



GreenGov

## GreenGov

Documenti tematici di Progetto e buone pratiche

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## Contenuti

- Presentazione dei documenti tematici:
  - principio DNSH
  - verifica climatica delle infrastrutture
- Panoramica sulle buone pratiche raccolte:
  - principio DNSH
  - verifica climatica
  - Tassonomia EU
  - Finanziamenti innovativi per la transizione sostenibile delle PMI

## Obiettivi e destinatari dei documenti tematici

I documenti tematici forniscono una **panoramica dei risultati delle attività del partenariato** GreenGov sul principio DNSH e sulla verifica climatica.

I documenti sono **rivolti** in primo luogo **alle Autorità Pubbliche** a livello regionale, nazionale o locale, che offrono supporto finanziario a beneficiari pubblici o privati e **che devono applicare il principio DNSH e la verifica climatica delle infrastrutture**.

La realizzazione di documenti tematici è prevista per tutti i temi di progetto (DNSH, Verifica climatica, Tassonomia EU, Green bonds, Green budget, finanziamenti innovativi per la transizione sostenibile delle PMI). I documenti, integrati e arricchiti da esempi pratici, buone pratiche e nuovi strumenti, andranno a formare una guida per le regioni sull'implementazione della finanza green e delle sue buone pratiche.



# Documento tematico: principio DNSH

## DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM (DNSH) PRINCIPLE

Interreg Europe



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GreenGov is an Interreg Europe project that promotes sustainability by fostering the implementation of the EU Taxonomy and improving European Regions' sustainability financing schemes

#### Regulatory basis of the DNSH principle



The DNSH principle stipulates that an economic activity or other initiative/action must not cause significant harm to any of the following environmental objectives: climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, pollution prevention and control, circular economy, waste prevention and recycling, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

#### What is considered to cause "significant harm"?

According to the EU Taxonomy Regulation, an activity or asset is considered to do significant harm to:

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



it leads to significant reenhouse gas (GHG) missions

#### CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF WATER AND MARINE RESOURCES



it is detrimental to the good status or e good ecological potential of bodies water, including surface water and oundwater, or the good wirnnmental status of marine waters POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL



if it leads to a significant increase in emissions of pollutants into air, water or land

#### CIRCULAR ECONOMY, WASTE PREVENTION AND RECYCLING



if it leads to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources or if it significantly increases the generation, incineration or disposal of waste or if the long-term disposal of waste may cause significant and long-term environmental harm

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS



if it is significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems, or detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of interest to the Union interest

## DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM (DNSH) PRINCIPLE

topics investigated in

GreenGov. The

governance of the

Interreg Europe



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### The DNSH principle is one of the main DNSH principle: Taxonomy vs EU Funds

The role of the DNSH principle differs between the EU Taxonomy and EU public funding instruments: the EU Taxonomy is a transparency tool for private finance that establishes a classification of environmentally sustainable activities with the aim to support sustainable investments, while EU public funding instruments apply the DNSH principle to ensure that supported activities do not cause a significant negative impact on the environment.



#### Implementation of DNSH in ESI Funds

For ESI Funds, the Regulation 2021/1060 links the DNSH principle with the sustainable development horizontal principle.

Before the EU funding programmes are approved, it is necessary to assess whether the types of actions included in the programmes comply with the DNSH principle (ex ante assessment).

Compliance with the DNSH principle should also be **guaranteed** throughout programme implementation, by selecting for funding only those operations that are aligned with the ex ante assessment and that comply with national and EU legislation.

Due to the presence
of Managing
Authorities of ESI
Funds in GreenGov,
the partnership is
particularily
interested in focusing
on the
implementation of the
DNSH principle in the
context of such funds

#### CHALLENGES AND AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

The GreenGov partnership has identified the main challenges faced by EU regions and local authorities in effectively implementing the DNSH principle, along with potential actions to address them. These challenges fall into three key areas for improvement:

AWARENESS RAISING



METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA

GOVERNANCE



## DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM (DNSH) PRINCIPLE





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#### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- Lack of uniformity in the application of DNSH (the EU Taxonomy's technical screening criteria are limited and not mandatory for EU funds) and potential uneven burden on beneficiaries
- New burdens on public authorities managing funds and on public and private beneficiaries, lack of personnel and competence.
- Lack of tools for ex-ante, ongoing and ex-post assessments available for funds managing authorities.
- Engagement of stakeholders and insufficient collaboration between public authorities and the private sector
- Risk of redundance between the assessment of the DNSH principle and other environmental procedures set by EU law (e.g. SEA, EIA, etc.)

