

GPP4Growth Project

ACTION PLAN

MALTA

2020



GPP4Growth 
Interreg Europe



Contents

GPP4Growth project.....	3
GPP4Growth expected results.....	4
Malta’s Operational Programme I	5
Improving the policy instrument	6
Part I – General Information.....	7
Part II – Policy Context	7
Part III – Details of the actions envisaged	8
Action 1: Supporting Maltese SMEs to increase capacity in Green Public Procurement and get trained in Life-Cycle costing	8
Background	8
Action	9
Players involved	11
Timeframe	11
Costs	11
Funding Sources	11
Action 2: Development of a dedicated study unit aimed at higher education institutions (HEIs) in Malta and workshops for architecture and engineering professionals to increase knowledge on resource efficiency / Green Public Procurement / Circular Economy / Cradle 2 Cradle	12
Background	12
Action	13
Players involved	15
Timeframe	15
Costs	15
Funding Sources	16
ANNEX	17

GPP4Growth project

GPP4Growth is a project of the Interreg Europe programme. This programme initiates and advances interregional collaborations among EU regional and local authorities for the effective dissemination of best practices in the field of policy and implementation. The project “Green public procurement for resource efficient regional growth - GPP4Growth” contributes to locating the best practices for integrating green public procurement (also GPP hereafter) in regional policy and supporting public administrations and businesses to adopt lifecycle cost approaches and improve the overall management of resources and waste. The ultimate aim of the project is to improve resource efficiency in European regions.

GPP4Growth seeks to enhance the new EU public procurement reform (2016), i.e. the regulatory framework prepared by the EU to induce eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth, by using new award criteria in calls and tenders that integrate environmental considerations. In particular, the new rules enable and encourage public authorities to setup, publish and manage calls and contracts that require businesses / bidders to: a) comply with environmental obligations, b) integrate environmental costs in their offers based on a lifecycle cost approach, and c) deliver goods fulfilling the requirements of environmental labels, reducing at the same time administrative burden.

GPP4Growth brings together 9 partners from 9 countries, involving the managing authorities & regional bodies influencing regional and national policy instruments, to stimulate eco-innovation, resource efficiency and green growth by promoting GPP.

To support public administrations and businesses to adopt lifecycle cost approaches and improve the overall management of resources & waste, GPP4Growth includes a wide range of activities, focusing on promoting the interregional learning process and the exchange of experience among regional authorities. Project activities include:

- Analysis of the needs of GPP4Growth regions in Green Public Procurement.
- Identification of successful green public procurement cases.
- Evaluation and analysis of existing policies, plans, and criteria for GPP in the key GPP4Growth sectors.
- Analysis of the factors (barriers and enablers) that influence businesses in key GPP4Growth sectors to get involved in green tenders and contracts.

- Promoting public dialogue and consultation process to build consensus and ensure the successful implementation of regional action plans, through the support and participation of key regional stakeholders.
- Fostering interregional learning and capacity building through workshops, study visits, and policy learning events.
- Development of transferable tools & resources to promote benchmarking and policy learning, and transfer knowledge and lessons learnt beyond the partnership.
- Joint development of action plans to promote the improvement of the policy instruments addressed by the project.
- Increasing awareness, promoting and disseminating the project results and knowledge beyond the partnership.

GPP4Growth expected results

GPP4Growth will improve 9 policy instruments, relevant to the abovementioned policy areas, targeting to achieve:

- Over 7% increase in the number of businesses in partners' regions, integrating environmental factors and costs when producing goods and/or providing supplies, services and works.
- Increased capacity of 200 staff of public administrations to effectively implement resource efficiency policies applying GPP.
- €10 million worth of investments unlocked to promote new green products and services development.
- Increased knowledge awareness of over 1000 stakeholders on the influence of GPP on the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns by businesses.

