



ISSUE 3 - JUNE 2025

# JTF PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTED

## IN THE NORTH OF THE NETHERLANDS



Funded by  
the European Union

**JTF** Just  
Transition  
Fund



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

provincie Drenthe

Provinsje  
Fryslân

provincie  
 groningen

Gemeente  
 Emmen

Werk  
 inZicht

SNN  
 Samenwerkende  
 Noord-Nederlandse  
 Netwerken

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) — a fund for a just climate transition — is a European subsidy fund for areas most affected by the transition to a green economy. JTF stems from the European Green Deal, the programme for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. To achieve this transition in the Northern Netherlands, €330 million has been granted until 2027. Several subsidies will be made available from JTF both now and in the coming years.

Through JTF, we support wonderful projects aimed at mitigating the economic and societal consequences of the energy transition. In the Northern Netherlands, and specifically in the Groningen–Emmen region, we are working hard to further green the economy and invest in the jobs of the future.



# Future Heat Heroes provides sustainable heat

The Future Heat Heroes project has received JTF funding to accelerate the heat transition in the Northern Netherlands. By 2050, millions of homes and other buildings in the Netherlands must be disconnected from natural gas. Heat networks play a crucial role in this transition. The large-scale development of heat networks requires more flexible, more complex heating systems, and well-trained staff. This project addresses both of these challenges. Every year, it trains hundreds of new heating professionals: the Future Heat Heroes. These professionals have a lasting advantage when it comes to knowledge and expertise in the latest heating technology.

An innovative testing ground is being set up on the ENTRANCE site in Groningen, where knowledge institutions and companies will test and apply new heating technologies. At the same time, training programmes are being developed for vocational and higher professional education students and working professionals, with opportunities for internships, traineeships, and practical research. This creates a fully continuous learning pathway in heating technology for nearly 1,900 students and course participants per year. Cooperation between educational institutions, businesses, and government create a strong regional knowledge network that contributes to sustainable heating in the Northern Netherlands and beyond.

JTF-PROJECT	FUTURE HEAT HEROES
 <b>JTF grant</b>	Training programme infrastructure and campus activities
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 3,550,444
 <b>Transition</b>	From fossil to renewable energy, from linear to circular economy
 <b>Project partners</b>	Warmtetransport Noordwest Ltd, Witteveen+Bos Raadgevende Ingenieurs Ltd, Hanze UAS Groningen Association, Abiant Groep Ltd, ABIANT NL Ltd, Alfa College, Technisch Centrum v/d Bijl Ltd, OHPEN Ltd, Oosterhof Holman Kabels en Leidingen Ltd, De Groot Installatiegroep Divisie Noord Ltd
 <b>More information</b>	<a href="https://www.entrance.eu/kennis/projecten/future-heat-heroes/">https://www.entrance.eu/kennis/projecten/future-heat-heroes/</a>



# M-Frame Staalframebouw invests in a smart and sustainable construction sector



A future-proof construction sector starts with investing in people and innovation. Thanks to several JTF subsidies, M-frame Staalframebouw (M-frame Steel Frame Building) can invest in the sustainable employability of its team and in more efficient and safer production processes.

This SME from Zwartemeer manufactures innovative steel frames for the construction sector. With support from the JTF grant staff and training, M-frame is taking steps to develop a strategic personnel policy aimed at retraining employees in new skills and future-proof competencies. A consultancy firm will draw up job and competency profiles, carry out talent assessments, and investigate market developments. These insights will be translated into personal development plans for employees and strategic goals. By investing in their employees, M-frame is taking an important step in the growth and development of their business. This is further facilitated by investments in digitization and robotization. With the purchase of a laser projector, the SME is transitioning from a manual to a fully digitally controlled production process. This prevents human errors and makes production faster and more efficient. With support from JTF, M-frame is also investing in software to take measurements on the construction site and support employees.


JTF-PROJECT	M-FRAME
 <b>JTF grant</b>	SME staff and training / SME digitization and robotization
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 11,817 / € 12,826 (laser robot) and € 57,680 (production process)
 <b>Transition</b>	From analogue to digital
 <b>Project partners</b>	M-Frame Staalframebouw

# Circtec builds a factory for processing waste tyres



The circular economy in Delfzijl is in full swing. The advent of Circtec is significantly boosting the circular industry in the Chemport Europe region. The chemical company is building a factory in Farmsum to produce circular chemicals from used car tyres.