#### Actions

#### Public Administrations

- Harmonize DNSH criteria across EU countries, or at least within individual countries
- Clearly identify the responsibilities for implementing the DNSH principle at each stage of the programme/project cycle (e.g. by establishing or reinforcing a dedicated office or by establishing a steering committee composed by a contact person in the different departments involved)
- Create internal regulations for the DNSH implementation enhancing intersectoral cooperation between environmental and fund management functions
- Consider, for the next programming period, to hire additional staff with competences on environmental sustainability or provide external assistance
- Build capacity and provide trainings for public officials and staff involved in the implementation of the programme, covering all phases
- Develop guidelines targeted to public officials and check lists to be used before financing a project (project assessment) and after the completion of the project (monitoring/control)
- Establish a national coordination body among different public administrations to ensure consistent approaches
- Avoid duplicative checks in multiple procedures (e.g. SEA, EIA, DNSH etc.), having the same criteria checked just once

#### Stakeholder and beneficiaries

- Recognise local business advisors as key actors to assess the DNSH at enterprise level
- Offer specific training and guidelines for consultancies, business advisors, professional associations and trade associations with concrete examples.
- Establish connections between the PAs and the professional associations that offer training for professionals/technician, helping to match skills with requirements
- Provide advisory services for SMEs financed with public funds (non-financial support) for relevant projects subject to the DNSH principle, or recognise the costs for external assistance for funding applications as eligible expenses

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# Documento tematico: principio DNSH

**DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM** (DNSH) PRINCIPLE





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#### **AWARENESS RAISING**

- Lack of familiarity, as the for public authorities. beneficiaries, and
- Perceived conflicts principle and economic
- Cultural resistance in
- Perceived excessive burden on beneficiaries. especially for SMEs that need to be supported in

- Develop an essential vocabulary, to be shared with EU stakeholders and candidate countries and translated into local languages, aimed at introducing the concept of DNSH and enhancing accessibility to the principle and its related concepts
- Raise awareness among policy makers on the need to respect the DNSH through communication
- · Turn the obligation into an opportunity for project promoters and public authorities, and highlight the benefits in terms of sustainability and
- · Provide beneficiaries of funds with a collection of
- Provide proof of the positive impacts that DNSH
- · Work for the creation of common tools for DNSH
- · Develop communication tools, such as easy-to-use MOOCs, that complement the guidelines for beneficiaries and professionals

### **DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM** (DNSH) PRINCIPLE



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#### METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA

- Complexity in implementation. proportionality and
- Lack of EU common criteria. besides the EU Taxonomy covered
- Monitoring, control and audit establishing what to at any stage

#### Actions

- Assess the alignment of DNSH with the legislation, to identify DNSH objectives that are not yet covered by legal provisions in the EU, to be addressed by specific criteria
- Consider the nature and goals of each project and adopt a proportional approach, based on the characteristics of the beneficiary and of the project (e.g. establishing that specific assessments are carried out by experts only in major projects)
- Simplify the DNSH compliance assessment, when reasonable. for example by focusing on the ex-ante assessment at the call for proposal stage, rather than requiring an assessment at the
- Dedicate special attention to enterprises, ensuring that for SMEs the verification of DNSH compliance primarily concerns the adherence with environmental legislation in force
- · Adopt clear, recognized, and easily verifiable criteria, using relevant labels (e.g. EMAS, Ecolabel or other type 1 environmental labels)
- Cover the monitoring and control phases to ensure continuous alignment with sustainability objectives, establishing what to do in case of non-compliance (e.g. sanctions)
- Integrate the DNSH criteria with the sustainable development ones to enhance the positive contribution to overall

### (DNSH) PRINCIPLE Aim and target audience

of this thematic brief

The brief is addressesed to

national, regional and local

public authorities that offer

financial support to public

or private beneficiaries and

indicated in Article 17 of

the Taxonomy Regulation.

DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM

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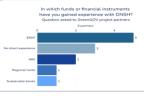
### About us: GreenGov Project

Interreg

GreenGov is an Interreg Europe project selected under the Governance topic that promotes sustainability by supporting the implementation of the EU taxonomy and improving financing schemes in European regions. The project started in April 2024 and will conclude in June

The partnership, lead by Ile de France Region, includes 9 territorial partners, 1 discovery partner and 1 associated policy authority, and is supported by Poliedra, the advisory partner. The partnership covers the 4 geographical zones of the Interreg Europe programme. The project partners exchange their experiences and best practices to help local public authorities to finance their projects in a more sustainable way, including aligning their strategies to the EU taxonomy, implementing the DNSH principle and climate proofing of infrastructure, exploring green bonds and green budget.

The experiences brought in by the partners include ESI Funds (ERDF Managing Authorities are represented in the partnership), the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), regional funds and sustainable bonds.



#### Acronyms

DNSH: Do No Significant Harm FIA: Environmental Impact Assessment EMAS: Eco-Management and Audit Scheme ERDF: European Regional Development Fund ESI Funds: European Structural and Investment Funds EU: European Union MOOC: Massive Open Online Course PA: Public Authority RRF: Recovery and Resilience Facility

SEA: Strategic Environmental Assessment SME: Small and Medium Enterprise





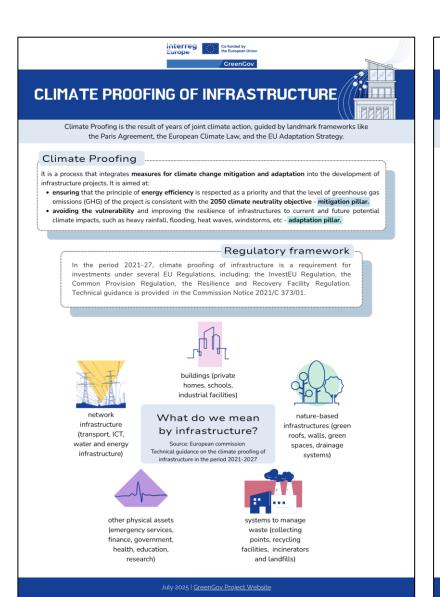


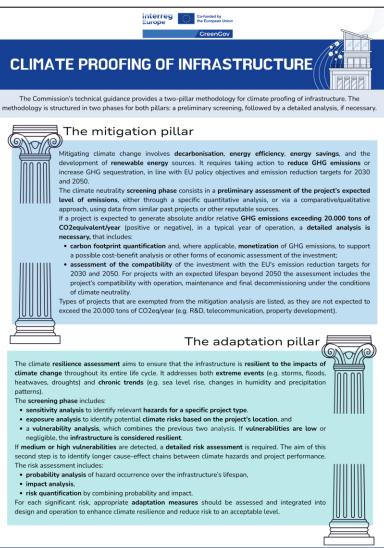
September 2025 | GreenGov Project Website

#### Actions

- good practices and concrete examples of the effective implementation of the DNSH, together with offering a help desk when applying to a call for proposals
- policies have on society, to the general public
- evaluation to be adopted by PAs across EU
- infographics, webinars, introductory videos and

## Documento tematico: verifica climatica

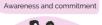




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The GreenGov partnership has identified the main challenges faced by EU regions and local authorities in effectively climate-proofing infrastructure, along with potential actions to address them. These challenges fall into three key areas for improvement:









#### Challenges

#### Insufficient political commitment

Political will is essential to drive systemic change and prioritize climate resilience in policy and funding

#### Weak institutional climate culture

A lack of understanding, concern, and proactive behaviour around climate change leads to resistance.

#### Viewing climate proofing as a burden rather than a strategic necessity

CP is often perceived as a threat for the economic competitiveness of project (especially for micro-SMEs). Many beneficiaries are unaware that CP not only helps infrastructure withstand climate change impacts but also offers long-term cost savings and resilience benefits.

#### Actions

#### Shift the narrative around Climate Proofing

Overcome the perception that CP is a long, complex, and bureaucratic process, as perceived by both administrations and beneficiaries and promote effective awareness campaigns highlighting the benefits of CP. Provide practical examples and showcase good practices

Share concrete examples of successful CP projects, demonstrating their real benefits across different project types and scales.

