MFSA

Public-Private Partnership on Fraud Detection and Prevention

October 2026



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PPPs - Background

PPPs have been in the spotlight recently, as highlighted in numerous guidance papers and recommendations emerging from Supranational Bodies. **Article 75** of the new AML Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1624), specifically makes reference to the concept of 'partnerships for information-sharing'.

Such a concept is not new to our jurisdiction. The **FIAU** had established a PPP focused on providing guidance and outreach to Subject Persons when it comes to AML/CFT compliance with similar initiatives dating back as far as 2003. Another example of effective Public-Private collaboration locally, are the working groups emanating from the **National Risk Assessment.**

Other jurisdictions have also embraced these models. In preparation for the MFSA PPP, bilateral meetings have also been held with other jurisdictions including **Hong Kong** and **Singapore** to help better understand the benefits and gather best practices to be implemented within the local PPP.

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PPPs in other Jurisdictions

UK Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (2015)	To facilitate **information sharing focusing on Money Laundering schemes** and **enhancing the understanding** of how financial crimes are perpetrated.
US FinCEN Exchange (2017)	Focuses on sharing **information related to Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing**, significantly aiding in identifying and disrupting financial crime networks.
Australian Fintel Alliance (2017)	The Alliance uses innovative technologies and approaches, such as advanced algorithms, to **detect and prevent financial crime.**
Hong Kong Fraud and Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (2017)	To enhance the detection, prevention and disruption of **serious financial crime and Money Laundering threats.**

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MFSA Initiative



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Why Fraud?

The **National Risk Assessment** identifies fraud as **one of the main predicate offences** in financial crime investigations and one of the highest attributable predicate offences in suspicious transaction reports involving a natural or legal persons in Malta. Furthermore, in its 2025 Opinion on ML/TF, the EBA noted that automation and Artificial Intelligence are driving a rapid expansion of sophisticated fraud.

There has also been a broader global shift. Organisations involved in combating financial crime are increasingly integrating fraud into their core priorities. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), announced during in February 2026 that it will prioritise work on fraud in the coming years given that 90% of MERs identified fraud as a major proceeds-generating offence. It also launched its **2026-2028 Roadmap on Combatting Fraud** in July 2026.

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Why a PPP?

In view of its complexity and cross-sector nature, the fight against fraud **requires a multi-stakeholder approach**, where Regulators, Law Enforcement Authorities and the Private Sector collaborate more openly. This was also highlighted by the FATF in a report urging the use of **Public-Private Partnerships** to combat illicit finance.

Through this targeted and focused MFSA Public-Private Partnership, fraud prevention is put in focus. The aim behind this initiative is to **enable the sharing of insights and expertise**, allowing stakeholders to respond more effectively, strengthen preventive controls and protect the wider public interest.

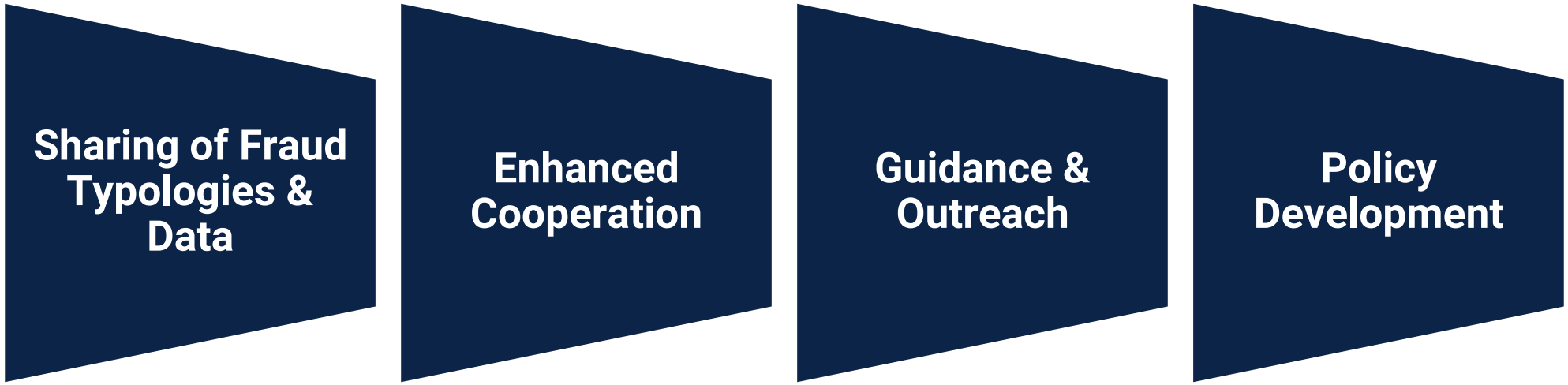
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Members of the Partnership

