



**2LIFES**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



# Action Plan for Nicosia

Promoting Re-use from the Public Policies



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Produced by each region, the **action plan** is a document providing details on **how** the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be exploited in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within that region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs (if any) and funding sources (if any). If the same policy instrument is addressed by several partners, only one action plan is required

## Part I – General information

Project: **2LIFES: Promoting Re-use from the Public Policies**

Partner organisation: **Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL)**

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): N/A

Country: **Cyprus**

NUTS2 region: **Κύπρος (Kypros)**

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## Part II – Policy context

Name of the policy instruments addressed:

- I. **Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026**
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## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### ***ACTION: New project implementation: Intermunicipal Reuse Centre in the District of Nicosia***

#### **1. The background**

Waste management is an immediate necessity, in order to effectively address the associated environmental impacts and ensure a high level of environmental protection and public health. Although the content of EU policy is in general applied in Cyprus, on its execution the sector is not characterized by an integrated and coherent approach, with negative results in both environmental protection and the rational management of resources, since only 20% of municipal waste is used for recycling or reuse and the rest is sent for burial.

The waste production showed an upward trend in the last 15 years and particularly in the municipal waste. Furthermore, according to a recent publication of the politico.eu under the title “Ranking how EU countries do with the circular economy”, Cyprus is ranked in the last places among EU member states, having just 3% ‘material reuse rate’.

Thus, the government of Cyprus has prepared a National Waste Management Strategy with the involvement of local authorities. The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment is promoting the goals of the National Waste Management Strategy of Cyprus, in which several methods of reusing different waste materials are included as recommendations.

Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL) has acquired the role of the intermediary consultative body between the Ministry, the Municipalities, and the local environment (academia, NGOs, and private industry) for supporting the design and implementation of innovative and efficient projects in this field.

The National Waste Management Strategy was used as the basis to form the main investments and interventions included in the two main Policy Instruments shaping the new Programming Period 2021-2027: a) The Policy Instrument named ‘Operational Program THALIA 2021 - 2027’ and b) the Policy Instrument named ‘Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026’. Both documents include investments under Priority Axes targeting waste management improvements towards the circular economy, serving the EU target for a Greener Europe with lower CO2 emissions.

#### **2LIFES project – LSG Meetings Outcomes**

Through 2LIFES activities, especially through the exchange of experiences procedure, ANEL had the opportunity to contribute to this reuse initiative by suggesting reuse proven good practices involving local authorities and other local stakeholders, already implemented in partners’ areas.

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The LSG series of meetings (online & with physical presence) organised by ANEL in Cyprus, engaged the Local Stakeholders and offered the opportunity of:

- a) drawing the local situation and
- b) identifying which of the Good Practices shared from the partners would be more suitable for adoption, for the case of Cyprus.

Furthermore, the following suggestion was decided with the objective to improve the selected policy instrument during the LSG meetings:

*“Initiation of new project(s) to be funded in the framework of the Programming Documents framing the new Programming Period’s (2021-2027) Investments for Recovery, Development, Growth and Jobs aiming on the promotion of a reuse project and initiatives and encouragement of a Greener overall philosophy (reduce, reuse, recycle) in the District of Nicosia. New project(s) should embody elements included in the Good Practices identified in other 2LIFES partners’ areas.”*

The member municipalities of ANEL along with the Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment are the **core members** of the Regional Multi-stakeholder Group created in Cyprus to support the 2LIFES project’s activities.

Through the exchange of experience process of the project, all partners identified several GPs from their region which were presented during the Thematic seminars and Study Visits of the project. One GP promoted by the project partner Marche Region entitled “**Reuse Center of Municipality of Serra De Conti**” attracted the interest of Cypriot Partner (Nicosia Development Agency). The GP refers to a Reuse centre, based at Serra de Conti, which is run in collaboration with three more Municipalities in Region Marche (Serra de Conti, Arcevia, Barbara and Montecarotto). The main aim of the centre is the reduction of waste production and promotion of reuse philosophy (circular economy). Citizens of these municipalities can go and leave or collect reusable goods (without any charge). The centre is located and managed by the Municipality of Serra de Conti and is supported by a team of volunteers. The project was presented and discussed with the LSG, was endorsed by every stakeholder and it was decided that it should be adopted on local level and transferred to Cyprus for implementation.

Concluding, the following brief SWOT analysis was produced by the Nicosia LSG during its last meeting concerning the proposed actions:

**Strengths:** a) The philosophy of the project is easy to transfer, b) The initiative for this new project was officially approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

**Weaknesses:** a) Public procedures and delays.

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**Opportunities:** a) The recent preparation of the *National Waste Management Strategy* with the involvement of local authorities. b) The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment is promoting the goals of the National Waste Management Strategy of Cyprus, in which several methods of reusing different waste materials are included as recommendations. c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment along with the member municipalities of ANEL have shown high interest in supporting the adoption of this initiative

**Threats:** a) The maturity level of the proposed project. b) Unstable economic conditions. (e.g. Covid19)

Following up on the above mentioned, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, a proposal was prepared and shared with the Managing Authority (Directorate General for Growth) of the two main Policy Instruments shaping the new Programming Period 2021-2027 (Operational Program THALIA 2021 - 2027' and 'Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026'). The proposal referred to the initiation of ***a new project to facilitate the transfer and implementation of the Italian GP to Cyprus – that would be the establishment of an intermunicipal reuse centre in the District of Nicosia.*** The proposed solution will help the government and local authorities to reduce the waste production and encourage the reuse philosophy by providing financial incentives (e.g. municipal tax incentives) to the citizens who choose to use and support the Initiative. The proposal was endorsed and adopted by the MA and they decided to include this new project under the Policy Instrument entitled "Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026".

