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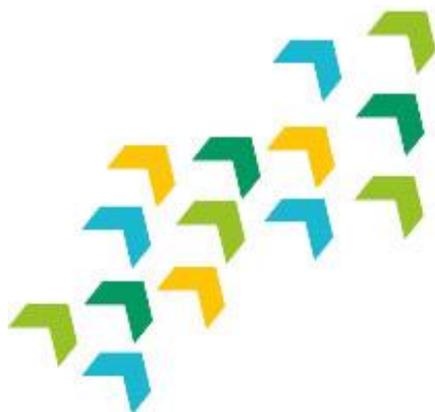


EURE State of Play Regional Report
Nicosia Development Agency

**EURE - Effectiveness of Environmental Urban policies to improve
Resources Efficiency**



September 2021



Policy instrument addressed	Operational Programme Competitiveness and Sustainable Development 2014-2020
Partner involved in the state of play report writing	Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL)
Sent to the partnership in	November 2020
Publication date	September 2021
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More information on the Interreg Europe EURE project: www.interregeurope.eu/eure

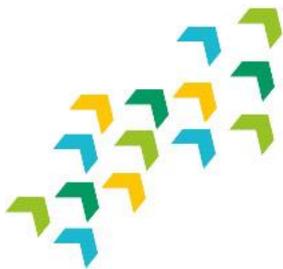


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SUMMARY

1. Brief characterization of the Project territory^{1,2,3}

Brief historical and social background of the area

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily and Sardinia, but the largest island state of the Mediterranean with an area of 9.253 sq.km. It constitutes a single region at NUTS2 level and is categorised as a “more developed region”. It has a maximum length of 240 km from east to west and a maximum width of 100 km north south. It is situated at the north-western corner of the eastern Mediterranean basin at an equal distance of 380 km north of Egypt and east of the Greek island of Rhodes, 105 km west of Syria and 75 km from Turkey. Cyprus lies at the hub of three continents and close to the busy trade route linking Western Europe with the Arab world and the Far East.

Since 1974, the northern part of Cyprus (some 35,2% of the country’s surface), including the towns of Famagusta and Kyrenia, remains under Turkish military occupation, outside the effective control of the Government. Another 2,6% of the land is administered by the UN (buffer zone) and 2,7% is retained by Great Britain in the form of two military bases. In 2011, the population of government-controlled areas had reached about 840.000, 67% of which lived in urban areas.

Nicosia is the largest city, capital, and seat of government of Cyprus. It is located near the centre of the Mesaoria plain, on the banks of the River Pedieos and is the southeasternmost of all EU member states' capitals. It has been continuously inhabited for over 4,500 years and has been the capital of Cyprus since the 10th century. The Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities of Nicosia segregated into the south and north of the city respectively in early 1964, following the fighting of the Cyprus crisis of 1963–64 that broke out in the city. This separation became a militarised border between the Republic of Cyprus and Northern Cyprus after Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus in 1974, occupying the north of the island, including northern Nicosia. Today North Nicosia is the capital of Northern Cyprus, a state recognized only by Turkey, that is considered to be occupied Cypriot territory by the international community. This prevailing political situation has caused years of neglect and inertia in Nicosia, yet owing to its central location and its conceptual place as the island’s capital, it continues to be a magnet for employment, administration and other services, as well as a centre for various educational and cultural activities.

¹ Source: Demographic Statistics 2018, Statistical Service of Cyprus

² Source: Analysis and Review of the Divided City of Nicosia, Cyprus, and New Perspectives, Geography © 2007

³ Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cyprus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2017

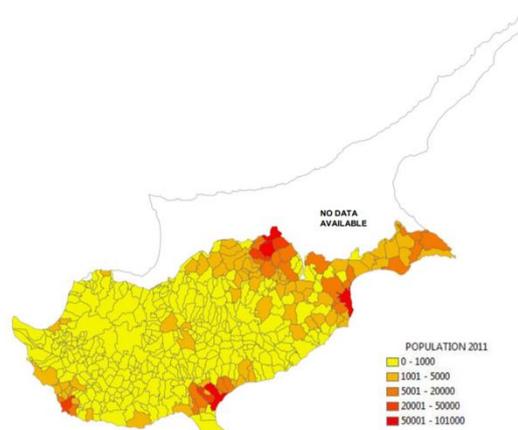
Geography

The island is close to Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt. After Cyprus gained independence in 1960, southern Nicosia went through a process of rapid urbanisation, with older buildings cleared away to make way for modern developments and skyscrapers which soon began to dominate the townscape. The city also attracted immigrants from rural areas, refugees from the Middle and Far East as well as from countries of the former Eastern Block, and tourists. Today, suburban growth continues in the peri-urban fringes of southern Nicosia, and is now accompanied by a parallel trend in the growth of smaller villages within easy commuting distance of the centre. The northern section of Nicosia is also being affected by rapid urban spread.

The four main cities of the island (Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos) are structured on a gradual merger of the central municipality with the surrounding settlements (suburb municipalities and communities), therefore forming a "coherent" multi-nodal urban conurbation. Each one of the main cities has its own Local Plan which is the central government's land use and development policy instrument for the four urban conurbations. Every plan covers the various independent municipalities and communities that constitute the whole city. Local Plans are also active for other smaller towns (municipalities like Athienou, Deryneia, Paralimni, Ayia Napa, Polis-Chrysochous, etc.) in rural or coastal areas.

In regards of national (average) population density, Cyprus is classified below the EU-27 average (94,4 persons per km² in 2018, while in EU-27 the population density amounts to 108,8 persons per km² in 2018). In the following map it is obvious that the population of the island is mostly distributed in the four main urban areas (Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos) and their surrounding rural settlements, as well as along the coastal touristic areas. It is also noticeable that a significant inland portion of the island has much lower population, which is essentially the mountainous and semi-mountainous area of the country.

Population density by municipalities/communities (2011)



Source: census 2011

Geographical and demographic data

The total population in the country amounts to 875.899 inhabitants in 2019, compared to 856.960 inhabitants in 2011 (the year of the last census), recording an increase of 2,2%. The proportion of children below 15 is estimated at 16,1%, while the proportion of persons aged 65 and over is estimated at 15,1%, compared to 16,8% and 12,7% respectively in 2011. An increase in the proportion of old-aged persons is occurred, and a small decrease in the proportion of children. The proportion of persons aged 25-64 also increased to 56,0% from 54,5%, indicating ageing of the working age population as well.

In Nicosia, the population in the city was 341.700 in 2018 (39% of total population) with 74% of them living in urban areas and 26% in rural areas, while the respective proportions at country level amount to 67,8% and 32,2%.

The share of unemployed population reached 7,1% (number of unemployed population as a percentage of the labour force) following a reduction from the respective indicator in 2011 (7,9%).

Demography

Territory designation ⁴	Area (Sq Km)	POPULATION (%)							UNEMPLOYEMENT RATE (%)				
		Total ('000)	M	F	-15Y	15-24	25-65	+65	Total	M	F	15-24y	Over 25y
X Region (NUT II)	9.253	875,8	48,8 %	51,2 %	16,1 %	12,8 %	56,0 %	15,1 %	7,1	6,3	8,0	16,6	6,2
Y Territory (NUT II)	9.253	875,8	48,8 %	51,2 %	16,1 %	12,8 %	56,0 %	15,1 %	7,1	6,3	8,0	16,6	6,2
Z Project Territory	2.710	341,7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a						

Source: Year 2019, Eurostat, Statistical Service of Cyprus

⁴ Name of Urban centre; rural centres or municipalities, FUA = Functional Urban Areas, etc

Economy data

The economic crisis that struck in 2008 and the adversity faced by the Cypriot economy in 2013 have had major impacts in the country. The government's main priority has been the regaining of trust in the Cypriot economy through its stabilization and reactivation. The results of the already advanced reforms are becoming apparent, with the Cypriot economy returning to financial stability, achieving fiscal consolidation and depicting high growth rates in 2015 and 2016 with very positive prospects for the coming years.

GDP per capita amounts to 24.925€ in 2019, following a 7,1% increase from 2011 (23.273€). The gross value added mainly comes from wholesale and retail trade (10,9%), real estate management (10,0%), Public administration and defense (8,9%) and professional, scientific and technical activities (8,2%).

GDP per capita as % of the EU27, amounts to 90% in 2018, following a significant decrease from 2011 (97%).

Territory designation ⁿ⁵	Total		Primary ⁶		Secondary ⁷		Tertiary ⁸	
	Active population ⁹ (‘000)	GDP ¹⁰	Active population ⁹ (%)	GDP ¹⁰	Active population ⁹ (%)	GDP ¹⁰	Active population ⁹ (%)	GDP ¹⁰
X Region (NUT II)	602,6	90	4,1% ¹²	2,1% ¹³	16,9% ¹⁴	11,1%	78,9% ¹⁵	86,8%
Y Territory (NUT II)	602,6	90	4,1%	2,1%	16,9%	11,1%	78,9%	86,8%
Z Project Territory	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 1 Specific characteristics of the Region in comparison to the National Territory.

