

Templateⁱ for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization:** Estonia
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)ⁱⁱ that the initiative will contribute to):** Embedding sustainability criteria into procurement processes in Estonia (Focus area: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns);
3. **Description of the action:** Green Public Procurement is a voluntary instrument, which has a key role to play in the EU's efforts to become a more resource-efficient economy. The Ministry of the Environment will help to set up the corresponding criteria, in creating the necessary guidance documents and with advisement for embedding the Green Public Procurement principles into Estonian public procurement framework.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** first milestone 2023 and first action bloc (2 + 5 GPP mandatory categories), action finalised by 2025 - 2026.
5. **Type of actionⁱⁱⁱ:** legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
6. **Economic sectors^{iv}:** Economy-wide, national, regional, local, cross-cutting
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**

Regulation No. 35 of the Minister of the Environment (Environmentally friendly criteria for products and services that are the subject of the procurement contract and the conditions established for them in the basic documents of public procurement): <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/102072021013>.

Estonia circular economy: https://ringmajandus.envir.ee/sites/default/files/2022-06/Ringmajandus_valge_raamat.pdf. Estonia circular economy white paper summary: <https://ringmajandus.envir.ee/sites/default/files/2022-09/Kuj.%20circular%20economy%20white%20paper%20koopia.pdf>.

Strategy "Estonia 2035": <https://valitsus.ee/strateegia-eeesti-2035-arengukavad-ja-planeering/strateegia/materjalid>.

A European Green Deal.
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Embedding the principles of circular economy into public procurement helps to positively affect the sound management of the environment, social benefits and stimulates the economy.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** 12
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** -
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Yearly increases of the percentage of Green Public Procurement achieved out of total Public Procurement carried out. Aggregation of statistical data from the register of public procurement: <https://riigihanked.riik.ee/rhr-web/#/> (how much was done, who did it and what criteria were used).
12. **Partners:** The main partner of cooperation is Ministry of Finance. But Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Social Affairs also help promote value-based procurement.
13. **Contact point:**

Karen Silts
Senior Officer

Estonian Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Management Department
E-mail: karen.silts@envir.ee
Phone: +372 626 2708

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES)**
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure^v” does the action contribute:*
 5. Resource efficiency and circularity
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (NO)**

ⁱ Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

ⁱⁱ Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

ⁱⁱⁱ In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

^{iv} In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

^v The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>