

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:** Malta
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)ⁱⁱ that the initiative will contribute to):** From Grey to Green: Greening our urban areas.
3. **Description of the action:** In the next five years the Government will be driving the implementation of greening and sustaining environmental projects in various urban areas.. The projects will focus on innovative green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to enhance the wellbeing of society and local community. Such projects will also contribute to the wider environment context such as improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, and aiding in adapting to climate change effects.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** From 1st January 2023 to December 2027
5. **Type of actionⁱⁱⁱ:** Information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments. **Economic sectors^{iv}:** Environment / Strategic Planning and urban infrastructure sectors
6. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** Green Serv and Ambjent Malta
7. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Enhance the provision of ecosystem services such as air quality, reduced noise pollution, and the creation of space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation and the general well-being of society within urban spaces.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 15 Life on Land.

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: Not Applicable
8. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Expenditure per square meter of regenerated urban space.
9. **Partners:** Ministry for Environment, Ambjent Malta, Parks Malta, Planning Authority and Environment and Resources Authority
Contact points: Herman Galea, Director General
Ambjent Malta
Ministry For Environment Energy And Enterprise
Ambjent Malta Head Office, Mdina Road, Zebbug, Malta

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:*
 - Strategic planning;
 - Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES)**

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>