

REINVENT – PROJECT NR 730053

Project briefing note

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REINVENT Decarbonisation (Realising Innovation in Transitions for Decarbonisation)

Now: It is high time for the EU to develop the policy strategies needed for decarbonisation also in sectors such as plastics, steel, paper and meat/dairy. Progressive companies and other actors in these sectors are beginning to explore pathways for zero emissions and sustainability in the long term.

What: The REINVENT project provides an open platform for these actors to help shape EU transition policies and for explorative strategizing and learning about decarbonisation pathways. REINVENT will develop an evidence-based framework for future EU policy and assess implications in the medium- (2030) and long-term (2050). We focus on four sectors where decarbonisation is particularly challenging, i.e., plastics, steel, paper and meat/dairy. We start from within these sectors to build a deeper understanding of viable pathways rather than from an outside climate policy framework. Future pathways will be assessed and explored in a wider decarbonisation and systemic innovation context. This includes co-evolution with, for example, renewable energy systems and a more resource efficient circular economy. REINVENT will support the development of EU low-carbon transition policies that are better aligned with the specific needs and conditions for actors in the different sectors.

Why: To reach near zero emissions constitutes a new policy context for the plastics, steel, paper and food sectors. Common EU and international solutions are required for decarbonisation in these sectors. The transition requires new technical solutions, stable framework conditions for industry, planning ahead of time, cross-sectorial perspectives, as well as attention to non-technological factors such as changes in supply chains, financing, investment, trade and consumption. Steps must be taken now for gradual emission reductions until 2030 but more importantly for radical zero-emission technology and feedstock changes by 2050 and thereafter.

Who: REINVENT brings together a team of researchers with extensive experience and networks from previous work with industry and the four sectors, as well as EU and member state policy makers. We combine expertise in innovation systems, engineering, energy systems, modelling, economics, policy and governance, and geography.

How: We engage with individuals from industry, industry associations, government agencies, NGOs, institutes and other organisations that have a stake and interest in decarbonisation strategies for steel, plastics, paper and food. Types of engagement can include interviews, advisory boards, expert groups, focus groups, study visits and not least workshop participation for co-design of transition pathways and co-creation of knowledge on policy strategies.

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