



# *Gozo Energy Management Action Plan*

*Gozo Regional Committee*

*Project partner: PP05*

*Action plan developed under the SUPPORT Project (Interreg Europe).*

*Project Reference Number: PGI02448*

*Victoria (Ir-Rabat), Gozo, 21/06/2019*



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## Acronyms

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BRO	Building Regulations Office
CEI	Croatian Energy Efficiency Agency
DENA	German Energy Agency
EARLP	Energy Agency of Rhineland - Palatinate
ECM	Energy and Climate Management
EE	Energy Efficiency
ERDF	European Regional Development Funds
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GRC	Gozo Regional Committee
GRDF	Gozo Regional Development Foundation
IRENA	Istrian Regional Energy Agency
ISO	International Standard Organization
JS	Joint Secretariat (European Commission – Interreg Europe Programme)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSO	National Statistics Office
NZEB	Nearly Zero Energy Building
PDCA	Plan – Do – Check – Act Method
RBA	Regional Background Analysis
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SEAP	Sustainable Energy Action Plan
SMIV	System for Monitoring and Verification of Energy Savings
S.W.O.T.	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis

## Background

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The present action plan has been developed under the SUPPORT project – “Support Local Governments in Low Carbon Strategies”.

The project has been funded under the second call of the Interreg Europe Programme of the European Commission (ERDF), under the priority axis “improving low-carbon economy”.

The project gathers together 11 project partners from 9 European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania, Spain and Sweden.

SUPPORT aims to improve the use of ERDF at local / regional level and to develop or improve methods and tools with regards to data collection on energy consumption and generation.

The project addresses the difficulties encountered by many municipalities in the implementation of sustainable energy policies and in reaching the critical mass necessary to attract investments for energy efficiency projects.

It intends to support local governments in the development of better EE policies, by increasing competences and skills of public officials and employees through their participation in project activities, mainly: interregional and regional workshops and site visits.

The first phase of the project (01/01/2017 – 30/06/2019) has involved the analysis of the regional background in each participating country (in Malta the analysis has been focused on the Gozo island) on energy efficiency measures and policies, the collection and exchange of good practices, and the capacity building of the main stakeholders at local, regional and national level, as well as of project partners' staff members.

## General information

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Project Title: SUPPORT – Support Local Governments in Low Carbon Strategies

Project Code: PGI02448

Programme: Interreg Europe

Document Title: Gozo Energy Management Action Plan

Partner Organization: Gozo Regional Committee

Country: Malta

NUTS2 Region: Malta

Legal Representative of the partner organization: Samuel Azzopardi, President of GRC

Contact Person of the partner organization: George Refalo, Executive Secretary, [george.refalo@gov.mt](mailto:george.refalo@gov.mt)

Policy instrument addressed: EcoGozo Policy

Type of policy: Other regional development policy instrument

## Regional Context

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Malta is committed to achieve the goals of the Effort Sharing Decision (406/2009/EC), reducing its GHG emission growth by no more than 5% on 2005 levels by 2020.

The Maltese Government issued several policies to foster the green growth of the country, including:

- The Legal Notice 376 of 2012, transposition of the Directive 2010/31/EU, establishes a common methodology for calculating the integrated energy performance of buildings and buildings units.
- The ERDF Operational Programme “Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges”, in its Priority Axis 4 – “shifting towards a low-carbon economy”, focuses on the promotion of RES and EE within the public, domestic, industrial and commercial sectors.
- The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP), transposing the Directive 2009/28/EC, is intended to be a roadmap on how to reach energy savings target of 27% in primary energy consumption by 2020.

- The S.L. 423.19 “Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources Regulations” provides a legal framework for plants and associated infrastructures for the production of electricity, heating and cooling from RES.
- The BRO’s “Technical Guidance – Document F, Conservation of Fuel, Energy and Natural Resources” set the minimum requirements on the energy performance of buildings, including a set of recommendations for achieving EE in buildings.
- The Malta Partnership Agreement 2014-2020 sets guidelines for Malta aimed to reach EU targets by 2020.
- At regional level, the main policy instrument on energy efficiency is the EcoGozo policy launched by the Ministry for Gozo in 2008.

However, there are some barriers that prevent the actual fulfillment of the above-mentioned policies. Below a list of the main barriers encountered in the Region.

