

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by Portugal

Country: Portugal

Title:

Single Environmental Permit (SEP) (Overarching actions)

Focus area 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being

Description of the action: The experience gained over the years in the field of licensing and the recognition that most of the environmental licensing procedures are very complex, disjoint and ask duplicated information, indicted the need to conduct a detailed analysis of the various processes, in order to adapt them to the economics requirements, assuring that the environmental protection level is maintained.

In this sense Portugal carried out a study that aimed to analysed the various environmental permits and its laws, and the results showed that it was urgent to intervene at the following levels: concepts, quality of the information, procedures, in order to minimize the two main phases that were considered crucial for the permit procedure: pre-trail phase and decisions stage. In this framework, it was established the Single Environment Permit: one process, one title, one fee.

The Single Environmental Permit establishes a set of requirements aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental procedures, highlighting: i) the articulation procedures, allowing them to run simultaneously, based on a single application; ii) information management that benefits the transparency and uniformity in the definition the requirements, avoiding duplication of procedures.

The SEP was developed on the existing IT Environmental Permitting Platform, SILiAmb, and it includes a solution for the management of procedures using a dynamic simulator and form. The simulator informs the operator of which environmental permits are applied, of the licensing entity, of the deadline for obtaining the license and of the respective fee. The dynamic forms are presented to the operator according to the frameworks applied and contain all the information which is need by the permitting authority to issue the permit. At the end of the process, a single permit is issued, which contains all the specific decisions (under the several environmental specific regimes) and all the conditions that need to be fulfilled by the installation before its exploration.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: Implementation throughout the timeframe of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy.

Type of action: Legal/Regulatory

Economic sectors: Economy-wide

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Decree-Law 75/2015, regarding the single environmental permit framework, which includes several specific instruments namely environmental impact assessment (EIA Directive), prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances (SEVESO Directive) , industrial emissions (EI Directive) , waste management (Waste Directive, landfill Directive), European trading scheme (ETS Directive), and water uses (water Directive)

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: The main benefits of the SEP are a simplification, harmonization and coordination's of all environmental permits, which are supported by the concept: one process, one title, one fee.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 8, 9, 11

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: NA

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Coordination's of all environmental permits in one single process, title, fee.

Partners: All competent authorities involved in the economic and environmental permits.

Contact point:

Maria Julieta Ferreira
Head of Environmental Licencing Department
Rua da Murgueira, 9/9A - Zambujal
Ap.7585 | 2610-124 Amadora | Portugal
Phone: (+351) 21 472 82 75
Email: julieta.ferreira@apambiente.pt