⁵ Name of Urban centre; rural centres or municipalities, FUA = Functional Urban Areas, etc

⁶ Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (Primary)

⁷ Industry (Secondary)

⁸ Services including Public Administration, Transports, Tourism, etc (Tertiary)

⁹ Active Population = population between 15-65 years old

¹⁰ GDP = GDP / capita in % of EU average

¹¹ Year 2018, Regional gross domestic product (PPS per inhabitant in % of the EU27 average) by NUTS 2 regions, Eurostat

¹² Year 2015, Agriculture of total employment

¹³ Year 2015, GDP (PPP) per person employed by sector, Databank Worldbank

¹⁴ Year 2015, Industry of total employment, Databank Worldbank

¹⁵ Year 2015, Services of total employment, Databank Worldbank

Nicosia has experienced rapid economic growth and is an important international business and commercial hub in the Eastern Mediterranean. The central area, especially within the Venetian walls, stands to benefit most from regeneration and upgrading of urban functions to tackle the loss of revenue and employment, which exceeded the national and city averages in 2012-2014.

The “Sustainable Urban Development” strategy of Nicosia (developed in the frame of the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Sustainable Development 2014-2020) focuses on the central area. According to this strategy, the central area is lagging behind in terms of development, economic activity, economic welfare, social welfare and sustainability of the urban environment. The continued existence of the demilitarized zone, which crosses the core of the central area, has been a social and territorial barrier that divides the city’s communities and prevents it from functioning as a single urban area. Problems of urban decline and population shrinkage are particularly acute along the areas neighbouring the demilitarized zone.

Furthermore, in the center of Nicosia the population below the poverty line reaches 24%, while the GDP per capita has fallen to €14.041. 19% of young people remain unemployed for long periods of time (24-47 months) especially in the construction and accommodation sectors.

According to the SWOT analysis implemented during the design of the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Sustainable Development 2014-2020, a crucial need for revitalization of the urban area of Nicosia has been identified.

Therefore, the contribution of the financial instruments was necessary, in order to implement interventions in the urban centers of Cyprus so as to:

- stimulate business activity and create jobs;
- regenerate of the urban environment, and protect the natural and cultural resources;
- improve urban mobility through sidewalks, bike lanes and traffic regulations;
- create or improve social infrastructure.

2. Brief characterization of the policy instrument addressed and other existing policy / strategic instruments

2.1 Description and main general characteristics of the Instrument

Policies addressed and territorial context (Policy Instruments)¹⁶

No	Name	Responsible Body Name	Country
1	Operational Programme and Sustainable Development	Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD)	CY

The OP Competitiveness and Sustainable Development¹⁷ aims to boost competitiveness and growth and help Cyprus exit the crisis. It contributes to achieving the Europe 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while it creates jobs and helps SMEs to become more competitive and innovation-driven. EU funding also helps Cyprus meet the requirements of the Union's acquis, in particular as regards solid waste treatment, and increase energy efficiency.

The OP Competitiveness and Sustainable Development support contributes to promoting the key EU and national **development priorities**:

- Reinforcement of the competitiveness of the economy (ERDF – 25.8% of the EU allocation): increasing of national research potential and private investments in research and innovation, promotion of entrepreneurship and increase of SMEs' competitiveness, in particular in the tourist sector, as well as promotion of energy efficiency and SMEs' use of renewable energy.
- Promotion of ICT use (ERDF – 13.1% of the EU allocation): modernisation of the ICT infrastructure, reinforcement of digital entrepreneurship and e-governance for businesses and citizens.
- Reduction of CO2 emissions and climate change adaptation (Cohesion Fund – 7.5% of the EU allocation): increase of energy efficiency in public and private buildings as well as investments for preventing and mitigating risks resulting from climate change.
- Management of solid waste and water resources (Cohesion Fund – 22.6% of the EU allocation): increasing waste recycling and promoting waste prevention, improvement of waste water treatment and water supply.
- Management of natural and cultural resources (ERDF – 1.2 % of the EU allocation): protection and promotion of the cultural and natural (in particular for NATURA areas) heritage of Cyprus.

¹⁶ It includes all EU appropriate financial instruments applicable, like the CLLD – Community-led local development referred to Chapter II, articles 32-35 of REG (EU) 1303/2013 of 17.12.2013

¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/cyprus/2014cy16m1op001

- Promotion of sustainable transport (Cohesion Fund – 15.1% of the EU allocation): investments in the TEN-T port and road infrastructure and improvement of environmentally-friendly transport system in Nicosia.
- Sustainable urban development (ERDF – 10.7% of the EU allocation): promotion of integrated actions for tackling the economic, environmental and social problems of the urban historical centres.
- Technical Assistance (ERDF – 1.2% of the EU allocation): provision of technical assistance.
- Priority axis 7B Technical Assistance (Cohesion Fund – 2.8% of the EU allocation): provision of technical assistance.

2.2 Urban resource-efficiency

What is a resource-efficient city?

‘Cities requires natural resources and energy to sustain the daily life and activities of the urban population. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to minimise input and output flows. As the urban form shapes the way people live, work and move in urban areas, compactness offers the potential to reduce urban flows. The most well documented effects of compactness are the reduced need for land and energy for transport. Urban planning, based on a vision of the future, developed with local stakeholders and crossing administrative borders, is a key factor in increasing the density of urban areas, developing mixed land use, avoiding the unnecessary uptake of land and soil sealing, reducing car dependency, and encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling.’¹⁸

Resource-efficient cities: good practice

‘Cities are key players in minimising the use of resources and in developing the circular model. Generally, municipalities provide utilities and control public services for citizens and businesses that influence the majority of resource and energy use and the production of emissions and waste.

Local authorities have the capacity to implement responses on multiple scales.

The main challenge is to scale up actions from the most simple, one function, such as a building for housing, or one resource, such as water management, to integrated solutions in a large urban area (e.g. an ecodistrict) with many functions (e.g. housing, economic activities, green areas, renewable energy production, water harvesting).

Another challenge is to move from the current centralised system, with mono-site and end-of-pipe utilities driven by municipalities or utility suppliers, to decentralised systems in which users are owners and producers. The report analyses both the supply and the demand issues. It is divided into two parts: the first is devoted to how to avoid, prevent and reduce the use of resources, and the second addresses reusing, cascading, recycling, and harvesting.’

¹⁸ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resource-efficient-cities/file> (2015)

Linkages of Urban resource-efficiency thematic areas and OP Competitiveness and Sustainable Development actions

In the following table we have identified indicative actions which may be funded by the policy instrument addressed and are related to urban resource-efficiency thematic areas.

Thematic areas	Policy instrument Actions
2.2.1 Sustainable land use	n/a
2.2.2 Water	<p>Investments in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's acquis in the environmental sector and to address the needs identified by the Member State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of sewage collection networks - Preparation of a revised River Basin Management Plan and a Flood Risk Management Plan. - Infrastructure development to improve the water supply network. - Improving existing infrastructure to reduce water. - Infrastructure development for the utilization of recycled water.
2.2.3 Waste	<p>Investments in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's acquis in the environmental sector and to address the needs identified by the Member State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of the waste collection network (green spots) with the aim of full geographical coverage of the country. - Upgrading existing and / or creating new waste management infrastructure. - Waste prevention actions. - Provision of incentives to local authorities to implement pay as you throw- PAYT. - Integrated Management Programs (Zero Waste Approach) in remote areas. - Programs for production reduction, separate collection and utilization of waste in Municipalities.
2.2.4 Urban renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of support for energy efficiency, smart energy management and the use of renewable energy in public infrastructure, including public buildings and housing. - Actions to improve the urban environment for cities' regeneration, disinfect the degraded environmental areas, reduce air pollution and promote noise reduction measures.

2.2.5 Energy transition

Support energy efficiency, smart energy management and the use of renewable energy in public infrastructure, including public buildings and housing.

2.2.6 Sustainable Urban mobility

Promote low carbon emission strategies for all types of areas, especially for urban areas, including promoting sustainable polytropic urban mobility and adaptation measures to reduce impact.

2.3 Environmental management performance

Linkages of environmental management performance thematic areas and OP Competitiveness and Sustainable Development actions

In the following table we have identified indicative actions which may be funded by the policy instrument addressed and are related to environmental management performance thematic areas.

Thematic areas	Policy instrument Actions
2.3.1 Air + Noise quality	Actions to improve the urban environment for cities' regeneration, disinfect the degraded environmental areas, reduce air pollution and promote noise reduction measures.
2.3.2 Climate adaptation	<p>Promotion of investments to adapt to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions to protect and improve coastal areas from coastal erosion. - Actions to protect and improve biodiversity. - Utilization of ICT for the development of monitoring mechanisms and early warning systems and risk management. - Studies for mapping and evaluating the risks arising from climate change and extreme weather events. <p>Promotion of low-carbon strategies for all types of areas, particularly urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and adaptation measures.</p>
2.3.3 Social inclusion	Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty and any discrimination through the provision of support for the physical,

economic and social revitalization of communities in urban and rural areas.