- It is difficult to carry out energy renovation with affects the aesthetics of historical buildings and certain buildings located in historic centres
- Public debt limitations, lack of know-how in public administrations and the uncertainty and fragmentation of the regulatory framework often hamper the use of public - private partnerships and third - party financing mechanisms for the implementation of energy-related projects
- The small dimension of most energy efficiency projects, the high interest rates and the length of contracts make it difficult for public administrations to access loans and to attract ESCOs and private investments.
- Gozo is still strongly dependent of fossil fuel for its energy needs and is completely dependent on its interconnection to the island of Malta
- The Region doesn’t have a district supply of natural gas for the provision heating, cooling and domestic hot water service.
- There is only one energy supplier in the archipelago (Enemalta). Furthermore, the deep coastal waters and the poor availability of free space on land prevent the installation of RES in the island, with the sole exception of solar panels.

Gozo has a total surface of 68.7 Km<sup>2</sup>, and a total population of 31,446 inhabitants (NSO data 2015).

NSO statistics report that in 2017 the 18.4% of total energy production in Gozo was generated through RES (6% of gross final energy consumption), the 94% of which generated through PV panels, the remaining through micro-wind and CHP.

At the moment data on global Gozo production of CO<sub>2</sub> are not available, however, according to NSO (2017), the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are calculated to be 4.2 CO<sub>2</sub> tons equivalent per capita, with an intensity of 0.42 grams per unit of GDP at market prices.

## EcoGozo Policy

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The EcoGozo policy, also called “A Vision for an Eco-island”, is a regional sustainable strategy for the transformation of Gozo in an eco-island by 2020.



It has been adopted by the Ministry for Gozo (EcoGozo Directorate) in 2008 and consists in a wide approach for the improvement and growth of the Gozitan economy and life style. It includes a set of measures varying from education to tourism, to culture and heritage promotion to economic development.

With regards to the topics addressed by this action plan, the EcoGozo policy establishes guidelines for the transition towards a low-carbon economy (Priority Area 2 – Environment).

In particular, the policy:

- Seeks to facilitate the uptake of renewable energy in Gozo;
- Provides a masterplan for the production of energy through RES, according to national targets;
- Aims to determine the carbon footprint of residents, tourists and selected activities;
- Seeks to introduce public-private partnership schemes for investments in renewable energy sources;
- Seeks to lead private citizens and public authorities in good behaviors on energy consumption.

Furthermore, the policy promotes retrofitting interventions aimed to transform buildings into NZEB. A lighthouse project in this sense is presently being carried out in the Ministry for Gozo building.

The EcoGozo methodology is based on a collaborative approach towards local authorities in order to boost initiatives and projects on green energy sources, energy efficiency, eco – tourism, sustainable transport, etc. However, with rare exception, namely the Ministry for Gozo building and other public buildings owned by the Ministry itself, the achievement of the EcoGozo and national targets is still far and the involvement of local councils and citizens is poor.

The Gozo Region focuses its activities on supporting the Ministry for Gozo in reaching the EcoGozo targets by 2020, mainly promoting and implementing projects related to clean energy and energy efficiency, in order to foster the transition of the island towards a low-carbon economy.

## Regional background Analysis – Summary

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During the implementation of SUPPORT, project partners carried out an analysis (Regional Background Analysis - RBA) of the regional context and the legal framework on energy efficiency measures in the participating countries.

The analysis also focused on the barriers encountered in the use of ERDF and other types of financing instruments as well as on the implementation of local sustainable energy plans, especially by local councils. The RBA also included a S.W.O.T. analysis based on feedback (through an online survey) coming from the main 3 categories of stakeholders included in the project:

- Public authorities, at national, regional and local level;
- Boosters (such as NGOs, universities, etc.);
- Suppliers and professionals in the building and energy sectors.



Table 1. Gozo Regional Background Analysis – Summary of S.W.O.T. Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Plans for energy – efficiency of public buildings adopted by half of the authorities.</p> <p>Energy – efficiency studies and energy audits ongoing in most of the buildings.</p> <p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and Eco-Gozo policy.</p>	<p>No energy renovation projects already implemented and only 25% ongoing.</p> <p>No Energy Managers.</p> <p>No bids for the energy management.</p> <p>Lack of funds.</p> <p>Lack of expertise.</p> <p>Lack of public support scheme.</p> <p>Lack of mandatory rules.</p>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Increasing awareness on benefits emerging from energy – efficiency interventions.</p> <p>Energy renovation projects planned by the majority of public administration.</p>	<p>Little trust on the efficacy of current regulatory framework.</p> <p>Little trust on the effectiveness of the energy certification mechanism.</p>

The RBA highlighted the lack of mandatory rules and public schemes fostering the implementation of energy – efficiency interventions, as well as the lack of expertise and support for the implementation of sustainable plans.

