

European ECO Forum's proposed commitment to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

1. **Country or organization:** European ECO Forum
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)[i] that the initiative will contribute to):**

Sustainable Tourism Pathways through the Plastics Crisis

(Focus areas 4: Shift consumer behaviors towards sustainable consumption patterns; and 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.)

3. **Description of the action:** This initiative includes public awareness campaign, capacity building online and off-line meetings, preparation of policy papers, recommendations, publications, multi stakeholder dialogues for NGOs, governments, tourism organizations, general public
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** 2022-2024
5. **Type of action [ii]:** The project focuses especially on (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments, with attention to (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments.
6. **Economic sectors [iii]:** The project focuses on (c) the tourist sector, , transportation, HoReCa (hotels, restaurants, catering/cafés.) As to tourist destinations, certain (b) cities may be highlighted.
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** This project builds on the Don't Waste Our Earth (WOE) initiative, launched in 2022 by ECO Forum members and network partners (e.g., Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production & Consumption), information, news, webinars, and videos through the WOE website, as a specific WOE research/outreach project.
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:**
 - The capacity of NGOs, tourism clubs and other stakeholders on the problems of plastic pollution and ways to solve them through tourism will be increased;
 - Increased culture of tourists on plastic pollution issues;
 - A network of cooperation between NGOs, government agencies, tourism organizations, local authorities, local communities on the problem of plastic pollution has been strengthened.
 - Plastic friendly tourism sites will be more competitive, local pollution will get more jobs and increased well-being.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG12 (SCP), SDG11 (cities & communities), as well as SDG3 (health), SDG14 (water) and SDG15 (land)
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:**
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Number of participants indicating increased awareness and raised capacity, support and engagement of sustainable tourism practices and policies addressing the goal of ending plastic pollution arising from unsustainable tourism.
12. **Partners:** European ECO-Forum, Eco-Accord, Integrative Strategies Forum, Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production & Consumption, and members of European ECO Forum.

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

§ While focusing on improving practices and policies to reduce plastic pollution within the Pan-European tourism sector, this work extends to other interdependent sectors making up the economic infrastructure of supply chain flows and impacts, e.g., in transportation, buildings (hotels), food (restaurants), recreation (parks and nature reserves).

o **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES)**

§ The Sustainable Tourism Pathways project especially addresses the applicability of circular economy and other sustainable production & consumption principles to sustainable tourism within the UNECE region/

[i] 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.

[ii] 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.

[iii] 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