Public Authorities – Permanent Members	Private Sector Entities – Non-Permanent Members
Malta Financial Services Authority (**Lead**)	Malta Bankers' Association
Malta Police Force	Bank of Valletta p.l.c.
Office of the Arbiter for Financial Services	HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.
Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit	APS Bank p.l.c.
Central Bank of Malta	BNF Bank p.l.c.
	MeDirect Bank (Malta) plc
	Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.
	Turkiye Garanti Bankasi A.S.

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Scope & Objectives



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Methodology

- For this iteration, a staggered approach was employed whereby a number of meetings were conducted with **public authorities** and **credit institutions servicing retail clients**.
- Participating MLROs and/or Compliance Officers and/or Anti-Fraud Officers were invited to share **presentations on typologies, threats and best practices**. They were also encouraged to share **anonymised practical scenarios** which they may have encountered.
- Permanent Members were also requested to deliver presentations, by primarily **providing feedback from a regulatory oversight and policy perspective and providing practical and operational insights** as required.
- The PPP has already convened for **five working groups** with the next meeting scheduled for mid-October**.**

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Deliverables

Three Guidance Papers

- **Public**
- **Industry**
- **Strategy**

The more **efficient allocation of public and private resources** on fraud prevention

A more **refined and informed supervisory strategy** with a greater emphasis on fraud

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Schedule of Meetings

Q1 2026

Introductory Meetings with Stakeholders

Q2 2026

8th April

Bank of Valletta plc and HSBC Bank plc

Q2 2026

13th May

MeDirect Bank (Malta) plc, APS Bank plc & UNODC

Q2 2026

10th June

Lombard Bank Malta plc, BNF Bank plc, OAFS and CBM

Q3 2026

1st July

MCA, Stop Scams UK, and scamalert.mt

Q3 2026

3rd September

FIAU, MPF - FCID and MFSA Enforcement

Q4 2026

13th October

Working group sessions focused on the drafting of the guidance papers

Q4 2026

Collation & Analysis of Results and Issuance of Joint Guidance Papers

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Role of Permanent Members

- Participate as members of the Partnership, contributing primarily through regulatory oversight and policy support.
- Contribute to the drafting and/or review of the Guidance Papers, as may be required.
- Establish formal channels for information sharing on emerging fraud risks.
- Determine internally what information and data can be shared, considering the confidentiality and sensitivity of data held by the Permanent Members.
- Support policy development by feeding practical, operational insights from the Partnership into legislative or regulatory refinements.
- Coordinate joint awareness sessions, typology workshops, and statistical reporting to enhance sector-wide understanding of threats.

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Role of Non-Permanent Members

- Attend and contribute to meetings of the Partnership as requested alongside the Permanent Members.
- Foster continued collaboration between public and private sectors beyond periodic National Risk Assessment engagements.
- Advise on risk indicators, red-flag typologies, and compliance best practices.
- Facilitate communication between industry and public sector authorities including law enforcement in relation to any emerging trends and/or typologies.
- Contribute to the Permanent Members' internal data analysis capabilities to identify trends, risks, and typologies.

