



Overview of Budget Measure:

GRANT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN TRAVEL PLANS
INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE AND ALTERNATIVE MOBILITY MEASURES
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISES

Risk Management, Policy and EU Affairs Department

Authority for Transport in Malta

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1. Introduction

The benefits of Green Travel Plans are many. These include Business owners and employees benefitting from better use of their time, more efficiency and cost savings. The community benefits from less congestion, time saving and improved air quality.

Data has shown that the majority of trips are for commuting purposes and most of these are carried out by drivers of private cars with no accompanying passengers. Thus, there is ample room for ameliorating the transport system and driving it towards greater efficiency and sustainability.

2. Overview of Measure

Through this initiative, private enterprises will be encouraged to develop a Green Travel Plan and implement measures proposed in these plans. Enterprises will need to present a 2-year action plan with considerations for a minimum of 2 different alternative modes of mobility in the first year and subsequently add an additional alternative mode of mobility for the following year.

In order to apply and benefit from the fund, companies will need to provide an overview of where they stand at present (including information on office/s locations, employee modal split and existing facilities), what they would like to achieve and how they intend to meet their objectives. In addition, they will be required to partner up with Service Providers and produce an attractive offer for employees to use the services which they choose to include in their Green Travel Plan. Applicants are also invited to consider alternatives such as teleworking, flexible or hybrid working hours and the use of technology to decrease the necessity for daily commuting by employees.

The grant scheme will be in the form of a reimbursed contribution based on the Green Travel Plan provided. Companies are to provide a clear outline of each initiative to be undertaken, the costs involved, and the measures taken to reach those figures. The companies, as part of their Green Travel Plan, will also be expected to devise indicators to gauge the impact of the measures.

Upon approval, the total amount up to a maximum of:

- Category One: €24,000 for large enterprises
- Category Two: €15,000 for medium enterprises and
- Category Three: €10,000 for small and micro enterprises

will be given to the successful applicants in three instalments. The first instalment will be paid upon award against the presentation of an invoice. Should the company not implement the measure this

amount will need to be reimbursed to the Authority without delay and with interest at the highest rate permissible at law from day of written notice sent by the Authority to this effect. The second instalment will be paid against the presentation of an invoice at the beginning of the subsequent year and after receipt of the first quarterly report. The third instalment will be paid upon completion of the two-year rolling plan subject to receipt of the last four quarterly reports.

The quarterly reports should include a detailed update on the uptake and implementation of each measure in the Green Travel Plan.

Three grants for each category will be made available from a total allocated budget of €150,000. The remaining balance of €3,000 will be used for promotional purposes.

The implementation of the measures will be carried out by the companies awarded funding. Transport Malta will provide support and oversee the timely implementation of the measures, in accordance with the implementation plan that is to be submitted by the company together with its application.

Private companies can join their efforts and submit a joint application, in which case obligations shall be assumed by the applicants jointly and severally.

By submitting their proposals, companies shall be deemed to have accepted all the time-lines, terms and conditions set out in the documentation issued or that shall be issued by the Authority for Transport in Malta (in this and related documents also referred to as the “Authority” or “Transport Malta”). No variations or deviations from the said time-lines, terms and conditions shall be permitted. Variations or deviations shall constitute a breach of the applicant’s obligations which may lead to disqualification from participation and/or revocation of the grant and/or any pre-financing amount, as the Authority in its sole discretion shall deem fit.

3. Aim

In view of the current common practice of single car user travel for work purposes, this initiative aims to encourage private companies to challenge such behaviour at the benefit of both the employer and the employee. This measure aims at accelerating the acceptance of sustainable mobility services within the local transport culture and introducing companies to the concept of using third party services for the mobility needs of their business, ultimately reducing transport related emissions and contribute to Malta’s vision of the decarbonisation of transport.

4. Expected Impacts on Sustainable/Alternative Mobility Scope

The main impact will be that of emissions reduction and a better quality of life for the residents of the localities where the projects will be implemented but also making the localities more attractive for visitors through an improved urban environment.

The implementation of facilities which encourage walking and cycling are anticipated to instigate a much-needed behaviour change as well as promote alternative modes of transport. An increase in the number of pedestrians and cyclists will effectively showcase the feasibility of walking and cycling for commuting purposes.

5. Relation to the National Transport Master Plan and Other Policies

This measure is in line with the principles guiding the National Transport Master Plan of:

- Creating a modal shift to sustainable mobility
- Integrated approach to planning and design and
- Encouraging the use of greener fuels and vehicles

This measure is also relevant to the Sustainable Development principles outlined in Malta's Sustainable Development Vision 2050 of:

- Target (hereinafter also referred to as "T"): Enhancing Economic Growth;
Principle (hereinafter also referred to as "P"): Transition towards a low carbon emission economy
- T: Enhancing Economic Growth; P: Sustainable Mobility
- T: Safeguarding our Environment; P: Transition towards low-carbon Energy

On a broader scale, it addresses the UN's Sustainable Development Goals of:

- Decent work and economic growth
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Responsible production and consumption
- Climate action

6. Administration and Implementation of Measure

The funds will be administered by Transport Malta. However, the implementation of the proposed measures will be the responsibility of the company. The grants awarded will support businesses in implementing measures proposed in their Green Travel Plan. Incentives may amongst other things include measures to support employees to walk or cycle to work; to use public transport; that introduce shared mobility and micromobility services; and that introduce technology to drastically reduce the need for commuting to and from the offices both by employees and customers. Measures could also be related to infrastructure and/or facilities supporting the above.

In cases where a proposed measure exceeds the grant budget, the applicant may seek or propose other sources of funding. If this is the case, the application form is to include details regarding this additional funding, including the source of these funds. In such cases, the chosen applicants are expected to secure such funding and implement the measure. Failing to do so may lead to the revocation of any awarded grant.

In view of this, in submitting their proposals, companies accept and agree that if during the implementation stage the available budget is overrun, it is the responsibility of the company to make up for the overruns, keeping in mind that if the project is not implemented as proposed and accepted by the Authority, the entire grant may be revoked by the Authority as in its sole discretion it shall deem fit. If the company is not able to finalise the measure in time and/or is not successful in the implementation for any reason, the authority shall have the right to ask the applicant by way of written notice to reimburse to the Authority all funds made available by it. Interest at the highest rate permissible at law shall run from date of sending of written notice to this effect.

7. Timeline

June/July 2022: Preparation of guidelines and application form

1st week of September 2022: Launch of initiative

15th October : 2022 Deadline for submissions

October 2022 Evaluation and awarding event

1st week November: Signing of contracts, commencement of implementation and monitoring

8. Contact

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