



Interreg



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North-West Europe

Thematic networking session
“Creating lasting change”

Cultivating smart and sustainable agriculture

Luxembourg, 16 December 2025

Nora Crossey
Matthew Thompson

Agenda

1. Session objective
2. Theme overview
3. ReNu2Farm project experience
4. Networking tables

Session objective

- **Bring together stakeholders** tackling smart and sustainable agriculture
 - Get inspired by **best practices** to make agriculture project impact durable
 - Discuss how to **turn project outputs into lasting results** and explore opportunities on how to make this happen
 - Identify **support needs** to sustain agricultural innovations beyond project lifetimes
-

Creating lasting change



Create **lasting territorial change**, not just short-term project results



Embed project results into **regional / local policies and community practices**



Ensure that **public investments continue delivering value** after projects end

Creating lasting change



Build on your project's achievements and **ensure the transfer of successful initiatives**



Strengthen **connections with other projects**, create synergies and opportunities for **shared learning and collaboration**



Scale up and broaden the reach of **effective practices** across multiple regions and sectors

Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

Telling the story

Provide tools and visibility for projects to showcase and replicate their outputs

Building on success

Support the **uptake of successful project outputs** beyond what was initially planned

Creating connections

Facilitate knowledge exchange and networking among partners and projects, within NWE and beyond

Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

Telling the story

Provide tools and visibility for projects to showcase and replicate their results

Promote project activities and **events**

Build project capacity to communicate and showcase their results through **training and workshops**

Showcase NWE projects at **Programme events**

Push NWE projects visibility and / or facilitate participation to **awards and EU external events**

Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

Building on success

Support the **uptake of successful project outputs** beyond what was initially planned

Support the uptake of project outputs towards new territories, new type of stakeholders, new fields or domains, notably with **NWE capitalisation calls**:

- **Call 1**: open now until 28 May 2026
- **Call 2**: opening in Dec 2026 until May 2027

Reach out to your Contact Point for support:
www.nweurope.eu/contact-points

Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

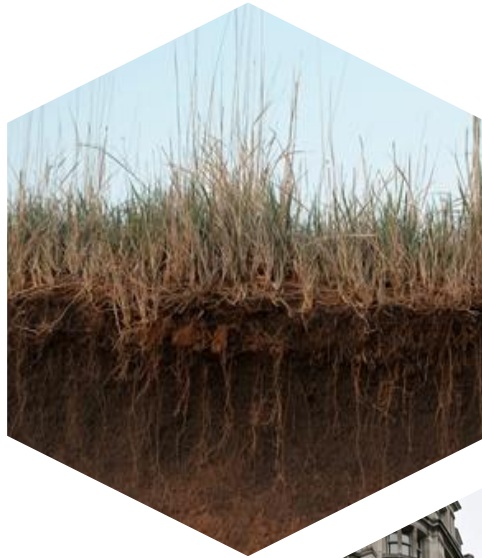
Creating connections

Facilitate knowledge exchange and networking among partners and projects, within NWE and beyond

Support project **networking**, partnerships, clustering and synergies **within NWE and beyond** and **across programming periods**, notably with networking / clustering events

Why is this topic a challenge for NWE?

**Intensive land use
and degrading
natural resources**



**Fragmented
ecosystems and
biodiversity loss**



**Challenges to rural
development and
resilience of the
agricultural sector**



**Differences in
uptake of
advanced
technologies**



Creating lasting change includes...

- Fostering **capacities for the uptake** of more sustainable and/or innovative agricultural practices
 - Embedding principles of smart & sustainable agriculture into **regional and local strategies**
 - Developing innovative and tailored **solutions** ready for uptake
 - Strengthening **cooperation networks** to enable the transfer and dissemination of improved practices
-

Current NWE projects looking at → protecting biodiversity



PolliConnect



MigFoRest



FARMBIRD*

Current NWE projects looking at → sustainability as a business opportunity



Smart Carbon Farming



SIMONE



BUFFER+

Current NWE projects looking at → healthy livestock for a resilient sector



HoliCow



OMELETTE



Better-Calf

Current NWE projects looking at → circularity for healthy soils



HydroSoilWise



BIOBOOST-PRO



ReNu2Cycle

Katja Weiler

IZES GmbH

Lead partner of the ReNu2Farm project (2017-2020)

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

ReNu2Farm: Lessons Learned “Nutrient Recycling – from pilot production to farms and fields”

