

Towards near-zero waste at European and global level – time for a change. Get involved!

Why New_Innonet?

Europe has enjoyed many decades of growth in wealth and wellbeing, based on intensive use of resources. But today it faces the dual challenge of stimulating the growth needed to provide jobs and well-being to its citizens, and of ensuring that the quality of this growth will reduce waste significantly, leading to a sustainable future. This calls for a transition towards a circular economy, as this will:

1. boost recycling and prevent the loss of valuable materials;
2. create jobs and economic growth;
3. show how new business models can move us towards zero-waste;
4. reduce greenhouse emissions and environmental impacts.

Achieving this transition requires a facilitator who will pursue improved cooperation and reduced conflicts of interest between different value chain players in several sectors. Also, knowledge on promising business models and best practices need to be bundled, to identify economic opportunities and potential for targeted innovations. New_Innonet is this facilitator

What do we want to achieve?

NEW_Innonet stands for “Near-zero European Waste INNOvation NETwork”. It is an initiative to establish a European platform for stakeholders under the flag of the EU Programme Horizon 2020 aiming to show how the concept of circular economy can be implemented in three pre-selected value chains through reduction or elimination of waste, fostering systemic eco-innovation and generating new business opportunities. The ambition of New_Innonet is to improve the cooperation within or along different value chains and among stakeholders that can lead to more benefits for each value chain player, resulting in a quicker implementation of more efficient use of raw materials and to waste reduction.

How do we want to work?

New_Innonet wants to start a dialogue between a large group of stakeholders in order to understand the selected value chains, identify and characterise the obstacles on the way to a shift towards near zero objectives and try to find ways to eliminate them, propose concrete solutions on what should be developed and implemented to enable the change and what is already at stake and finally create a platform for building networking relationships to facilitate implementation of the changes in practice. This will be done by implementing the four lines of action.

Action Line 1

Mobilising and analysis of stakeholders involved in the three selected value chains.

A stakeholder analysis will be done to identify the relevant stakeholders along the value chains, their position, role as well as getting insights on their attitude and interest in the near-zero waste value chains. Actions in this line will be focused on identification of relevant stakeholders across Europe and inviting them to connect to the stakeholder platform.

Project fact sheet

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The Near-zero European Waste Innovation Network

Acronym: NEW_InnoNet

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- STIFTELSEN SINTEF, Norway
- Swedish Environmental Research Institute IVL, Sweden
- Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU), Poland
- ARN HOLDING, Netherlands
- Plastics Recyclers Europe, Belgium
- European Plastics Converters, Belgium
- Environmental Performance Agency IHOBE, Spain
- VITO, Belgium

Note: web page www.newinnonet.eu to be launched end April

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Action Line 2

Analysis of bottlenecks and best practices in the value chains.

Knowledge is needed on the issues and risks that may hamper the transition towards the circular economy. These issues may be legal, technological, economic, organisational, conflicting interests, social etc. Also experiences, approaches and technological solutions to mitigate these risks and issues already implemented elsewhere might be available at hand and could be transferred as best practices. Therefore actions in this line will be dedicated to identifying and characterising bottlenecks and collecting available best practices. This knowledge will help assessing the current as well as anticipated future risks associated with the different waste streams as well as planning strategies for business opportunities.

Action Line 3

Develop a shared vision and roadmaps for WEEE, ELV and packaging waste streams

This action line aims to develop an industry-supported common ground, that can be the basis for the shift towards the near-zero waste economy. Roadmap will be developed for each value chain in order to define where and how a difference can be made. This action line will focus on technological as well as on non-technological solutions, such as award mechanisms, business models, standards, involvement of citizens, legislation, financing, tools and processes fostering collaboration of different stakeholders etc. The roadmaps may serve as models for other areas and waste streams.

Action Line 4

Defining an integrated strategic research and innovation agenda and future use cases.

The integrated strategic research and innovation agenda will demonstrate how specific waste reduction targets in each of the value chains could be reached taking into account the potential funding schemes, award mechanisms and business models. It will include proposals for business opportunities and future use cases within the different value chains. To facilitate this, an ICT tool will be created, for clustering existing and in-the-pipeline technologies fostering the near-zero waste objective. Policy recommendations to further facilitate the developments towards the near-waste economy will be proposed based on the feedback from the roadmaps and the agenda.

Focus on three value chain: WEEE, ELV, Packaging

As pilot areas, NEW_InnoNet focuses on the electronic, automotive and packaging chains. Currently these chains create high environmental impacts generating waste streams such as waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) and plastic packaging waste, which could be converted into new raw materials such as plastics, metals and minerals. These waste streams represent significant potential for recovery of materials within the value chain, and can provide lessons-learned and best practices for other value chains and sectors.

Who should be interested in New-Innonet Project?

We invite all stakeholders to join and benefit from our initiative. Please contact us, in particular if you fall under one of the following categories: raw material providers, governance bodies and regulators, financial bodies, industry manufacturers from automotive, electric and electronic as well as fast moving consumer goods packaging value chains, packaging manufacturers, waste management companies, producers of recycled intermediates, other industry manufacturers using waste from EEE/ Automotive/ FMCG packaging, technology and solution providers, research and education organisations and academia, professional, branch and trade associations, standardisation and certification bodies, NGO's and consumer representatives, retailers.

Why you should get involved?

Circular economy is no longer a vision. It is a strategy that is being currently implemented. NEW_InnoNet's main objective is to mobilise all stakeholders towards building a circular economy by developing and reinforcing solid foundations for building the European Near-Zero Waste Platform. To build it, New_Innonet offers a unique opportunity to step into the process and have a say by participating in the New-Innonet workshops, consulting our documents such as roadmaps, the strategic research and innovation agenda and the policy recommendations. It is a forum to share knowledge and experience with other stakeholders, discuss your views, concerns, practical experiences and to be connected to a new network of organisations that play a key role in achieving the circular economy.

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