Malta's Operational Programme I

Together with the Cohesion Fund (CF), the ERDF finances Malta's Operational Programme I for the period 2014-2020 entitled 'Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges'.¹ The Operational Programme I aims to strengthen the productivity of enterprises, boost research and innovation, enable the shift towards a more low-carbon and environmentally-friendly society, foster health and social development and increase education attainment in line with Malta's ambition to contribute towards the Europe 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Operational Programme consists of 12 Priority Axes which aim to achieve the programme objectives. The emphasis on environmental sustainability through ERDF is supported by

- a) the development of a resource efficient economy
- b) eco-innovation in sectors such as public infrastructure and buildings, the housing sector, ICT, maritime services and manufacturing, and
- c) renewable energy use.

This will particularly increase RES and energy efficiency in buildings as well as promote a shift to low-carbon within the transport sector. Sustainable urban development will also be targeted in a holistic manner through measures for social inclusion and an improved urban environment. Moreover, specific attention will also be given to the preservation and development of Malta's natural and cultural heritage. CF resources will be focusing on ensuring water quality and supply, sustainable water management as well as the development and upgrading and develop the TEN-T network.

¹ [https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Programming%20Period%202014%20-%202020/Operational%20Programme%201/Documents/OPI_Programme_2014MT16M1OP001_2_3_en%20\(1\).pdf](https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Programming%20Period%202014%20-%202020/Operational%20Programme%201/Documents/OPI_Programme_2014MT16M1OP001_2_3_en%20(1).pdf)

Improving the policy instrument

GPP4Growth supports opportunities to identify the market's potential to produce innovative green services and products that can be utilised in green public procurement, in order to improve the resource efficiency of public infrastructures and services in Malta. The use of green criteria in green public procurement processes, which are directed towards public infrastructure and buildings and services, will foster the implementation of policy measures that render a) the maintenance and construction of public buildings, and b) the production and consumption processes of firms intrinsically resource efficient. The exchange of experiences and best practices that took place during the first phase of GPP4Growth, made it possible to identify the best criteria in procurement processes. The incorporation of criteria concerning life cycle assessment costs in public procurement can serve as an incentive for the projects under the OPI to become more sustainable and resource efficient, by minimising their waste and inducing eco-innovation. The main priority axes with regard to improving the policy instrument are:

Priority Axis 4: Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy

Priority Axis 5: Protecting our environment - investing in natural and cultural assets;

Priority Axis 10: Investing in a more environmentally-friendly society;

Part I – General Information

Project: Green Public Procurement for Resource Efficient Regional Growth (GPP4Growth)

Partner organisation: Malta Regional Development and Dialogue Foundation

Country: Malta

NUTS2 region: Malta

Contact person: Stefan Schaa / Brian Restall

info@mrddf.org

+356 2142 0432

Part II – Policy Context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Operational Programme I²

² [https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Programming%20Period%202014%20-%202020/Operational%20Programme%201/Documents/OPI_Programme_2014MT16M1OP001_2_3_en%20\(1\).pdf](https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Programming%20Period%202014%20-%202020/Operational%20Programme%201/Documents/OPI_Programme_2014MT16M1OP001_2_3_en%20(1).pdf)

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

Action 1: Supporting Maltese SMEs to increase capacity in Green Public Procurement and get trained in Life-Cycle costing

Background

According to the latest Implementation report for the Operational Programme I³, capacity building activities, and in particular Public Procurement training sessions for public officers, beneficiaries & other economic operators involved in Cohesion Policy are considered a cornerstone for the successful implementation of the activities envisaged by the policy instrument.

These general capacity building activities on Public Procurement⁴ for Contracting Authorities' Employees or Economic Operators' Employees focus among other topics on the correct application of Malta's Public Procurement Regulations, and knowledge in the handling of governments' e-procurement system ePPs.⁵

In addition to these general training opportunities the MSEDG in collaboration with local stakeholders regularly organizes industry specific information sessions to inform economic operators on the latest developments with regard to Green Public Procurement and the underlying green criteria. These sessions also aim to inform economic operators of the scope of any new criteria being proposed or amended, the key environmental impacts, and the verification and documentation needed by the prospective bidders to show GPP compliance.⁶

The high level of participation of industry stakeholders in these information sessions clearly highlight the need of the stakeholders to stay informed of the latest developments for green award criteria and technical specifications.