NWE Annual Event
Cooperating for lasting impact

Thematic networking session:
Cultivating smart and sustainable agriculture

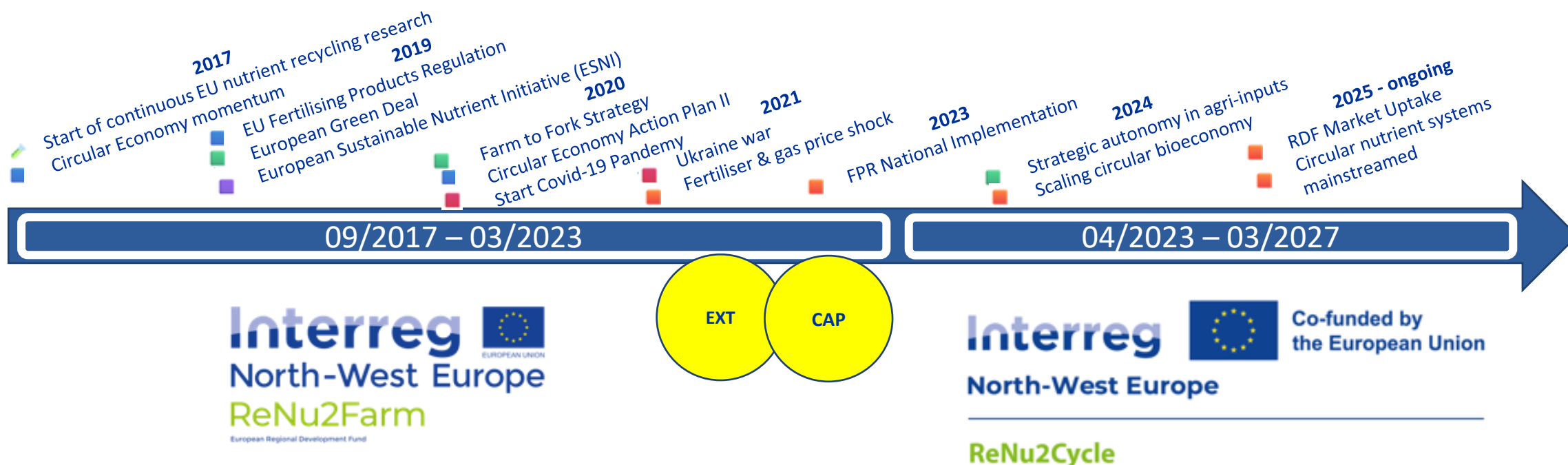


Katja Weiler, IZES gGmbH
Project Lead ReNu2Farm, ReNu2Cycle
16.12.2025

Nutrient Recycling under INTERREG NWE

- Policy / Regulation
- Environmental / Agricultural Strategy
- Market & Economy
- External Crisis / Shock
- Networks & Platforms
- Research & Innovation

Policy, market and crisis-driven momentum towards EU nutrient self-sufficiency
2017–2025



Starting point: ReNu2Farm Territorial scope & partnership

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European Regional Development Fund

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European Regional Development Fund

THEMATIC PRIORITY:

 **RESOURCE AND
MATERIALS EFFICIENCY**



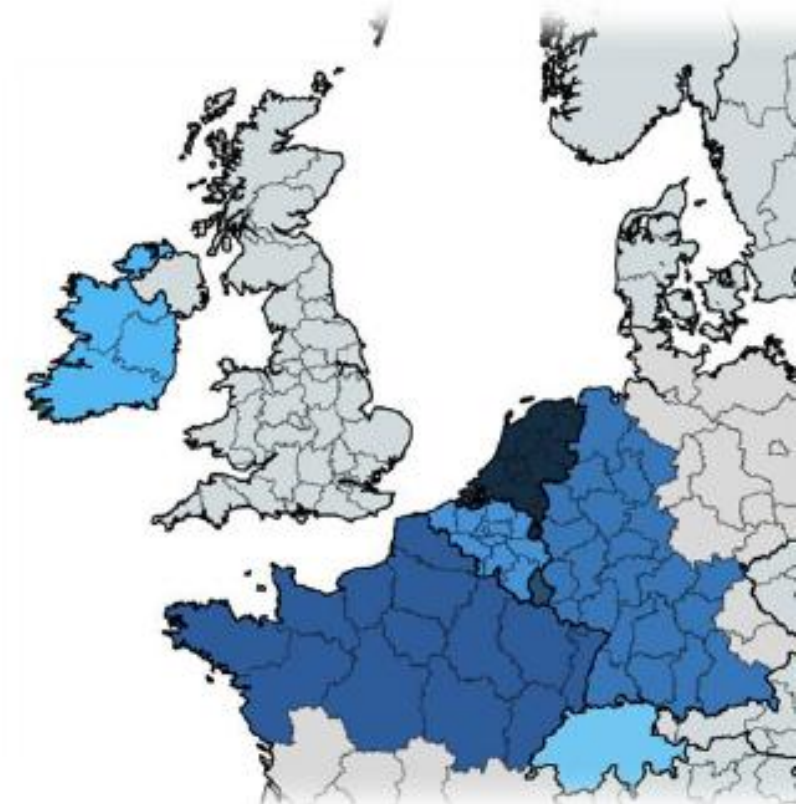
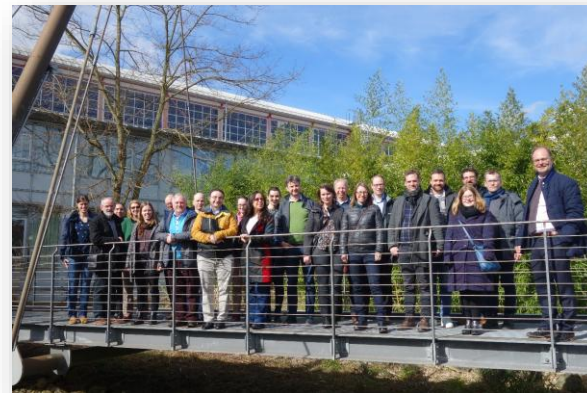
Nutrient Recycling
from pilot production to farms and fields

