

Action Plan



Interreg Europe CONDEREFF

Action Plan PP7 STYRIA



Produced by each region, the **action plan** is a document providing details on **how** the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be exploited in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within that region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs (if any) and funding sources (if any). If the same policy instrument is addressed by several partners, only one action plan is required.

Part I – General information

Project:	CONDEREFF – Construction & Demolition Waste Management Policies for Improved Resource Efficiency
Partner organisation:	Office of the Regional Government of Styria, Directorate 14 – Water Management, Resources and Sustainability
Other partner organisations involved (if relevant):	-
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NUTS2 region:	AT22 Styria
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Part II – Policy

The Action Plan aims to impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment for Growth and Jobs programme European Territorial Cooperation programme <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regional development policy instrument
Name of the policy instrument addressed:	Regional Waste Management Plan Styria

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1 – Revision of Styrian Guidelines for Ecological Housing Subsidy

1. The background (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

The interregional exchange of experience within the framework of the Interreg Europe project CONDEREFF has shown that Styria has already implemented large parts of the EU protocol for the management of construction and demolition waste. In particular legal regulations and technical specifications for the deconstruction of buildings (e.g. pre-demolition audit, pollutant and contaminant investigations, waste separation and quality assurance for recycled construction materials) are already implemented, and low-threshold information for all stakeholders is available with the online Styrian C&D Waste Guidelines. However, there is still considerable potential in the areas of preparation for reuse, better design of building components for longer service life and increased reusability, and ecological building materials.

The CONDEREFF information day of the Province of Styria on the topic of "circular economy in the construction sector" brought together different stakeholders of the project with the construction industry and enabled a lively exchange of knowledge and experience. The presentation on ecological housing subsidies in Styria met with particular interest. In order to improve the implementation of the circular economy in the construction sector, the current Waste Management Plan of the region of Styria provides for measures to prevent C&D waste through low-waste construction and reuse, also in accordance with the Austrian waste prevention program. Learnings from the EU project CONDEREFF have directed the focus in this context to the relevant subsidy system. By revising the subsidy guidelines, the basis for more circular economy in subsidised residential buildings is to be set. Therefore, the respective Styrian subsidy guidelines will be revised in the coming months in close collaboration of building experts, circular economy experts, legal experts and further stakeholders. The first practical experiences with the new guidelines will then be incorporated into the revision of the Styrian Waste Management Plan with further measures derived for the next planning period.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

The legislative competence for the building sector in Austria falls within the competence of the federal provinces. Housing subsidies are also handled in the individual federal provinces according to their own specifications. In Styria, the basis for this is the Styrian Housing Subsidy Act 1993. Since 2002, there has been an ecological housing subsidy in Styria, with the focus so far on environmentally friendly energy production, thermal renovation and energy efficiency. 2006, so-called eco-points have been introduced for e.g. the use of ecological or recyclable building materials.

The current "Guidelines for Ecological Housing Subsidies" provide for subsidy options for new construction and renovation. There are 7 categories of "eco points" with 65 differently weighted individual points.

Within the framework of the newly launched revision process, ecological building materials and construction methods are to be considered more strongly. In the context of CONDEREFF, the principles of circular economy (according to the "EU Protocol for the Management of Construction and Demolition Waste" and the publication "Circular economy principles for building design", 2020) are to be introduced in the dialogue with the relevant stakeholders (politics, competent administrative unit and authorities, representatives of the construction industry, etc.).

The objective is the inclusion of subsidy criteria accelerating the use of reusable and modular building components, recycled and ecological building materials, and modern technologies for construction/demolition planning (BIM, BAMB). Furthermore, revitalisation and refurbishment should be given a higher priority than new construction. Such measures can trigger an extension of the actual life of buildings and materials as well as an increased demand for reusable building components and recycled building materials. In addition, the inclusion of the corresponding measures in the funding guidelines strengthens the public perception of circular economy aspects in the building sector.

Evaluation will focus on the following indicators: Use of reusable and modular building components, use of recycled building materials, use of ecological building materials in subsidized buildings. An accompanying survey amongst the players involved should give a picture of the perception of circular economy in the building sector. The outcome of such first evaluation should enable a better focus on circular economy measures for the building sector in the next revision of the Styrian Waste Management Plan.

3. Players involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

- Regional Government of Styria (experts for circular economy and waste/resource management, experts for building construction, building and subsidy authorities)
- Policy
- Stakeholders in the construction industry (builders, contractors)
- The general public (potential recipients of subsidies)

4. Timeframe

June 2021 – May 2022

Milestone 1: Discussion of objectives and possible measures

Milestone 2: Formulation of the measures and inclusion in the subsidy guidelines

Milestone 3: Policy dialogue and decision of the guideline

Milestone 4: Information event together with subsidy authority

Evaluation phase: First evaluation 6 months after entry into force

5. Costs (if relevant)

The work is largely carried out within the framework of the existing work contracts of the Province of Styria. Costs for the compilation and design of the Guidelines will be covered by the Regional Government of Styria.