³ https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Monitoring%20Committees/Documents/OPI%202014-2020%20May%202019/1.%20OPI_MC_05.2019_%20Presentation_Annual_Implementation_Report_2018.pdf

⁴ <https://contracts.gov.mt/en/TrainingOpportunities/Pages/TrainingOpportunities.aspx>

⁵ <https://www.etenders.gov.mt/epps/home.do>

⁶ <https://meusac.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Presentation-25.pdf>

At the same time, as was clearly demonstrated by the analysis of barriers and opportunities conducted by the GPP4Growth project, many small and micro economic operators (SMEs) still struggle to participate in green tenders in the first place. The project developed a clear picture of the main barriers faced by businesses when considering environmental protection requirements in public procurement. Most companies (regardless of their size, country of origin and type of activity) face similar constraints in introducing green practices which may be divided into two broad categories: internal and external.

Among those internal barriers are lack of knowledge of the tendering procedure, lack of environmental awareness, and low skilled-staff.

Eliminating or reducing these barriers would enable a higher number of operators to participate in green tendering procedures, and hence improve the quality and improve green credentials of the projects implemented by the Operational Programme. Therefore, the action proposed aims to influence the policy instrument by improving the governance of the OP through stimulating higher participation rates of small and micro enterprises in the delivery of green products and services for the purpose of OPI projects.

Action

Specific objective: Increase the knowledge of employees in Maltese SMEs with little or no previous knowledge on Green Public Procurement to leverage higher participation rates in green tenders / develop materials and tools specific to the needs of Maltese SMEs to engage in Green Public Procurement and/or improve skills through training.

The inspiration to offer training opportunities for *Maltese SMEs and their employees* is derived from the following GPP4Growth activities:

Activity 1.4 “Report on the factors that influence businesses of key GPP4Growth sectors to participate in green contacts and tenders”. This report was prepared by MRDDF with the help of all GPP4Growth project partners. The analysis report presented the barriers and enablers that affect businesses' involvement in tenders with environmental criteria and consequently investments in green products, services and works.

Activity A3.2 - Interregional workshop on eco-labels and non exclusive GPP practices, 16th/17th May 2019, Bulgaria

The scope of this action is to assist companies and their employees to develop their competence in Green Public Procurement, using green criteria, eco-labels, and Circular Economy principles. In order to achieve this, specific activities will be undertaken:

1. Organisation of seminars/workshops for companies and their employees on public green contracts, how to apply green criteria, and Circular Economy (life-cycle) principles.

The workshops will include information about the benefits of green public procurement for the private sector, and demonstrate that adoption of green practices within business processes do not entail only environmental benefits but it has the potential to create substantial financial savings, enhance competitiveness and improve public image. These workshops will also train companies' staff on how to identify green criteria in tender documents and prepare technical bids that demonstrate compliance with tender specifications. Furthermore, support will include on how companies can address life cycle requirements in certain procurement cases. It will be discussed how to encourage operators (small and micro-SMEs) to network and group together to obtain strength in numbers, become more visible, attain economies of scale and become more organised and competitive.

2. Development of a handbook with instructions and examples on how to apply green criteria, participate in green tenders, and apply life-cycle principles. This will involve simulation exercises, a toolkit and dedicated online courses.

The purpose of implementing this activity is to inform at least 25 employees of companies on public green tenders and produce a relevant Handbook for SMEs. The aim of the above is to announce at least one public "green" contract by a Local Authority with involvement of a SME involved in the training.

Indicators:

(a) Number of employees participating in workshops

(b) Number of support tools developed

(c) Number of businesses participating in a green tender submission for the first time.