The Managing Authority of the Structural Funds in Cyprus prepared the documentation of the Policy Instruments to frame the new Programming Period 2021-2027 and share with the EU to initiate the negotiation stage and eventually reach to an agreement – and thus to the approval of the PIs.

The 'Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026'<sup>1</sup> was officially approved by the Council of the European Union in July 2021<sup>2</sup>. The total budget of the CY RRP amounts to €1,206 bln, which will be financed through grants of €1,006 bln (at current prices) and additional funding of about €0,20 bln in the form of loan, following the submission of relevant request to the EC. The Plan is structured around five (5) Policy Axes and thirteen (13) Components, with an implementation period up to 2026, all aligned with the Plan's strategic goal and objectives.

The Priority Axis 3 – 'Strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of the economy' is framed under the Pillar "Towards a competitive and effective economy" where the Measure 3.1 "New Growth Model and Diversification of the Economy" is included. Measure 3.1 includes several reforms and investments. The new project proposed by the Nicosia LSG is included in the Investments' Chapter 3.1.4 entitled "Circular Economy". More specifically, Investment 12 foresees the construction and establishment of a two intermunicipal reuse

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<sup>1</sup> The full document is available [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> The relevant Executive Decision is available [here](#).

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and repair centres in constructing and operating two Reuse and Repair Centres in strategic locations in Cyprus that can serve all 5 regions. Preliminarily, one of the two centres is foreseen to be established within the district of Nicosia.

## 2. Actions

### Step 1 (funded by other funds):

- The mapping of existing reuse and repair activities performed in Cyprus and the evaluation of the reuse and repair potential in Cyprus:

The two reuse/repair centres will be designated by the respective municipalities. Two possible sites have been identified for the creation of the Reuse/Repair centres, one (1) centre in Koshi (serving the Nicosia, Larnaca and Famagusta regions) and one (1) in Ag. Syllas (serving the Limassol and Paphos regions).

- The evaluation and integration of the reuse/repair key factors including amongst other the linkage between reuse and social employment, the embedment of the national waste reuse/repair policy into the local waste policy and planning, the coordination, collaboration, and demarcation of responsibilities between competent authorities. Reuse and, particularly, preparation for reuse activities may need to be carried out in accordance with certain protocols e.g. classification, transport, repair, cleaning, packaging, delivery protocols.

These tasks and other considerations for the operation of both reuse/repair centres shall constitute the main duties that need to be carried out by the centre's staff. Recruitment and training shall constitute an important part of this sub-action considering that the operation of such centres is labour intensive in comparison to other waste management options. To this end a link between environmental care and social employment shall be established, aiming amongst others to integrate vulnerable groups (e.g., long-term unemployed, people with disabilities) into the labour market. Training programmes and courses for people that will operate the reuse centres and networks is envisaged as part of the capacity building activities.

- The preparation of the technical studies:
    1. Preliminary technical study (i.e. infrastructure and equipment requirements, technical specifications, licensing & permissions demand)
    2. Preliminary feasibility study (i.e. infrastructure and equipment costs, operation cost) The main aim of the feasibility study will be to identify the technical and functional specifications and features that can make both reuse/repair centres financially sustainable.
    3. Final techno-economic study.
    4. Preliminary EIA report for the construction and operation of the two reuse / repair centres.
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### Step 2 (funded by other funds):

- The preparation of the Tender Documents for the construction of the (2) reuse/repair centres and the supply of all the trucks will be within the RRF plans.

### Step 3 (funded by Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan):

- The procurement of the Tenders (2nd semester of 2023)
- The evaluation of the offers.
- The Tenders award. (by the end of 2023)

### Step 4 (funded by Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan):

- Construction of the two reuse / repair centres. (1st semester of 2024)

The reuse/repair centres shall provide at least the following features: a parking lot, a reception area, an exchange area, a warehouse, a repair point and a second-hand shop. The space shall provide easy access for people with reduced mobility and allow large objects to be easily transported. The building requirements of each Reuse/Repair centre are estimated at 2,000-2,500 m<sup>2</sup> for indoor spaces and 3,000- 3,500 m<sup>2</sup> for the needs for open spaces. In terms of supplies, Signs will need to be placed within the facilities so that the area is properly identified. A security system will be placed to avoid theft and access outside the opening hours will be established. IT equipment shall be purchased for administration requirements along with Furniture and tools needed for performing reuse and preparation for reuse activities (e.g., wheelbarrow for transportation, display and storage elements, work and management tools).

### Players involved:

- I. Directorate General for Reform, Ministry of Finance (**Managing Authority**)
- II. Department of Environment, *Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment* – (**Intermediary Body**)
- III. 9 Member Municipalities of ANEL - **Beneficiaries**
- IV. Nicosia Development Agency - **provision of support on management and coordination level** of the new project for the Final Beneficiary

### Target population:

Local Cyprus communities which will benefit from reduced waste from the establishing of reuse/repair centres.

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**Timeline for whole Investment:**

Q4 2022: Finalization of preparatory Steps 1 and 2

Q1 2023: Publication of the Public Tender

Q3 2023: Signed contracts for the construction/erection of 2 reuse & repair centres.

Q4 2025: Completion of construction / erection and start of operation of 2 reuse & repair centres.

**Budget:**

The construction and equipment of the Intermunicipal Reuse Centre in the District of Nicosia is estimated by the Department of Environment to be approximately €2.000.000 and the annual operation cost ≈ €150.000