

Interreg Europe on Lightweighting

Project proposal for the third call 2024

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Issue: the role of lightweighting in policy

Lightweighting is a **key enabling technology** that can support the achievement of the EU Green Deal goals:

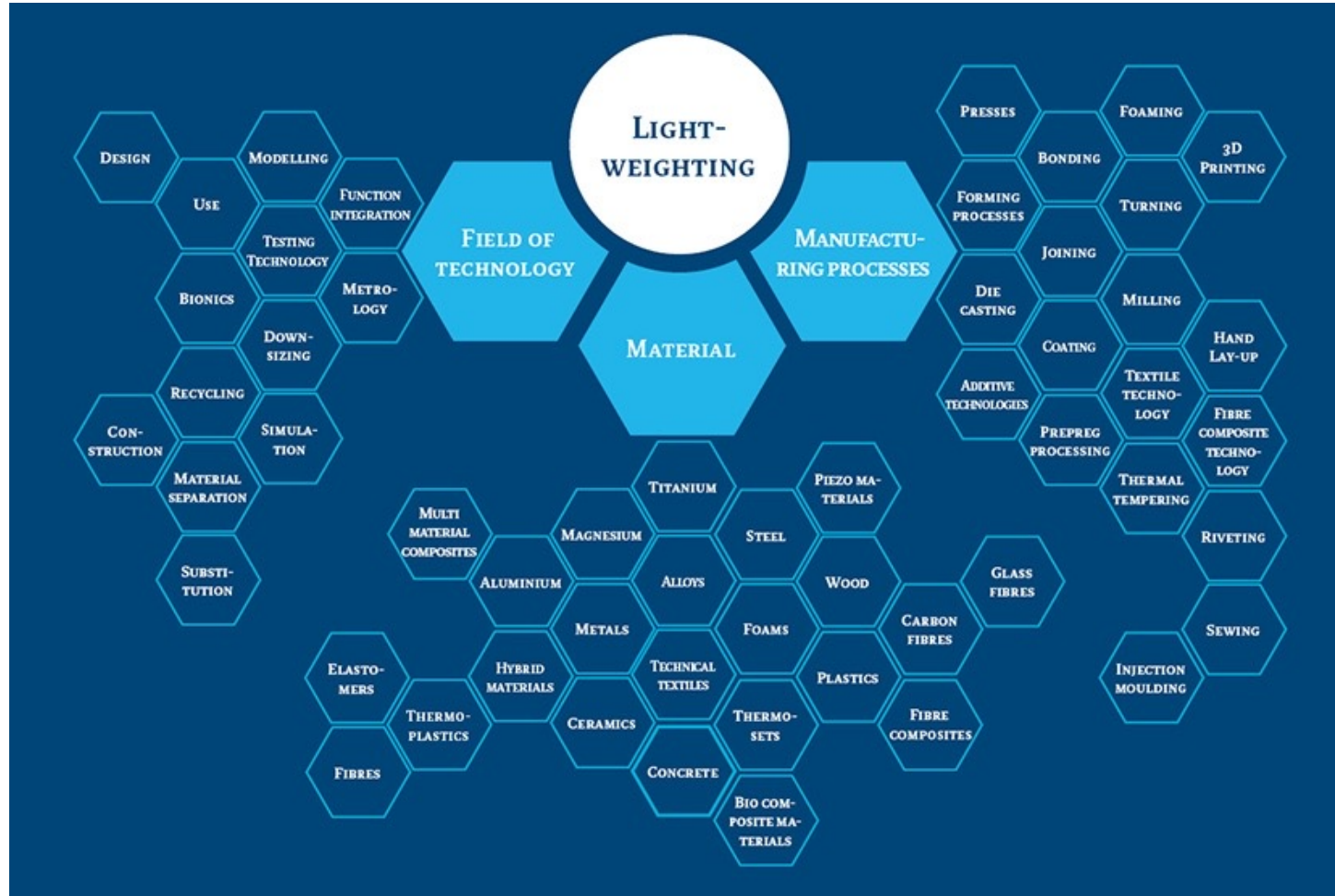
- Lightweighting reduces weight of cars, airplanes and any kind of vehicle and component
- Weight reductions therefore reduce energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and consumption costs: less weight = less energy needed
- Additionally, material resources are used efficiently, promoting as well the circular economy.

