



Ecorys Brussels Impact Portfolio 2026

Contributing to positive
impact in Europe

June 2026

Contributing to positive impact in Europe

Introducing Ecorys

Ecorys is a global consultancy providing advisory and support services across ten sectors to (semi) public sector clients.

Apart from Belgium (Brussels), we have offices in the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Italy, Spain, India, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Zambia.

Our projects cover two services:

- **Advisory services:** Qualitative and quantitative research; impact assessments, appraisals, value for money and cost benefit analysis; monitoring, evaluation and learning; policy formulation and strategy development.
- **Support services:** Full cycle grant management; secretariat set-up and management; technical assistance; training, learning and capacity building; performance monitoring and learning; institutional and legal frameworks; communications and digital services.



Our Mission: Ecorys aims to make a positive impact by addressing the issues that affect communities globally.

It is at the core of Ecorys' mission and values to create a positive impact. With over 80 projects delivered annually by Ecorys Brussels and hundreds of projects completed across the organisation, we have a strong capacity to drive positive change through our work.

Translating our mission into practice

At Ecorys Brussels, our clients primarily include European (EU) institutions; national, regional and local public authorities; and foundations. It is in close collaboration with these clients, and with our partners and beneficiaries that we aim to realise positive impact. To support this, we have developed internal guidance to help our staff design and implement projects in a way that maximises impact, and we are working to better track and communicate the results we achieve.



Types of impact

This Ecorys Brussels Impact Portfolio presents a selection of project snapshots showcasing the impacts our EU work has contributed to. The 2026 edition highlights five distinct types of impact.



Governance & stakeholder representation Impact

Ecorys contributed to establishing new governance structures and processes or to increasing the representation of specific stakeholder groups.

Projects

- 1
- 4
- 5
- 7



Regulatory & Policy Impact

Ecorys contributed to positive changes in policy design, revision, implementation and monitoring.

Projects

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 7
- 8



Scientific Impact

Ecorys contributed to academic articles and debates, or to the quality, scope, infrastructure or methods of the sector.

Projects

- 2
- 6
- 7
- 8



Awareness Impact

Ecorys contributed to wider audiences becoming demonstrably more aware of important areas linked to the project objectives.

Projects

- 1
- 5



Product development Impact

Ecorys contributed to creating, improving or scaling products, processes, or methods that deliver practical and sustainable solutions for stakeholders.

Projects

- 6

Impact highlights from our projects

Eight projects implemented in the recent years will illustrate how we materialise these five types of impacts in Europe:

- 1 Secretariat of the EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition (DG ENER)
- 2 Study informing the Mid-term Evaluation of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (DG ECFIN)
- 3 Mapping and Analysis of Common Agricultural Policy strategic plans (DG AGRI)
- 4 High Level Construction Forum (DG GROW)
- 5 Operation of the European Climate Pact Secretariat (DG CLIMA)
- 6 Circular Cities and Regions Initiative Coordination and Support Office (DG RTD)
- 7 Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors (Horizon 2020)
- 8 Animal Welfare Roadmap (EFSA)

Secretariat of the EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Client: European Commission (DG ENER)

Timeline: 2019-2029 (Three successive contracts)



Governance & stakeholder representation Impact



Regulatory & Policy Impact



Awareness Impact

The [EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition](#) (CRIT Initiative) was set up to assist carbon-intensive coal, peat and oil shale regions (coal+ regions) in tackling the challenges related to the transition to a low-carbon economy and a clean energy future. Ecorys has been running the Secretariat of the CRIT Initiative since early 2019.

01

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Creating local commitment to just transition in Jiu Valley

In July 2019, six mayors of the Jiu Valley coal region (Romania) signed the "[Jiu Valley Partnership for Just Transition](#)". This agreement represented a promise to facilitate a gradual, efficient and participatory transition from a coal-based economy to a more sustainable and diversified model. The process, supported by the Secretariat, culminated in the creation of the [Association for Integrated Territorial Development Valea Jiului](#), which became a beneficiary of the [START Technical Assistance programme](#) and is, to this day, driving the just transition process in the Jiu Valley.

Making 22 administrations in the EU commit to just transition

In October 2023, representatives of EU coal+ regions came together to sign the [Karlovy Vary Annual Policy Dialogue Statement](#) following the [Annual Political Dialogue in Karlovy Vary](#) (Czech Republic) earlier that year. 22 local and regional

administrations from 11 countries signed the statement at the [Just Transition Platform Conference](#), highlighting the commitment to coordinated, place-based approaches to just transition.

Increasing awareness on just transition

Through regular events ([Annual Political Dialogue](#)) as well as extensive communication activities (through the [newsletter](#) and [social media](#)), the Initiative has engaged over 300 participants at events and over 1,800 newsletter subscribers.

