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Cross-border Network for circular economy training and decarbonisation in manufacturing

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A Europe that is closer

DNSH

Do Not Significant Harm

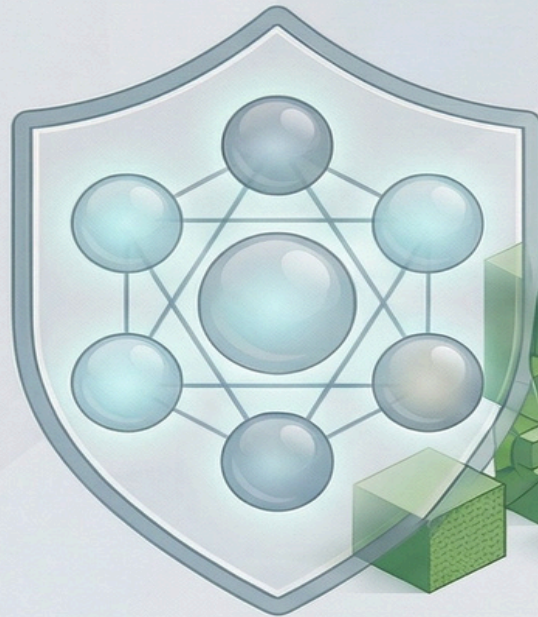
STEP 4

Meetings at ESEV CPT Verona



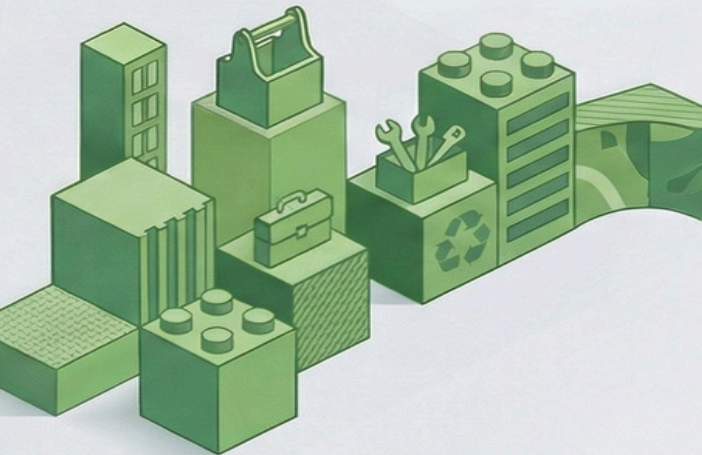
CAM and DNSH: The Guide for the PNRR

All PNRR measures must comply with the “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) principle, meaning they must not cause significant environmental harm. **Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM)** for green public procurement are an essential operational tool to achieve this compliance.



DNSH Principle

Mandatory for every PNRR measure to avoid causing significant harm to six environmental objectives.



Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM)

Measures to integrate environmental sustainability into public procurement (“green procurement”).

CAM as a Tool to Comply with DNSH

The European Commission identifies green procurement criteria as evidence of DNSH compliance.

Application of CAM for the Two DNSH Regimes

Their use varies depending on the level of environmental ambition required by the measure.

Regime 2

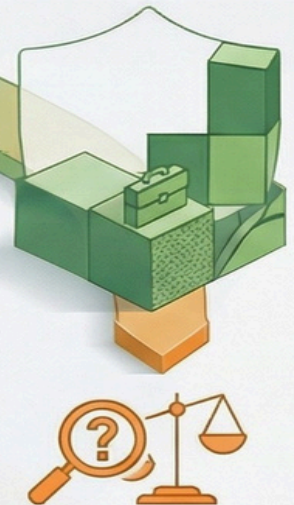
(Compliance with the Principle)

Regime 1

(Substantial Contribution)



The application of CAM can ensure compliance with the requirement.



The application of CAM may not be sufficient; a case-by-case assessment is recommended.

The DNSH evaluation process in the PNRR

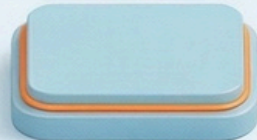
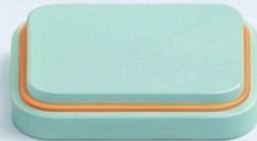
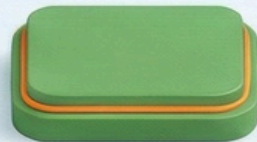
All measures of the National Recovery Plan (PNRR) must comply with the principle of "Doing No Significant Harm" (DNSH) to the environment. Compliance is verified through a structured evaluation process in two main phases.

Phase 1: Initial valuation



Sustainability Verification

It is assessed whether the measure complies with the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance.



Classification into 4 Impact Scenarios

Each measure is classified according to its potential effect on environmental objectives.



Decision on the Path of Analysis

The outcome of this phase determines whether a simplified analysis is sufficient or a thorough analysis is needed.



Simplified Approach

For measures with no or positive impact, a brief statement of reasons is sufficient.



In-depth Analysis

Mandatory for sectors at risk (energy, transport) or for climate mitigation measures.



