



# Project selection criteria

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*ENEA – MA Network Plenary Meeting  
9 June 2022*

# Criteria for the horizontal integration of sustainable development

- analysis of the project's expected environmental and climate impact
- avoid any negative impacts, and to include actions to mitigate any remaining impacts (DNSH)
- projects should take into account standards, requirements or labels
- prefer those technologies that are consistent with the Best Available Techniques (BAT), or those that meet the most ambitious Ecodesign requirements or have a high Energy Labelling class
- promote/require the compliance with sustainable construction schemes/certification
- application of Green Public Procurement
- sealing of new lands shall be kept to a minimum and precautionary measures should be mentioned by the applicant
- resilience to the impact of climate change and natural disasters (climate proofing)
- principle of sound environmental management (e.g. be efficient in the use of energy and resources, promote high environmental standards, use the Best Available Techniques, apply short supply chains, avoid the disruption of ecosystems)
- use the SEA, DNSH assessments and taxonomy criteria for formulating guiding principles for the selection of projects/project selection criteria

# Useful documents

- Report “Integration of environmental considerations in the selection of projects supported by the European structural and investment funds” ([link](#))
- Mainstreaming the environment in cohesion policy in 2014-2020: Report of the ENEA-MA working group ([link](#))
- Toolkit on sustainability transitions ([link](#))
- Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027 ([link](#))
- Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund ([link](#))
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 supplementing the Taxonomy Regulation ([link](#))
- Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria ([link](#))
- EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) ([link](#))
- Handbook for practitioners “Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions” ([link](#))