**Healthy Environment for All Challenge**: DNSH assessment

*Version: 01 November 2022*

**Challenge**: Restoring and maintaining a resilient environment that ensure clean and healthy air, water and soil for humans, animals and plants.

This assessment is intended to outline the expected compliance of applications submitted under the Healthy Environment for All 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 Healthy Environment for All Challenge, 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. In addition, it is required that all applications to the Healthy Environment for All Challenge are aligned with the Green Transition and must represent research and innovation that focuses on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change. Please see the programme remit section of the call document for more information on this.

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? | | | |
| 1. Climate change mitigation   *i.e.*, *Is the project output expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?* | Yes | No |
| Projects under this call are expected to focus on restoring and maintaining a resilient environment. It seeks solutions to ensure clean and healthy air, water and soil. It is expected that applications to this call will propose solutions that will cause no negative impacts on GHG emissions.  All applications will include a DNSH assessment to confirm that the proposed solution will not cause significant harm in respect to this objective. Applicants will be required to use the best available scientific evidence to complete this assessment but are also advised to include appropriate considerations as part of their research programme. |  | X |
| 1. Climate change adaptation   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?* | Yes | No |
| The projects funded under this call are not expected to lead to increased adverse impact of the current climate or the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature, or assets. This programme is focused on solutions that will enable environmental sustainability and help to address the environmental degradation that can exacerbate climate change and increase the risk of natural disaster. Any impact of the research should be overall neutral or of positive benefit to climate change adaptation.  All applications will include a DNSH assessment to confirm that the proposed solution will not cause significant harm in respect to this objective. |  | X |
| 1. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources   *i.e., Is the project output expected to be detrimental?*   1. *to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or* 2. *to the good environmental status of marine waters?* | Yes | No |
| Projects are expected to focus on environmentally sustainable solutions to help Ireland ensure clean and healthy air, water and soil for humans, animals and plants. It is expected that if proposed solutions are anticipated to impact water or marine resources that this impact will be neutral or positive, for example, by pollutant prevention or removal, or restoration of the natural environment.  Where there are any potential risks to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater, or to the good environmental status of marine waters from the researched technology, product or other solution, these must be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment. |  | X |
| 1. The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling   *i.e., Is the measure expected to:*  *(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*  *(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*  *(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy?* | Yes | No |
| It is expected that solutions supported through this challenge will not lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources, or to significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste is not expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm. Any potential risks to the circular economy objectives from the researched technology, product or other solution will be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment. |  | X |
| 1. Pollution Prevention and control   *i.e., Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?* | Yes | No |
| The challenge call is not expected to lead to any significant increases in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land, rather it expressly seeks solutions in areas including pollutant prevention and removal, as well as restoration and protection of the natural environment.  Any potential risks to generate a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants to air, water or land from the researched technology, product or other solution will be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment. |  | X |
| 6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems  *i.e., Is the measure expected to be:*  *(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or*  *(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?* | Yes | No |
| There is no anticipated harmful impact of this call on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. This programme aims to fund research that works to create and preserve a resilient environment. This will include support for solutions that will positively impact this objective through combatting environmental damage, restoring biodiversity as well as understanding the value and benefits of nature for our society and economy.  Any potential risks to the good condition or resilience of ecosystems or to the conservation status of habitats and species from the researched technology, product or other solution must be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment. |  | X |