

SEA SCREENING TEMPLATE

Part A – Plan/Programme (PP) and Responsible Authority

Title of PP: National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement

Responsible Authority: Office of the Prime Minister / Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment

Contact Person: Dr Marie Louise Mangion

Position: Head Tourism and Sustainable Development

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Part B – Key Facts

Responsible Authority: Office of the Prime Minister / Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment

Title of PP: National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement

Purpose of PP:

The National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement (GPP) is aimed at integrating environmental and economic objectives into the public sector's purchasing decisions whilst also aiming at achieving Malta's contribution to the European target for GPP. At the European Competitiveness Council in September 2008 Malta agreed to a political indicative target in applying EU GPP criteria to 50% of its public procurement. This political indicative target applies to a list of 10 product groups and services with respect of which common criteria were developed at EU level. Later an additional 8 product groups were developed assisting member states to apply GPP to a wider range of public procurement.

This NAP provides the means through which this target is to be achieved and includes the latter 8 product and service groups.

The scope of this NAP is to:

- Establish and maintain a strategic framework and structure within which green public procurement can take place in Malta;
- Integrate the environmental dimension within the national public procurement process;



- Establish clear and measurable targets and objectives for green procurement in a range of sectors and ensure their achievement;
- Ensure that the implementation of the GPP is continuously monitored and any corrective actions are taken as may be appropriate;
- Engage procurers, suppliers and markets in the GPP process, provide guidance, and facilitate capacity building in this area.

A National GPP Task Force composed of several entities was set up to drive and oversee the process in Malta within a co-ordinated strategic framework.

Is the PP the result of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?

The NAP is not a result of a legislative provision. At an EU level, Council Conclusions had established the 50% political indicative target by 2010, which emerged from the European Commission's communication COM (2008) 400. Every member state is to establish green public procurement targets for each identified product group. The GPP targets influence criteria in the procurement of 18 product and service groups (listed below) which address current deficiencies in green public procurement. These provisions shall become administratively mandatory on public procurers in Malta following a Circular to be issued by the Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit (OPM) and the Department of Contracts (MFEI) following cabinet decision on the NAP. GPP is also a tool which will assist Malta in implementing certain directives which do not specifically focus on public procurement but on other aspects such as energy efficient buildings.

Product and service groups: *Copying and graphic paper, Gardening products and services, Cleaning products and services, Textiles, Office IT equipment, Transport, Furniture, Food and catering services, Electricity, Construction, Mobile Phones, Combined Heat and Power, Thermal insulation, Wall panels, Hard floor coverings, Windows, glazed doors and skylights, Street lighting and traffic signals, Road construction and traffic signs.*

Green public procurement may be attained through the application of either Core or Comprehensive criteria.

The Core criteria are those criteria suitable for use by any contracting authority across the Member States and address the key environmental impacts. They are designed to be used with minimum additional verification effort or cost increases¹.

The Comprehensive criteria are for those Member States who wish to purchase the best environmental products available on the market. These may require additional verification effort or a slight increase in cost compares to other products with the same functionality².

Period covered by PP: July 2011 – 2014

Envisaged Frequency of Updates: Every 3 years

Area covered by PP (ideally also attach map): N/A

Summary of PP content:

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/gpp_criteria_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/gpp_criteria_en.htm

The NAP is divided in two parts providing an overview of GPP and laying out the strategy for Malta.

The **first** part provides a background of GPP in the European Union and Malta from both a policy and legislative perspective. In addition to the current policy and legislative environments, the emerging European commitments relevant to the NAP are also highlighted to draw the attention of public and policy makers to these ongoing developments. Past initiatives undertaken by Malta and which support the inclusion of environmental criteria in procurement and studies carried out leading to this NAP were acknowledged.

The **second** part provides Malta's strategic vision for GPP. It lists the objectives, strategy and targets of the NAP. Monitoring indicators are also specified.

