

Hon. Minister, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen good morning and welcome you to today's event,

an event that forms part of the EU funded Engage project.

This project has as its aim the development of standards that seek to integrate ways in which environmental protection can be enhanced with a particular focus on standards that support the circular economy.

Two years ago, the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority as the Maltese National Standards Body, participated in this project with the aim of encouraging the active contribution of national stakeholders in the development of standards, whilst making the most of the experience and expertise available across European countries.

It is therefore a pleasure to see so many of you here today

This augurs well not only to the success of this project, but it also underlines the importance that we are placing on the circular economy, a crucial matter for a small country like Malta.

As many of you may know, the Authority, as the Maltese National Standards Body is a full member of the European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI), and of the International Standardisation Organisations (ISO and IEC). This ensures that as a country we have the opportunity to participate in the development of European and international standards in the best interests of Malta.

Through the Standardisation Directorate of the Authority, industry, public entities, NGOs, and other stakeholders can, besides having access to a vast library of Maltese, European and international standards, also actively participate in the development of European and international standards, in their specific field of expertise.

Today we have some 50 local experts working in different standardisation fields ranging from construction, lifts, cultural heritage, Artificial Intelligence, and others.

And while this may sound like a large number, we believe that there are more opportunities where we can actively participate.

As the National Standards Body while we fully meet our obligations to adopt all European standards as National Standards thereby ensuring harmonised standards across the EU, we can develop specific national standards that meet national needs.

In the past years national standards have been developed related to Safety of Playgrounds, Green Roofs, Solar Photovoltaic Installations, and Motor Vehicle Repairs.

Currently we are developing standards related to Classification of construction and demolition waste, a subject that is very relevant to the main topic of today's Workshop on the Circular Economy.

But there is clearly much more that can be done and today we look forward to better understand why standardisation matters to you and how we can better engage your contribution and participation in technical committees.

I wish to here take this opportunity to thank the ENgage project leaders, CEN-CENELEC, the Environmental and Resources Authority, Circular Economy Malta, the Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS), WasteServ, and Friends of the Earth (Malta) for supporting this National Workshop that I am sure will give us all valuable insights on how standardisation can be a tool to implement a circular economy not only for a healthier environment but at the end for a better quality of life.