2.3.4 Governance¹⁹ for sustainable development and Participation urban and n/a

2.4 Green growth and eco-innovation

Linkages of green growth and eco-innovation thematic areas and OP Competitiveness and Sustainable Development actions

In the following table we have identified indicative actions which may be funded by the policy instrument addressed and are related to green growth and eco-innovation thematic areas.

Thematic areas	Policy instrument Actions
2.4.1 Green Growth and Eco-innovation	Protection and restoration of biodiversity and soil, as well as promotion of ecosystem services, through the NATURA 2000 network and the green infrastructures.

2.5 Analysis of how the policy instrument addresses the objectives of the Action Plan for the Circular Economy

In a resource-limited world, cities must not only become more resource efficient and reduce their carbon emissions but they also need to close the loop of urban cycles by applying innovative technologies and forms of organisation, harvesting urban resources, and developing links with their surroundings and integrated urban planning (Agudelo-Vera et al., 2012). The 'end-of-pipe' solutions, generally used to solve environmental problems in a linear model, are no longer adequate.

'The circular approach'

Many industrial processes, in which wastes and byproducts become inputs for new processes, have already been transformed from linear systems to closed-loop systems. The same rationale can be applied at the city territory level as part of good urban management. The territory's

¹⁹ It would be interesting to assess the leadership (leaders and their approach) and not only the administration organisation.

material and energy flows can be optimised by integrating all urban activities (industry, utilities, commercial, housing, urban and peri-urban agriculture), by involving all the actors (including investors and city residents) and by working with municipalities beyond the city limits. For a firm, recycling and reusing is a way of optimising the production process by reducing waste, costs and inputs of raw materials. As the prices of raw materials increase, reusing waste and by-products is increasingly becoming a significant commercial opportunity. Companies can either reuse or recycle their residues (steam, by-products, exhaust gases, wastewater, waste, etc.) themselves or transfer them to local authorities (EnergyCities, 2013a). The analysis of flows highlights potential synergies between different players.

2.4.1 Regional Circular Economy strategies (if applicable)²⁰

It should be noted that the Circular Economy Strategy for Cyprus has not yet been drafted, although the country follows and implements all relevant policies and legislative framework of the European Union related to the Green Economy Action Plan.

National Action Plan for a Green Economy

Cyprus has finalized its **National Action Plan for a Green Economy** as one of the key tools towards resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production patterns and more sustainable growth. The Plan, which aims to exploit and enhance synergies between the environmental and other economic sectors, includes measures in all key sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, biodiversity and green infrastructure, forests, energy, transport, industry, waste management, tourism, climate change and adaptation. Its key parameters include investments in key natural resources; the provision of incentives to increase resource efficiency and enhance productivity; the promotion of market-based tools coupled with regulatory instruments to drive investments in new processes and technologies to create opportunities for innovation and to boost the market for green products and services and improved governance through a more integrated and coherent policy framework.

Circular Economy and Waste Management

The new government policy on waste has been shaped accordingly to respond to this challenge. In 2015, the **Municipal Waste Management Plan** and the **National Waste Prevention Programme** were adopted, covering the period 2015 – 2021. Both instruments form a comprehensive, integrated 6-year management strategy on municipal waste. Their overarching objective is decoupling of economic development from the environmental impacts associated with production and disposal of waste, which is to be accomplished by minimizing per capita production of municipal waste in Cyprus and by promoting sustainable management of waste through implementation of the waste hierarchy.

Specifically, the measures and actions covered by the Plan include regulatory measures (obligation for local authorities to establish separate collection, adoption of producer

²⁰ Review on the implementation of the 2030 agenda in Cyprus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

responsibility for products, landfill tax/levy, a landfill ban for specific waste streams), the provision of appropriate waste infrastructure by the state (construction of mix municipal waste management plants and landfill, development of a green-points network and the reclamation of landfills), raising the awareness of the public (awareness raising campaigns, forums and access to information and data), education programmes for local authorities and stakeholders, and the provision of economic incentives (subsidies, awards). The basic objectives of the Plan are to achieve a 50% recycling at least for paper, plastic, metal, and glass; 15% in the separate collection of the organic content of municipal waste, and 20% reduction in landfill disposal.

In 2017, **three other Waste Management Plans** were adopted for waste tires, used oils and other waste streams. These plans have six-year duration and are based on strict implementation of the waste management hierarchy, set national targets and defined role of stakeholders. The targets will be achieved through a review of the institutional framework, strengthening of local authorities, improvements in infrastructure, provision of incentives, implementation of the extended producer responsibility and full exploitation of mechanisms for raising public awareness and educating stakeholders. Actions and measures focus on improving legislation, strengthening existing infrastructure, public awareness, the training of decision makers, and provision of financial incentives for local authorities and private sector.

National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change

“Green economy” is promoted through appropriate schemes in order to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy savings and the proper management of all waste streams. In order to implement International and European obligations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (Department of Environment) has undertaken the coordination of efforts to develop a **National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change**. In this framework, the observed climate change was recorded and its impact assessed; future climate change and its impact were estimated and proposed adaptation actions recorded; a specific study was done to assess the categorization of risks from climate change, in conjunction with the results of the Life + CYPADAPT Program; a public consultation and individual consultations with all stakeholders was organized.

Following this procedure, the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation was formulated and approved by the Ministerial Council. The Strategy aims at enhancing the adaptability of Cyprus on observed and projected climate change, and effectively preventing and addressing the negative impacts of climate change. A relevant Action Plan has been prepared for implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which includes a series of medium-term actions expected to be implemented by various Ministries / Departments / Services.

It has to be noted that the revision of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy was planned to be drafted within 2020, in order to determine needs and new measures that must be implemented immediately on the basis of the new requirements and quantitative objectives resulting from the circular economy package, such as: promotion of separate collection, intensive controls, strengthening of local authorities to undertake their responsibilities and enhancement of waste recycling and treatment infrastructure for the rational closing of the municipal waste management cycle.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment has started the procedures for transferring the Circular Economy Package Directives (Directive 2018/851/EU on waste, Directive 2018/852/EU on packaging and packaging waste, Directive 2018/850/EU on the landfill of waste, Directive 2018/849/EU on end-of-life vehicles, batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and waste electrical and electronic equipment) to the national legislation.

2.4.2 Inclusion of circular economy objectives in policy instruments

In order to strengthen the local authorities to meet their obligations, a series of actions funded from the Structural Funds have been planned (as presented in Annex 2):

1. Investments in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's acquis in the environmental sector and to address the needs identified by the Member State:
 - Expansion of the waste collection network (green spots) with the aim of full geographical coverage of the country.
 - Upgrading existing and / or creating new waste management infrastructure.
 - Waste prevention actions.
 - Provision of incentives to local authorities to implement pay as you throw- PAYT system or other practices for separate collection.
 - Integrated Management Programs (Zero Waste Approach) in remote areas for maximum utilization of their waste.
 - Programs for production reduction, separate collection and utilization of waste in Municipalities.
2. Strengthening research and innovation infrastructure in the field of modern design of Infrastructure and utilization of sustainable construction methods.
3. Development of infrastructure for the utilization of recycled water.
4. Provision of sponsorships to industries to encourage the development of recyclable materials integration techniques (eg. plastic, glass) in their production process.

3. Good Practices

3.1 Urban resource-efficiency

The following table presents good practices in the field of urban resource-efficiency covering the thematic areas mentioned in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this document (such as sustainable land use; water; waste; urban renewal; energy transition; and sustainable urban mobility).

Examples of good practices in the valorisation of urban resource-efficiency				
Topic /Project / Action	Number of partners	Total cost of the project (Euros)	Impact results ²¹	Territory concerned
STRATENERGY - Strategic cross-border cooperation & capitalization of a common approach for the energy saving in public buildings	8	€ 3.994.999,24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of mature projects of Efficient Use of Energy (EUE) in a total of 12 public buildings that include innovative energy upgrade interventions, for example: Heat insulation of building shell, replacement of window frames, Central air conditioning systems, LED lighting etc. - 1 Common Framework of Strategic Planning for 2030 for integrating energy saving in the building stock of public and wider public sector bodies, taking into account the political, economic, social and technological environment and its geographical variations. - 1 Common framework of planning for 2030 for integrating energy savings in the building stock of public and wider public sector bodies and covering the whole range of themes (planning, implementation, monitoring, capitalization of actions and projects). - 1 Project Website. 	Cyprus, Greece

²¹ Impact results = Results expected and those really verified at the end.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 modern IT application for the pilot implementation and evaluation of the decision support methodology in the context of the development of the Common Strategic and Operational Planning Framework for Energy Saving in Public Buildings by 2030. - 1 system for the utilization of knowledge from data and information of the strategic projects EUE of the cross-border area of Greece - Cyprus. - 13 training sessions of EUE especially for public buildings in the area to familiarize with the results and tools of STRATENERGY. - 20 Interactive Actions - Workshops and Innovation Conferences (Competitions, Events, Experimental Workshops, Social Media) in the region. - 1 final International Conference in Greece. - Additional actions and publicity material 	
Urban Waste Project	27	€ 4.248.782,50	<p>The project will empower local decision makers with the necessary know-how, analysis of the current practices and strategies for improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – URBAN METABOLISM: Exhaustive knowledge database on urban metabolism – CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES: Trainings and webinars for policy makers – BEST PRACTICES: Compendium of best waste management practices in touristic cities – MOBILIZATION AND MUTUAL LEARNING PLAN: A platform for 	Canary Islands (Spain), Denmark, Belgium, Réunion Island (France), Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Croatia, Portugal, Sweden, France, Cyprus, Greece, Austria