Final Outcome:

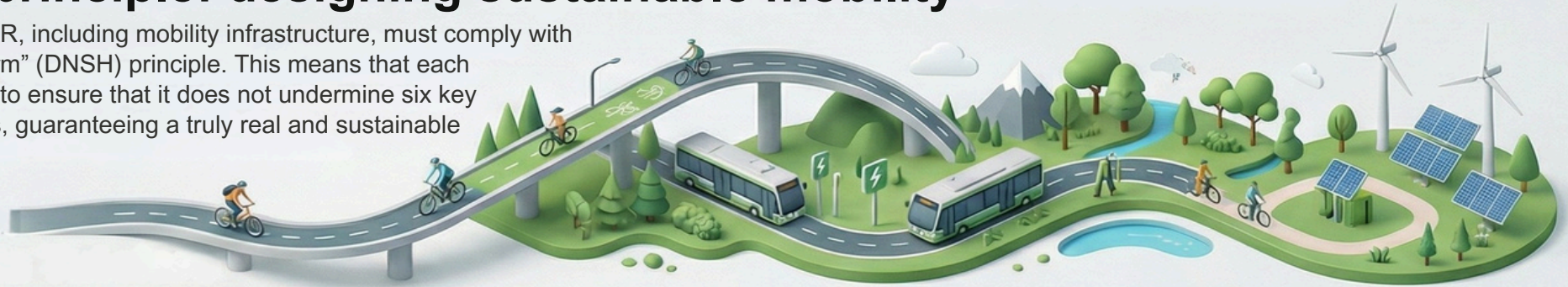
No Significant Damage

To be approved, the measure must demonstrate that it does not cause damage to the environment.

The DNSH principle: designing sustainable mobility

All measures of the PNRR, including mobility infrastructure, must comply with the “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle. This means that each intervention is assessed to ensure that it does not undermine six key environmental objectives, guaranteeing a truly real and sustainable ecological transition.

The Six Environmental Objectives to Be Protected



Climate Change Mitigation

The project must not lead to significant greenhouse gas emissions.



Climate Change Adaptation

The project must not increase the negative impact of future climate change.



Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources

The project must not harm the good status of rivers, lakes, and seas.



Circular Economy

The project must prevent waste and promote reuse and recycling.



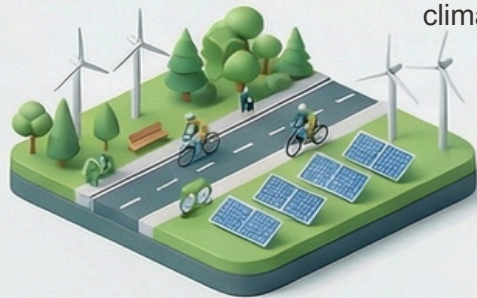
Pollution Prevention and Reduction

The project must not increase pollutant emissions in air, water, or soil.



Protection of Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The project must not harm habitats, species, or the resilience of ecosystems.



How is the Principle applied?

Regime 1: Substantial Contribution

For projects that actively improve the environment (e.g. cycling infrastructure, renewable energy).

Regime 2: Compliance with DNSH

For projects that, while not actively contributing, must not cause any harm.



Building the Future: DNSH Principles for New Buildings

This infographic summarizes the mandatory environmental constraints of “Sheet 1 – Construction of New Buildings” for PNRR projects. Each new building must be designed and constructed to minimize its environmental impact throughout its entire life cycle, respecting six key objectives.



1. Climate Change Mitigation

Buildings must have high energy performance (NZEB) or higher, with energy demand reduced by 20% compared to the standard for substantial contributions.

2. Climate Change Adaptation

A climate risk analysis is mandatory to ensure that the building is resilient to future events.



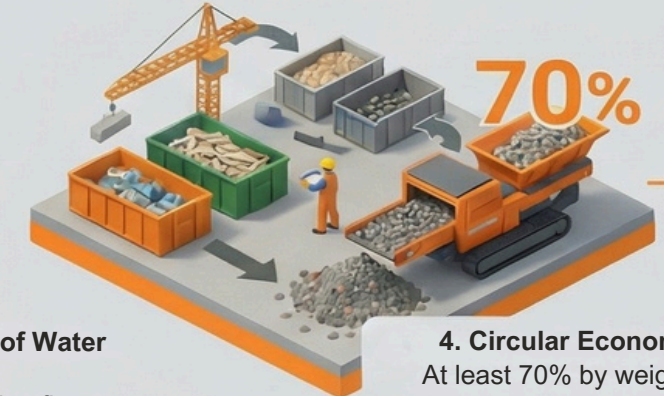
6. Protection of Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Do not build on fertile land, forests, or protected habitats. Use wood from certified sources (FSC/PEFC).



3. Sustainable Use of Water Resources

Install low-consumption fixtures: taps (<6 l/min), showers (<8 l/min), and low-flush toilets.



4. Circular Economy

At least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste must be prepared for reuse or recycling.



5. Pollution Prevention

Use materials free of hazardous substances (compliant with REACH) and manage the construction site in an environmentally friendly way.