Total budget received from Interreg North-West Europe (2014-2020):

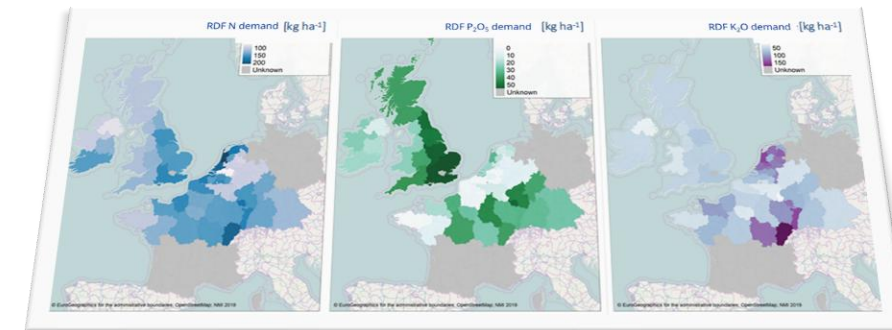
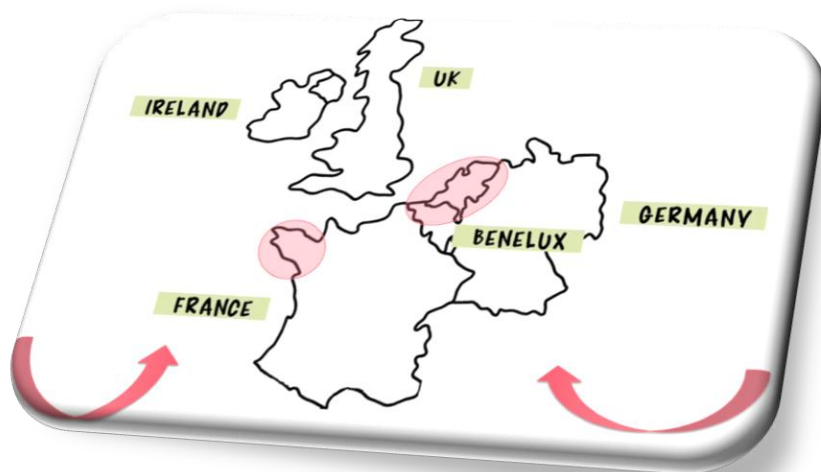
€ 2.2 million of ERDF

Total project budget:
€ 3.7 million

www.nweurope.eu/renu2farm



What challenge did ReNu2Cycle address?



- High dependency on imported mineral fertilisers
- Regional nutrient imbalances
- Low farmers awareness & acceptance on RDF
- Legal status of RDF hinders cross-border marketisation
- Knowledge gap on RDF quality & quantity demand
- No regional market introduction strategies

What were your main outputs and results?

