

SEA SCREENING TEMPLATE

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

Title of PP: Construction and Demolition Waste Strategy for Malta

Responsible Authority: Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)

Contact Person: Christopher Cousin

Position: Unit Manager

Contact Address: Environment and Resources Authority, Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa, MRS 1441

Contact Phone Number: 2292 3676

Contact email: Christopher.a.cousin@era.org.mt

Date: 27 March 2020

Part B – Key Facts

Responsible Authority: Environment and Resources Authority

Title of PP: Construction and Demolition Waste Strategy for Malta

Purpose of PP: To address the current issues within the construction sector as well as increase re-use and to increase recycling of construction and demolition waste.

Is the PP the result of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? Explain.
This strategy is in line with the European Circular Economy policies and the work being carried out by the Government on The Circular Economy.

Period covered by PP: 2019 to 2025

Envisaged Frequency of Updates: 5-yearly

Area covered by PP (ideally also attach map): Republic of Malta

Summary of PP content: The document sets the objective and scope of this strategy. The EU context is presented which also includes reference to the EU's circular economy. Legal and policy contexts, taking into consideration relevant EU and international laws, are described. The main content includes information on the situational analysis at EU and national level. A look and a description of products that can be considered within this strategy is included. The climax of the strategy is attained in the measures it puts forward. It provides various measures with set timeframes. More details on the measures set in the strategy are provided below.

The Strategy identifies a number of issues that need to be addressed:

- Intensive Development
- Lack of void space
- High rates of Construction and Demolition Waste
- High dependency on backfilling and disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste
- Recovery operations taking precedence over recycling operations
- Limited recycling options

The Strategy contains a number of measures that are classified under any of the four main categories which are:

- Planning and design
- Waste management
- Quality management
- Policy and regulatory framework

A non-exhaustive overview of the measures proposed by the Strategy is provided below. It is still recommended that the draft documented is consulted. These measures have to be achieved within a set timeframe.

1. Establishing standards for the construction industry. This seeks to identify best practices and to standardise the apertures of dwellings with the aim to increase re-cycling.
2. Promoting innovation through research and development
3. Introducing a new regulatory framework directed at the management of C&D waste
4. Allowing for mandatory training. Such training would target developers, construction workers and demolition workers. Additionally, the National Commission for Further Higher Education shall develop National Occupational Standards for specific jobs within the building and construction Sector.
5. Encouraging home restoration projects. This measure targets dwellings not inhabited for 10 consecutive years.
6. Improving waste classification and source separation. To achieve this measure it is proposed that a pre-demolition audit becomes mandatory.
7. Recognising the need for resource recovery and storage depots.
8. Exploring ways of introducing the polluter pays principle.
9. Quarrying at development sites. This is expected to reduce the amount of backfilling. Cut stone on site will be treated as a resource rather than taken away from the construction site.
10. Promoting markets for secondary raw materials.
11. Setting re-use & recycling targets for any development. This measure sets per cent thresholds for various targets.
12. Enforcing recovery through restoration of void spaces.
13. Discouraging landfilling. In order to achieve this measures it is proposed that a higher fee will be charged if mixed C&D waste is brought into the landfill.
14. Assessing the characteristics of the offshore spoil ground.
15. Exploring the viability for land reclamation.

		<p>and to make use from any rock that is cut or demolished at development sites. The strategy highlights the various policy options and alternatives without providing an indication of spatial commitments and does not prescribe or exclude any options. Some of these options such as land reclamation are still being considered and the strategy also makes reference to them. The strategy mainly reiterates what has already been provided in the public domain. Any action, project, or plan (at strategic or lower/local level) to be adopted in the future would still be subject to any required screening through the applicable legal instruments such as SEA, EIA, AA, etc...</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>	<p>N</p>	<p>No, the strategy does not delve into issues that may affect, or are affected by, Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>None of the proposals are tangible in the sense that they create any commitment. The strategy encouraged the viability for various options but does not actually pinpoint specific locations where actions are to be carried out. The strategy notes that land reclamation would take place only once the relevant evaluation of the socio-economic, technical and environmental impacts associated with the feasibility and viability of land reclamation, is carried out. Any actions to be taken are to be subject to applicable assessments including EIA and Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, as may be relevant. It is the outcome of such assessments that would be the basis of whether the development would be consented or not.</p>
<p>Does the PP determine the use</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>It does not target small particular</p>

<p>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>	<p>N</p>	<p>areas at local level and hence does not determine the use of such areas.</p> <p>It is a new strategy and not a modification of an existing one.</p>
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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))	N	The strategy does not influence future development consents because it does neither indicate specific locations nor commits to any action. The nature of the strategy is that it seeks the exploration of various options. Any options to be considered further are to be subject to the necessary assessments and the development consent would be affected by such assessment rather than by the strategy. Furthermore, the options presented in this strategy have already been mentioned on various occasions in the past.
Is the PP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Regulation 4(5))	Y	There will be no additional environmental affects brought by the Strategy, however, an overall positive impact is expected since waste generated by the construction industry will be better managed and most likely reduced. As noted further above any action to be adopted is to be assessed on an individual basis. This assessment will indicate the extent of the positive or negative impact.
<p>Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency</p> <p>OR</p> <p>is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Is it a financial or budget PP?</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>	<p>The Strategy is not a financial or budget strategy, and is not related to defence or civil emergency.</p>

Part D – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Responsible Authority: Environment and Resources Authority

Title of PP: Construction and Demolition Waste Strategy

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	N	While the Strategy has measures that refer to make use of un-used void spaces for backfilling, this would not imply that the Strategy will actually have a direct effect on the environment through the setup of a framework for projects and other activities.
the degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	N	It should not affect other plans.
the relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	N	The Strategy will promote the management of waste from the construction, demolition and excavation industry in a sustainable manner.
environmental problems relevant to the PP	N	The strategy addresses waste generated from the building and extractive industry and its management. This does not imply that it will solve an existing environmental problem but will allow for the better management of this waste. Noting that waste reduction is called for through this Strategy, it should be expected that in the long term the environment would benefit since less land space would be used for backfilling.
the relevance of the PP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. PPs linked to waste management or water protection)	N	In line with the EU's circular economy policy. In fact some of the measures refer to the re-use and re-cycling of certain waste. Other measures also seek to reduce the actual waste generated.
the probability, duration,	N	Appropriate waste management

frequency and reversibility of the effects		will benefit the environment.
the cumulative nature of the effects	N	Appropriate waste management will benefit the environment.
the transboundary nature of the effects	N	It has no impact on this factor.
the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	N	It has no impact on this factor since waste generated through the operations incorporated within this Strategy are carried out in an appropriately managed manner to avoid risks to human health or the environment.
the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	N	It has no impact on this factor since waste generated through the operations incorporated within this Strategy are carried out in an appropriately managed manner. The Strategy is applicable to the Maltese territory.
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	N	The strategy does not make any commitment for any specific areas. The strategy lists options to be explored further.
the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	N	The strategy does not make any commitment for any specific areas. The strategy lists options to be explored further.

Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

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

The strategy will allow to address waste originating from the construction, demolition and excavation works. It seeks to, among others, reduce waste by promoting recycling and re-use; improve management of waste and increase the awareness of issues that may arise from such waste. It also provides a brief overview of relevant policies. Therefore, such waste is expected to be better managed.

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.

Perit Michelle Piccinino

Name of Officer responsible for the Screening Report



Michelle Piccinino
Chief Executive Officer
Environment and Resources Authority

Signature of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Environment and Resources Authority

Name of Responsible Authority

27 March 2020 _____

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.

