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Fitt·Ness

*Fostering Innovation & the Twin Transition
for iNclusive EnvironmentS and Smart homes*



From results to alliances: Shaping the future of the Furniture and Habitat Sector

As the FITT-NESS project approaches its conclusion, this third and final newsletter brings together the results that will shape its legacy. We are proud to share the **policy recommendations** addressed to key stakeholders and decision-makers, the **S3 Regional Roadmaps** for Northern Portugal, the Region of Murcia and Sicily, the highlights of our last **Twinning Action in Palermo,** and the new features of the **Matching Tool,** the platform that will keep our interregional community connected beyond the end of the project.



Building Better Places to Live, Work and Age: the FITT-NESS Policy Brief

FITT-NESS has published its Policy Brief "**Building Better Places to Live, Work and Age – Policy Actions for Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Furniture and Interiors**", which has been sent to key stakeholders and policymakers. Its objective is to help strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and long-term sustainability of the furniture sector by accelerating digitalisation, promoting environmentally sustainable solutions and embedding inclusive and age-friendly design.

Furniture and interiors are not simply consumer products: they are key enablers of Europe's green, digital and social transitions. Buildings account for around **40% of EU energy consumption**, furniture is a priority product group under the Circular Economy Action Plan and the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, and population ageing is increasing demand for accessible, age-friendly living environments.

The recommendations are grounded in desk research at European level and in four regions (Lombardy, Murcia, Northern Portugal and Sicily), **62 stakeholder questionnaire responses** and co-creation activities involving **86 participants.**

Three levels of action

01

ACT NOW

Measures that can start quickly through existing programmes and networks

- Coordinated skills and capacity-building programmes
- One-stop transition support services for furniture SMEs
- Co-creation and measurable impact evaluation in publicly funded innovation
- Stronger local and regional innovation ecosystems and cross-sector collaboration

02

BUILD THE ENABLING CONDITIONS

Measures requiring European coordination and common frameworks

- An integrated procurement framework for inclusive, smart and circular furniture
- Common guidance on interoperability, privacy and trustworthy data
- A common framework for product transparency and credible sustainability claims, including support for Digital Product Passports

03

INVEST FOR SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION

Longer-term measures requiring substantial investment

- Integrated living labs and demonstration projects
- Furniture and interiors embedded in renovation, housing and care policies
- Regional circular services and reuse infrastructure
- Fiscal incentives and eco-modulated fees rewarding sustainable performance

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Lombardy
Integrated care, smart-living and circular manufacturing demonstrator

Murcia
SME transformation and ageing-at-home programme

Northern Portugal
Design for Human Diversity living-lab network

Sicily
Bio-based, accessible and smart tourism initiative

Twinning Action #3: Palermo hosts regional ecosystems at the Palazzo dei Normanni

On **16–17 September 2026,** the Yellow Room (Sala Gialla) of Palazzo dei Normanni, seat of the Sicilian Regional Assembly, hosted the third and final FITT-NESS Twinning Action, organised by CEIPES. After the stages in Murcia and Northern Portugal, Palermo completed the interregional journey that brought together companies, clusters and innovation intermediaries from the three FITT-NESS ecosystems.

2	72	3	2
days	overall attendances	thematic workshops	company visits



What happened

Day 1 opened with a welcome from the President of CEIPES and institutional greetings from Nunzia Albano, Regional Councillor for Family, Social Policies and Labour, and Mario Giambona, Member of the Sicilian Regional Parliament. Enza Gioia and Anna Ettorre of the **MICS Foundation** presented innovation "in practice" along the furniture value chain, followed by **Workshop 1 on Business Planning & Market Analysis** led by APIMA. The day ended with a networking dinner.

Day 2 started with the presentation of the **FITT-NESS Matching Tool** and its benefits for companies, followed by **Workshop 2 "From Brand Identity to AI Marketing: Strategies for SMEs"** led by CEIPES, and **Workshop 3 on environmental compliance**, where standardisation expert Rita D'Alessandro explained the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) decrees and the new anti-greenwashing rules. In the afternoon, participants visited two local manufacturers, **Mobili Frisina and Team Sofà**, to see production processes, sustainability approaches and the integration of design with digital technologies.