## Rationale of the Action Plan

The idea of the activities proposed in this action plan comes from some of the weaknesses and threats identified with the Regional Background Analysis:

- Weaknesses:
  - No energy managers;
  - No bids for the energy management;
  - Lack of expertise;
  - Lack of mandatory rules.
- Threats:
  - Little trust on the efficacy of current regulatory framework.

Due to the current structure of local councils' administrations and funds they have available, it is not possible to hire qualified staff that can successfully carry out the duties of an energy manager. Furthermore, the lack of mandatory rules enforcing energy efficiency practices undermines the achievement of the EcoGozo targets and in general the undertaking of EE practices in Gozo.

It shall be noticed that, due to the lack of expertise, local councils are often not aware of the environmental – related national and regional targets and / or don't have the capacities to put in practice actions aimed to their fulfillment.

The lack of expertise also involves the mistrust in the actual benefits that the administrations may have by implementing EE measures or installing RES in their facilities.

Therefore, GRC has decided to support the 14 local councils it administers, by providing them with a user - friendly tool that can support them in:

- monitoring their energy consumption;
- implementing EE activities;
- fulfilling national and regional requirements;
- being aware of the environmental impacts of their actions.

The idea is based on two good practices:

- the ECM method applied for EE Municipalities;
- and the SMIV (System for Monitoring and Verification of energy saving).

Both of the two good practices have been promoted and exchanged during the phase 1 of SUPPORT project.

## 1. Energy Efficient Municipalities

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The good practice “Energy Efficient Municipalities” has been promoted by the EARLP - Energy Agency of Rhineland – Palatinate (Germany), project partner in SUPPORT.

It consists in a structured process to implement an energy and climate protection management (ECM) in municipalities and rural districts, in accordance with the ISO 50001 – Energy Management Systems, developed by DENA (German Energy Agency).

The ISO 50001:2018 – *Energy Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use* specifies requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an Energy Management System (EnMS). In particular, it supports organizations to:

- Develop policies for a more efficient use of energy;
- Set energy – related targets;
- Better use available data;
- Measure and understand data and related results;
- Review the effectiveness of the policy;
- Improve the policy.

The good practice’s activities focus on a systematic energy controlling and components of the Plan-Do-Check-Act Method (PDCA). The PDCA is an iterative 4-steps management method used for the control and continuous improvement of processes, which, applied to energy efficiency, involves the following steps:

1. Plan.
  - a. Appointment of an energy officer and an energy team;
  - b. Formulation of an energy policy in form of a written statement containing energy-related intents and targets of the organization;
  - c. Communication of the energy policy within the organization;
  - d. Identification of energy use;
  - e. Identify opportunities for energy performance improvements.



2. Do.
  - a. Implementation of the energy management system / processes.
3. Check.
  - a. Internal audits to verify that the energy management system is working properly.
  - b. Monitoring of processes (do) with regards to legal requirements and planned policy.
4. Act.
  - a. Management review.
  - b. (if necessary) initiation of corrective measures.
  - c. (if necessary) optimization of processes.
  - d. (if necessary) definition of new targets.

The process developed by DENA consists of 4 actions:

- Collection of consumption data (electricity, heat, water);
- Ongoing documentation of technical (e.g. boiler performance and type) and organizational (e.g. maintenance intervals) data;
- Cost recording and allocation;
- Permanent reporting.

The system can be used at 4 levels: buildings, electricity use, traffic and energy systems.

It consists of a cycle of interactive and successive steps starting from the creation of an organizational structure for the implementation of tailored measures. Within the organizational structure, internal responsibilities and processes are defined.

The system also foresees the possibility to include already existing municipal management structures related to energy efficiency and / or climate protection.

## 2. SMIV – System for Monitoring and Verification of energy savings

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The good practice has been identified and exchanged by the project lead partner IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency.

SMIV is a web application developed by the CEI (Croatian Energy Efficiency Agency) launched in 2014. The system allows users to monitor and verify implemented energy efficiency measures.

It collects the national energy efficiency action plan and other national, regional and local policies related to energy efficiency.

