

SEA SCREENING TEMPLATE

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

Title of PP: Noise Action Plan for the Maltese Islands (NAP).

Responsible Authority: Malta Environment and Planning Authority

Contact Person: Kevin Mercieca

Position: Unit Manager (Waste, Air, Radiation and Noise Unit)

Contact Address: P.O. Box 200, Marsa MRS 1000.

Contact Phone Number: 2290 7223

Contact email: contact.noise@mepa.org.mt

Date: 21 July 2010

Part B – Key Facts

Responsible Authority: see above

Title of PP: see above

Purpose of PP:

1. To provide an overview of the requirements and obligations of LN 426 of 2007 as amended.
2. To present a summary of the result of strategic noise mapping (SNM) within Malta and Gozo.
3. To illustrate actions, which might be considered by the implementing authorities in the next five years.

Is the PP the result of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? Explain.
The need for the action plan emerges from Regulation 9(1) of LN426/07 transposing Article 8 of Directive 2002/49/EC.

Period covered by PP: (2007 – 2012)

Envisaged Frequency of Updates: every five years

Area covered by PP (ideally also attach map): all Malta and Gozo.

Summary of PP content:

The NAP:

a) Describes the main requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC).

b) Describes Existing Noise Management Legislation and Guidance in Malta.

c) Describes the roles of the various public bodies responsible for particular areas related to noise.

d) Defines the extent of the area to be mapped for round 1 reporting. Basically Malta does not have an agglomeration under Round 1 (but will have an agglomeration for the second reporting round). The Malta International Airport is not considered to be a major airport for the scope of the Directive due to the fact that < 50.000 operations are carried out per year. This means that under Round 1 only major roads with 6.000.00 vehicle passages per year are within the scope of Round 1 reporting. 545 roads falling under this category were identified making up about 173km of roads.

e) Outlines the process which was adopted to compile the strategic noise maps.

f) Presents a summary of exposure statistics:

Noise band (L_{den}) in dB(A)	Population exposed
55-59	8800
60-64	6100
65-69	5700
70-74	2600
≥ 75	100

Noise band (L_{night}) in dB(A)	Population exposed
50-54	6300
55-59	5700
60-64	2800
65-69	100
≥ 70	0

Dwellings exposed to L_{den} > 55dB(A)	Dwellings exposed to L_{den} > 65dB(A)	Dwellings exposed to L_{den} > 75dB(A)
9700	3600	0

g) Proposes a scoring matrix to be used to identify priority areas.

h) Proposes to use on-field measurements to confirm the extent of the impact in the areas identified by the scoring exercise.

i) Proposes that once the priority areas have been identified, and once their status is confirmed through on-field measurements then cost and benefits of potential of potential mitigation measures in these areas should be analysed.

j) Proposes that once the CBA is carried out a set of recommendations for action are compiled.

Part C – SEA Criteria

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
<p>Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority</p> <p>OR</p> <p>prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government (Regulation 3)</p>	Yes	<p>NAP was prepared by Acoustica Ltd on behalf of MEPA. MEPA being the designated Competent Authority for the scope of implementing Directive 2002/49/EC.</p>
<p>Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Regulation 3)</p>	Yes	<p>Regulation 9(1) of LN426/07 transposing Article 8 of Directive 2002/49/EC.</p>
<p>Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use</p> <p>AND</p> <p>does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(a))</p>	No to both questions.	<p>NAP charts a 5 tier course of action which should eventually lead to recommendations for Noise management measures.</p>
<p>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))</p>	No.	<p>The current NAP will set the framework for the compilation of noise management measures in the areas affected by noise from major roads (\geq 6M vehicle passages per year by 2006) as identified by the NAP itself.</p>
<p>Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level</p> <p>OR</p> <p>is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Regulation 4(2)(a) (Regulation 4(3))</p>	No	<p>The plan deals with major roads (roads having more than 6M vehicle passages per year by 2006).</p>

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
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	NAP charts a 5 tier course of action which should eventually lead to recommendations for Noise management measures.
Is the PP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Regulation 4(5))	No	The NAP per se basically outlines the procedure which should lead to recommended noise management measures. Once the costs and benefits of measures are assessed and the measure is approved then it should eventually lead to mitigation of noise levels within the defined major roads.
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	None of the options in the first row. NAP is solely a plan which outlines the course to be taken in order to compile a set of noise management measures, it is funded by MEPA and is not a financial or budget PP.

Part D – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Responsible Authority: MEPA

Title of PP: Noise Action Plan

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 actions/measures which will be identified following field measurements, CBA, etc may eventually influence other PPs (e.g. planning policies). However, the NAP <i>per se</i> does not influence such PPs.
the degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The actions/measures which will be identified following field measurements, CBA, etc may eventually influence other PPs (e.g. planning policies). However, the NAP <i>per se</i> does not influence such PPs.
the relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	Not relevant.
environmental problems relevant to the PP	Yes	Not the NAP <i>per se</i> but the recommendations which will eventually stem from the NAP.
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	As outlined earlier on the need for the NAP arises from Directive 2002/49/EC.
the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Yes	Not the NAP <i>per se</i> but the recommendations which will eventually stem from the NAP.
the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	Not the NAP <i>per se</i> but the recommendations which will eventually stem from the NAP.
the transboundary nature of the effects	No	N/A
the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	N/A

the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	Not the NAP per se but the recommendations which will eventually stem from the NAP.
--	-----	---

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 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	N/A
the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	No	N/A

Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

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

No environmental effects *per se* have been identified, bearing in mind that the NAP sets the framework for future action in the area, i.e. it describes how the strategic noise mapping exercise was carried out, it presents the results of the mapping exercise. The SNMs are then reviewed using a decision matrix. Then the following future steps have been outlined:

- a) Confirmation of the extent of impact using on field measurements.
- b) CBA of the possible mitigation measures.
- c) Compilation of a set of recommended actions.

--

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
- N** An SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

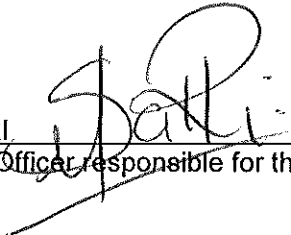
Mark SCERRI (Senior EPO, UnitD – EPD)

Name of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

x Director's Sign.

Mark SCERRI

Signature of Officer responsible for the Screening Report



Kevin Mercieca
Unit Manager



Dr. Petra Bianchi
Director
Environment Protection Director

Malta Environment and Planning Authority

Name of Responsible Authority

22 August 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.