Why it matters

- It completed the **interregional mobility programme** linking Murcia, Northern Portugal and Sicily.
- It offered SMEs and intermediaries **practical knowledge** on business planning, AI marketing and environmental compliance, in line with the FITT-NESS service portfolio.
- It connected regional S3 priorities with European ones, **preparing the ground for future I3 applications.**
- It brought policymakers, companies and citizens together, strengthening the **FITT-NESS Community** as a long-term collaboration network.

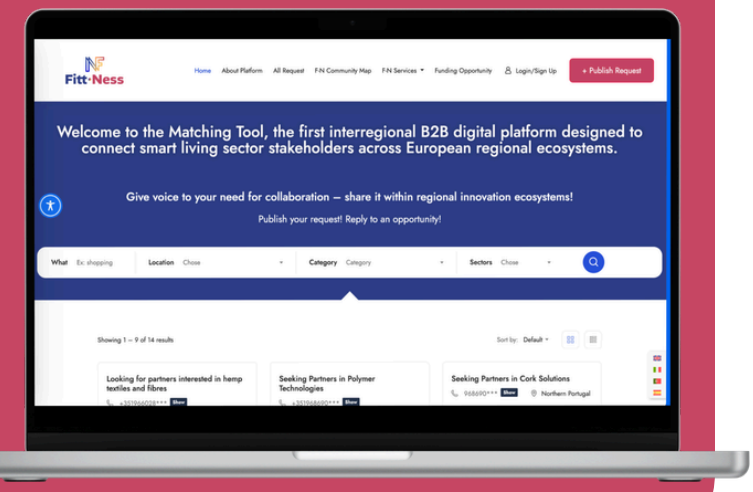
The FITT-NESS Matching Tool: Publish Your Request, Find Your Match

The Matching Tool is the **first interregional B2B digital platform** designed to connect stakeholders of the habitat sector, from wood and furniture to design, housing and smart living, across **Northern Portugal, the Region of Murcia, Sicily and Lombardy**. Companies, professionals, clusters and research centres can find partners, expertise and collaboration opportunities beyond their territorial borders, turning regional differences into complementarities.

What's new

Based on what emerged from our ecosystems, the platform has been redesigned.

Users now publish a request: a need or an opportunity shared within the regional innovation ecosystems. Requests become the signal that starts a match!



01 **REGISTER**
Free of charge, publish one or more requests

02 **PUBLISH**
Collaboration, services, products, meetings

03 **FIND**
Filter by ecosystem, category and sector

04 **CONNECT**
Reply, save favourites, send private messages

A hub for FITT-NESS services

Advisory Portfolio: advisory and business support services for SMEs

Companies Portfolio: the companies of the FITT-NESS ecosystems

Train the Trainer: capacity building for innovation intermediaries

Funding Opportunities: EU, national and regional calls for the habitat sector

Community Map: who is in the FITT-NESS Community, and where

The platform is available in four languages (EN · IT · ES · PT).

Join the transnational FITT-NESS community!

Register for free, publish your request and reply to the opportunities shared by companies and organisations across our interregional ecosystems.

https://fitt-ness.eu/matchingtool/



Thank You for being part of FITT-NESS

This is the last FITT-NESS newsletter, but the journey continues. The tools and resources developed by the project remain available to support companies, clusters and intermediaries in the green and digital transition of the furniture and habitat sector:

Matching Tool: https://fitt-ness.eu/matchingtool/

Train the Trainer Programme: https://www.fitt-ness.eu/trainer-program-package/

Advisory Board: https://www.fitt-ness.eu/advisory-board/

All the public results of the project: https://www.fitt-ness.eu/#results

We warmly thank all the companies, clusters, experts, institutions and citizens who contributed to FITT-NESS. Stay connected with us on www.fitt-ness.eu.

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