SMIV allows to monitor the energy savings, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the cost of every EE measure included.

Thanks to the system, users can annually report their energy consumption and calculate their energy savings by comparing changes in yearly energy consumption.

It is based on a bottom-up methodology and it is used at three main levels: building, industry and transport.

## Objectives of the Action Plan

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This action plan intends to develop a management tool for public administrations which allows them to assess the impact of their actions in terms of energy consumption, energy savings and contribution to national and regional targets.

With regards to the EcoGozo policy, the implementation of the actions hereby proposed will support the Ministry for Gozo in leading public authorities (and indirectly private citizens) to shift toward a better in relation to energy consumption. Indeed, the establishment of the PDCA method as a tool to monitor the energy efficiency activities inside the organizations, will facilitate the uptake of environmental – friendly behavior among the public officials and employees.

Furthermore, the continuous check of the EE activities inside the organizations and the continuous adjustment of the organizations' EE plans towards the EcoGozo targets, will support the Ministry for Gozo in transforming the region in a low-carbon economy.

The application of the PDCA method will also be useful in order to include, where possible, well monitored retrofitting activities for public facilities, in view of their transformation into NZEBs, as per EcoGozo and national targets.

Finally, thanks to the evaluation of the participating administrations' progresses in terms of their environmental impact, the action plan will support the Ministry for Gozo in determining the carbon footprint of the island.

## Description of the Action

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The action plan intends to develop a tool addressed to all the local public administrations in Gozo (local councils, schools, health care facilities, museums, etc.).

GRC, through its foundation GRDF, will develop a user – friendly web application for the management of the energy consumption in public authorities.

The idea is to create a standardized method for the management of the energy consumption in public buildings, following the example coming from the good practice “Energy Efficient Municipalities”. The management of energy consumption will be merged with the analysis of organizations' own contribution to the EcoGozo and national targets, by transposing the SMIV platform in Gozo.

Therefore,

1. local authorities will be provided with a set of standards and recommendations to follow in order to apply EE actions in their facilities;

2. together with the support of GRDF, local councils will monitor their energy consumptions and energy savings and adjust their actions when necessary;
3. the platform will directly link their achievements with the regional and national targets on EE. This will help: 1) decision-makers in assessing the impact of their policies and the achievements of their objectives; 2) public administrations in evaluating their overall impact and contribution to national and regional policies.