Informing similar EU and international initiatives

The CRIT initiative has informed various other initiatives and platforms, and Ecorys has ensured knowledge transfer and developed an extended just transition network across initiatives.

The successes of the CRIT Initiative have inspired the establishment of similar initiatives and platforms for the [Western Balkans and Ukraine](#), as well as [Southeast Asia](#).



JTP Conference in October 2023

Study informing the Mid-term Evaluation of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility

Client: European Commission (DG ECFIN)

Timeline: 2023-2024



Regulatory & Policy Impact



Scientific Impact

Ecorys and CEPS led the study informing the mid-term assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The study, including an in-depth report and eight case studies, drew on the input of 310 stakeholders and various quantitative and qualitative methods to support a clearer understanding of how the RRF has been implemented across Member States.

02

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Evidencing the European Commission's mid-term evaluation of the RRF and improving its implementation

The study formed the backbone of the [Staff Working Document \(SWD\)](#) and the accompanying [communication](#), with over 200 references throughout the SWD. It has also likely informed the continuation of a performance-based approach in other funds and frameworks.

Informing viewpoints, new publications and research discussions on the RRF

The results and dissemination of the study have influenced the viewpoints of the European Commission, other EU institutions and affiliated stakeholder organisations. The study was directly referenced in various academic, policy publications and opinion statements, including the [European Parliament's analysis on the performance and mainstreaming framework for the EU budget](#), the [Council of European Municipalities and Regions opinion piece](#), and an academic [discussion paper on RRF's interplay with cohesion policy](#) and a [macroeconomic analysis](#). It has also been discussed in conferences and meetings organised by the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the [European Court of Auditors](#), and the [Centre of European Policy Studies](#).

The European Commission has acted upon challenges highlighted in the study, contributing to advancements in administrative capacity, guidance to Member States and absorption capacity.

Mapping and Analysis of CAP Strategic Plans

Client: European Commission (DG AGRI)

Timeline: 2022-2023



**Regulatory &
Policy Impact**

The study, conducted between July 2022 and June 2023, provided the European Commission with the first [EU-wide mapping and analysis of the 28¹ CAP Strategic Plans \(CSPs\)](#) for the 2023–2027 programming period. It supported evidence-based implementation and oversight of the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by offering a harmonised analytical framework to assess Member States' policy choices across the nine specific objectives and the cross-cutting objective.

¹ One CSP plan per EU Member State, Belgium submitted one CSP for Flanders and one CSP for Wallonia.

03

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Establishing a common evidence base for all CAP stakeholders

As the first EU-wide mapping of Member States' CSPs, the study became a reference point for CAP stakeholders. It provided a picture of what the CAP was expected to deliver across the EU, supporting subsequent analysis, debate and policy reflection.

Supporting DG AGRI's reflections on CAP delivery, performance monitoring and future policy adjustments

The study informed the European Commission's assessment of the joint effort and collective ambition of Member States, contributing to reporting under Article 141 of the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation. By identifying areas of convergence and divergence across CSPs, the analysis highlighted strengths, gaps and trade-offs in how Member States address income support, environmental and climate objectives, rural development

and innovation. These insights supported internal DG AGRI reflections on the CAP including alignment with Green Deal objectives and long-term sustainability targets.

Laying the foundation for common terminology across CSPs

A core contribution of the study was the labelling of eco-schemes, environmental-climate interventions, investment support and Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions by Farm Practices. Around 5,000 unit amounts/interventions across the 28 CSPs were labelled on the basis of the Farm Practice classification developed by the JRC, generating a consolidated database of over 28,000 Farm Practice labels. This work laid the foundation for a common terminology across CSPs, enabling more consistent analysis of environmental, climate and animal welfare actions. The Farm Practice labelling, implemented under the mapping study, fed directly into the searchable Catalogue of CAP interventions prepared by the [European Evaluation Helpdesk](#) for the CAP, providing an analytical basis for its work and for that of stakeholders in the Member States.

The study became a reference point for Managing Authorities, NGOs, farmers' organisations and the wider research and evaluation community on the implementation of the CAP in the 2023-2027 period.

High level Construction Forum

Client: European Commission (DG GROW)

Timeline: 2017-2029 (three successive contracts)



Governance & stakeholder representation Impact



Regulatory & Policy Impact

The High Level Construction Forum (HLCF), was set up to provide a central role in the co-creation of the [Transition Pathway for Construction](#), as well as a practical space for dialogue and collaboration across the construction ecosystem. Building on the experience of Construction 2020, Ecorys supported the growth of the Forum into a platform with over 1,300 members from industry, national authorities, social partners and academia².

