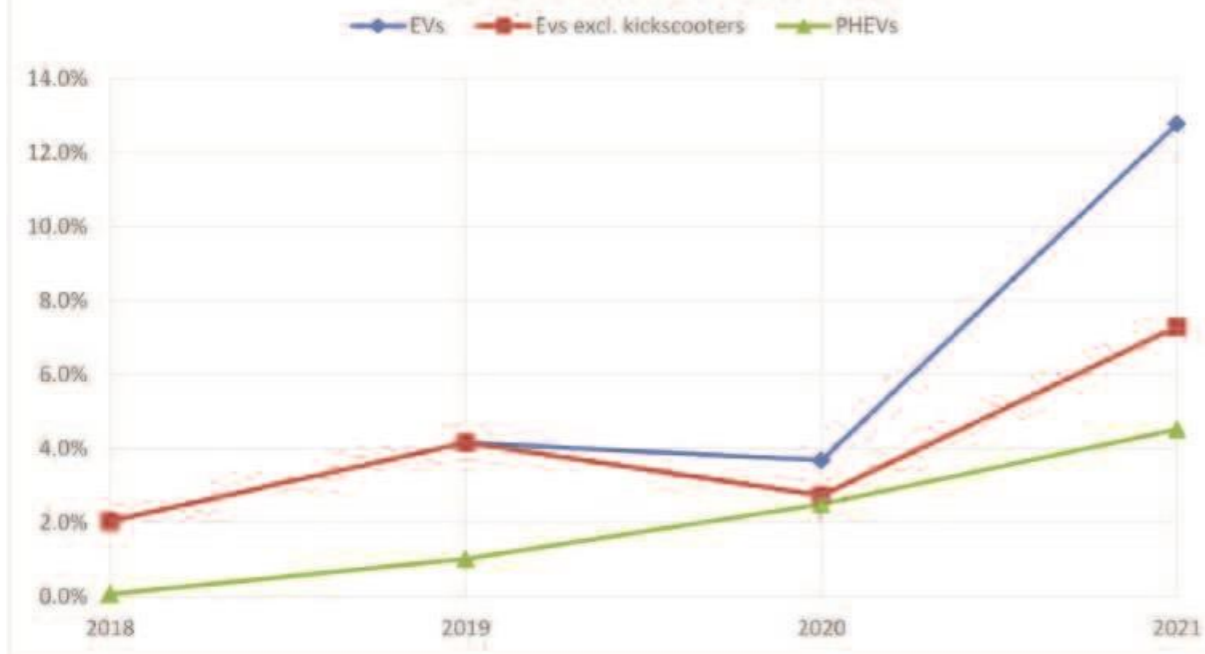
All the above-mentioned efforts have resulted in an everincreasing uptake of electric vehicles, as drivers in the various sectors are becoming accustomed to the idea. In fact, as shown in the figure, 12.8% of all newly registered vehicles in Malta in 2021 were Battery Electric Vehicles and 4.5% were Plug-in Hybrid vehicles, whereas in 2018 these shares were 2% and 0.1% respectively. At the start of this year, the full complement of Battery Electric Vehicles and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles stood at 5,727 and 1,745 respectively. This positive trend is expected to continue growing further in the coming years.

Another important approach to carbon neutrality and sustainable transport is that of reducing the need for actual transport through multi-modality and the use of alternative solutions, such as walking and cycling. Various initiatives of work ahead of us. The introduction of electric or hydrogen-powered heavy-duty vehicles is taking longer than expected, and these vehicles have a big impact on the environmental performance of the sector. Moreover, the related investment is higher than that for small cars and vans, since an increase in the use of electric vehicles requires big investments and advances in the charging infrastructure. The same applies to the distribution and use of Hydrogen.

Transport Malta, like all its counterparts locally and abroad, is ready for the additional efforts required to see this transition

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MARKET SHARE OF EVS AND PHEVS OF NEWLY REGISTERED VEHICLES



Resilience Plan (RRP), and is intended to boost the ongoing process through to the end.