



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR THE ECONOMY,
EUROPEAN FUNDS AND LANDS



SMART & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AWARDS

2022

GUIDELINES

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE AWARD

The aim of these awards is to recognize, promote and reward businesses that have made a significant contribution to the varying aspects of sustainable development.

A sustainable business can be defined as a company that applies sustainable practices in its entire base of activity: products, services, workforce, workplace, processes and management. Undoubtedly being sustainable is at times a challenge but ultimately yields positive benefits.

Efforts in this area should exhibit a system thinking and life cycle approach. When a business exhibits system thinking, it shows the ability to comprehend the interactions and interdependencies in which it operates. Life cycle thinking, on the other hand, refers to the adoption of measures that are cost effective and reduce social and environmental impacts throughout the whole lifetime of a product or service.

At its core, a sustainable business is also about how “smart” the business is with respect to resources. Smart systems and technology may also be utilized to achieve sustainability goals. Smart measures vary and should generate an innovative and effective managerial approach in order to improve the three pillars, thus gaining a

sustainable competitive advantage.

The Award acknowledges Maltese enterprises, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises*, or foreign enterprises operating in Malta, for their efforts to improve their practices with the aim of increasing economic, social and environmental sustainability.

**According to Commission recommendation 2003/361/EC, medium- sized enterprises consist of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million. A small enterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed € 10 million. Finally, a microenterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €2 million.*

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applications invited from enterprises that:
 - are either privately owned or are public-private partnerships;
 - are of local or foreign ownership but operating in Malta;

2. Eligible applicants are to apply with **one** measure.

3. Using the relevant section in the application, the applicant needs to explain how this measure leads to environmental, economic, and social sustainability by stating how it:
 - Either contributes directly to all three pillars
 - Or contributes directly to two of the three pillars and contributes indirectly to the third pillar.

4. Applicants outlining the direct contribution of their measure on only one of the three pillars will not be eligible.

5. Applicants submitting a measure which has been previously awarded a Sustainable Enterprise Award prize will not be eligible. However, the same applicants may submit a new application for a different measure.

6. Applicants that have applied in the previous editions of the Award but were not awarded a prize, can resubmit a new or the

same application.

7. All applications must be typewritten.

8. Applications must be submitted by email on enterprisepolicy.mefl@gov.mt, by the 2nd September 2022.

Late applications will not be accepted.

SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

The Award enshrines the three (3) main pillars constituting a sustainable enterprise:

- Economic sustainability
- Environmental sustainability
- Social sustainability

Each pillar has many indicators helping to define what leads to sustainability in the area.

PILLAR A

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

a. Use of preventive measures/innovations to reduce costs – this looks at actions that take a preventative approach, for example introducing energy or water saving measures, or introducing new technologies to improve process performance, with the result of reducing costs;

b. Knowledge transfer – this looks at measures undertaken to transfer knowledge/resources to other enterprises to improve their operational effectiveness;

c. Using resources efficiently and effectively at all levels of production – this looks at the introduction of measures or systems that take a life cycle / cradle-to-grave / circular economy approach to improve resource efficiency at the different production stages;

d. The introduction of any smart or digital system to reduce costs, such as going paperless, offering services/products online, using a digital time keeping system etc.

e. Any other indicator that leads to sustainability within this pillar – measures submitted under this section should be suggested by the applicant.

PILLAR B

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

a. Reduction in either energy or water consumption – measures undertaken to reduce the utilization of either water or energy as part of the operations undertaken within the enterprise;

b. Renewable energy generation - measures such as the installation of power generation through smart technology – solar panels, wind turbines, or any other systems which generate clean energy;

c. Waste minimization - measures that entail limiting the amount of waste that is generated through efficient operational processes; monitoring and analysis of environmental metrics; and use of smart systems to reduce resource usage and waste;

d. Treatment of recyclable waste - measures undertaken to recycle waste in Malta or abroad. In cases where recycling is being taken abroad, proof must be provided that all actions are legal together with traceability of product movement (including permits);

e. Eco-Design: Improvement of product characteristics – measures that aim to improve the packaging and/or design of the product to advance its environmental performance;

f. Use of recycled material – measures undertaken to reuse and/or recycle materials thus increasing their life span;

g. Reduction of pollution – such as the reduction of vehicle usage through introduction of telework arrangements, and rotation of employees working from office or home;

h. Any other indicator that leads to sustainability within this pillar - measures submitted under this section should be suggested by the applicant.

PILLAR C

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- a. Measures undertaken to include/consult employees or encourage their participation in the decision-making process of the organisation;
- b. Training of employees – measures undertaken to introduce/encourage various training activities for employees;
- c. Work with the government and voluntary organizations to improve the quality of life – measures to carry out activities to help the local community;
- d. Measures taken to improve the working conditions or work-life balance for employees; or measures taken to improve employee well-being;
- e. Smart innovations – these can be digital or technological measures that can promote the access to information, such as a new mobile app or website in facilitating orders online, to share free business knowledge and encourage entrepreneurship;
- f. Any other indicator that leads to sustainability within this pillar - measures submitted under this section should be suggested by the applicant.

AWARD CRITERIA

Assessment of applications will be based on the following criteria:

Proof of commitment:

The applicant organisation must describe how sustainability is ingrained in the business operations. If applicable, the applicant organisation can refer to sustainability in its mission statement.

10 points

Description and aim of the measure:

Describe the measure and its aim.

10 points

Organisational effort:

Extent of the organisational effort dedicated towards the implementation of the measure, including any investment and operating costs, staff allocation/involvement and any training requirements. The applicant organisation may demonstrate continuous improvement by regular monitoring and reporting against its stated environmental, social and/or economic objectives.

20 points

Results achieved from the implemented measure:

This can be demonstrated through for example, a reduction in costs incurred, energy consumption, amount of waste or

emissions generated or improvement of working conditions through, for example, better lighting, less polluted environment for the workers.

20 points

Direct and/or indirect impact of the measure on the sustainability pillars:

Please explain in detail how the measure either contributes directly to all three pillars or whether it contributes directly to two of the three pillars and contributes indirectly the third pillar. For example, a measure can focus on environmental and economic sustainability and might have indirect effects on social sustainability.

30 points

Long-term viability and the replication potential:

The ability of the applicant organisation to take the initiative in sharing its experiences with other organisations, for example through involvement in business networks, dissemination at conferences among others.

10 points

THE AWARDS

The top three (3) enterprises will be awarded a monetary prize together with a purposely produced trophy and certificate:

- First Prize €5,000
- Second Prize €3,000
- Third Prize €2,000

The Adjudicating Committee will also award the highest ranking Smart & Sustainable Micro-Business:

- Smart & Sustainable Micro-Business Award €3,000

The Adjudicating Committee, together with reviewing the application reserves the right to make scheduled on-site visits.

The Adjudicating Committee reserves also the right to abstain from granting the first prize if no applicant reaches the 70-point threshold.

TIMELINE

Opening submission date: *Monday 11th July 2022*
Application deadline: *Friday 2nd September 2022*



Review and selection of applications including onsite/online visits: *September – October 2022*



Awards presentation: *November 2022*

Email: enterprisepolicy.mefl@gov.mt

Website: www.economy.gov.mt