The costs for the information event and the evaluation process have to be determined/allocated together with the stakeholders.

6. Funding sources (if relevant):

Own funds

ACTION 2 – Toolbox on circular economy in construction for municipalities and other administrative bodies (best practice in best bidder criteria, suggested conditions for construction procedures, etc.)

1. The background (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

The public sector has a special role to play in the implementation of the circular economy. The strategic documents of the EC on the implementation of the circular economy often identify public procurement as a key driver for a change to the circular economy. Moreover, the municipalities are the first instance enforcement authority of the Styrian Construction Act. Stakeholder meetings and workshops within CONDEREFF, especially the CONDEREFF expert information day “Circular Economy in the Building Sector” (topics “Circular economy for demolition and new construction”, “Pollutant and contaminant investigation”, “Modular construction” etc. plus discussions) have shown that, on the one hand, the possibilities of the authorities to formulate specific, circularly oriented decision requirements are far from being exhausted. On the other hand, it happens repeatedly that standard conditions of the demolition permits make it difficult or impossible to process C&D waste with mobile facilities on site.

Furthermore, the municipalities have the most direct contact with the population, are the maintainers of the formative educational institutions (kindergartens, compulsory schools) and are consistently involved with sustainable aspects of civic life. Therefore, they should increasingly act as the nucleus of circular thinking also in the construction sector.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

A toolbox is to be created to provide targeted support to municipalities (and other administrative bodies). In a kick-off workshop, the needs of the municipalities will be identified and prioritized. Essential core topics will be proposed conditions for building/demolition permits and best bidder criteria for public procurements.

The catalogue of proposed conditions is to be developed on the basis of existing specifications and experiences in close cooperation between experts and representatives of authorities. The proposed conditions should then be made available to the competent authorities for building/deconstruction permits (predominantly municipalities).

Within the framework of the EU Circular Economy Package, public procurement is repeatedly seen as a central lever for more circular economy. Accordingly, public procurement is also addressed in the current Styrian Waste Management Plan, but for the time being with a special focus only on waste management contracts. In Austria, federal government departments are generally obliged to apply the Austrian "Action Plan for Sustainable Procurement - naBe". For provinces/regions and municipalities, naBe is only a recommendation. The naBe was revised last year, and the new catalogue of measures has been decided by the Austrian council of ministers on June 23rd, 2021. For the construction sector, it refers to the requirements of the Austrian Recycling Building Materials Ordinance, and here in particular to the requirements for recycling-oriented dismantling. Possible best bidder criteria for the increased use of quality-assured recycled building materials are also recommended in individual areas such as civil engineering. Only on the occasion of a new revision of naBe in the future even more attention could be paid to circular economy in the construction sector. This action aims to improve the implementation of circular economy in public construction projects and to provide the basis for a better focus in the revision of the Styrian Waste Management Plan.

With regard to public procurement, the City of Graz has already created "climate-friendly sustainable building standards" as comprehensive acceptance criteria (e.g. deconstruction/demolition concept with the widest possible recycling and reuse; widest possible use of ecological, sustainable and climate-friendly regional building materials), and has already tested them in first public projects. The objective of this action is to improve this criteria catalogue on the basis of practical experience and, above all, to adapt it for application in the other 285 Styrian municipalities.

Further measures for the planned "toolbox" will be selected from the results of the kick-off workshop as well as on the basis of good practice examples from other European regions.

3. Players involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

- Regional Government of Styria (experts for waste and resource management, experts for competitive tendering procedures, representatives of authorities)
- Municipalities and Association of Municipalities Styria
- Technical consultants and scientific support for the implementation (e.g. TU Graz, Austrian Building Materials Recycling Association, civil engineers)
- GBG Building and Construction Management Graz GmbH (responsible for the application of the best practice "climate-friendly sustainable building standards")
- Economy (Building Guild, Chamber of Commerce)

4. Timeframe

Dec. 2022) June 2021 – May 2022

Milestone 1: Preparatory coordination with representatives of authorities regarding the catalogue of proposed conditions and GBG regarding best practice "climate-friendly sustainable building standards" (starting June 2021).

Milestone 2: Kick-off workshop with municipalities (Sep./Oct. 2021) and definition of further roadmap

Milestone 3: Compilation of toolbox (until April 2022)

Milestone 4: Information event for municipalities (May 2022)

Evaluation phase: First evaluation (June to

11. Costs (if relevant)

The work is largely carried out within the framework of the existing work contracts of the Province of Styria. The costs for the toolbox compilation and design, information event and the evaluation process have to be determined/allocated together with the stakeholders. Further distribution of results will be carried out by the Regional Government of Styria in cooperation with the Association of Municipalities Styria.

12. Funding sources (if relevant):

Own funds.

Date: __28.05.2021; update: 29.06.2021_____
Signature: Mag. Dr. Ingrid Winter_____
Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____