Part C – SEA Criteria

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government (Regulation 3)	Yes	The NAP requires Cabinet approval and will then be adopted by the national authority and local authorities for purposes of implementation.
Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Regulation 3)	No	Malta's commitment emanates from a political commitment taken at a European level, linked to a political indicative target.
Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(a))	No No	The NAP is not directly prepared for the sectors mentioned here. It indirectly influences these sectors through the criteria and conditions within public procurement aimed at reducing negative environmental impacts on most of these sectors or created by these sectors. It would influence public procurement undertaken by these sectors. No future development consent will ensue from the NAP's actions.
Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(b))	No	MEPA is one of the entities forming part of the National GPP Task Force and this requirement was not necessary in the case of the GPP NAP.
Does the PP determine the use	No	The GPP NAP's objectives and



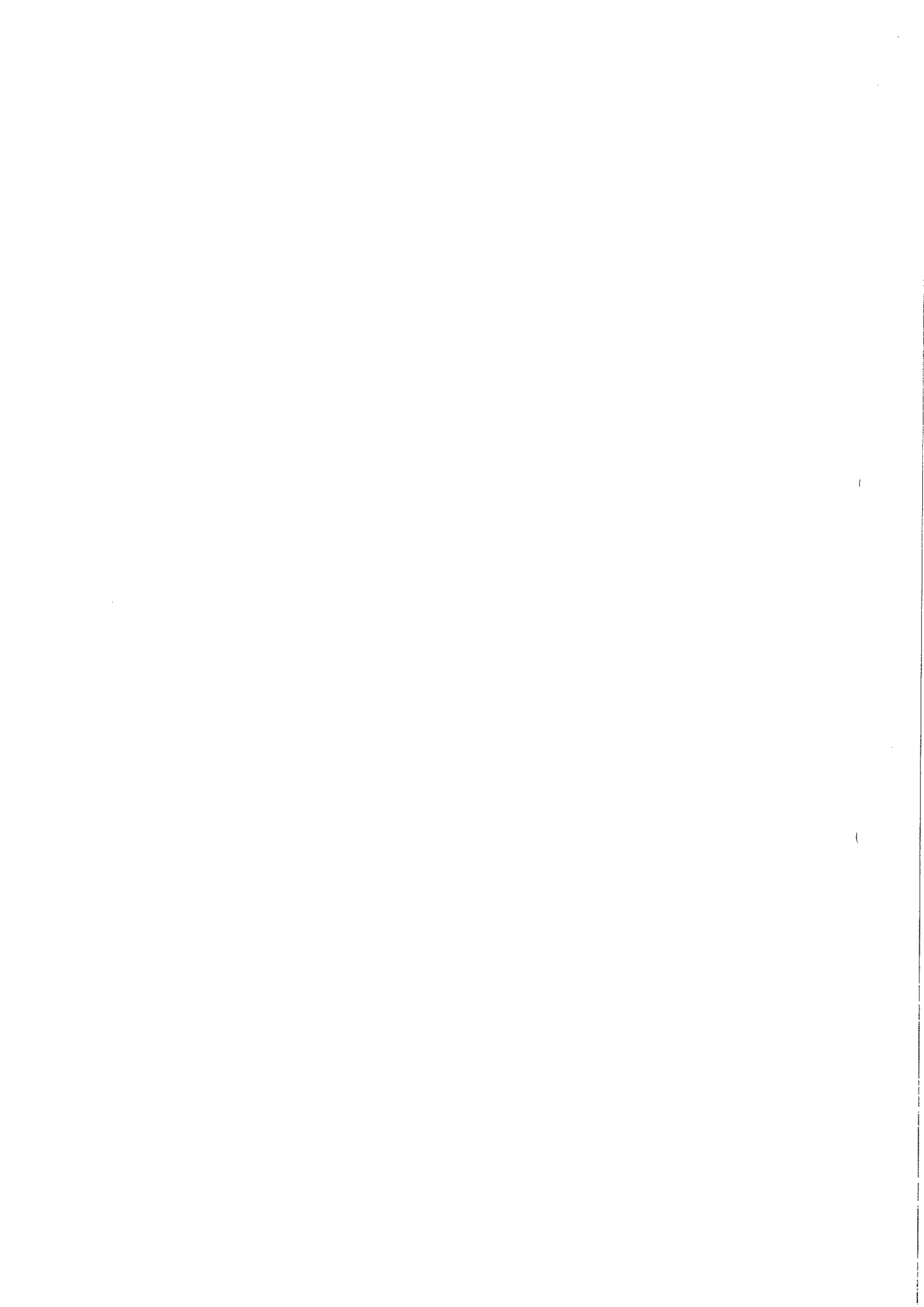
SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Regulation 4(2)(a) (Regulation 4(3))	No	measures are administrative and their execution does not require territorial use or modifies PPs subject to regulations 4(2)(a) and 4(3).
Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Regulation 4(4))	No	The NAP itself does not have a territorial geo-spatial influence.
Is the PP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Regulation 4(5))	Yes	Directly it will result in government consumption of more environmentally friendly products. Indirectly it will leverage the method of production for goods and services procured by public entities. Thus, leading to a reduced environmental impact of private contractors in their provision of products and services and a positive environmental impact in terms of government consumption.
Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7 OR Is it a financial or budget PP?	No No No	 It is not a financial plan but it has financial implications.