Players involved

Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment, and Climate Change (MSEDC)

Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality (MEAE)

Department of Contracts (DoC)

Chamber of Commerce

Malta Enterprise (ME)

Timeframe

May 2020 – December 2021

Costs

Period of implementation	Activity	Description of costs	Category of costs	Duration (months)	Total amount	Source of funding
May 2020 – December 2021	SME capacity building on GPP	GPP expert	staff costs	20	€2,400.00	MRDDF resources
May 2020 – December 2021	Project management and monitoring	Project manager	staff costs	20	€9,500.00	GPP4Growth budget
Total amount					€11,900.00	

Funding Sources

MRDDF will provide the staff costs necessary for its own officers (the GPP4Growth project team), and fund the dedicated GPP expert that assists in the delivery of the training. At present, there are no related local, regional or national funding instruments that can provide these external costs.

Action 2: Development of a dedicated study unit aimed at higher education institutions (HEIs) in Malta and workshops for architecture and engineering professionals to increase knowledge on resource efficiency / Green Public Procurement / Circular Economy / Cradle 2 Cradle

Background

There are currently a number of examples for projects funded under OPI that are to varying levels subject to green public procurement regulations. However, green public procurement is often considered a criterion for tender compliance in view of national and European procurement regulations, and is in some cases considered secondary to design, engineering, and functional aspects.

Although many projects currently implemented or in planning/tendering stage do contain elements of sustainability and green credentials, life-cycle considerations or cradle to cradle elements are rarely included as they are considered to be more costly and difficult to implement due to Malta's particular situation as a small island state.

Examples of OP I projects under PA 4 "Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy" that could benefit from increased knowledge on resource efficiency, Green Public Procurement, and Circular Economy include:

- *Upgrading and retrofitting of the Administration Centre of the Ministry for Gozo aimed to minimise the building's energy consumption. A 54% reduction in energy consumption is expected.*
- *Increasing energy efficiency in Malta's arterial and distributor roads street lighting through the installation of smart LED street lighting, expecting to decrease its annual primary energy consumption by over 70%.*
- *Investing in an energy efficient lighting system together with a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system that will result in a carbon efficient residence minimising energy demand for the St. Vincent De Paul Residence (retirement home). The project is expected to decrease its annual primary energy consumption by 32.8%.*

- *The main tender of the retirement home project for an energy efficient lighting system together with heating, ventilation and air-conditioning was published in 2018 (St. Vincent de Paul)⁷*

Action

The aim of this action is two-fold. First it aims to increase the knowledge of current and prospective Master students (MQF level 7) in architecture, engineering, and sustainable energy on resource efficiency, GPP, circular economy, eco-labels, and the cradle to cradle concept through a dedicated study unit delivered with stakeholders at the University of Malta. The aim is to ensure that future projects undertaken under OPI can benefit from improved green credentials and criteria. Secondly, professionals in architecture and engineering currently operating on projects funded under OPI will be targeted through a number of dedicated workshops organised in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Courses at the University of Malta that will be targeted to adopt the study unit include but are not limited to:

Faculty for the Build Environment

- Master of Engineering (Building Engineering)⁸
- Master of Science in Project Management⁹
- Master of Engineering (Civil Engineering)¹⁰
- Master of Science in Sustainable Building Design¹¹

Institute for Sustainable Energy

- Master of Science in Sustainable Energy¹²

⁷ https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Monitoring%20Committees/Documents/OPI%202014-2020%20May%202019/1.%20OPI_MC_05.2019_%20Presentation_Annual_Implementation_Report_2018.pdf

⁸ <https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMENRBUEFTT8-2019-0-0>

⁹ <https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMSCPMGPET3-2019-0-0>

¹⁰ <https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMENRCERFTT4-2019-0-0>

¹¹ <https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMSCSBDPET7-2019-0-0>

¹² <https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMSCSSEFTT6-2019-0-0>

Stakeholders that will be involved with professionals currently operating on OPI projects include Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers¹³

Contents of the study unit for students and workshop series for professionals will include:

- Introduction to resource efficiency concepts
- National GPP legislation
- Structural Funds and ERDF as a drivers for a circular economy
- Environmental management systems
- Building design & technologies with life-cycle considerations (furniture, flooring, office supplies, lighting)
- Building maintenance and repair services with green credentials
- Knowledge sharing and GPP online tools for professionals

