

Sustainable Enterprise Award

Second edition – 2016

Organised by the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses (MEIB) in conjunction with the Cleaner Technology Centre (CTC), University of Malta

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 different aspects of sustainable development. A sustainable enterprise can be defined as a company that applies sustainable practices in its entire base of activity: products, services, workforce, workplace, processes and management. Undoubtedly this is at times a challenge but which ultimately yields positive results.

The Award will serve to reward Maltese Enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises¹, (or foreign enterprises operating in Malta) for their efforts to change their practices with the aim of increasing economic, social and environmental sustainability. The ultimate aim of the Award is to highlight actions that clearly point out that improving environmental sustainability is directly related to the improvement of economic efficiency and social conditions.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The Award is divided into three (3) categories enshrining the three (3) main pillars constituting a sustainable enterprise:

- Economic sustainability,
- Environmental sustainability
- Social sustainability

¹ According to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 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.

Eligible applicants are to apply with one project/initiative/measure, by ticking the relevant category and explaining in detail how the said action leads to sustainability in that category and the impact this has on one or more of the other categories identified in these Guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are invited from enterprises that:

- are either privately owned or are public-private partnerships;
- are of local or foreign ownership but operating in Malta;

Enterprises can apply for this Award through a particular project, initiative or measure.

Application deadline:

Applications have to be submitted until the 31st May 2016. Late applications will not be accepted.

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Enterprises are invited to choose the category their action falls under**
- 2) Each category has a number of indicators helping to define what leads to sustainability in the area**

Category A – Economic Sustainability – this refers to actions that are implemented with the aim to reduce costs and/or improve efficiency and as a result affect the economic performance of the organisation:

- a. Use of preventive measures/innovations to reduce costs – this looks at actions that take a preventative approach e.g. introducing energy or water saving measures with the ultimate aim of reducing costs;
- b. Economic input to local infrastructure development – this looks at measures undertaken to transfer knowledge/resources to other enterprises in order to improve their operational effectiveness;
- c. Using resources efficiently and effectively at all levels of production – this looks at initiatives that take a life cycle/cradle-to-grave approach to improve resource efficiency at the different production stages;

- d. Any other indicator that leads to sustainability in this sector – measures submitted under this section should be suggested by the applicant.

Category B – Environmental Sustainability

- a. Reduction in energy and water consumption – measures undertaken to reduce the utilization of energy and water as part of the operations undertaken within the enterprise;
- b. Treatment of recyclable waste - initiatives 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. In addition to this, traceability of product movement (including permits) to ensure that the recycling activity abroad is legal must be provided;
- c. Improvement of product characteristics – initiatives that aim to improve the packaging and/or design of the product to advance its environmental performance;
- d. Use of recycled material – initiatives undertaken to reuse and/or recycle materials thus increasing their life span;
- e. Any other indicator that leads to sustainability in this sector - measures submitted under this section should be suggested by the applicant.

Category C – Social Sustainability

- a. Involvement of employees in decision-making – initiatives undertaken to include/consult employees in the decision-making process of the organisations;
- b. Training of employees – measures undertaken to introduce/encourage various training activities for employees;
- c. Work with the government or local communities to improve the quality of life – initiatives to carry out activities to help the local community. This can include clean-ups but also activities by the organisation to help children, the elderly or those in need;
- d. Any other indicator that leads to sustainability in this sector - measures submitted under this section should be suggested by the applicant.

In particular, enterprises are being asked to:

- 1) Give a description of the measure and how it is being carried out;

- 2) Aim of the measure;
- 3) Formalisation of commitment;
- 4) Results achieved as in performance improvement;
- 5) Organisational effort
 - how much organisational effort was required and how were the employees involved in the introduction of this change;
- 6) The long term viability and the replication potential of the measure;
- 7) The impact the project/initiative/measure has on one or more of the other categories identified in these Guidelines.

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

The Awards

The top three (3) enterprises will be awarded a first, second and third prize respectively. They will be awarded a purposely produced trophy and certificate. Winners will also be awarded a monetary prize. The Adjudicating Committee may also award a Special Mention Prize to the fourth classifying enterprise with the aim of encouraging further work in this area.

Timeline

Application deadline: 31st May 2016

Review and selection of applications including onsite visits: June - July 2016

Awards presentation: October 2016

Award Criteria

Assessment of applications will be based on the following criteria:

Applicant organisations which are classified as micro will be granted a 5 point bonus. This bonus is granted with the aim of encouraging more applications from these small organisations.

- a. Formalisation of commitment:

The applicant organisation must submit its corporate mission and/or policy statements which clearly show that its commitment towards sustainable development has been formalised and forms part of its daily operations.

20 points

b. Results achieved as in performance improvement:

Proof of either the environmental, economic and/or social improvement gained through the implementation of the action/project must be provided. This can be demonstrated through a reduction in costs incurred through the implementation of a particular action, reduction of, for example, the amount of waste or emissions generated and improvement of working conditions through, for example, better lighting, less polluted environment for the workers. The applicant organisation must demonstrate continuous improvement by regular monitoring and reporting against its stated environmental, social and/or economic objectives.

30 points

c. Organisational effort:

Extent of the organisational effort dedicated towards the achievement of the above results, including any investment and operating costs involved in such initiative/s, staff allocation/involvement and any training requirements. In addition to this, proof about regular communication with its stakeholders about its work will be noted.

20 points

d. 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, etc.

20 points

e. Impact of the project/measure/initiative on one or more of the categories identified in these Guidelines.

The spread of the effect that this particular action has on one or more of the categories. For example, a project focusing on environmental sustainability might have ripple effects on economical sustainability.

30 points

The adjudicating committee reserves the right to abstain from granting the first prize if no applicant reaches the 90 point threshold.