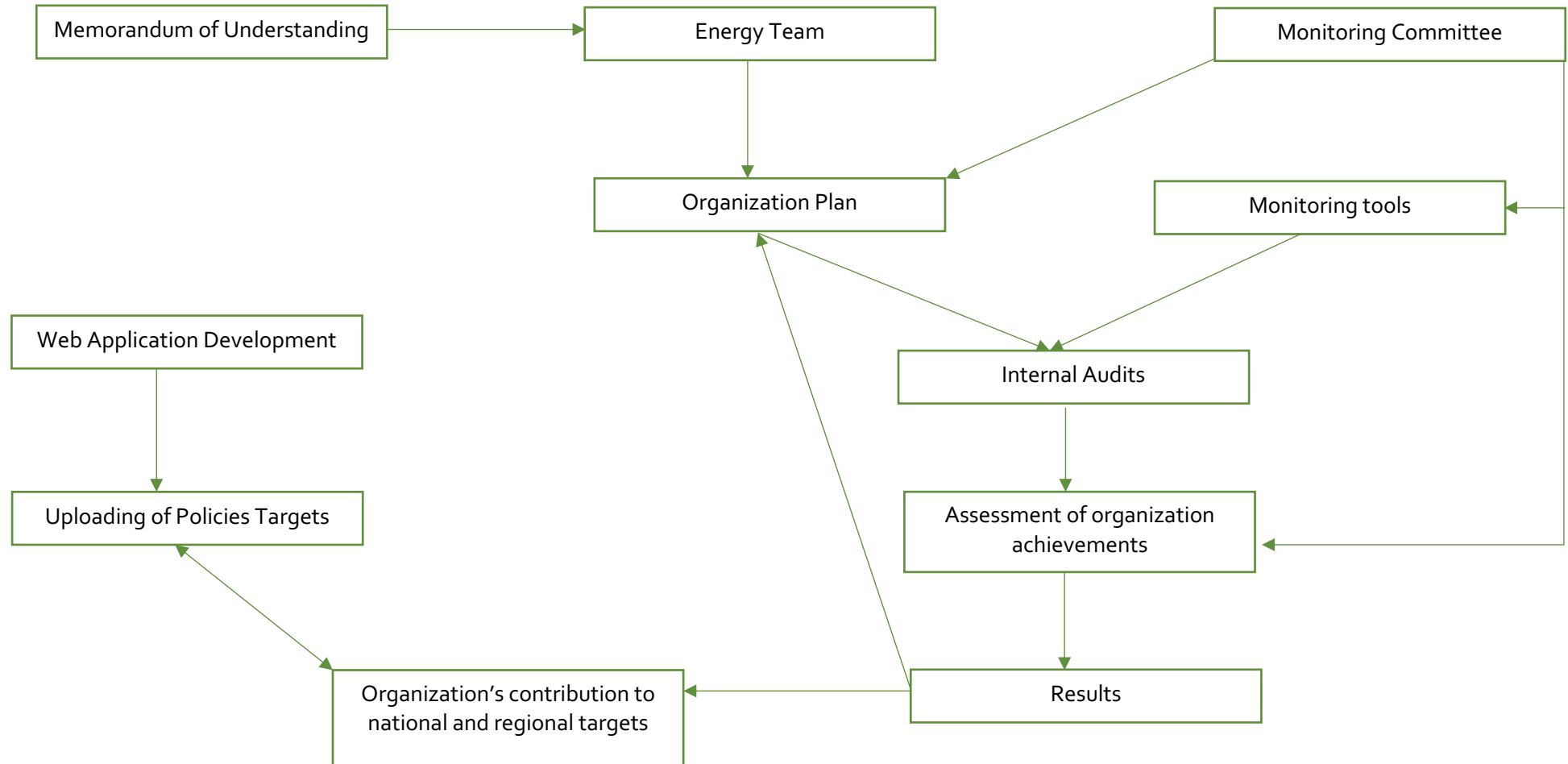
The phase 2 of SUPPORT in Gozo will start with the actual development of the web application, which will constitute the main tool to analyze and compare the energy data of the participating organizations. In the meantime, GRC will ensure the participation of the local authorities through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding. In order to test the proposed actions, GRC will involve at least 3 public authorities which will test the activities during the implementation of SUPPORT phase 2. However, the action plan will be promoted to every local councils through the final conference and other events GRC will organize, outside SUPPORT implementation.

GRDF will appoint a monitoring committee involving technical experts in EE and Energy Audits, with the main task of evaluating the implementation of the actions proposed in terms of quality and fulfillment of national and regional requirements, as well as international standards.

In each participating organization, an energy team will be appointed, with the main task of carrying out regular checks and audits, following the guidelines set by the monitoring committee. The energy teams, with the support of the monitoring committee, will set yearly organization plans containing EE activities to carry out inside the organization, aimed at the reduction of the energy consumption and in general to the creation of a greener environment.

Through monitoring tools (checklists, guidelines) provided by the monitoring committee, the energy teams will monitor the energy consumption and ensure regular maintenance of energy-consuming appliances and devices through internal audits. The internal audits will be carried out regularly, on the basis of the organizations' plans and commitment, and their results will be uploaded on the web application. The monitoring committee will ensure the correctness of the data uploaded and will analyze the impact of the organizations' results (mainly in terms of energy consumption, reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and carbon footprint) on the regional and national targets.

Graph 1. Gozo Energy Management Process



## Development of web application

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GRDF will develop a dynamic webpage containing the following interactive sections:

- Description of the action plan and SUPPORT project;
- User page – dedicated dashboard for energy teams, where they can upload their plans, visualize the monitoring tools, upload data on a regular basis (internal audits), visualize their impact to the regional and national targets;
- National and regional policies and targets;
- Statistics on the overall contribution of the action plan implementation to the national and regional targets.

## MoUs

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During the local conference to be held at the end of June 2019, GRC will present the action plan and start the campaign for the involvement of public authorities in the action plan implementation.

Throughout regional meetings and communication activities GRC will continue with the process of involving at least 3 public authorities.

GRC will sign with the interested local public authorities a Memorandum of Understanding, in the form of a written statement where public authorities commit themselves to implement the activities listed in this action plan (use of the web application, appointment of energy teams, internal audits, collection of data).

