



Priority 3 - Circular Economy

Specific Objective 2.6 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

NB: This factsheet presents a **summary** of Specific Objective (SO) 2.6 of the Interreg North-West Europe Programme (NWE IP). The comprehensive description of SO 2.6, which contains detailed explanations and further examples, **should be consulted for a full understanding of the SO in Chapter 2.1 of the NWE IP.**

Territorial challenges and opportunities

The North-West Europe (NWE) region is considered relatively advanced in terms of resource efficiency, with regions having a relatively low material consumption per capita despite their high economic performance. However, improvements are needed to further transition to a more circular and resource efficient economy across the NWE Programme area. Disparities across the different territories and stakeholders in NWE regions need to be addressed. The transition from a linear to a circular economy requires joint efforts by stakeholders across all sectors with a variety of approaches.

Objectives

Within this Specific Objective, the Programme aims to support projects that:

- Contribute to a more effective and balanced transition towards a circular economy in the NWE region.
- Address process, product, component, and material efficiency in value chains following the waste hierarchy principle of refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, and via business models for more resource efficiency and better waste management.
- Improve the awareness and capacity levels of stakeholders to enable the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy.

Target groups

- **Local, regional, or national authorities, EGTC's, governmental organisations, public equivalent organisations** (including agencies or para-public organisations) with responsibilities relating to e.g., environment, natural protection (incl. rivers), public green infrastructure, waste management, resource efficiency who can steer resource-efficient processes, and drive change in policy fields.
- **Universities, public research centres, private research units, schools and higher education, training centres**, which are innovation drivers and can provide scientific



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insight and evidence to regional challenges, and further innovation in the NWE Programme area.

- **SMEs and business support organisations** who are economic drivers in the region. They can increase the competitiveness of NWE by developing resource-efficient processes and products.
- **Sectoral associations, NGOs, lobby organisations, citizens groups** acting as multipliers to their networks. They can play an important role in promoting the transition to a circular economy by mobilising forces to carry out practical actions, calling for businesses and governments to accelerate implementation.

Activities

Projects should implement a combination of activities, such as:

- **Elaboration and implementation of joint strategies and action plans**, for example, the joint development and implementation of place-based strategies related to a circular and resource efficient economy.
- **Pilot actions for testing tools and/or solutions**, for example, development and joint implementation of services and technologies for the creation of new or extended existing circular value chains.
- **Capacity building and awareness raising activities**, for example, development and joint implementation of training schemes targeting relevant sectors and/or territories for more resource efficiency.

Results

The **combination of these activities** may lead to results such as:

- Key principles of circular economy are better embedded into territorial strategies, community-led initiatives, manufacturing processes or business models.
- Innovative eco-design approaches, technologies, solutions, products, and services to support the transition to a circular economy are taken up or scaled up by different organisations and/or sectors.
- Stakeholders are more capable of adopting innovative solutions to support the transition to a circular economy.
- Citizens are more engaged in supporting the transition to a circular economy.

Outputs and results of projects must contribute to the NWE Programme indicator framework (see the NWE IP).