



FReINDs

Future-Ready INDustries: Smart, sustainable, and circular resource management through Industrial Symbiosis (IS)



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About the project

The FReINDs project supports the EU's push for a sustainable, low-carbon economy through Industrial Symbiosis (IS). IS is a collaborative approach in which waste and by-products from one firm become resources for another, significantly reducing landfill waste and the need for primary resources.

Recognizing the need for skilled professionals in IS, FReINDs offers a comprehensive curriculum to train Industrial Symbiosis Managers (ISMs). Targeting graduates in business, engineering, and related fields, this program blends theory with hands-on experience, providing relevant skills for the circular economy.

FReINDs aligns with EU priorities by advancing green transition, promoting innovative teaching, and enhancing digital readiness. The project equips industries—especially SMEs—to adapt IS practices for greater competitiveness and environmental impact, contributing to the EU's climate and digital transformation goals.

Results

- **FReINDs Research Report** – A study across 5 EU countries informing the ISM curriculum and guiding the FReINDs Digital Toolkit development for practical IS skills.
- **FReINDs Curriculum** – An Industrial Symbiosis course for socio-economic graduates, covering core IS and circular economy topics, with hands-on experience.
- **MOOC** – Free, open-access IS and Circular Economy course based on the curriculum, available for five years post-project.
- **IS Toolkit** – A web-based tool helping SMEs assess IS readiness with accessible, research-driven guidance.
- **FReINDs Network** – A collaborative platform connecting industry, academia, and non-profits to enhance IS knowledge-sharing and curriculum relevance.

Partners



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