Part D – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Responsible Authority: Office of the Prime Minister / Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment

Title of PP: National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
the degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The NAP sets the process for inclusion of environmental performance with respect to the procurement of certain goods and services by public entities and hence does not have territorial implications and effects on environmental resource allocation.
the degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The NAP may influence financial plans related to public procurement. Tenders forming part of projects supported by EU and national funds under Cohesion Policy programmes are already required to include a consideration of environmental impacts as part of the funding requirement.
the relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Yes	The NAP integrates environmental considerations in public procurement. The framework established may serve to expand the locally applicable GPP criteria beyond the Common EU criteria currently being pursued.
environmental problems relevant to the PP	No	The implementation of the plan may initially have a lower positive environmental impact until a full-fledged adoption will materialise.
the relevance of the PP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. PPs linked to waste management or water protection)	Yes	The NAP shall assist the achievement of community political indicative targets directly with respect to Government's role as a consumer. Such as in the case of the Directive on the Energy Performance in Buildings (2010/31/EC).
the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of	No	Given that the plan does not have spatial implications, no effects of



the effects		this kind shall ensue.
the cumulative nature of the effects	No	Given that the plan does not have spatial implications, no effects of this kind shall ensue.
the transboundary nature of the effects	Yes	More environmentally friendly products will be imported by Malta.
the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Yes	As government is a major consumer within the Maltese economy and given that environmental criteria will be incorporated in tenders relating to product groups which may have an impact on human health or the environment, the risks will be reduced.
the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	The population of the Maltese Islands will benefit from this action plan when implemented in terms of the positive environmental impacts. The plan does not have spatial implications.
the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	No	Given that the plan does not have spatial implications, no effects of this kind shall ensue. However there will be an increase in quality standards due to an increase in consumption of environmentally friendly products/services.
the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	No	Given that the plan does not have spatial implications, no effects of this kind shall ensue.



Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

(Provide a summary of the significant environmental effects of the PP)

The environmental effects from the measures of the NAP affect the supplier base for public contracts of 18 product group. The supplier base ranges from local manufacturers to importers. The environmental considerations of GPP have an environmental impact over the lifecycle of the product or service, from production to final disposal. The supply of such products and services shall have a positive impact on the wider distribution of resource efficient and energy efficient products as well as on waste streams and hence the implications of the plan are positive to the extent that its measures and thrust do not fall under the scope of both Articles 4(3) or 4(4).

The positive environmental impacts of products and services procured with the inclusion of GPP criteria are:

- To use less environmental harmful methods of production
- To use less environmental harmful chemicals of products
- To minimize solid, water and energy waste during use
- To reduce the production of air and noise pollution during use
- To promote the procurement of products for gardening purposes that aim at minimising water consumption or soil degradation
- To promote renewable energy use and water catchment



Part F – Screening Outcome

Screening is required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (Legal Notice 497 of 2010). It is our view that:

- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(4) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Head Tourism and Sustainable Development

Name of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

M. Manjoo

Signature of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Office of the Prime Minister

Name of Responsible Authority

24th October 2011

Date



Notes to Responsible Authorities:

1. The SEA Focal Point cannot provide any feedback to incomplete Screening Templates
2. All responsible authorities should provide the SEA Focal Point with an original signed copy of each Screening Template prepared
3. All responsible authorities should provide the SEA Focal Point with a copy of the public notification which is obligatory under Regulation 4(7) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010.