#### Focus on targeted and local communication

Disseminate messages tailored to the specific local context and emphasise "visible" climate change effects, such as severe local storms, to make the issue more tangible and relatable.

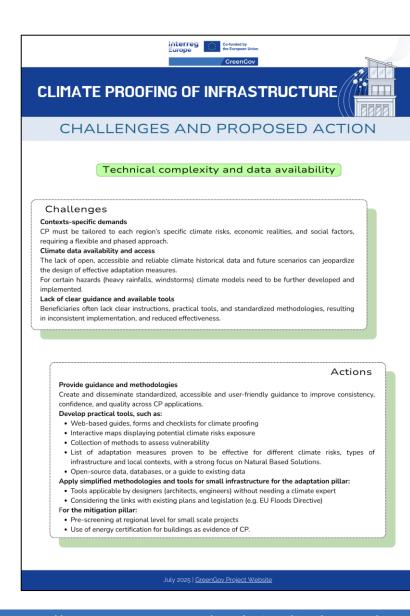
#### Create a guide for local communities

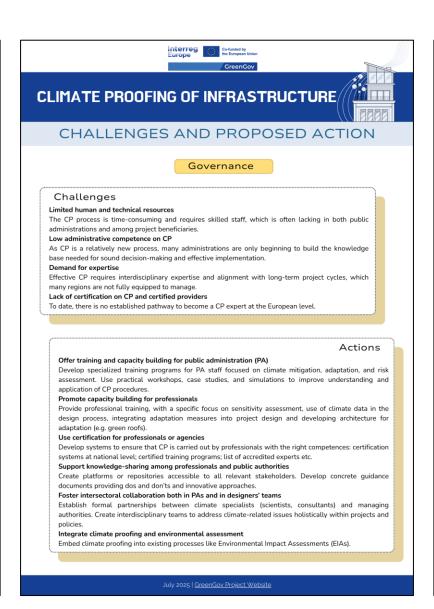
Explain what CP is, why it is important, and how communities can get involved and benefit from it.

Encourage community engagement to increase awareness and adoption of climate-proofing practices.

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## Documento tematico: verifica climatica







# Le buone pratiche del Progetto GreenGov

Una Buona Pratica è un'iniziativa legata alla politica di sviluppo regionale che si è dimostrata efficace in una regione e che può essere di interesse per altre regioni. La raccolta delle buone pratiche è un'azione fondamentale dei progetti Interreg EU e uno degli elementi che contribuiscono maggiormente al miglioramento degli strumenti di policy dei partner di progetto.

### **Principio DNSH:**

- Sessioni di formazione sul DNSH per il rafforzamento delle competenze del personale dell'Autorità di Gestione nella Transizione Verde (Sud-Ovest Oltenia)
- L'approccio adottato nell'attuazione multifondo 2021–2027 per garantire la conformità allo sviluppo sostenibile e al principio DNSH (Bassa Sassonia)
- Istituzione di un **sottocomitato per lo sviluppo sostenibile** nell'ambito del programma multifondo FESR/FSE+ (Bassa Sassonia)
- Restauro della storica Sinagoga di Seini in centro culturale ed educativo, integrando i principi DNSH, la sostenibilità e il coinvolgimento della comunità (Romania Nord-Ovest)

# Le buone pratiche del Progetto GreenGov

### Verifica climatica delle infrastrutture:

- Definizione della procedura da seguire per la verifica climatica delle infrastrutture (Bassa Sassonia)
- Creazione di una **procedura semplificata** di verifica climatica per il pilastro adattamento di edifici e piccole infrastrutture (**Regione Lombardia**)



### Tassonomia EU

- Verifica della coerenza con la Tassonomia dell'UE mediante gli strumenti normativi (lle de France)
- Istituzione di un servizio di consulenza per i comuni a sostegno della «Renovation Wave» (Regione Moravia Meridionale)

### Finanziamenti innovativi per la transizione sostenibile delle PMI:

• Iniziativa di Finanza Sostenibile per supportare le PMI nella transizione verso un modello economico sostenibile (Finlombarda + Regione Lombardia)



# **Grazie!**