

Templateⁱ for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization:** Estonia
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)ⁱⁱ that the initiative will contribute to):** Embedding sustainability criteria into procurement processes in Estonia (Focus area: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns);
3. **Description of the action:** Green Public Procurement is a voluntary instrument, which has a key role to play in the EU's efforts to become a more resource-efficient economy. The Ministry of the Environment will help to set up the corresponding criteria, in creating the necessary guidance documents and with advisement for embedding the Green Public Procurement principles into Estonian public procurement framework.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** first milestone 2023 and first action bloc (2 + 5 GPP mandatory categories), action finalised by 2025 - 2026.
5. **Type of actionⁱⁱⁱ:** legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
6. **Economic sectors^{iv}:** Economy-wide, national, regional, local, cross-cutting
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**

Regulation No. 35 of the Minister of the Environment (Environmentally friendly criteria for products and services that are the subject of the procurement contract and the conditions established for them in the basic documents of public procurement): <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/102072021013>.

Estonia circular economy: https://ringmajandus.envir.ee/sites/default/files/2022-06/Ringmajandus_valge_raamat.pdf. Estonia circular economy white paper summary: <https://ringmajandus.envir.ee/sites/default/files/2022-09/Kuj.%20circular%20economy%20white%20paper%20koopia.pdf>.

Strategy "Estonia 2035": <https://valitsus.ee/strateegia-cesti-2035-arengukavad-ja-planeering/strateegia/materjalid>.

A European Green Deal.
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Embedding the principles of circular economy into public procurement helps to positively affect the sound management of the environment, social benefits and stimulates the economy.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** 12
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** -
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Yearly increases of the percentage of Green Public Procurement achieved out of total Public Procurement carried out. Aggregation of statistical data from the register of public procurement: <https://riigihanked.riik.ee/rhr-web/#/> (how much was done, who did it and what criteria were used).
12. **Partners:** The main partner of cooperation is Ministry of Finance. But Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Social Affairs also help promote value-based procurement.
13. **Contact point:**

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES)**
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure^v” does the action contribute:*
 5. Resource efficiency and circularity
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (NO)**

ⁱ Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

ⁱⁱ Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

ⁱⁱⁱ In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

^{iv} In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

^v The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

Actions by Estonia

Country: Estonia

Title: Improving of Air Quality assessment and monitoring systems

Focus area 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being

Focus area 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

Description of the action: In order to meet the objectives of climate neutrality and to verify the effectiveness of policies and measures implemented and to raise public awareness, it is necessary to update and expand the national monitoring network to cover most of the country's territory and thus provide the population with location - based monitoring information. Based on the updated monitoring network and the modelling system based on it, as well as the results of the health impact assessment, an IT solution should be created where climate and ambient air pressure factors are related to population health information and personal data pollutant health risk assessments. Creating a link between health risks and air emissions that is understandable to the public and influencing behaviour (such as changing the heating habits of the population).

Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate: first milestone 2024, action finalised by 2029.

Type of action: Economy and fiscal, information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: Cities.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:

- The "Estonia 2035" strategy;
- EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil';
- European Green Deal.

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: Better data collection for air monitoring as well as improving health of people affected by lower air quality.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:

Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being

Target 3.9 – reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and pollution

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR)

Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: By the year 2029 about 50% of Estonian area is covered by new and improved air quality monitoring systems. There will be total 16 new monitoring systems bought.

Partners: Tartu University, Estonian Environmental Board, Estonian Environmental Agency, Estonian Environmental Research Centre. Action is mostly funded by European Regional Fund

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES)**
 - Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature.

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (NO)**

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)
Actions by Estonia

Country: Estonia

Title of the action

Residential buildings with improved heating systems

Focus area 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital

Description of the action: Supporting of renovation/replacement of solid fuel heating systems in densely populated areas. Furthermore, support is granted for connecting to district heating networks and development of such networks in new residential areas.

Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate: first milestone 2024, programme continues until 2029.

Type of action: Economy and fiscal instruments.

Economic sectors: Energy, housing, buildings and construction.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:

- The “Estonia 2035” strategy
- EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil'
- The European Green Deal

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: Improving air quality in densely populated areas and making homes more energy efficient which is also important for energy security.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:

Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being

- Target 3.9 – reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and pollution

Goal 7 – Affordable and clean energy

- Target 7.3 – Double the improvement in energy efficiency

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Number of homes with improved heating systems is expected to be 1850 by the year 2029.

Partners: Ministry of Economy and Communication, Kredex, Estonian Environmental Research Centre, Estonian Potters Union. Action is mostly funded by European Regional Fund.

Contact points:

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES)**
 - Resource efficiency and circularity

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (NO)**