

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by Switzerland

Country: Switzerland, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Title:

Environmental technology promotion

Focus area 1, 3 and 5: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns

Description of the action: Promotion of innovative, environmentally sound and resource-efficient technologies, processes and products (goods and services) by supporting pilot and demonstration projects as well as projects improving the resource-efficiency of the Swiss companies through a technology promotion fund (about 4.2 million Swiss francs per year). Public and private partners are eligible. Maximum rate support is 50% of the total costs of the project. The governmental contribution is subject to reimbursement within 10 years, based on effective commercial benefits.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: Project applications are evaluated continuously. Every five years, the Swiss Federal Council writes a report, addressed to the Parliament which reports on the ecological and economic impact of the environmental technology promotion. Until now, three reports have been produced for the first 15 years of activity. They have shown very interesting results for all domains of environmental protection and impressive cost-benefit relations so that this promotion programme has always been reconducted since its creation in 1997.

Type of action: Economic instruments, incentives for innovation

Economic sectors: Economy-wide, including all the typical cleantech sectors like waste, water, biodiversity, air protection, etc., but also agriculture, forestry, fishing, energy, mining, manufacturing, transport, water, tourism and housing, buildings and construction.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/innovation/06629/index.html?lang=de> (available in German, French and Italian)

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: Ecological benefits: the developed technologies, processes, products and services allow to reduce the consumption of natural resources, to reduce the emission of pollutants affecting the environment and humans, reduce other disturbances like noise, non-ionizing radiation (NIR), etc., and to improve resource efficiency including energy.

Economic benefits: reduction of external environmental costs, savings for infrastructure and operational costs, increase of competitiveness, development of new markets-

Co-benefits are also expected on the general of sustainability, including social aspects: the supported projects are for instance evaluated under the aspects of health, risks and safety.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 6.3, 9.4, 9.5, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: No recommendations

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Examples of indicator calculations are shown in the last Report of the Federal Council to the Parliament concerning the impact of the Promotion of environmental technologies, issued 2013.

Partners: Private companies, in particular small and medium enterprises, research institutions

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