In Farmsum, Circtec will process 200,000 tonnes of used car tyres in an innovative way into a range of green chemicals and materials. They want to recover the black filler (recovered Carbon Black) from used car tyres and use it to make new car tyres, for example. New plastics will be made from the circular naphta. The biofuels thus obtained will be used to make international shipping more sustainable. The net CO<sub>2</sub> savings are enormous. Once the factory is fully operational, the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of this project will represent approximately 3% of the total emissions of the chemical sector in the Netherlands. In this way, Circtec is contributing to the creation of a future-proof and circular economy. For the region and Chemport Europe, this represents a significant boost towards further sustainability and greening of the chemical industry.

JTF-PROJECT	CIRCTEC
 <b>JTF grant</b>	Invest and train
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 5,718,618
 <b>Transition</b>	From linear to circular economy
 <b>Project partners</b>	Circtec Netherlands Ltd
 <b>More information</b>	<a href="https://www.asbr.nl/vacatures/hse-specialist/">https://www.asbr.nl/vacatures/hse-specialist/</a>









# New knowledge and training centre for the built environment

‘No climate transition without skilled workers. No solo or joint success without cooperation.’ Under this motto, vocational educational institutions and the construction and infrastructure sector in Groningen are joining forces. In the centrally located Kolham, they want to establish a modern knowledge and training centre for current and future skilled workers in the built environment. At this inspiring location, more than 260 students and 1,300 practically trained professionals will be able to complete a degree programme or training programme in the field of construction and infrastructure every year.

The project partners want to intensify cooperation and knowledge sharing between companies and learning companies, sector organizations, and educational institutions. This will enable them to increase their innovative strength and develop up-to-date, ongoing educational programmes that are in line with professional practice and societal challenges such as the energy transition, circular economy, and digitization. Efforts are also being made to promote enrolment and increase the success rate. Various companies are joining the initiative. This project is a collaboration between Stichting Samenwerkingsverband Praktijkcentrum Bouw (SSPB), Alfa College, Noorderpoort, InfraVak, and Bouwend Nederland. The target groups are employees, job seekers, newcomers with a residence permit, welfare recipients, and students at the level of practical education, pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO), and secondary vocational education (MBO).

JTF-PROJECT	KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING CENTRE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
 <b>JTF grant</b>	Programme infrastructure and campus activities
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 4,925,138
 <b>Transition</b>	From linear to circular economy, from analogue to digital, from fossil to renewable energy
 <b>Project partners</b>	SSPB Praktijkcentrum Bouw, Bouwend Nederland Regio Noord, InfraVak, Alfa College (Admiraal de Ruyterlaan location), and Noorderpoort

# The neighbourhood as a learning workplace Got your diploma? Then you're sure to get a job!



Improving the position of people in a vulnerable economic or social position in Groningen-Noord. That is the aim of the ‘Neighbourhood as a learning workplace’ project. The accessible approach is linked to making homes in the northern neighbourhoods more sustainable and the transition to renewable energy and a circular economy.

The project brings together educational institutions, social enterprises, and employers to develop new certified development and training programmes. Intensive guidance of participants is designed to increase enrolment in training programmes, reduce drop-out rates, and increase the number of people who find work. In the neighbourhood guilds, residents can gain work experience and obtain a diploma in their own neighbourhood. The project links vocational education to the neighbourhoods, neighbourhood guilds, and the sustainability of homes. This enables young people, newcomers with a residence permit, and job seekers at MBO level 2/3 to complete a training programme in technology, sustainability, and circularity. Residents who complete an internship or one of these training programmes are guaranteed a job. Employers in the construction and technology sectors are committed to this. At the end of 2024, the Municipality of Groningen, Alfa College (on behalf of MBO Groningen), WerkPro, and four housing associations signed a cooperation agreement whereby participants are guided towards employment through training and a job guarantee.

JTF-PROJECT	THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AS A LEARNING WORKPLACE
 <b>JTF grant</b>	Labour Market Transition (2.0)
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 2,897,856
 <b>Transition</b>	From linear to circular economy, from fossil to renewable energy
 <b>Project partners</b>	Stichting WerkPro, Alfa College (on behalf of MBO Groningen), Municipality of Groningen










# Bativo

## Circular wall panels reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in construction

In order to limit the significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the construction sector, the Dutch government is committed to halving the use of raw materials by 2030. This requires circular, sustainable building materials that cause as little damage to the environment as possible. The production, lifespan, and the possibility of reuse of wood make it a sustainable, attractive alternative to concrete and cement.

