

Future Digital Challenge: DNSH assessment

Version: 01 September 2022

Challenge: To realise transformational societal and economic impact from disruptive digital technologies

This assessment is intended to outline the expected compliance of applications submitted under the Future Digital Challenge with the principle of Do No Significant Harm (DNSH), i.e., that the solutions proposed will not have foreseeable harmful impacts in respect to any of the six environmental objectives.

While this assessment outlines broad expectations for how the challenge call does not intend *prima facie* to support solutions that will negatively impact any of the environmental objectives, all applications under the National Challenge Fund must include a DNSH assessment at the project level to confirm compliance of the proposed solutions with the DNSH principle. Applicants should refer to the guidance in the DNSH template document available on the challenge website.

In the context of the DNSH assessment for the Future Digital Challenge, it is noted that the programme remit for the National Challenge Fund requires that all applications are aligned with the Digital Transformation and must represent digital-related research and innovation. Furthermore, it is noted that the programme remit for the National Challenge Fund expressly excludes research that directly or indirectly supports the further use of fossil fuels, waste landfills, incinerators etc. Please see the programme remit section of the call document for more information on these points.

Updated DNSH self-assessments will be submitted at each stage of the programme. Reviewers will receive these assessments as part of the proposal documentation and will be required to confirm that sufficient information has been provided in the self-assessment to demonstrate compliance. Applicants or awardees may be required to provide additional information to SFI upon request.

Does the potential life-cycle impact of the solution developed as a result of this research have potentially harmful impacts on achieving the named environmental objective?

If the answer is no, please provide brief justification.

If the answer is yes, please complete Table 2.

1. Climate change mitigation <i>i.e., Is the project output expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?</i>	Yes	No
<p>This funding call is expected to have no or an insignificant negative impact on climate change mitigation related to the direct and primary indirect effects.</p> <p>This programme is focused on developing transformative digital technologies to create new value through processes, products, and services. A number of areas potentially relevant to climate mitigation are highlighted as potential areas of innovation, including science, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, energy and natural resource management. It is expected that if proposed solutions related to any of these areas are anticipated to impact climate mitigation that this will neutral or positive, for example, by improving efficiencies of economic activities, by increasing energy efficiency, improving</p>		X



data acquisition and processing, or by making processes more sustainable through the application of innovative digital technologies.		
2. Climate change adaptation <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?</i>	Yes	No
This funding call is focused on supporting digital-related research and innovation and proposed solutions are expected to have no or an insignificant foreseeable negative impact on climate change adaptation related to the direct and primary indirect effects.		X
3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources <i>i.e., Is the project output expected to be detrimental?</i> <i>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or</i> <i>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?</i>	Yes	No
This funding call is focused on supporting digital-related research and innovation and proposed solutions are expected to have no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on water or marine resources related to the direct and primary indirect effects.		X
4. The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to:</i> <i>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or</i> <i>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or</i> <i>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy?</i>	Yes	No
This funding call is focused on supporting digital-related research and innovation and proposed solutions are expected not to cause any significant increase in waste or inefficiencies in natural resources or environmental damage. It is note that under this call projects are expected to focus on advancing the digital transition in a range of areas that will lead to more efficient processes and more sustainable use of available resources. The call specifically highlights the opportunity for digital technologies to enhance sustainability and efficiency. Specific areas called out include supply chain innovation, manufacturing, value chains, logistics and natural resource management.		X
5. Pollution Prevention and control <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?</i>	Yes	No
This funding call is focused on supporting digital-related research and innovation and proposed solutions are not expected to lead to any significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land.		X
6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to be:</i> <i>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or</i>	Yes	No



<i>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?</i>		
This funding call is focused on supporting digital-related research and innovation and proposed solutions are not expected to have any significant negative impact on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.		X