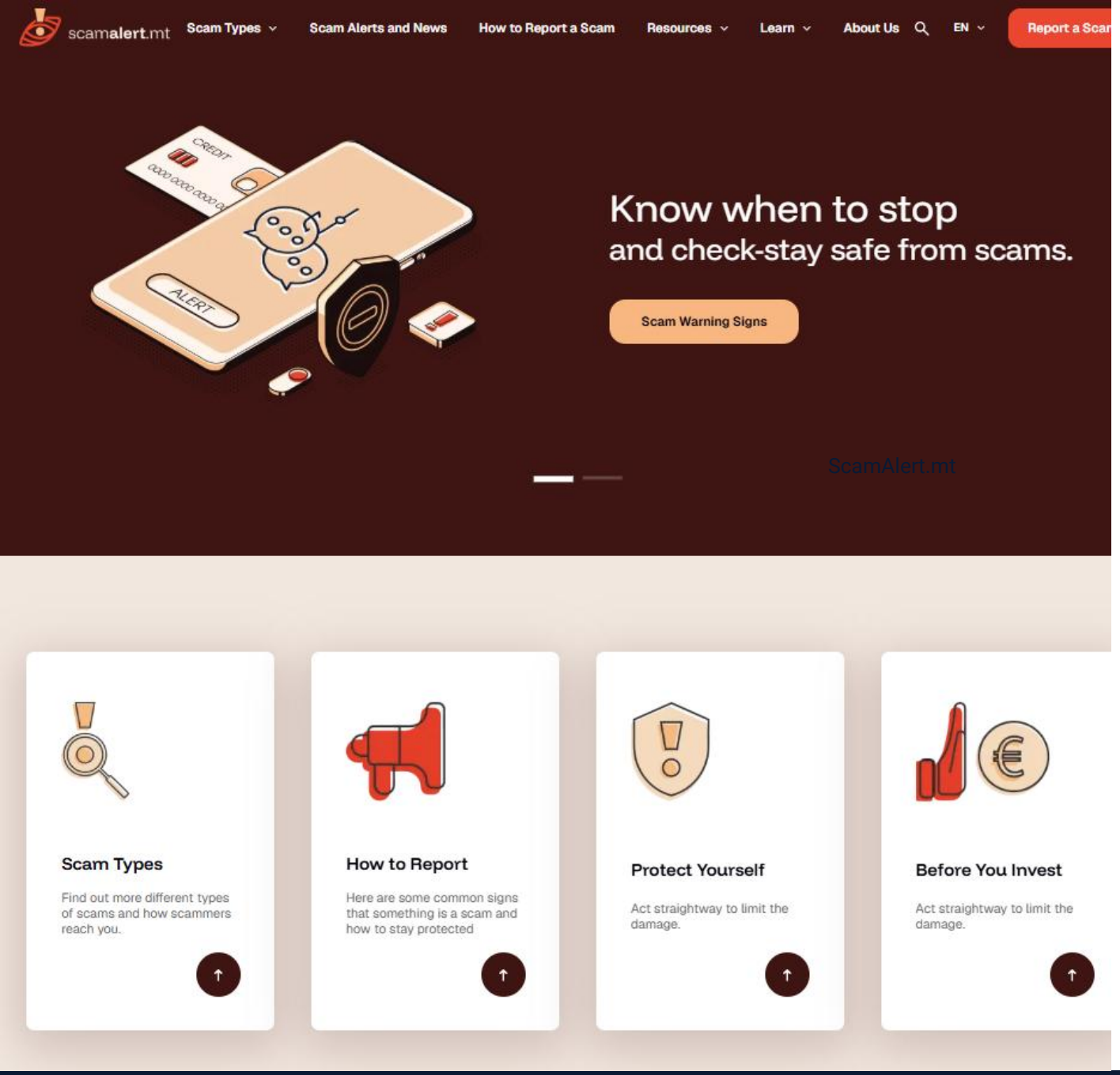
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scamalert.mt

- Malta's first **coordinated national platform** for proactive scam prevention
- Trusted national reference point for scam awareness and guidance
- Helps users understand, recognise, and prevent scams
- A joint national initiative between:
  - Office of the Arbiter for Financial Services
  - Malta Police Force
  - MFSA

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Key Features

- Structured content: scam categories and guidance
- Real-life Maltese case studies
- Clear red flags and prevention actions
- User-friendly and accessible design
- Direct links to reporting authorities

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Long-Term Strategy

Explore **further opportunities for collaboration** with both the Public and Private sectors

Align this initiative with the National Strategy and other local initiatives on Fraud

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Thank you

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