

Low-carbon Built Environment Programme

More information about the DNSH requirement

Every project provided with RRF funding must fulfill the “Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)” requirements. The EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) requires that no measures do any significant harm to the environment.

An activity is considered to do significant harm

- a) to climate change mitigation,
 - *if it leads to significant greenhouse gas emissions;*
- b) to climate change adaptation,
 - *if it leads to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate on the activity itself or on people, nature or assets;*
- c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources if it is detrimental
 - *to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or*
 - *to the good environmental status of marine waters;*
- d) the circular economy, including 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, including non-renewable energy sources, raw materials, water, and soil during one or more stages of the product lifecycle, also regarding the durability, repair, updating, reuse, or recycling of products;*
 - *it significantly increases the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, apart from the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or*
 - *the long-term disposal of waste may cause significant and long-term environmental harm;*
- e) pollution prevention and control,
 - *if it leads to a significant increase in emissions of pollutants into air, water or land, compared with the situation preceding the start of operations; or*
- f) the 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 Union interest.*

A report on the application of the DNSH principle (publications of the Finnish Environment Institute 3/2022): <https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/339406>.

Instructions and examples on how to respond to DNSH questions are available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C:2021:058:FULL&from=EN>

Extensive DNSH pre-assessments prepared during the preparation of Finland’s Sustainable Growth Programme are available in Annex 3 to Finland’s Sustainable Growth Programme document: <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163363>