² Further information can be found in this [dashboard](#)

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Boosting more than 83 commitments and actions to implement the Transition Pathway for Construction

The HLCF carried out a co-creation process resulting in a [stakeholder consultation report](#) and [executive summary](#) which shaped the priorities and structure of the final [Transition Pathway for Construction](#). Since 2023, the HLCF has supported monitoring of implementation by inviting stakeholders to submit [commitments aligned with the Pathway](#) and by organising nine follow-up webinars. In total, [83 commitments](#) were collected to implement the Transition Pathway for Construction, and various actions have been taken forward by the EU and HLCF members:

- The [Low Carbon Building Initiative](#) created a harmonised carbon accounting methodology for whole life cycle emissions of buildings across Europe. This may become a reference for other actors looking to align with recently updated EU regulations⁴. and drive market transformation towards low-carbon construction.

- Major European construction industry and workers' associations (FIEC, EFBWW and EBC) launched and are implementing the [Pact for Skills in Construction](#), which aims to upskill and reskill 30% of the workforce each year by 2030.

Informing national construction and demolition waste legislation

In 2018, Ecorys developed the [Construction and demolition waste management protocol](#) that provides practical guidance on improving C&D waste management and confidence in recycled materials, and helped shape construction and demolition waste legislation in several Eastern and Central EU countries. It informed the development of national requirements for pre-demolition audits and selective demolition practices in countries where such provisions were previously limited or absent.



Members of the HLCF in Brussels. 25 March 2025

⁴ Level(s) framework, the EU Construction Products Regulation and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

Operation of the European Climate Pact Secretariat

Client: European Commission (DG CLIMA)

Timeline: 2023-2027 (Two successive contracts)



Governance & stakeholder representation Impact



Awareness Impact

Launched under the European Green Deal, the [European Climate Pact](#) empowers individuals, organisations and communities to take climate action in their daily lives. Since 2023, Ecorys has been leading the European Climate Pact Secretariat, supporting DG CLIMA in strengthening, coordinating and expanding climate action initiatives across all EU Member States.

05

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Strengthening a large and active EU-wide climate community

By 2025, it supported a structured network of over 1,200 Climate Pact Ambassadors, more than 100 Partner organisations and national coordination structures in all Member States. This [network](#) mobilises local actors, facilitates peer exchange and ensures that community perspectives are reflected in the EU's climate transition.

Advancing climate knowledge, skills and literacy

Through open learning resources and structured learning pathways — including the [EU Climate Action Academy](#) and the development of [6 user-friendly tools for citizen engagement](#) — the Secretariat has equipped citizens, communities and organisations with accessible knowledge and practical tools on climate science, policy and action. This has supported informed and inclusive participation in the climate transition and contributed to the delivery of 190 citizen engagement activities.

Enabling concrete climate action by citizens and communities

The Pact has a strong presence across all Member States through its local structures, enabling tangible action on the ground and fostering cross-country collaboration. Supported initiatives include the Climate Skills Hub, a peer-driven digital platform for co-creating short climate and ESG learning modules that empower local actors to take action; the *Glorious Glacier Ride*, a 1,600-km cycling initiative raising awareness of glacier loss; and *Planetaula*, an educational programme designed to equip students and teachers to play an active role in climate action.

Increasing the visibility of climate action and citizen engagement across Europe

Through coordinated communication campaigns, national outreach structures, events and media work, the Pact reached a wide audience. Over 17 million people engaged on social media and thousands participated in hundreds of

Pact-branded events and satellite activities - raising awareness and inspiring action at both local and national levels towards greater climate responsibility.



European Climate Pact's annual event. 18-19 March 2025

Circular Cities and Regions Initiative

Client: European Commission (DG RTD)

Timeline: 2021-2026



Scientific Impact



Product development impact

The Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) is a European Commission initiative launched under the EU Circular Economy Action Plan 2020 and funded under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. Ecorys leads the Coordination Support Office (CSO) of the CCRI. Ecorys led the Coordination Support Office (CSO) of the CCRI. The CSO contributed to key EU policy objectives, including the European Green Deal, the 2050 climate-neutrality target, and the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. By combining knowledge sharing with [technical and financial support](#), the CCRI supported stakeholders across Europe's cities and regions. It offered comprehensive, place-based support to local and regional circular economy initiatives [from early planning to implementation and scale-up](#).

06

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Strengthening the scientific, policy and practice foundations of circular economy implementation in Europe

The CCRI consolidated and disseminated high-quality evidence and actively raised awareness on circular economy among key stakeholders. Through a [knowledge repository](#) and extensive outreach activities and events, it positioned the CCRI as a reference point for territorial circular economy, fostering peer learning, informed decision-making and a more connected circular economy European community.