The purpose of implementing these actions is to train at least 25 students in the architecture, engineering, and sustainable energy field as part of a study unit, and involve at least 10 warranted professionals to participate in workshops. *The aim of the above is to announce at least one project contracted by a local authority with increased green credentials and that include criteria on the principles of the circular economy.*

The inspiration to offer training opportunities for architecture and engineering students in higher education, and work with stakeholders from the Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers is derived from the following GPP4Growth activities:

Activity A4.1 - Defining common lifecycle costing methods and resources in GPP". Its aim is to develop indicators and define evaluation areas to allow public authorities & stakeholders better understand the lifecycle costing approach and benefits, and provide them with resources to apply harmonized Lifecycle costing (LCC) methods in their regions.

¹³ <https://kamratalperiti.org/>

Activity A3.4 – Experience visit to Antwerp (Belgium) on GPP processes and results, 27th/28th March 2019, Speech by Project CirculT (Province of Antwerp – BBL), and screening the new office building of the Province (Daniel Verheyen, program manager new House of the Province)

Activity A2.1 - Good practice from Belgium “Lighting as a service in Kortrijk”

Indicators:

- (a) Number of students participating in module/study unit
- (b) Number of closed workshops with professional architects and engineers implemented
- (c) Number of new projects implemented with life-cycle/circular economy considerations

Players involved

Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment, and Climate Change (MSEDC)

Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality (MEAE)

University of Malta (UoM)

Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers (Kamra tal-periti)

Timeframe

May 2020 – December 2021

Costs

Period of implementation	Activity	Description of costs	Category of costs	Duration (months)	Total amount	Source of funding
May 2020 – December 2021	Course module development and delivery at HEI institutions to increase knowledge on GPP among students in	GPP expert	staff costs	20	€1,600.00	MRDDF resources

	GPP target industries.					
May 2020 – December 2021	Project management and monitoring	Project manager	staff costs	20	€9,500.00	GPP4Growth budget
Total amount					€8,100.00	

Funding Sources

MRDDF will provide the staff costs necessary for its own officers (the GPP4Growth project team), and fund the dedicated GPP expert that assists in the delivery of the course module. At present, there are no related local, regional or national funding instruments that can provide these external costs.

ANNEX

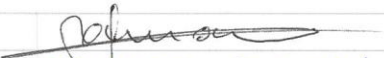
**Letter of support* from the relevant organisation
responsible for policy**

For Structural Funds programmes (i.e. Investment for Growth and Jobs and European Territorial Cooperation programmes), the list of policy responsible organisations is available on the 'In my country' pages on the programme website www.interregeurope.eu

Project acronym	GPP4Growth
Project title	Green public procurement for resource-efficient regional growth
Name of the signing organisation (original) including department if relevant	Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC)
Name of the signing organisation (English) including department if relevant	Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC)
Name of the policy instrument addressed (original)	OPI - Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges – 2014-2020
Name of the policy instrument addressed (English)	OPI - Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges – 2014-2020
Name of partner(s) concerned in the application form (English)	Malta Regional Development and Dialogue Foundation

We hereby confirm:

- that we were informed about the preparation of the above-mentioned project,
- that the topic tackled by this project is in line with our organisation's policy,
- that we acknowledge the participation of the above-mentioned partner(s) in the project,
- that we will engage with the stakeholder group and welcome opportunities for exchanging experiences with other institutions in Europe,
- that we will consider possibilities for implementation of the action plan through our policy instrument.

Name of signatory	
Position of signatory	PERMANENT SECRETARY
Date	10 / 05 / 2016
Signature and institution stamp (if exists)	Joseph Caruana Perm. Sec. MSDEC

** amendments to the text of the template or template not correctly completed will lead to the ineligibility of the whole application*

Date: 17/12/2019

Name of the organisation: MALTA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

Signature:



Stamp of the organisation (if available):



Endorsement by the body responsible for the policy instrument

Date:

Name of the organisation: MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

Signature:

Stamp of the organisation (if available):



Interreg Europe Programme 2014-2020
Project part-financed by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund
Co-financing rate: 75% European Union funds;
25% National funds

