

# Supporting I3 projects cascade funding

(case study: DEREMCO project)

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# What is DEREMCO (I3 project)

DeremCo — De- and Remanufacturing for Circular Economy Investments in the Composite Industry

EU Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) project-STRAND 1

GA 101084037 | 2022–2026

**Objective:**

Enable circular reuse of fibre-reinforced composite materials (FRP) into new high-value products.

**Core approach:**

Demand-driven circular value chains connecting waste streams, re-processing technologies and industrial applications.

**Implementation:**

14 industrial composite reuse business cases across EU regions (Italy, Spain, Austria, Slovenia, Finland).

**Target sectors:**

construction • furniture • automotive • industrial applications

**Project web site:**

<https://deremco.afil.it/>



## The I3 Instrument (Strand 1)

DEREMCO is funded under the EU Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) instrument.

I3 Strand 1 — Innovation investments (industrial deployment)

Purpose:

Support scaling of mature innovations (TRL  $\geq$  6–7) across EU regional value chains.

Key features:

- industrial uptake and investment readiness
  - interregional value chains
    - SME scale-up support
- deployment in real industrial environments

**DEREMCO contributes by:**

- demonstrating circular composite technologies
  - enabling SME cascade funding
- connecting SMEs to industrial ecosystems.



# DEREMCO Cascade Funding for SMEs

DEREMCO provides cascade funding (Financial Support to Third Parties -FSTP) to SMEs through open calls.

Goal:

Accelerate deployment of circular composite innovations aligned with DEREMCO value chains.

Funding scheme:

- lump-sum grants
- industrial demonstration focus
- TRL > 7 requirement
- alignment with composite reuse technologies

Eligible sectors:

construction • furniture • automotive • energy • industrial products

Open Call page: <https://deremco.afil.it/open-call/>.

Purpose:

- attract SMEs into circular composite value chains
- test and validate new materials and processes
- support industrial uptake and replication
- increase TRL and market readiness

FSTP strengthens DEREMCO pilots by funding SME innovation projects aligned with composite circularity value chains.



# DEREMCO First Open Call (2024)

1st cascade project funding call (2024)

Opening: 19 Jun 2024

Deadline: 4 Sep 2024

Budget: €660,000

Grant: up to €60,000 per SME

Target: high-TRL (>7) circular composite solutions

Eligible regions:

Austria • Belgium • Finland • Italy • Slovenia • Spain • Portugal

Focus areas:

INPUT — new materials

PROCESS — manufacturing & recycling

OUTPUT — products using DEREMCO materials

👉 11 SMEs funded

👉 including MYCOPOR (Rutena d.o.o., SI)



# DEREMCO Second Open Call (2024–2025)

2nd cascade project funding call

Opening: 30 Dec 2024

Deadline: 28 Feb 2025

Grant: up to €60,000 per SME  
(consortia up to €180,000)

Eligible SMEs: same DEREMCO regions

Focus: advanced circular composite innovation, new materials, improved processes, innovative applications

Important rule:  
SMEs funded in Call 1 not eligible in Call 2.



# Slovenian DEREMCO Industrial Ecosystem

DEREMCO Slovenian partners enabling SME scale-up:

- Veplas d.d.
- Technol d.o.o.
- Turnaplast d.o.o.
- CAP – Center for Applied Polymers
  - Faculty of Polymer Technology
    - Tehnos d.o.o.
- O.P.S. Breznik d.o.o.

**Role:**

Composite processing • recycling • manufacturing • industrial pilots.

These actors create the industrial environment for SME innovation uptake (e.g. Rutena).

# GREET CE Eco-Construction pilot activities → DEREMCO synergy

*GREET CE Eco-Construction pilot:*  
identified bio-based and circular material SMEs

*DEREMCO:*  
provided cascade funding for scale-up

Example pathway:  
mapping → pilot → matchmaking → funding → scale-up

**MYCOPOR case shows:**  
regional eco-construction SME → EU circular composite value chain



## Relevance for Eco-Construction

DEREMCO supports eco-construction transition through:

- circular composite materials
- recycled fibre construction components
  - bio-composite materials
- modular composite applications
- reuse of industrial waste streams

**Alignment with:**

EU Circular Economy Action Plan

Green Deal

Sustainable construction value chains

## Key Message

### I3 cascade funding enables:

- ✓ SME integration into EU industrial value chains
    - ✓ scaling circular materials innovation
  - ✓ investment readiness of eco-construction SMEs
    - ✓ cross-regional technology deployment
- GREET CE supports SMEs to access I3 opportunities  
Example: MYCOPOR (SI) → DEREMCO (I3)

DEREMCO demonstrates how I3 cascade funding enables SME scale-up in circular materials innovation.

### Rutena / MYCOPOR illustrates:

Eco-construction SME → I3 funding → industrial ecosystem → EU value chains

I3 projects like DEREMCO enable:

- deployment of circular materials
- interregional industrial cooperation
- investment-ready eco-construction solutions.



# More information

[Deremco](#)

[Open Calls – Deremco](#)

[DEREMCO FACT SHEET ON EC PORTAL](#)

[GREET CE ECO CONSTRUCCION PILOT](#)



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