

Interreg North-West Europe Grant for the More4Sustainability Project

The consortium NVDO, Bemas, Mainnovation, FVI, and EMC2, is proud to announce it has been awarded a grant by Interreg North-West Europe for the innovative More4Sustainability project. The project aims to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NEW Industry through developing and implementing a training program on Sustainable Asset Management for the target audience of technical management active in asset intensive industries.



Photo: NVDO



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❖ This initiative is a testament to the partners towards fostering a green, smart, and just transition in the NWE region, aligning with the European Union's ambitious target of a 32.5% increase in overall energy efficiency by 2030. "The project fits perfectly with the NVDO Mission Working together on the sustainable deployability of assets", says Ellen den Broeder, General Manager NVDO.

❖ **Challenge and Opportunity.** The NWE region is key to reach the EU's target of an increased overall energy efficiency of 32,5% by 2030. The industry in NWE is the largest consumer of fossil energy and still needs to take considerable steps in order to reach the objectives. Sustainable Asset Management (AM), based on a set of best practices in Maintenance, Overhaul, Repair & Engineering (MORE), can help industrial companies to improve energy efficiency and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Examples of Sustainable Asset Management practices are equipment isolation, low energy lighting, high-efficiency HVAC, equipment electrification, condition monitoring, preventive maintenance, waste heat capturing, and energy management systems. Despite the potential, only a few companies in the NWE region have embraced Sustainable Asset Management to its full extent.

❖ **Objective of the More4Sustainability Project.** The More4Sustainability project aims to bridge this gap by promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the NWE industrial sector. The project partners recognize the pivotal role of maintenance and asset management in enhancing the sustainability performance of industrial activities in Europe. Technical decision-makers are key in determining how assets perform in terms of energy and emissions, and their detailed technical knowledge is

essential for identifying and implementing relevant improvements in sustainability and energy performance. That's why the project's main objective is the development and implementation of a comprehensive training program on Sustainable Asset Management.

❖ **Maintenance as a key player?!** Energy saving and the efficient use of energy within Management and Maintenance focuses, among other things, on the sustainable generation, use and monitoring of the energy consumption of the assets. According to Den Broeder (NVDO); "This focuses on topics such as the energy consumption of assets and optimal use of assets. In addition, efficient use and generation of energy offers financial benefits. The Energy Agreement contains goals for energy savings and generation through sustainable energy. Management and Maintenance can contribute to these goals. In addition, Maintenance contributes to sustainability by improving assets' energy efficiency". With the More4Sustainability project, the Dutch Maintenance Society hopes to involve its members and other stakeholders even more in the theme of energy efficiency.

❖ **Benchmark Study.** The project will kick-off with a unique benchmark study gathering insights from over 200 companies across Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany, covering more than 80% of the industry in NWE. Industries such as Oil & Chemicals, Steel, Food & Beverage, Life Sciences, Paper & Pulp, Automotive, Consumer Electronics, Aerospace, Advanced manufacturing technologies, and Power Generation will be included. Participants will receive a benchmark report, incentivizing their involvement and providing valuable insights.

‘Interreg North-West Europe: A European territorial cooperation programme supporting the green, smart, and just transition of North-West Europe’

❖ **Scandinavian model of sustainability.** “We’re seeing a growing interest in the, especially in the context of industrial manufacturing”. Wim Vancauwenberghe, director Bemas (Belgian Maintenance Society) elaborates on how the Scandinavian model is shaping the industry. “This model has profoundly transformed industrial manufacturing, leading to more environmentally friendly production methods and a paradigm shift towards a sustainable economy. This model is not just regionally significant, but serves as a global exemplar, encouraging other regions to adopt similar sustainable practices in their industrial frameworks”. Central to this model is the extensive use of renewable energy sources like wind, hydro, and solar power. This move away from fossil fuels towards cleaner energy sources isn’t just policy-driven; it reflects a fundamental commitment within these nations, drastically lowering the carbon footprint of their industries.

Vancauwenberghe; “In the realm of waste management and resource efficiency, Scandinavian industries are at the forefront. This innovative approach reimagines manufacturing, prioritizing the reuse and recycling of materials to minimize environmental impact. They are also at the cutting edge in developing sustainable technologies and methodologies, including energy-efficient production processes and eco-friendly materials, thereby setting new industrial benchmarks. Moreover, the government policies and incentives in Scandinavian countries support this sustainable trajectory. They offer a conducive framework for industries to adopt eco-friendly practices through tax benefits, grants for sustainable technology research, and stringent environmental regulations. Equally crucial is the focus on workforce education and training in sustainable practices, ensuring that employees are not only conscious of sustainability issues but are also skilled in their effective implementation”. Vancauwenberghe explains why Scandinavian participants are absent from the More4Sustainability project; “The geographical scope of the Interreg North-West Europe funding scheme limits our ability to include organizations from Scandinavian countries. Nevertheless, the advanced sustainable practices prevalent in Scandinavian countries could serve as a valuable reference and offer pertinent insights for the More4Sustainability project”.

❖ **Training Program.** Insights from the benchmark study will be used to create a comprehensive roadmap, serving as the foundation for the training material. The project’s most significant activity is the training of the maintenance and asset management community. Classroom trainings will be organized in each participating country, and an e-learning course will be available from January 2025. “This intention fits perfectly into the portfolio of the NVDO Maintenance Academy”, according to Den Broeder.

❖ **Transnational Cooperation.** The transnational nature of the More4Sustainability project is crucial. It allows for the identification of best practices and their impact, which might not be possible within a single nation’s context. This cooperation ensures a critical mass of data and experiences, enabling the project to identify early adopters, document their practices, and train technical managers across NWE to implement Sustainable Asset Management effectively.



About Interreg North-West Europe

Interreg North-West Europe is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that supports balanced development across its regions, making them more resilient and enhancing the quality of life and well-being of all citizens. The 2021-2027 Interreg NWE Programme focuses on promoting a green, smart, and just transition for all NWE territories. <https://www.nweurope.eu>

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