

Technical assistance to Île-de-France

C4T
Community
of Practice



Map of Region of Île-de-France, France.

Île-de-France, the most populated region of France with more than 12 million inhabitants, has recently strengthened efforts in the circular economy. As a managing authority of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the regional government included circular economy as a new theme in the 2021-2027 operational programme. Moreover, the region counts with a Regional Plan for Waste Prevention and Management and a Regional Circular Economy Strategy.¹ The circular economy plays a crucial role in achieving the EU goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, by reducing both the input of new resources and the output of waste and emissions. In order to achieve the objectives under these strategic documents, the region currently has two circular economy-related calls for projects, either ongoing or forthcoming.

Île-de-France was awarded a C4T GROUNDWORK Technical Assistance (TA) assignment as part of the third call for applications. The assignment started in May 2024 and was completed in October 2024.

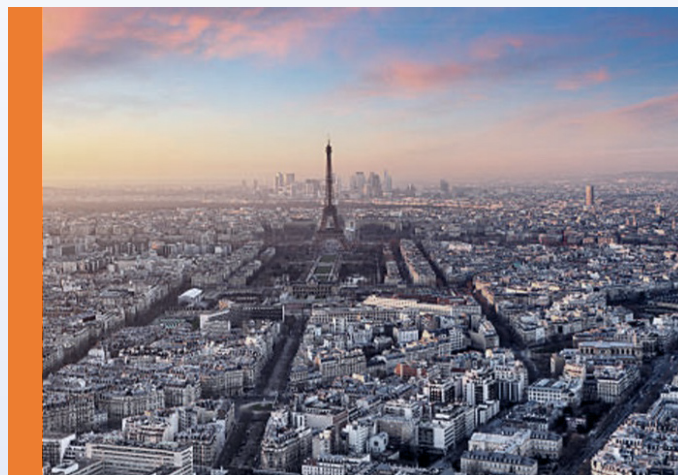
C4T GROUNDWORK was launched by the European Commission, DG REGIO, to support the implementation of sustainability transitions investments funded by ERDF and

CF, under Policy Objective 2 (PO2) “A greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy”.

C4T GROUNDWORK provides eligible regions with tailor-made capacity building and advisory support covering areas such as the energy transition, circular economy, water management, climate adaptation or biodiversity.

While the region is experienced in managing ERDF funds, the exercise of preparing and managing calls for projects in the field of circular economy has highlighted the need for greater expertise from the regional authorities.

The technical assistance was focused on **providing assistance with project prioritisation and the measurement of the impact of interventions funded under the ERDF programme** in Île-de-France.



Paris, Île-de-France region

The C4T GROUNDWORK TA provided support to Île-de-France on these priorities by focusing on two workstreams:

- **Workstream 1:** Benchmarking across managing authorities on how to prioritise circular economy projects with a high potential
- **Workstream 2:** Insights and examples on how to measure the impact of circular economy projects funded under ERDF in the territory

¹ [Textes réglementaires | L'Europe en Île-de-France](#)

To provide the technical assistance under these workstreams, four countries and regions, Denmark, Päijät-Häme (Finland), Castilla Y León (Spain) and Podravje (Slovenia), that are advanced in the area of the circular economy in the framework of ERDF and other EU funds were selected for benchmarking, with a particular focus on the potential for transfer of elements to Île-de-France.

Workstream 1: Benchmarking across ERDF managing authorities on how to prioritise circular economy projects with a high potential

Île-de-France wished to strengthen their work in the circular economy field and improve the efficiency of the allocation of cohesion policy resources in the field. Therefore, the first part of the assistance focused on an overview and insights into how other managing authorities are using ambitious criteria to identify and prioritise promising and impactful projects in the field of circular economy.

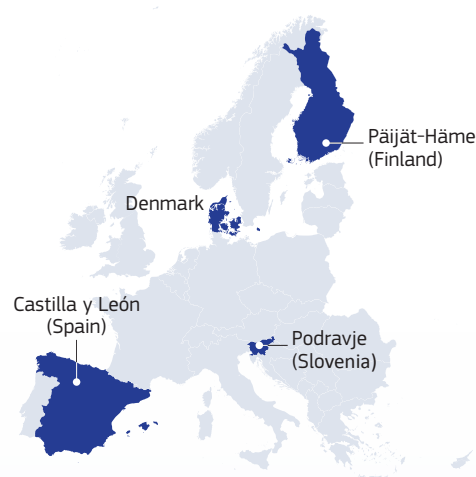
The C4T team, by conducting desk research and interviews with regional and national authorities, produced an overview of approaches for prioritising projects with high potential. The document contained a detailed description of the prioritisation criteria that the identified managing authorities were using to select the most promising applicants in calls for projects, analysing the inspiring elements and the potential for transferability to Île-de-France.

This assessment was used to provide Île-de-France with a set of key recommendations on how to improve their prioritisation criteria. The recommendations included the design of scoring methodologies that emphasise feasibility and sustainability of the projects, as well as giving priority to projects fostering the creation of new value chains and cross-sector collaboration. Moreover, the C4T team suggested defining basic criteria for circularity, to ensure that the circular economy projects lead to a reduction of the environmental impact associated with their activity; and engaging with potential applicants before the call for proposals to discuss project ideas and receive constructive feedback on their feasibility and alignment with funding criteria.

Workstream 2: Insights and examples on how to measure the impact of the ERDF programme 2021-2027 within the Île-de-France territory

The second part of the assistance to Île-de-France consisted of an analysis of impact measurement methodologies to assess both the progress towards circularity in the region and specific projects in the field of circular economy. Given that the circular economy was introduced as a new theme in the ERDF programme for 2021-2027, Île-de-France had not yet analysed the impact of circular economy projects funded under ERDF in the territory. To help map the impact of ERDF in the region of Île-de-France, the C4T team considered helpful to map and analyse the experience of other regions and countries. Hence, a document was created with an overview and insights into how other managing authorities apply efforts to measure the impact of ERDF in their territories.

The document contained innovative indicators that could be used for further developing Île-de-France's evaluation grid, focusing on the inspiring elements and potential for replicability in the region. This assessment was then translated into recommendations to capture the broader impact of circular economy beyond waste reduction and recycling, develop innovation-related indicators and incorporate life-cycle analyses (LCAs) to measure broader impacts across the entire lifecycle of products and services.



Map of case studies

Benefiting from the expertise of the Technical Assistance has been enlightening for the Île-de-France region, particularly as the measures promoting the circular economy are a new aspect of the PR21-27. Alongside various internal services, the Technical Assistance provides a European perspective on best practices, helping us select future projects in Île-de-France funded by the ERDF and assess this emerging theme.

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