			<p>increasing knowledge management and sharing</p> <p>– WASTE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES: Tourism type tailored strategies for achieving the project's objectives</p>	
Design and construction of the Integrated Management Facility of Household Solid Waste and the Waste Transfer Station in Limassol	1	€ 54.000.000	<p>The project has provided for the safe disposal of household solid waste in the Limassol District, and the environmental protection of the region from the closure of the semi-controlled disposal area (Vati), while solving the enormous social problems caused by this function. It also contributes to the goals of diverting biodegradable materials and recycling. The population served by the project is around 235,000 people. The quantities of waste to be led towards processing are approx. 140.000tn/year.</p>	Limassol (Cyprus)
Scheme «Saving Energy – Upgrading of Households»	1	€ 18.000.000	<p>Through the Scheme «Saving Energy – Upgrading of Households» which is co-financed by the Cohesion Fund, households can be energy upgraded by subsidizing a wide range of energy-saving measures, including insulation of building shells, replacement of windows, purchase and installation of solar water heaters and air conditioning installation units.</p>	Cyprus
NESTER: Networking for Excellence in Solar Thermal Energy Research	5	€ 1.060.797,50	<p>The resulting enhanced capabilities and status of Cyl would in turn reflect positively on developing the knowledge economy of Cyprus.</p> <p>It will also enhance the positioning of Cyprus as an important player in applied scientific research at the interface of the European and Middle East/North Africa regions.</p>	Cyprus, Spain, Italy, France, Germany

EoCoE: Energy-Oriented Centre of Excellence	13	€ 5.689.521,11	<p>Development of a NETWORK of experts in High Performance Computing and in Sustainable Energies from Academia, Industry and the Public Sector, who may use the developed unique methodology to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - simulate a wind power plant to optimize its production, - predict the wind directions and speed over complex terrain, - use our high-end numerical tools to determine the properties of new materials for photo-voltaic power panels, or for batteries and super-capacitors, - monitor and improve the performance of code. 	France, Germany, Italy, Poland, United Kingdom, Cyprus, Belgium, Spain
MED-CSD: Combined solar power and desalination plants: technico-economic potential in Mediterranean Partner countries	14	€ 999.960	<p>The scientists examined the technico-economic potential of concentrating solar power (CSP) technology for electricity and desalination in the Mediterranean. According to them, hybrid solar/fossil operation offers a smooth transition from the fossil fuel to a solar economy. The new system can supply a firm power capacity to the grid, with up to 8\;000 full load operating hours per year.</p> <p>MED-CSD researchers carried out feasibility studies of combined concentrated solar power and desalination plants in five locations: Cyprus, Egypt, the Italian islands, Morocco, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These studies included a complete review of technology options, an assessment of water demand and deficit as well as of electricity demand, and subsequently market potential scenarios for CSP</p>	France, Morocco, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Italy, Cyprus

			desalination and electricity generation. Also included was an overview of the socioeconomic impact of a broad dissemination of CSP water desalination.	
STAGE-STE - Scientific and Technological Alliance for Guaranteeing the European Excellence in Concentrating Solar Thermal Energy	43	€ 21.134.658,37	STAGE-STE project intends to demonstrate and start to run the feasibility of deeper and effective integral European collaboration and coordination. The research topics include thermal energy storage, materials for solar receivers and STE components, solar thermochemical fuels, solar desalination, and linear and point-focusing STE technologies.	Spain, Germany, Switzerland, France, , Cyprus, Portugal, Italy, United Kingdom, Belgium, Mexico, South Africa, Libya, Brazil, China, Chile, Morocco
STS-Med Small scale thermal solar district units for Mediterranean communities	14	€ 4.953.512,98	<p>The project is deploying 4 demonstrative plants based on concentrating solar collectors for a total power of about 500 kW as a showcase for 20.000 end users and 20 Mediterranean local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness of target groups and institutional actors, through a tailored project communication strategy, transnational comparison of experiences and standard procedures; - Support to policy makers in the decision-making process concerning incentives for solar energy; - Enhancement of existing networks and clusters to promote know-how and results transfer at Mediterranean Sea Basin level; - Optimization studies, case studies in different local contexts and requisite analysis; - Integration & adaptation of innovative small scale multi- 	Italy, Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt, Greece, France

			<p>generative CS units & applications in public buildings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement of an industrial perspective for advanced multi-generative solar units; - Development of technological and operational industrial; - Expertise fostered growth of local districts and production chains with the creation of new qualified jobs on CS system production & installation. 	
SUI - Smart Urban Isle	9	€ 1.449.188	<p>Transition of energetic systems in Europe to robust systems based on efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Technical solutions for smart energy systems at community scale, where the focus is on the integration between building and network.</p>	Spain, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Romania, Cyprus, Austria
RESOR - Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy in European islands and remote regions	8	€ 1.530.451	<p>This learning process will result in the identification of best practices for the improvement of regional policy instruments supporting energy efficiency and RES use and in the draft of Action Plans to be implemented in each partner region.</p>	Martinique (France), Madagascar, Cyprus, Greece, Canarias (Spain), Funchal (Portugal), Ponta Delgada (Portugal)
CHERISH - Creating opportunities for regional growth through promoting Cultural HERitage of fISHing communities in Europe	9	€ 1.831.192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification and analysis of potential good practices; - Interregional Learning & Exchange of Experience Events, including site visits & study tours; - Development of Action Plans. 	Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Germany, Latvia, Finland

DESTI-SMART - Delivering Efficient Sustainable Tourism with low-carbon transport Innovations: Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel	10	€ 1.846.280	Integrating strategies for sustainable mobility, accessibility and responsible travel with efficient & sustainable tourism development, for transition to a low-carbon economy, through efficiency, resilience, multimodality, novel low-carbon transport systems, cycling & walking, with implementation innovations, policy learning and capacity building.	Funchal (Portugal), Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain, Hungary, United Kingdom, Germany, Latvia
InnovaSUMP - Innovations in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for low-carbon urban transport	9	€ 1.698.000	Promotion of low-carbon mobility solutions, Travel behaviour research and potential user response analyses, Integrating pricing and financing measures, Planning for visitors at tourism destinations, campaigns, assessments, ITS and ICT Applications.	Cyprus, Portugal, Greece, Italy, United Kingdom, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania
LOCATIONS – Low Carbon Transport in Cruise Destination Cities	13	€ 3.012.605	Number of instruments available to foster the use of LC transport solutions, including multimodal ones, Number of models to develop urban plans including low carbon transport and multimodal connections soft actions, Population involved in awareness raising activities, Number of urban areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in developing urban plans/strategies including low carbon transport and multimodal connection soft actions, Expenditures declared to the EC for Axis 2	Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain

3.2 Environmental management performance

The following table presents good practices in the field of environmental management performance covering the thematic areas mentioned in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this document

(such as air and noise quality; climate adaptation/mitigation; social inclusion; governance for sustainable urban development and participation).

Examples of good practices in the valorisation of environmental management performance				
Topic / Project / Action	Number of partners	Total cost of the project (€)	Impact results ²²	Territory concerned
LIFE+ ORGANIKO - Revamping organic farming and its products in the context of climate change mitigation strategies	4	€ 975.951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving organic farming practices - Adaptation to climate change Calculation of greenhouse gas emissions - Techniques for reducing greenhouse gas emissions - Reduction of the chemical load of pesticides - Lower levels of biomarkers of oxidative stress / inflammation due to the reduction of pesticide load in children aged 10-12 years in Cyprus - Growing trend in the organic food market 	Cyprus, Italy
CLICO: Climate Change, Hydro-conflicts and Human Security	14	€ 3.821.004,89	Consortium members identified stronger links between political, economic and social factors and water-related conflicts than between climate-related variables and water conflicts.	Spain, UK, Germany, Norway, Israel, Egypt, Switzerland, Cyprus, Japan, Palestine, Belgium, Ethiopia
CLIMRUN: Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region: Responding to User Needs	16	€ 4.680.340,98	<p>The use of new climate variables (rarely analysed in other projects) and of new dedicated sectoral indices.</p> <p>The development of new climate modelling tools based on the “translation” of the stakeholder</p>	Italy, Cyprus, France, Spain, Greece, Germany, United Kingdom, Tunisia, Belgium, Croatia, United States

²² Impact results = Results expected and those really verified at the end.