For a market looking for low-emission construction, Bativo and SCF Bouw & Advies have developed circular wall and roof panels for timber frame construction. The thin, lightweight panels have a high insulation value and are at least twenty times stronger than traditional wooden building panels. In this project, Bativo is scaling up the production of circular wall panels in a pilot, optimizing and automating the production process as much as possible. Following the pilot phase, the company will also build and operate the commercial factory in Emmen. The building elements can be used in new construction and renovation, are flexible in application, meet the strictest environmental standards, and help to make construction faster and more affordable. The prefabricated panels, made from recycled and bio-based raw materials, minimize waste and are highly reusable.

JTF-PROJECT	BATIVO
 <b>JTF grant</b>	Valorization Middle-size
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 487,565
 <b>EZ amount</b>	€ 184,735
 <b>Transition</b>	From linear to circular economy
 <b>Project partners</b>	Bativo Ltd, Tuinbeurs Nederland Ltd, Tuinbeurs Montage Ltd, Kuhl Holding Ltd, Isolatiehandel Van den Berg Ltd, Durasyst Ltd, JuYa Bouw Ltd, SCF Bouw & Advies Ltd






# Groundbreaking perspective

## Experienced professionals sustainably employable in the labour market



People aged 55 and over deserve to remain healthy and fit for work. This is especially true now that the labour market is tightening and more professionals are needed for the energy transition, circular economy, and healthcare. In the ‘Groundbreaking Perspective for a Sustainable Region’ project, people aged 55 and over are actively working on their careers. The aim is to enable experienced professionals to remain energetic, healthy, and at work longer.

Over eight weeks, participants take modules on ‘future-proof prospects’, ‘staying energetic at work’, and ‘moving towards retirement and self-development.’ The result is that participants feel better in their current jobs and are more willing to take steps towards other positions or even other sectors. One enthusiastic participant said: ‘I once again see prospects. And I’ve learned that I can be proud of the experience I bring to the table.’ In the first year, the programme was already completed by approximately 75 participants from more than ten organizations. Several knowledge institutions and the Zorg Innovatie Forum (Care Innovation Forum) are collaborating in this innovative programme, which combines practice and research. Another component is the Groundbreaking Perspective Platform, which focuses on exchange, networking, and knowledge sharing around the sustainable employability of workers aged 55 and over.

JTF-PROJECT	GROUNDBREAKING PERSPECTIVE FOR A SUSTAINABLE REGION
 <b>JTF grant</b>	Labour Market Transition (I.O)
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 2,278,430
 <b>Transition</b>	From healthcare to positive health, from fossil to renewable energy
 <b>Project partners</b>	Groningen Hanze UAS Association University of Groningen, Stichting Zorg Innovatie Forum, NHL Stenden UAS and University Medical Center Groningen / Outpatient Pharmacy of the UMCG.
 <b>More information</b>	<a href="https://www.hanze.nl/nl/onderzoeken/centers/marian-van-os-centre-of-expertise-ondernemen/projecten/baanbrekend-perspectief">https://www.hanze.nl/nl/onderzoeken/centers/marian-van-os-centre-of-expertise-ondernemen/projecten/baanbrekend-perspectief</a>

Next Generation Shipyards

Welding robot makes shipbuilding cleaner and more efficient



The Next Generation Shipyards shipyard in Lauwersoog develops, designs, builds, and maintains specialized work vessels. It has attracted a lot of attention in recent years as a builder of high-quality and high-end ships.

The automation of the production process is a bottleneck, because the machines in this sector, such as a welding robot, are all geared towards bulk and series production, whereas NG Shipyards only produces single pieces. A welding robot is unsuitable for single-piece production because it has to be programmed for each welding job. With the JTF grant, the company can purchase a welding robot that is automatically provided with the welding job.

With this investment, NG Shipyards aims to achieve greater production reliability and a better working environment for its welders. In addition, the company wants to improve its position in the national and international market.

The ‘SME digitization and robotization’ JTF grant encourages companies in the process and manufacturing industry in the province of Groningen and Emmen to achieve cleaner and more efficient production processes.

JTF-PROJECT	NEXT GENERATION SHIPYARDS
 <b>JTF grant</b>	SME digitization and robotization
 <b>JTF amount</b>	€ 80,000
 <b>Transition</b>	From analogue to digital, from healthcare to positive health
 <b>Project partners</b>	Next generation Shipyards

## Want to know more?

Want to learn more about the Just Transition Fund and its grants?

Go to [www.snn.nl/jtfnoordnederland](http://www.snn.nl/jtfnoordnederland)

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