Sustainable renovations: guide to DNSH Principles (Sheet 2)


Key Environmental Principles and Constraints (DNSH) for Renovation and Refurbishment of PNRR-Funded Buildings

The objective is to ensure no significant harm to the environment, with a focus on energy efficiency, materials management, and construction site practices.

Energy and Climate Requirements

Two levels of energy efficiency

Substantial contribution (regime 1)



30%

Requires a “major renovation” or a primary energy savings of at least 30%.



Compliance with DNSH (Regime 2)

Requires compliance with the minimum legal requirements (Ministerial Decree 26/06/2015).



Climate Risk Analysis

It is mandatory to assess the building’s resilience to future climate events.

Management of Materials, Water and Construction Site

70%

Waste Recovery at 70%
At least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste must be prepared for reuse or recycling.



≤ 6
liters/minute

Guaranteed Water Savings
If new fixtures are installed, taps and showers must comply with specific water flow limits (e.g., taps ≤ 6 liters/minute).

Material Safety

A prior asbestos survey is mandatory, and the use of hazardous substances listed in REACH is prohibited.



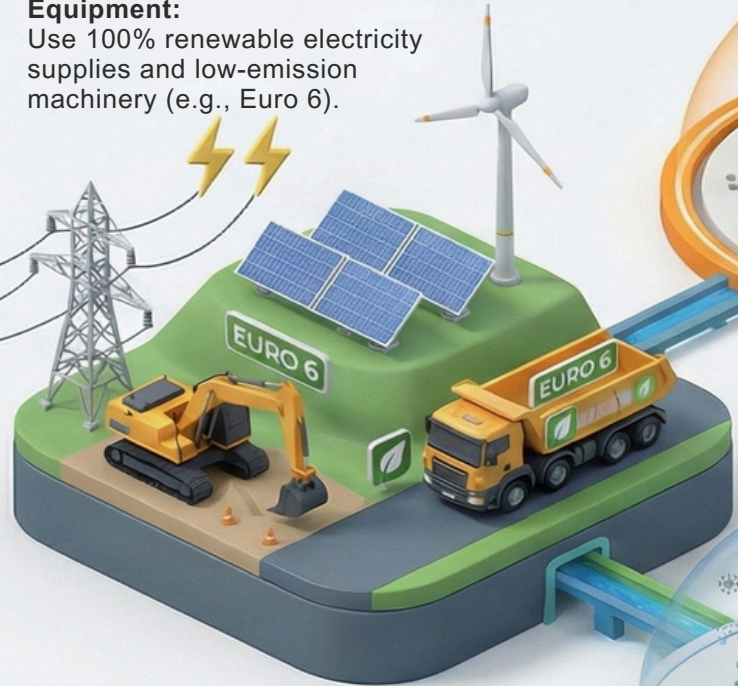
Sustainable Construction Site: DNSH Guidelines for General Works

This infographic summarizes the principles of Sheet 5 of the DNSH Operational Guide. It provides guidance for designing and managing temporary or mobile construction sites ("Base Camp") for large-scale projects, minimizing impacts on the six environmental objectives of the European Taxonomy.

Sustainable Operational Management

Clean Energy and Efficient Equipment:

Use 100% renewable electricity supplies and low-emission machinery (e.g., Euro 6).



70% Waste Recovery Target: Prepare at least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste for reuse or recycling.



Pollution Control: Prevent dust and noise pollution, and use only materials compliant with the REACH regulation.

Site Selection and Protection

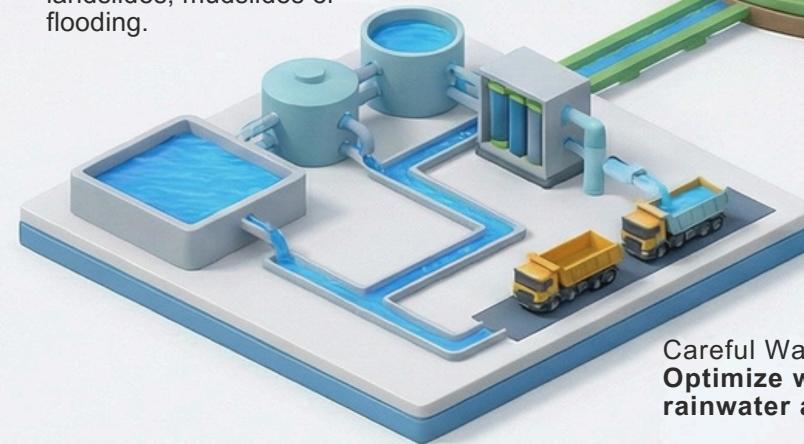


Avoid Areas with Hydrogeological Risk: Do not locate the Base Camp in areas at risk of landslides, mudslides or flooding.



Protect Biodiversity and Ecosystems:

Avoid construction in protected areas (e.g. Natura 2000), forests or habitats of endangered species.



Careful Water Management: Optimize water use and properly manage rainwater and process water.