The CCRI community

Equipping cities and regions with tools that improve the design, monitoring and delivery of circular economy initiatives

The CCRI directly supported 12 pilot cities and regions through the development and planning of specific circular systemic solutions, facilitating their progress through tools like the [Self-Assessment Tool](#) and the [CCRI Methodology](#).

Amplifying the successes and impacts of local and regional circular systemic solutions

The CCRI support has contributed to the boosting the projects' engagement and environmental, economic and social impacts. The 12 supported pilot cities and regions in Europe together mobilised 220+ stakeholders, prevented thousands of tons of waste and created more than 54+ jobs.

Key results and Impacts:

Ecosystem Building & Participation

2700+ people directly engaged
69+ organisations
220+ stakeholders mobilised

Waste Prevention, Reuse & Materials Circulation

21 000+ tonnes of materials reused/recycled/diverted
35 000 t/yr biofertiliser produced
1 175 t/yr packaging waste avoided

Economic & Social Impacts

54-71 jobs created
€568 000 landfill cost savings

Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors

Client: European Commission (Horizon 2020)

Timeline: 2019-2023



Governance & stakeholder representation Impact



Scientific Impact



Regulatory & Policy Impact

The [Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors](#) (SHERPA), established science–society–policy interfaces to support evidence-based policymaking for Europe’s rural areas. SHERPA brought together researchers, policymakers, and local stakeholders, and informed rural policy in the 2021–2027 programming period. It also shaped post-2027 rural policy and research agendas through dialogue, strategic thinking, and practical policy recommendations at European, national, and regional levels.

07

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Strengthening participatory governance in rural policymaking across Europe

SHERPA established and facilitated [41 Multi-Actor Platforms \(MAPs\)](#) across 19 EU Member States and the UK (Scotland), as well as one EU-level MAP, bringing together over 600 representatives of civil society, research communities and policymakers. The MAPs enabled structured dialogue, co-learning and co-creation of policy-relevant insights, reflecting the diversity of rural territories.

Contributing to EU rural policy development

SHERPA outputs informed EU-level reflections on rural policy and the project is referenced in the context of the [Long Term Vision for Rural Areas](#) through specific mentions of the [SHERPA Position Paper](#) and other SHERPA Deliverables in the corresponding [Commission Staff Working Document](#).

Enhancing the use of research evidence in multi-level policy discussions

By systematically taking stock of results from past and ongoing EU-funded research and translating these into structured and accessible input for tailored discussions, position papers SHERPA supported more evidence-based debate on policy options and research priorities for rural areas at European, national and regional levels.

Creating societal impact beyond the project's lifetime

Several MAPs continued their activities (albeit in different forms) after SHERPA ended, including through participation in subsequent Horizon Europe projects, demonstrating sustained stakeholder engagement and a longer-term uptake of SHERPA's multi-actor approach.

Policy-makers involved in the MAPs, such as representatives from the Belgian (Wallonia) MAP, expressed strong interest in taking up several of the recommendations emerging from the MAP discussions.



Animal Welfare Roadmap

Client: European Food and Safety Authority (EFSA)

Timeline: 2023-2024



**Regulatory &
Policy Impact**



Scientific Impact

The study, conducted in 2023 and published by EFSA in January 2024, delivered a [comprehensive Roadmap for Action to support EFSA's More Welfare initiative](#), setting out a strategic pathway towards new animal welfare risk assessment methodologies and harmonised animal welfare data collection across the EU. Published as an official EFSA Supporting Publication, the Roadmap provided a structured overview of existing assessment methods, tools and data gaps across a wide range of food-producing animal species.

08

Ecorys' work contributed to:

Strengthening the scientific basis for animal welfare risk assessment and strategic priorities for EFSA

The Roadmap mapped existing animal welfare assessment methods, indicators and data collection practices across a wide range of food-producing animal species, identifying key data gaps, methodological challenges, and priority research needs to support more robust and consistent risk assessments. The study identified seven priority working areas and formulated five concrete, multi-annual project proposals, co-developed with EFSA and external experts, to guide future methodological development, data harmonisation and innovation in animal welfare assessment.

Informing EFSA's implementation and follow-up activities

By consolidating scientific knowledge and structuring expert input, the Roadmap strengthened EFSA's capacity to respond to current and future mandates on animal welfare and contributed to a more transparent and forward-looking scientific basis for EU-level policy and regulatory discussions. The Roadmap was used as a reference in EFSA's subsequent implementation and communication activities, including work under EFSA's animal welfare and [SPIDO](#) (Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office) programmes, supporting the transition from roadmap development to concrete follow-up actions.

The Roadmap was used as a reference in EFSA's subsequent implementation and communication activities on animal welfare.



Want to work with us?

Do you have remarks or questions?

Please reach out to impact@ecorys.com

For general questions about Ecorys, please contact: brussels@ecorys.com

www.ecorys.com