

Project Idea Fiche

Program:	Interreg Europe 2021-27 (3. Call 2024)
Policy Objective:	2. A greener Europe
Specific Objective:	(vi) Circular and resource efficient economy

Greening Land Use Policy through the circular land management (Green LUPO)

The goal of 'no net land take by 2050', which was proclaimed by the European Commission in 2011 as part of the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, is part of the European Union's 7th Environmental Action Program and has been confirmed by the European Commission's recently adopted Soil Strategy.

In the long term (by 2050), the further expansion of settlement and transport areas at the expense of open spaces is to be completely replaced by a circular economy. Many Member States have already set earlier milestones (e.g. 2030). These now must be backed up by concrete measures.

However, only part of the additional land requirements can be met by infill development, urban consolidation or brownfield redevelopment. Therefore, a considerable amount of new land use is still expected, for which unneeded built-up areas will have to be converted into open space.

Against this background, the usual procedures of land use policy should be fundamentally rethought in order to become more flexible and to encourage new approaches. The aim is to better coordinate sectoral policies, each of which has its own effect on the use of new land (spatial planning with its supra-local and interdisciplinary approach is the best starting point for this). Land use policies have to be adapted to the demands of a circular land economy and be compatible with new economic instruments. Examples include land use trading and the EU Taxonomy Regulation (in particular environmental objective 8).

The planned project will focus on the revision of typical land use policy instruments (e.g. spatial planning laws, state development plans, regional plans, supra-local and local spatial planning programs, land development funding programs) in order to adapt them to the requirements of a circular land economy.

The policy learning process will address precisely those issues that should be reflected in the selected policy instruments of the partners, e.g.

- Manage land use competition more effectively using spatial planning tools
- Implement integrated planning approaches in spatial development plans (identify cross-references to other sectoral plans/policies)
- Identify potential for more multifunctional land use.
- Land use statistics & demand assessment (status quo & ongoing monitoring)
- Guidelines for reducing land consumption as part of land use policy, following the "Avoid - Reuse - Minimize - Compensate" approach.
- Implementation/derivation of a land use hierarchy to increase circular land use

Timeline

Submission of application: June 2024

Project duration: 48 months, starting early 2025

Partnership

Lead Partner: Thuringia Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture TMIL (DE)

envisaged project partners: regional (national) land use authorities (from EU27, Norway, Switzerland, 6 candidate countries)

Policy Instrument

Each partner should incorporate the findings of the learning process into a selected policy instrument within its area of responsibility or prepare its revision (e.g. spatial planning laws, state development plans, regional plans, supra-local and local spatial planning programs, land development funding programs). Operational programs from the ERDF (Jobs & growth programs) are particularly welcome as policy instrument.

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