- Multi-technology RDF testing and benchmarking
- High-quality agro-ecological field evidence
- Proven yield and environmental comparability
- Farmer awareness gap quantified and addressed
- Cross-border nutrient market demand potential demonstrated
- Policy guidance and stakeholder-ready tools delivered



Successful Initiatives for Result Durability



Synergising with Other Projects for Greater Outreach

- Strategic alignment with past and ongoing EU projects
- Cross-project dissemination and joint events
- Use of established European and national networks
- Harmonised messaging and shared evidence base
- Transfer of tools, methodologies, and results
- Follow-up research



ReNu2Cycle

FEEDBACK on draft text for COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards adding processed manure as a component material in EU fertilising products

Background

The EU has made huge progress in the implementation of circular economy solutions. With a new legal framework within the Circular Economy package (FPR, WFD, CAP-Farm to Fork) and a continued



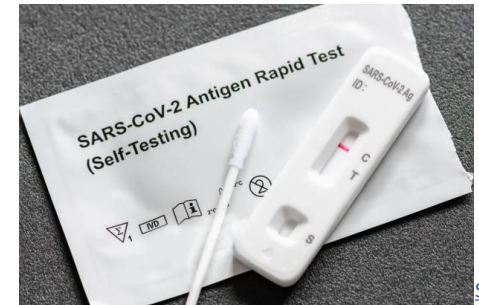
Challenges and perspectives in sustaining project impact?

Key Challenges & Responses

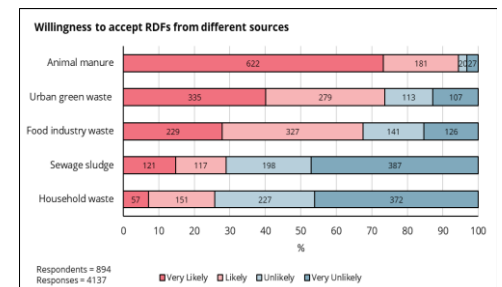
- **Covid-19 pandemic**
 - Delays in laboratory work and physical stakeholder engagement; rapid shift to digital formats required.
- **Extreme weather events (2018–2019 droughts)**
 - Early field trial results affected; additional trials needed to ensure data robustness.
- **Farmer awareness gap**
 - Limited knowledge and trust in RDFs slowed adoption and behavioural change.
- **Price-driven fertiliser decisions**
 - Mineral fertiliser price signals dominate decision-making;
 - gas price shock (2021–2022) revealed both vulnerability and opportunity



Source: - iStock



Source: - iStock



What additional support would you have needed?

Towards a circular & independent Northwest Europe ...

- **Future programmes should enable**
 - earlier, stronger and more flexible industry involvement in research and innovation projects.
 - direct Communication platform with sectoral EU Policy Decision Makers
- **Future programmes should keep existing**
 - Flexibility in project design to address force majeure (drought, Covid-19, geo-political threats, etc.).
 - Long-term thematic funding for validation and market implementation
 - Project extension ; Capitalisation, funding for post-project to continuation

Contact
Project Lead
ReNu2Farm & ReNu2Cycle

Katja Weiler

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<https://renu2cycle.nweurope.eu/>
<https://www.biorefine.eu/projects/renu2farm/>





Q&A

Networking tables



1. Tour de table

Share your plans to ensure durability and uptake of outputs



2. Discuss the key question

What further initiative(s) – at programme or project level – could support the durability of results?



3. Restitution

One participant from each table shares the takeaway messages from their group

Tour de table

What are your current plans to ensure durability and further uptake of outputs?



Key question

What further initiative(s) – at programme or project level – could be taken to support the durability of results?



What's next?

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13:00 – 14:15

Foyer 1 - Level 0

NETWORKING LUNCH

14:15 – 16:15

NWE PROJECTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Track 1. Green transport and connectivity

Track 2. Circular and resource-efficient economy

Track 3. Climate-friendly and resilient regions

Track 4. Community-led energy transitions

Track 5. Resource-efficient local and regional planning

Track 6. Sustainable agriculture and water systems



**Social media
challenge**




**Vote for the most
inspiring story**

**Check your
personalised agenda
on the event app!**



NWE projects making a difference

	Workshop +1 Level +1	Delegates 3 Level -3	Banquet Level +1	Delegates 2 Level -3	Delegates 1 Level -3	Workshop 0 Level 0
	Green transport and connectivity	Circular and resource-efficient economy	Climate-friendly and resilient regions	Community-led energy transitions	Resource-efficient local and regional planning	Sustainable agriculture and water systems
14:15 – 14:35	Green SKHy	CASCADE	Cool Neighbourhoods	ACCU	ASSET	Better-Calf
10' break						
14:45 – 15:05	MONA	Hemp4Circularity	IB-Green	CIRCUS	Circular Building Convert	SIMONE
10' break						
15:15 – 15:35	STEER-NWE	E6	ECOBoost	RODEO	Circular Shift	Rural Roadwater Rescue
10' break						
15:45 – 16:05	WISTAR	PREUSE	PolliConnect	SmartCORE	T4R	ResiRiver

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Thank you