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Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) self-assessment after the completion of the project

Name of funded project:

Decision number:

Research projects and research infrastructures funded from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) must conduct a self-assessment on the implementation of the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle after the completion of the project. The self-assessment is submitted as an attachment to the RRF report through the Research Council of Finland's online services under 'My Applications' > 'Completed' > 'Provide additional information.

A project-specific DNSH self-assessment is required to ensure that the implementation of the RRF-funded projects comply with the technical guidelines on the ‘Do no significant harm’ principle (2021/C58/01) and that the funding provided by the Research Council of Finland have supported projects fully in line with the second paragraph of Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Recovery and Recovery Facility. At the same time, the project needs to ensure that the project has complied with EU and national environmental legislation.

In the assessment the project must ensure that the implementation of the project has not included the following assets and activities: (i) activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use[[1]](#footnote-1); (ii) actions under the EU ETS to achieve projected greenhouse gas emissions that do not fall below the relevant benchmarks[[2]](#footnote-2); (iii) activities relating to landfills, incineration plants[[3]](#footnote-3) and mechanical biological treatment plants[[4]](#footnote-4); and (iv) activities where long-term waste disposal can cause environmental damage.

In the self-assessment, the project must describe the implementation in relation to the following RDI actions, which are considered to comply with the technical guidelines on the ‘no significant harm’ principle (2021/C58/01): (i) RDI actions leading to a technological neutral outcome at the level of their application; (ii) RDI actions supporting options with low environmental impact; or (iii) RDI actions focusing primarily on developing options with minimal environmental impact in the sector in question, where there is no technically and economically viable low impact option.

In the self-assessment, the project must examine its activities and procurements during the project implementations concerning six environmental objectives: (1) mitigation of climate change, (2) adaptation to climate change, (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, (4) transition to a circular economy, including prevention and recycling of waste, (5) prevention and control of environmental pollution, and (6) protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. The potential impacts of the project on the six environmental objectives of the DNSH criteria are assessed in the table below. The self-assessment of the project must be carried out in accordance with the technical guidance above and the Commission’s technical guidance (2021/C58/01).

**Has the implementation of the project or the application of its results had significant adverse environmental or climate impacts (yes/no, with reasons)? Could the results produced by the project have significant adverse environmental or climate impacts (yes/no, with reasons)?**

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| **Environmental objective** | **Yes** | **No** | **If the answer is "No,"** please provide justification. **If the answer is "Yes,"** comment on its significance, scope, and the duration of the adverse impact. |
| **1.**  **Mitigation of climate change** |  |  |  |
| **2.**  **Adaptation to climate change** |  |  |  |
| **3.**  **Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources** |  |  |  |
| **4.**  **Transition to a circular economy, including prevention and recycling of waste** |  |  |  |
| **5.** **Prevention and control of environmental pollution** |  |  |  |
| **6.**  **Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems** |  |  |  |

Date and place Signature

1. Except projects under this measure in power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas, that are compliant with the conditions set out in Annex III of the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible should be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in plants exclusively dedicated to treating non-recyclable hazardous waste, and to existing plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use or recovering materials from incineration ashes, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants’ waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in existing mechanical biological treatment plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency or retrofitting to recycling operations of separated waste to compost bio-waste and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants’ waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)