			<p>requests, allowing to deliver very original new climate information.</p> <p>A statistical downscaling portal was developed and delivered to connect data producers with end-users in order to satisfy the general public and stakeholders' requirements.</p> <p>CLIM-RUN Data Portal was developed serving both climate specialists and stakeholders and the general public.</p> <p>Training workshop was shaped around the idea of how a stakeholder can learn to use climate services and how a climate scientist can learn to produce suitable research products for climate services.</p>	
<p>COMBINE: Comprehensive Modeling of the Earth System for Better Climate Prediction and Projection</p>	24	€ 11.429.160,34	<p>COMBINE improved Earth system models by including key physical and biogeochemical processes that were missing in existing models. However, these were known to influence the variability of climate. In particular, researchers focused on the coupling of nitrogen and carbon cycles in land and ocean ecosystems to provide insights into ocean nitrification.</p> <p>Another interesting aspect of COMBINE was the modelling of the response of polar ice sheets to carbon dioxide increases. Incorporating land and sea ice observations in climate predictions led to more accurate simulations of the past as well as the possible future of Arctic sea ice evolution. Improvements in representation of the sea ice have demonstrated a larger susceptibility to sea ice and atmosphere-ocean processes.</p>	<p>Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Greece, Cyprus, Brazil</p>
<p>A new era - Managing a city's sustainable</p>	1	€765.000.000	<p>Limassol has had new life breathed into it as a result of several major</p>	<p>Cyprus</p>

development focusing on economic, environmental, social and cultural revival			<p>urban regeneration projects that have improved the city's historic centre, the seafront and elsewhere.</p> <p>The environment and quality of life have been improved and the city's marketability and competitiveness boosted. As a result, new businesses have opened and new jobs created.</p> <p>The projects have improved the attractiveness and the air quality of commercial and residential areas. The local economy has been boosted thanks to more visitors, charmed by the city's new look. The city's residents have benefited from the regeneration projects, as have those of the wider metropolitan area.</p> <p>As the city became more attractive, its public places increasingly became meeting places for social activities. The projects have helped preserve the cultural identity of Limassol's historic centre by highlighting its traditional architecture: old buildings have been restored and are now used for cultural, educational and residential purposes.</p>	
STROVOLOS: ENERGY EFFICIENT RENOVATION OF CULTURAL CENTRE	1	€ 500.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CO2 emissions have been reduced by the equivalent of 118 tonnes; – 5 cm rockwool insulation for the roof; – Double glazing on the north and east sides, with a U-value of 1.1 W/m-K; – Laminated glazing on the west side with a U-value of 3.8 W/m-K; – Replacement of the existing material (clay) with polyurethane foam; 	Cyprus

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Installation of geothermal heat pumps to fully cover the energy demand for heating and cooling; – Energy efficient compact florescent lamps used for lighting. 	
Cult-RInG - Cultural Routes as Investment for Growth and Jobs	7	€ 1.171.607	Action Plans on CRs development and upgrading, with implementation and monitoring of improved policy instruments in 6 regions, communication and dissemination tools for policy learning and capacity building, contribution to EU policies and EU2020 targets.	Cyprus, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Belgium, Latvia, Sweden
COCOON - Consortium for a Coherent European Landfill Management Strategy	8	€ 1.402.343	<p>As a result of LfM projects, the recovery of resources (landfill gas and water first, other resources later), as well as land recovery is increased while future environmental hazards can be avoided. LfM projects generate economic development opportunities; create new (local) jobs, all within the context of a EU-wide transition to a resilient, low-carbon, circular economy.</p> <p>Obviously, the governments of the partner regions directly benefit from the improved policy. But as LfM contributes to a safe environment and more resource efficiency, other public bodies also benefit from the project, as will companies, knowledge institutes and civilians.</p>	Malta, Cyprus, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany

3.3 Green growth and eco-innovation

The following table presents good practices in the field of green growth and eco-innovation covering the thematic areas mentioned in sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this document (such as re-greenery the city, protect and increase biodiversity and ecosystem services, nature-based solutions, eco-innovation experiences and new green economy examples).

Examples of good practices in the valorisation of green growth and eco-innovation				
Topic / Project / Action	Number of partners	Total cost of the project (€)	Impact results ²³	Territory concerned
Development of a Green Points network in the province of Limassol and in the Community of Alambra.	1	€ 2.073.518,35	Reduction of waste leading to landfill, with the ultimate goal of minimizing adverse environmental effects	Cyprus
DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN POINT NETWORK THROUGHOUT CYPRUS	1	€ 8.000.000	The construction of Green Points will substantially contribute to the achievement of the objectives for proper waste management hierarchy (reduction, re-use, recycling, recovery, diversion), reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ and CH ₄), formulating a new approach to what is and what is not waste, reducing the rejection of useful objects and materials, and developing new manner of social behavior.	Cyprus
BalkanRoad: Towards farms with zero carbon-, waste- and water-footprint. Roadmap for sustainable management	4	€ 1.284.723	The project has created a fully-automated, robust system – the ROAD Tool – for recording, calculating and assessing the environmental footprint of these marketable products at every production and processing step. The tool is	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, North Macedonia

²³ Impact results = Results expected and those really verified at the end.

strategies for Balkan agricultural sector			available as a web-based application and was applied and tested in three agri-pilot schemes in Greece, Bulgaria and North Macedonia. BalkanRoad has implemented five new environmentally friendly technologies relating to water and waste management and four others in the field of climate change prevention.	
Connecting Nature: COproduction with NaturE for City Transitioning, INnovation and Governance	29	€ 11.699.286,15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban planning process that will 'burst open' silos, enrich and nurture social, business and governance innovations and focus on the scaling-up of nature-based solutions in cities; - New master planning process that accelerates the scaling of nature-based solutions in cities by connecting policy and market needs and turning barriers into opportunities for innovations; - Guiding process for identifying funding and financial mechanisms that establish nature-based solutions as evinced valid solutions for sustainable and resilient cities that are climate prepared; and to valorise knowledge and market mechanisms of nature-based solutions' scaling for stimulating the market for new innovation; - Showcase, and share learning from, the scaling-up, replication and integration of nature-based solutions for city-making within front-runner cities; 	Ireland, Belgium, United Kingdom, Poland, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Romania, Georgia, Slovenia

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement resourced masterplans in the fast-follower cities, that is collaborative, employing sharing of good practice, working examples and quantifiable evidence, interdisciplinary work and stakeholder engagement; - Engage the fast-follower cities in capacity-building and experiential learning building on effective knowledge sharing and mentoring between front-runner cities and fast-follower cities and the use of proven curatorial planning processes; - Secure adequate funding to realise fast-follower city accelerator masterplans for scale up of nature-based solutions in the fast-follower cities; - Develop sustainable support for innovation, exploitation and enterprise development building on selected and promising new nature-based solution exemplars from the front runner cities and other solutions co-created to better suit the specific environmental, organisational and funding scenarios of the fast follower cities; - Experiences and knowledge gained will be fed back into the reference framework for nature-based solutions. 	
GreenInfraNet - Green Infrastructure Network	11	€ 1.585.164	- The online publication Greening Europe, which consolidates the substantive results of project activities.	Netherlands, Latvia, Ireland, Spain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy,

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A stakeholder database, to ensure that the relevant target group is reached and to enable future cooperation in the field of green infrastructure. - The transfer of good practices among partners, as described in the Greening Europe publication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating green infrastructure into spatial plans at local level • Landscape planning and participatory processes • Applying GIS to green infrastructure • Sustainable forest management for green infrastructure - The permanent European Network for Green Infrastructure Knowledge and Experience (ENGINE), which will enable green infrastructure stakeholders across Europe to capitalise on project achievements and continue to exchange and transfer experience, expertise and good practices after the end of the GreenInfraNet project. 	Hungary, Portugal, Malta
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3.4 Circular economy

The following table presents good practices in the field of circular economy covering the thematic areas mentioned in annex 2 this document, such as:

- Production
- Consumption
- Waste management
- Market for secondary raw materials

- Sectorial Action
 - Plastics
 - Food waste
 - Critical raw materials
 - Construction and demolition
 - Biomass and bio-based materials
- Innovation and investments
- Monitoring

Examples of good practices in the valorisation of circular economy				
Topic / Project / Action	Number of partners	Total cost of the project (€)	Impact results ²⁴	Territory concerned
BLUEISLANDS	14	€ 2.750.000	Development of a multidimensional tool, encompassing action plans, through which the problematic phenomenon of seasonal waste generation on MED islands as an effect of tourism can most effectively be addressed.	Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Italy, Spain, France, Croatia, Belgium
Re-Live waste - Improving innovation capacities of private and public actors for sustainable and profitable REcycling of LIVEstock WASTE	10	€ 2.285.087,50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Small-scale pilot plants for the production of valuable fertilizers installed and functioning; 1 existing Small-scale pilot plant upgraded with the introduction of technical innovations. - Non-financial support provided to enterprises: support SMEs in adopting and testing innovations: Technical training sessions and exchange visits; Evaluation activities of 	Italy, Spain, Cyprus and Bosnia-Herzegovina

²⁴ Impact results = Results expected and those really verified at the end.

