

## **Action A5**

### **Results of the Study**

The study has highlighted several issues which include the following:

- It is difficult to streamline operational processes for entities operating within the same sector - in the Maltese industrial reality there are a number of examples of entities working in the same sector, however having a different approach and scale in production.
- Consumption of water is extremely varied and is generally industry specific (e.g. wineries/breweries, Pharmaceutical Mfg., Healthcare and Laundries);
- Problem with water softeners and the regen backwashes due to high salinity -this problem is very real since currently there is no alternative to softening of hard water for use without the need of a Reverse Osmosis plant. The major stumbling block for the correct disposal of regeneration backwashes is that currently there is no real alternative to discharge to sewer.
- Lack of separation between trade and domestic effluent waste-water lines - this issue is more of a regulatory nature since the Sewer Discharge Control Regulations only focus on the trade effluent. Thus, in those premises where there is no sewer line dedicated to trade effluent will increase the difficulty to discern whether waste water discharged is compliant to the law.
- Pollution hotspots - some industry types are concentrated in industrial zones such as pharma mfg. however others (offset printers) are more spread outside of industrial zones.
- Risk assessment matrix developed to support in classification of risk from a given industry - matrix is based on a number of variables such as:
  - Presence of a quality management system (ISO 9001 & 14001);
  - Volume of water discharged;
  - Potential chemical species present in trade effluent;
  - Use of hazardous chemicals and their disposal pathway;
  - Presence of waste water treatment systems and fail safes;
- No requirement to register for certain industry types e.g. motor vehicle mechanics/sprayers makes it hard to track.
- Problem of adequate facilities for disposal of specific waste waters having a high salinity -this point furthers the argument brought forward for the discharge of water softeners regen waters.
- Addition of waste carriers in the legal framework covering discharges into sewer;

- Introduction of a regime of administrative fines for non-compliant dischargers;
- Importance of publicizing the legal requirements;