Several countries in Europe already recognise the **importance of implementing lightweight technologies** to decrease energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, and impact the economy by increasing GDP and employment. Additionally achieving multiple UN and EU sustainability goals.

Lightweight-related policies are of paramount importance to implement new technologies across several European industries, pushing the market towards environmental sustainability. Policy improvements will benefit various stakeholders including SMEs, consumers, large companies, research institutions, public authorities and society at large.



A Key Enabling Technology



Source: [Zentrale Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand \(ZIM\)](#)



Issue: what exists already?

EU-wide policies and regulations surrounding lightweight exist; such as the *EU Green Deal*, the *Circular Economy Action Plan*, and the *Critical Raw Materials Acts*. However, **a need to harmonise innovation and industry efforts throughout Europe still remains.**

National policies bringing lightweight to the forefront

- **Germany is at the forefront of lightweight policies**, through the Lightweight Initiative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.
- The **Swedish lightweight strategy** focuses on the UN's sustainability goals and it is implemented through **LIGHTer**.
- **Austria** hasn't initiated a national strategy for lightweight yet but count on the **support of the Federal Ministry** for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology.

What about other countries?

Many counties in Western and Southern Europe are **active in in lightweight** construction but are still **lacking a national strategy**. Other regions in the EU like Eastern European or Southern European countries are lagging their counterparts in the West with regards to the **visibility of lightweight and its awareness**.

Project concept: How we aim to solve this issue?

- All EU regions working together have the **potential to maximise the impact of lightweight** and therefore speed up the EU Green Deal.
- **Follower regions** can learn from the frontrunners on how to **introduce/improve the positioning of lightweight** in their regional and national agendas.
- **Frontrunners**, at the same time, **can benefit from the knowledge exchange** and the **expansion** in more countries which can **improve the positioning of lightweight transnationally**.
- Influential voices from the **industry** and **other types of stakeholders** could steer the direction of such policymaking. ***Knowledge and competences across strategic sectors could be exchanged*** between regions to create new value chains which comprise new and/or improved regulations.
- **Internationalisation and collaboration between EU initiatives** (e.g. ELN, ELCA, ELA) is key for strengthening the **lightweight ecosystem** that contributes to the EU's strategic goals.
- **Synergising lightweight policies** is the first step towards developing an EU-wide lightweight policy



Project concept: our goals

- Synergise lightweight policies across Europe in order improve the positioning on the EU policy agenda
- We aim to improve the **management, implementation and monitoring of policy instruments** related to lightweight technologies
- Overcome **the lack of harmonisation** that exists across Europe



The partnership



#	Organisation	Country	Expected role
1	Saxony Trade & Invest	DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead partner Strong link with industrial stakeholders that are leaders in lightweight construction
2	RKW Sachsen		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory partner working with clusters and associations related to lightweight. Strong knowledge on lightweighting sectors. Part of the ELCA network (European Lightweight Cluster Alliance)
3	ACCIÓ	ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partner Agency for business competitiveness. Catalonia has a big critical mass of companies and RTOs working on lightweight.
4	Business Upper Austria	AT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partner Regional agency for promoting innovation and investment. Part of the European Lightweight Association (ELA).
5	CluBE	GR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partner Cluster association working on bio-based solutions for multiple sectors, including lightweight. The future of lightweight technologies includes the uptake of bio-based alternatives.
6	Region of Western Macedonia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The region wants to move from a lignite-based economy to greener solutions through lightweighting innovation.
7	Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic	SK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partner Public authority interested in driving innovation on digitalisation and circularity through lightweighting