			<p>the pilot actions and the comparative analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMEs capacity improved in successfully requesting for grants financing innovative investments: Information sharing on grants opportunities and relevant policies; Networking activities with 4-helix actors, that will favor partnership building. - Constitution of a transnational network to create synergies with innovation clusters - Provided support to policies formulation that can incentive innovation adoption: elaboration of policies guidelines, which will be presented and discussed during regional thematic round tables . These policies should include recognition of Struvite fertilizer in the EU legislation, as well as incentives as fiscal incentives, tax breaks, rewarding criteria for innovative SMEs and clusters. 	
DAIRIUS - Sustainable management via energy exploitation of end-of-life dairy products in Cyprus	6	€ 1.404.252	<p>Clear demonstration of the wide-scale applicability and environmental benefits of anaerobic treatment of EDP;</p> <p>Successful generation, collection and use of biogas as a renewable energy product from EDP - as well as residual material for composting;</p>	Greece, Cyprus

			Definition of optimal conditions and technical specifications for the treatment process to maximise production of useful by-products.	
WASP Tool - Development and demonstration of a waste prevention support tool for local authorities	6	€ 1.804.081	<p>On average 180 kg /household of organic waste annually was diverted from landfilling, through home composting, which was implemented in all three pilot areas.</p> <p>In total, 480 compost bins were distributed;</p> <p>Approximately 18 000 reusable non-woven shopping bags were distributed to the public, thereby diverting from landfilling approx. 36 000 single-use plastic bags, or 145 kg of plastic bags;</p> <p>Some 20 700 kg of clothes, footwear and toys were collected, through the installed 100 specialised bins, resulting in the diversion of approx. 15 600 kg of waste from landfilling at Heraklion;</p> <p>An estimated 2 900 books were diverted from the “blue” bins recycling system, through the four ‘Exchange Library’ kiosks established in Chania;</p> <p>Some 11 000 households were directly involved in the pilot waste prevention actions of the project, generating less waste; and</p> <p>Almost three million inhabitants in Greece and</p>	Greece, Cyprus

			Cyprus received the project's message on Waste Prevention, through the extensive communication and dissemination campaign implemented. This is noteworthy, as prior to this the waste prevention concept had often been confused by the general public with 'recycling'.	
'Planty'	1	€ 1.026.722	<p>Establishment of a 10 000 m² state-of-the-art facility and greenhouse made up of a 5 000 m² nursery and a 5.000 m² area for hydroponic production using the Nutrient Film Technique (NFT).</p> <p>The facility also includes 850 m² for storage and packaging facilities, ready to supply the market with premium horticultural and hydroponic products including micro leaves/microgreens, herbs and leafy vegetables.</p>	Cyprus
Sheep Farm	1	€ 816.420	<p>A new farm unit was constructed using state of the art technology ensuring the production of high-quality milk.</p> <p>The introduction of modern feeding belts has made sure that food is always available with no food waste, reducing costs and increasing utilisation. The automation of the farm ensures that labour costs are kept to a minimum.</p>	Cyprus

Facilities for integrated management of household solid waste in the province of Limassol. Phase B	1	€ 31.771.861,21	<p>The RDF produced, depending on its humidity and other characteristics, will either be led directly to further energy utilization, or will be processed properly (bio-drying, drying, homogenization, etc.), so that the final fuel mixture: SRF (bio-drying product) and RDF (Mechanical Sorting product), has the appropriate properties for its disposal for energy utilization.</p> <p>The residues of all the processes and the useless materials will be taken to the Landfill.</p>	Cyprus
Municipal solid waste reduction program for coastal hotel units and related mass waste production sites in the provinces of Larnaca and Ammochostos	1	€ 7.348.965,18	<p>Establishment of separate waste collection measures (as required by the Framework Directive on Waste 98/2008 / EC), which may be recycled such as paper / cardboard, plastic, metal and glass, enhanced by systematic training of the staff involved (municipalities and businesses) in order to improve waste recovery and achieve a high level of recycling.</p> <p>Diversion of a significant volume of recyclable and organic solid waste (food waste and greens) from landfilling (as required by the 1999/31 / EC Landfill Directive)</p>	Cyprus

3.5 Management of the Policy Instrument

The following table presents good practices corresponding to the decisions taken in the framework of the policy instrument that contribute to a better 'urban resource efficiency'; to the increase of 'environmental management performance'; to the implementation of 'circular economy' measures and projects; and to improve 'green growth and eco-innovation'

Examples of good practices in the valorisation of management of policy instrument				
Topic / Project / Action	Number of partners	Total cost of the project (€)	Impact results ²⁵	Territory concerned
2LIFES - Promoting Re-use from the Public Policies	7	€ 1.383.826	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Situational Analyses of Reuse Initiatives in partner cities and regions. – Psychosocial studies on barriers to reuse concerning different population groups and products” in partner cities and regions. – Policy learning events and interregional events accompanied by Study Visits. – Improvement of the 6 policy instruments addressed, so that reuse is much further and better developed in the partner territories on the part of the administrations, developing new reuse channels, infrastructures and targets. – Increased expertise in the planning and development of reuse initiatives acquired by the staff of partner organizations and members of the stakeholder groups. – Raised awareness of households, businesses and administrations about the 	Spain, Cyprus, Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania

²⁵ Impact results = Results expected and those really verified at the end.

			need to change consumption patterns and replace the old paradigm of “produce, use, discard” with a new one placing prevention and reuse in the center.	
VIOLET - preserve traditional buildings through Energy reduction	6	€ 1.300.513	An action plan describing the policy actions required to improve energy efficiency in traditional buildings. The action plan describes concrete measures and includes commitments from relevant public authorities to secure financial resources and policy support. More advanced partners will start implementing some actions, using own resources. In parallel, partners define recommendations for the EU level recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).	Cyprus, Portugal, France, Romania, German, Netherlands
CHRISTA - Culture and Heritage for Responsible, Innovative and Sustainable Tourism Actions	10	€ 1.771.775	Main outputs are Action Plans, with implementation and monitoring of improved policy instruments in 9 regions, communication and dissemination tools for policy learning and capacity building, contribution to EU policies and EU2020 targets.	Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Latvia
MELTEMI - Marine Litter Transnational Legislation Enhancement and Improvement project	7	€ 1.214.936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deliver a baseline assessment of marine litter on specific coastal zones; – Review the existing national legal and policy framework for the regulation of waste and the protection of the environment from marine litter; – Enhance and propose legal and policy frameworks based on existing policy and management tools and best 	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece

			<p>practices at local, national and international level;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engage society, increase public awareness and boost environmental education practices towards an ocean literate society on marine litter issues; – Assist decision makers to co-develop National & Transnational Action Plans Proposals for the reduction of marine litter at source. 	
COMPOSE: Rural Communities engaged with positive energy	11	€ 2,551,244	<p>Increased sustainable RES planning capacity at the decision-making and planning-expert levels, whose main objective is to promote new business models and technology development to compose green economy by connecting local potentials to sustainable energy supply chains.</p>	Slovenia, Greece, Albania, Portugal, Spain, France, Montenegro, Italy, Cyprus, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Life UrbanProof: Climate proofing Urban Municipalities	8	€ 1.854,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of the UrbanProof toolkit, a web-based platform and decision-support tool for urban adaptation planning and community-based participation; – Production of a toolkit administrator guide and tutorial video; – Evaluation of the technical and economic viability of the toolkit; – Identification and assessment of the likely impacts of climate change on the partner municipalities in Cyprus, Greece and Italy and development of local adaptation strategies for these municipalities; – Endorsement by the municipalities of these 	Greece, Cyprus, Italy

			<p>strategies (local council approval);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implementation of green infrastructure projects in partner municipalities in Cyprus and Italy. These include green spaces, green roofs and permeable pavements in Strovolos, Lakatamia and Emilia. The expected impact of these measures is quantified as follows: Green roofs: runoff reduction of 38%; reduction of annual energy demand for heating/cooling by 7.9kW/m2/yr, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 4.3kg CO2 equivalent, reduction of ambient air temperature by 1°C; permeable pavements: runoff reduction of 20-30%, reduction of ambient air temperature by 1.5°C; greening areas: runoff reduction of 23-34%; urban agricultural gardens: runoff reduction of 10-50%; and – Dissemination activities throughout the project’s lifespan to raise awareness of the project and its potential for replicability, including events, training seminars, a scientific conference and technical and scientific publications. 	
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4. Other relevant information

4.1 Planned and existing regional and local strategies

4.1.1 LEADER / CLLD

LEADER is a local development method which has been used for 20 years to engage local actors in design and delivery of strategies, decision-making and resource allocation for development of their rural areas. It is implemented by the Local Action Groups (LAGs), bringing together public, private and civil-society stakeholders in a particular area. During the 2014-2020 programming period, the LEADER method has been extended under the broader term Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) and is co-funded by all EU Funds: the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and the European Social Fund (ESF).

In Cyprus, 4 Local Action Groups have been established for LEADER implementation, as depicted in the table below.