## Energy Teams

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The participating organization will establish an “Energy team” including at least a supervisor and an assistant. The energy team has the main aim of carrying out internal audits on its own organization and promote EE practices among colleagues.

The energy team is the responsible body inside each organization for the energy management of the organization itself. In particular the energy team will carry out the following activities:

- Upload data on the web application, as per monitoring tool requirements;
- Monitor the organization internal actions in terms of energy efficiency and energy consumption (colleagues’ energy-related practices in the workplace, use of electronic appliances/devices, use of eco-friendly appliances, maintenance of energy-consuming devices, etc.);
- Carry out internal audits, following the PDCA method and the requirements set with GRDF (monitoring tools);
- Check organization progresses in terms of reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon footprint and fulfillment of national and EcoGozo targets;
- Report to the organization’s board and colleagues on the progresses achieved.

## Monitoring Committee

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GRC will appoint a monitoring committee among the technical staff of GRDF.

The committee has the main role of overseeing the implementation of the organizations' plans and support the local authorities in achieving their targets.

In particular, it will:

- Establish a set of rules for the carrying out of internal audits;
- Prepare tailored forms for internal audits (checklists, instructions, recommendations, etc.), on the basis of the organization's characteristics and the plans.
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The establishment of a technical monitoring committee will ensure the quality of the deliverables produced, with particular attention to the organization plans and monitoring tools, as well as reports on the internal audits' results.

Furthermore, the monitoring committee will monitor the activities carried out by the energy teams (respect of deadlines and requirements, correctness of data uploaded, etc.). It will regularly analyze the data collected by the energy team and evaluate the impact of their activities in terms of reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, organization's carbon footprint, reduction of energy consumption, contribution to EE national and regional targets.

### Uploading of Policy targets

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GRDF will upload information on the current national and regional policies related to energy efficiency of buildings. The information will focus on the targets and requirements set by the decision – makers, with special regard to reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Definition of organization EE plans

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After an initial audit on the organization's energy consumption, the energy teams, with the support of the monitoring committee, will establish a yearly EE plan, containing a set of measures / activities to be implemented inside the organization in order to reduce the energy consumption. The plan will also contain deadlines and responsibilities for the internal audits and the collection of data.

Following evaluation by the monitoring committee the energy teams will redefine or adjust their plans, or issue a new plan if the previous one is going to expire. Public administrations can also use already existing plans, like SEAPs and adjust them to the energy management system.

### Development of monitoring tools

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The monitoring committee will draft a set of tailored monitoring tools that the energy teams will use in order to monitor the EE situation of their organizations on a regular basis.

The monitoring tools will be based on the specific characteristics and features of the organizations and will include (not limited to):

- Checklists,
- Instructions,
- Recommendations,



- Useful tips.

## Internal audits

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The energy team will regularly check the status of its organization, on the basis of the instructions received with the monitoring tools. After each internal audit, the energy team is requested to upload the related data on the web application in order to allow the monitoring committee to evaluate the organization's progress in terms of energy efficiency.

## Assessment of the organization's achievements & results

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Once the data of the internal audits is received, the monitoring committee will analyse the data in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, energy efficiency of the facility and carbon footprint of the organization. It will draft a report containing the results of the analysis and recommendations for the improvement of the organization plan.

## Organization's contribution to EE targets.

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Thanks to the above analysis, the monitoring committee will be able to evaluate the impact of each organization on the national and EcoGozo targets. Statistics will be uploaded on the web application to show the progresses made by each organization. Furthermore, it will be possible to aggregate the organizations' contribution and thus evaluate the overall impact of the action plan on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

## Timeline and budget

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GRC doesn't have staff to carry out the above – activities. Therefore, it has been decided to use the technical expertise of the Gozo Region Development Foundation (GRDF), a foundation established by the Gozo Regional Committee in order to implement projects fostering the transformation of Gozo in an eco-island. The web application and the activities foreseen in this action plan will constitute the main activity of GRDF, therefore, GRC and the other GRDF's board members will finance the above activities through their own budget.

GRC foresees the following expenditures:

- Development of the web application (server costs, ICT expert, web manager) for an expected amount of 28,000.00€, financed with GRDF funds;
- Monitoring committee (at least 3 persons working on a part-time basis) for an expected amount of 54,000.00 €, financed with GRDF funds;
- Overall action plan and SUPPORT Management and Monitoring for an expected amount of €14,222.00 to be financed through ERDF (SUPPORT budget for phase 2) for a total of €12,088.70 and through GRC own resources for a total of €2,133.30.

Energy teams appointed by the local authorities involved will provide their involvement on a voluntary basis and thus no budget is foreseen.

The phase 2 of Support project will last 2 years, divided in 4 semesters as follows:

Semester 1 (from July 2019 to December 2019): During this semester GRC will promote the action plan and seek the involvement of public administrations. Finally, during this semester, GRC will select the technical experts to be part of the monitoring committee.

Semester 2 (from January 2020 to June 2020): GRDF will develop the web application and upload the basic documents / features (i.e. national and regional policies and related targets). GRC will sign the MoUs with the participating public administrations. During this semester, GRDF and the participating authorities will also start the draft of their plans and related monitoring tools. Public administrations will also appoint their energy teams.

Semester 3 (from July 2020 to December 2020): finalization of organizations' plans and related monitoring tools.

Semester 4 (from January 2021 to June 2021): the administration and the monitoring committee will start with the actual implementation of the PDCA method.

## Target Group involvement

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The following stakeholders have been directly involved during the SUPPORT implementation:

- 14 local councils (all the local councils in Gozo);
- Ministry for Gozo (regional public authority – decision maker);
- Gozo Business Chamber;
- Regulatory of Energy and Water Services (national public authority – decision maker);
- Energy agencies (Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency and Energy and Water Agency);
- Local Councils Authority (national public authority);
- NatureTrust (NGO);
- University of Malta;
- Malta Stock Exchange;
- House of Parliament;
- General public.

The above stakeholders have been involved in the SUPPORT project in different ways: some of them participated in the interregional events and in the regional workshops; 4 of them (University of Malta, Malta Stock Exchange, NatureTrust and the House of Parliament) became familiar with the project project during site visits organized at their facilities; the general public was involved through general promotion of the project (newsletters, external events, etc.).

Finally, GRC organized bilateral meetings with the local councils' mayors and executive secretaries in order to discuss possible actions to implement during phase 2.

During SUPPORT phase 2, the above – mentioned stakeholders and other public administrations (schools, health centres, museums etc.) will be contacted for their involvement in the action plan activities. GRC will sign the Memorandum of Understanding with selected stakeholders, so that they can be directly involved in the energy management system.

## Ministry for Gozo involvement

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The Ministry for Gozo is one of the main stakeholders of the SUPPORT project in Malta. It has been involved in all the activities that GRC carried out in Malta and abroad for the implementation of the project. In particular, the Ministry for Gozo participated in interregional events, regional workshops, site visits abroad, capacity buildings activities, etc.

GRC organized bilateral meetings with the Ministry for Gozo for the selection of SUPPORT good practices to import to Malta. In this regard, the good practice “Energy efficient small local heating network in Birkenfeld” presented by EARLP was discussed. The good practice focuses on a local heating system with a central heating plant using RES for the heating of 30 buildings (both private and public).

Despite the great interest in the application of this system in Gozo by both GRC and Ministry for Gozo, the high costs that are requires and the lack of ESCOs in Malta, as well as the lack of funds, didn't allow GRC to include this good practice in this action plan.

With regards to the activities foreseen by this action plan, the Ministry for Gozo will provide GRC / GRDF with information on the EcoGozo policy and with a methodology for the assessment of the impact of the PDCA activities to the EcoGozo targets.

The Ministry for Gozo will also promote the SUPPORT project and this action within its network.

## Final Remarks

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The SUPPORT project has been co-financed by the Interreg Europe Programme of the European Union, under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).



**INTERREG EUROPE PROGRAMME 2014-2020**  
Project part-financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds



## GRC Commitment

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I hereby declare that the proposed action plan is in line with the Gozo Regional Council's objectives and range of actions.

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Dr Samuel Azzopardi  
President  
Gozo Regional Council  
21/06/2019, Victoria, Gozo  
Malta

## Ministry for Gozo's Endorsement

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I hereby declare that the proposed action plan is in line with the EcoGozo policy and targets.  
The EcoGozo Directorate is committed to contribute to the development of the action plan, through the following activities:

- Promotion of the web application and the action plan activities;
- Support in the involvement of local and regional authorities in the use of the action plan's deliverables;
- Provision of information related to the Eco-Gozo policy and other national policies on energy - related issues;
- Provision of technical assistance in the development of the structured process for ECM.

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Dr Vicky Xuereb,  
Director  
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