4.1.1.1. Development Agency of Larnaca and Ammochostos

Intervention area:	Provinces of Larnaca and Ammochostos
Main ESI Fund:	EAFRD
Additional ESI Funds:	EMFF
Objective of Leader for Agriculture:	Collaboration to create self-sustained, diverse and vibrant rural areas, attractive for work, residence and visit
Objective of Leader for Fisheries:	Collaboration to create self-sustained, diverse and vibrant fishing areas, attractive for work, residence and visit
Public Expenditure planned for Agriculture:	€940.000
Public Expenditure planned for Fisheries:	€1.744.950

4.1.1.2. Development Agency of Lemesos Ltd

Intervention area:	Province of Lemesos
Main ESI Fund:	EAFRD
Additional ESI Funds:	EMFF
Objective of Leader for Agriculture:	Development of model the interconnection of the agri-food sector, with the processing sector and mild tourism, aiming to a sustainable, competitive and inclusive growth, taking into account the environmental protection, the maintenance of social cohesion, the strengthening of

	innovation, synergies, lifelong learning, and the best possible use of human resources.
Objective of Leader for Fisheries:	Promotion of economic development, social inclusion, job creation and provision of support to the employability and mobility of the workforce in coastal and inland communities, which depend on fisheries and aquaculture.
Public Expenditure planned for Agriculture:	n/a
Public Expenditure planned for Fisheries:	€ 52.610.493

4.1.1.3. Troodos Development Company Ltd

Intervention area:	Province of Troodos
Main ESI Fund:	EAFRD
Additional ESI Funds:	n/a
Objective of Leader for Agriculture:	Highlight the quality and identity of local products and services, of Troodos landowners, as well as land protection and management for agriculture and livestock, and infrastructure for sustainable production and development.
Public Expenditure planned for Agriculture:	€ 2.717.058

4.1.1.4. Development Agency of Paphos "Aphrodite" Ltd

Intervention area:	Province of Paphos
Main ESI Fund:	EAFRD
Additional ESI Funds:	EMFF
Objective of Leader for Agriculture:	Promotion of economic development, social inclusion, job creation and provision of support to the employability and mobility of the workforce in the rural and fishing areas of Paphos Province. Contribute to the improvement of the competitiveness of the region, through upgrading and promoting the tourist product
Objective of Leader for Fisheries:	

	and developing links with the cultural and environmental elements of the region.
Public Expenditure planned for Agriculture:	€ 2.791.435
Public Expenditure planned for Fisheries:	€ 2.326.300

4.1.2 Local Plans

The Local Plans are Development Plans defined by the Law of Urban and Spatial Planning. These Plans specify the general principles on the basis of which the development in each area will be promoted, controlled and regulated. The most recent updated local plans are as follows:

4.1.2.1 Local Plan for Larnaka 2019

4.1.2.2 Local Plan for Nicosia 2018

4.1.2.3 Local Plan for Paphos 2019

All these local plans share the same strategy as described below.

The development strategy of the local plans is defined as the organized and unified development of the urban complex, the discouragement of the development in areas other than those provided for housing, work and leisure for the population, with prudent resource management and environmental quality conservation. The main objectives of the strategy are:

- *the achievement of sustainable development;*
- *the substantial upgrade of the quality of life of the citizens;*
- *the adoption of flexible policies for the promotion and encouragement of alternative forms of development by the private sector, and for further active involvement of the public sector through regulatory measures in the housing process, mainly for low- and middle-income social groups.*

4.1.2.4 Local Plan for Lefkara 2018

The vision of the Local Plan for Lefkara is as in the next decade the two separate settlements to be considered as districts of a wider suburban complex, with a common future, perspectives and goals, utilizing the comparative advantages of each individual settlement for the benefit of the whole. The elaboration of the Local Plan was based on the following basic axis of space organization:

- *Definition of Protected Areas*
- *Completion of Residential Zones in conjunction with the designation of other Zones and Protection Areas*
- *Measures for activation / utilization of the Craft Zones for strengthening the economic base of the area*
- *Definition of Special Zones and Specialized Areas for adaptation to the particular natural or other characteristics of each area*

4.1.2.5 Policy Statement Ayia Napa

This policy statement aims to strengthen the population base of the area and consequently the local employment and, on the other hand, adapts to the local data of the area, its peculiarities and limitations. The two main objectives of the policy are: a) the promotion of quality development; b) the promotion of the environment and culture.

4.1.2.6 Local Plan for Chrysohou 2015

The Local Development Strategy aims to achieving sustainable development, through prudent resource management and ensurance of economic development in the region.

The main objectives of this strategy are the following:

- *achievement of sustainable development;*
- *substantial upgrade of the quality of life of the citizens;*
- *adoption of flexible policies for the promotion and encouragement of alternative forms of development by the private sector, and for further active involvement of the public sector through regulatory measures in the housing process, mainly for low- and middle-income social groups.*
- *programmatic utilization of the comparative advantages of the region.*
- *preservation and promotion of the remarkable natural environment and cultural landscape.*

4.2 Programming process and project selection

According to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013, the Managing Authority is responsible for managing the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

Regarding the **management of the operational programme**, the Managing Authority:

- supports the work of the monitoring committee and provides all required information and data relating to the progress of the operational programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
- draw up and, after approval by the monitoring committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports;
- make available to intermediate bodies and beneficiaries, information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
- establish a system to record and store in computerised form data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants in operations, where applicable;
- ensure that the data is collected, entered and stored in the system.

Regarding the **selection of operations**, the Managing Authority draws up appropriate procedures and criteria for the evaluation of actions proposed for financing from the Operational Programme.

When it comes to the Operational Programme (OP) “Competitiveness and Sustainable Development” the evaluation criteria of the acts can be grouped in 3 categories:

- I. **Eligibility criteria:** examine whether the proposed act meets the minimum requirements to become eligible and whether it can be forwarded for further evaluation.
- II. **Compatibility criteria:** examine whether the proposed act is compatible with national and EU policies and relevant legislation.
- III. **Selection criteria:** examine whether the act will be included for financing based on specific criteria grouped into 4 categories: quality, maturity, management, feasibility.

In relation to the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Sustainable Development, following specific categories of criteria are indicatively mentioned:

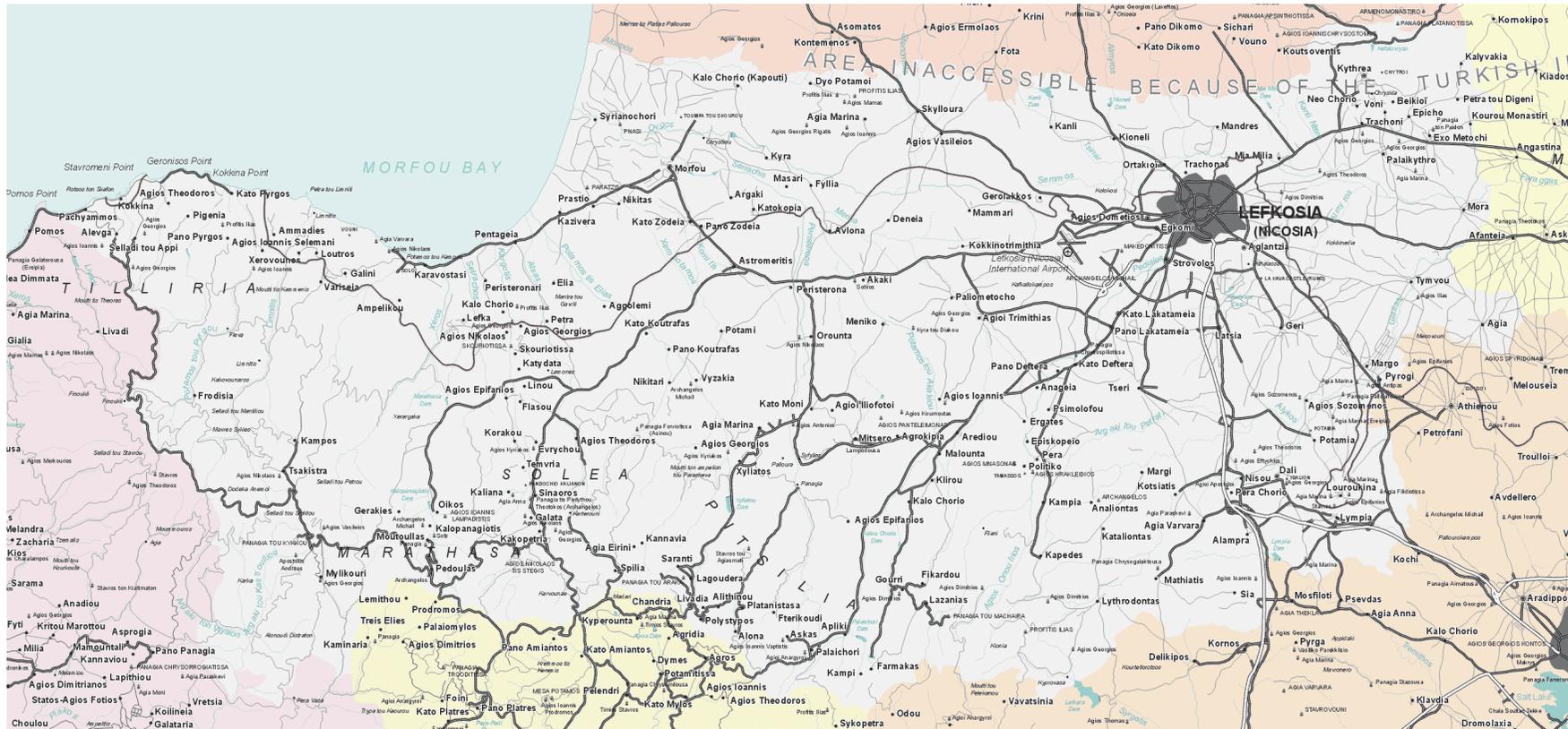
- All funding activities must be in full compliance with the Action Plan for Smart Specialization Strategy (S3Cy).
 - The selection criteria for the projects will focus on the priority sectors highlighted by the S3Cy.
 - In case funding is provided to a large company, the managing authority needs to ensure that this financial contribution does not lead to significant job losses.
 - The relevance of the proposed actions and their contribution to the objectives of the National Digital Strategy of Cyprus 2012-2020.
 - The contribution of the proposed actions to the reform and modernization of public services.
-

Annex 1 – Map of the region

1.1 Map of Cyprus



1.2 Map of Nicosia



Source: <https://www.cyprus-maps.com/>

Annex 2 – Circular Economy (2.4.2)**2.4.2 Inclusion of circular economy objectives in policy instruments**

European Circular Economy Action Plan priorities	EURE Policy Instrument: [...]	Actions of the policy instrument [...] addressing CE priorities			
		Name/short description of the action addressing the sub-objective	Total Policy instrument funds	Funds of the specific action ²⁶	Ratio (%) Action funds/ Total funds *100
Production					
Emphasis on circular economy aspects in future product requirements under the Ecodesign directive.	Not included in the policy instrument				
Ecodesign work plan 2015-2017 and request to European standardisation organisations to develop standards on material efficiency for setting future Ecodesign requirements on durability, reparability and recyclability of products.	Not included in the policy instrument				
Proposal for an implementing regulation on televisions and displays	Not included in the policy instrument				

²⁶ This amount of funds refers to the whole Investment Priority in which the specific action belongs to.

Examine options and actions for a more coherent policy framework of the different strands of work of EU product policy in their contribution to the circular economy	Not included in the policy instrument				
Include guidance on circular economy into Best Available Techniques reference documents (BREFs) for several industrial sectors	Not included in the policy instrument				
Guidance and promotion of best practices in the mining waste management plans	Included in the policy instrument	Investments in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's acquis in the environmental sector and to address the needs identified by the Member State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of the waste collection network (green spots) with the aim of full geographical coverage of the country. - Upgrading existing and / or creating new waste management infrastructure. - Waste prevention actions. - Provision of incentives to local authorities to implement pay as you throw- PAYT. - Integrated Management 	€594.767.585	€92.000.000	15,5%

		<p>Programs (Zero Waste Approach) in remote areas.</p> <p>- Programs for production reduction, separate collection and utilization of waste in Municipalities.</p>			
Establishing an open, pan-European network of technological infrastructures for SMEs to integrate advanced manufacturing technologies into their production processes	Included in the policy instrument	Strengthening research and innovation infrastructure in the field of modern design of Infrastructure and utilization of sustainable construction methods	€594.767.585	€25.000.000	4,2%
Examine how to improve the efficiency and uptake of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the pilot programme on environmental technology verification (ETV)	Not included in the policy instrument				
Develop an improved knowledge base and support to SMEs for the substitution of hazardous substances of very high concern	Not included in the policy instrument				

Consumption					
Better enforcement of existing guarantees on tangible products, accompanied by a reflection on improvements (upcoming Commission proposal for online sales of goods, and Fitness Check of consumer legislation)	Not included in the policy instrument				
Action on false green claims, including updated guidance on unfair commercial practices	Not included in the policy instrument				
Analysis of the possibility to propose horizontal requirements on repair information provision in the context of Ecodesign	Not included in the policy instrument				
REFIT of Ecolabel, to be followed by actions to enhance its effectiveness	Not included in the policy instrument				
Assessment of the possibility of an independent testing programme on planned obsolescence	Not included in the policy instrument				

Subject to evaluation of the current ongoing pilots, explore the possible uses of the Product Environmental Footprint to measure and communicate environmental information	Not included in the policy instrument				
Action on Green Public Procurement: enhanced integration of circular economy requirements, support to higher uptake including through training schemes, reinforcing its use in Commission procurement and EU funds	Not included in the policy instrument				
Waste management					
Revised legislative proposal on waste	Not included in the policy instrument				
Improved cooperation with Member States for better implementation of EU waste legislation, and combat illicit shipment of end of life vehicles	Not included in the policy instrument				
Stepping up enforcement of revised Waste Shipment regulation	Not included in the policy instrument				

Promotion of industry-led voluntary certification of treatment facilities for key waste/recyclate streams	Not included in the policy instrument				
Initiative on waste to energy in the framework of the Energy Union	Not included in the policy instrument				
Identification and dissemination of good practices in waste collection systems	Included in the policy instrument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of incentives to local authorities to implement pay as you throw- PAYT or other practices separate collection - Integrated Management Programs (Zero Waste Approach) in remote areas for maximum utilization of their waste. 	€594.767.585	€92.000.000	15,5%
Market for secondary raw materials					
Development of quality standards for secondary raw materials (in particular for plastics)	Not included in the policy instrument				
Proposal for a revised fertilisers regulation	Not included in the policy instrument				
Proposed legislation setting minimum requirements for reused water for irrigation and groundwater recharge	Not included in the policy instrument				

Promotion of safe and cost-effective water reuse, including guidance on the integration of water reuse in water planning and management, inclusion of best practices in relevant BREFs, and support to innovation (through the European Innovation Partnership and Horizon 2020) and investments	Included in the policy instrument	Development of infrastructure for the utilization of recycled water	€594.767.585	€27.827.323	4,7%
Analysis and policy options to address the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation, including how to reduce the presence and improve the tracking of chemicals of concern in products	Not included in the policy instrument				
Measures to facilitate waste shipment across the EU, including electronic data exchange (and possibly other measures)	Not included in the policy instrument				
Further development of the EU raw materials	Not included in the policy instrument				

information system					
Sectorial action					
Plastics					
Strategy on plastics in the circular economy	Included in the policy instrument	Provision of sponsorships to industries to encourage the development of recyclable materials integration techniques (eg plastic, glass) in their production process	€594.767.585	€92.000.000	15,5%
Specific action to reduce marine litter implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	Not included in the policy instrument				
Food waste					
Development of a common methodology and indicators to measure food waste	Not included in the policy instrument				
Stakeholders platform to examine how to achieve SDGs goals on food waste, share best practice and evaluate progress	Not included in the policy instrument				
Clarify relevant EU legislation related to waste, food and feed in order to facilitate food donation and utilisation of former foodstuffs for animal feed	Not included in the policy instrument				

Explore options for more effective use and understanding of date marking on food	Not included in the policy instrument				
Critical raw materials					
Report on critical raw materials and the circular economy	Not included in the policy instrument				
Improve exchange of information between manufacturers and recyclers on electronic products	Not included in the policy instrument				
European standards for material-efficient recycling of electronic waste, waste batteries and other relevant complex end-of-life products	Not included in the policy instrument				
Sharing of best practice for the recovery of critical raw materials from mining waste and landfills	Not included in the policy instrument				
Construction and demolition					
Pre-demolition assessment guidelines for the construction sector	Not included in the policy instrument				
Voluntary industry-wide recycling protocol for construction	Not included in the policy instrument				

and demolition waste					
Core indicators for the assessment of the lifecycle environmental performance of a building, and incentives for their use	Not included in the policy instrument				
Biomass and bio-based materials					
Guidance and dissemination of best practice on the cascading use of biomass and support to innovation in this domain through Horizon 2020	Not included in the policy instrument				
Ensuring coherence and synergies with the circular economy when examining the sustainability of bioenergy under the Energy Union	Not included in the policy instrument				
Assessment of the contribution of the 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy to the circular economy and possible review	Not included in the policy instrument				
Innovation and investments					
Initiative "Industry 2020 and the circular economy" under Horizon 2020	Not included in the policy instrument				

Pilot project for "innovation deals" to address possible regulatory obstacles for innovators	Not included in the policy instrument				
Targeted outreach to encourage applications for funding under EFSI, and support the development of projects and investment platforms relevant to the circular economy	Not included in the policy instrument				
Targeted outreach and communication activities to assist Member States and regions for the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds for the circular economy	Not included in the policy instrument				
Support to Member States and regions to strengthen innovation for the circular economy through smart specialisation	Not included in the policy instrument				
Assessment of the possibility of launching a platform together with the EIB and national banks to support the financing of the circular economy	Not included in the policy instrument				

Engagement with stakeholders in the implementation of this action plan through existing fora in key sectors	Not included in the policy instrument				
Support to a range of stakeholders through actions on public-private partnerships, cooperation platforms, support to voluntary business approaches, and exchanges of best practices	Not included in the policy instrument				
Monitoring					
Development of a monitoring framework for the circular economy	Not included in the policy instrument				