

Introduction

Welcome to the second CIRCLE-IN eNewsletter!

During this period, project partners of the CIRCLE-IN project continued to collaborate in promoting strategic cooperation in the cross-border area of Greece-Italy aiming at the sustainable economic development via the promotion of Circular Economy.

So far, CIRCLE-IN partners have managed to reach a number of achievements included in the project planning. Such achievements refer to the development of the Joint Strategy for the promotion of Circular Economy in the cross-border area of Greece and Italy, as well as of the policy recommendations for the promotion of

Circular Economy in project areas.

In the frame of the cross-border promotion activities, a Circular Economy info-point has been established in the University of Salento, one of the project partners, in order for citizens, public bodies and businesses to be able to enrich their knowledge in topics relevant to Circular Economy and be updated on initiatives of the CIRCLE-IN project. Three more info-points are also planned to be established in the coming period in the premises of the Chambers of Ioannina, Lefkada and Foggia.

Furthermore, project partners developed the Circular Economy Platform's functional and technical specifications and the Joint Pilot Platform has

been established (see more details below). The Innovation Vouchers Program has been re-designed and has been re-defined as the Innovation in Circular Economy Program aiming at promoting innovative investment initiatives of businesses.

In terms of training activities, the partnership completed the questionnaire-based research for the assessment of training needs of businesses, enterprises and other entities that would like to participate in the training activities of the project. The methodology used enabled project partners to identify stakeholders' training needs and design the training program accordingly.

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CIRCLE-IN will promote sustainable economic growth of the cross-border area through the promotion of Circular Economy and the implementation of pilot actions aiming at improving prospects for the future application of Circular Economy practices.



Circular Economy Events



Second Annual Meeting of ICESP

The meeting was held in Rome, on November 27-28, 2019. ICESP is the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and it has been conceived as the mirror Platform of ECESP, the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. ECESP, a joint initiative launched by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee. ECESP aims to foster the transition towards a circular economy bringing together stakeholders active in the broad field of Circular Economy as action included in the 2015 EU Action Plan for Circular Economy actions as well as to address the recommendation of the last Communication COM (2019) 190 final (Bruxelles, 4.3.2019). ICESP's main goal is to create a point of national convergence on initiatives, experiences, critical issues, perspectives and expectations on Circular Economy (CE) that the Italian system wants and can represent in Europe with a single voice, promoting the Italian way for CE, to overcome the fragmentation of Italian initiatives on CE and to establish a permanent instrument promoting the

dialogue, knowledge and Italian best practices.

ENE, the Italian Agency for Energy and Environment, has been selected by the Coordination Group of ECESP to operate as national hub for CE with a three-year assignment to operate as technical coordinator of ICESP. The work of ICESP is organized into six thematic working group:

- WG1: Research and eco-innovation, knowledge diffusion and education
- WG2: Policy and Governance tools
- WG3: Instruments for measuring circular economy
- WG4: Systems and models for sustainable and circular design, production, distribution and consumption
- WG5: Cities and territory
- WG6: Best Practices and Integrated Approaches

The Laboratory of Management Engineering of the University of Salento, partner of CIRCLE-IN project, is actively involved into the working group number 1, 4, 5 and 6. For more info, please visit the ICESP platform at the following link:

<https://www.icesp.it/>

Circular Economy: Prospective for a New Business Model

The event was organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Lecce in collaboration with Enterprise Europe Network in Lecce on December 13, 2019. A number of presentations were delivered with regard to the promotion of Circular Economy investments and businesses in the area as well as the Digital Innovation Ecosystem. In particular, Dr. Pasquale Del Vecchio, as project manager for the University of Salento partner of CIRCLE-IN, delivered a presentation regarding the project as an opportunity for the development of innovative entrepreneurship.



Overall, the workshop depicted a qualified number of speakers and expertise in Circular Economy and it has represented a valuable opportunity for presenting the results achieved in CIRCLE-IN and ongoing initiatives ongoing. Particular interest has been shown by the audience in the training sessions and in the innovation voucher initiatives that will be realized.

CIRCLE-IN Meetings & Events

4th Plenary Meeting and Workshop

Project partners met in Foggia between 18-19 February 2020 to discuss issues related to the implementation of project activities and to the development of CIRCLE-IN's pilot actions until the end of the project. During the

second day and more



specifically on February 29,

2020, the Chamber of Commerce of Foggia organized the workshop “Circular Economy: an Opportunity for Innovation for the Companies” in order to provide the interested parties an overview of the Circular Economy and its potential in relation to the business sector and the economy overall.

CIRCLE-IN News

Circular Economy - new EU Action Plan to increase recycling and reuse of products

In its recent Communication of December 2019 regarding the European Green Deal, the EC committed to adopt a new Circular Economy Action Plan in order to accelerate and continue the transition towards a Circular Economy. The EC plans to adopt the Action Plan together with the Industrial Strategy to mobilize the industrial sector and all the value chains towards a model of sustainable and inclusive growth, ensuring efficient and clean resource cycles. The European Green Deal further highlights the potential of a Circular Economy for new economic activities and jobs. Based on the Circular Economy Monitoring Framework 4 million people work in Circular Economy related activities. That number has increased since 2012

by 6%. These activities generated almost EUR 147 billion in value added in 2016. According to the EC, the new Action Plan will reinforce these positive trends. The plan will contribute to increasing the circularity of the EU's economy, preserving its natural environment and supporting the contribution of the EU's industry to achieve a climate-neutral continent. It will stimulate markets for climate-neutral and circular products and services, modernize EU's economy and reap the benefits of the transition in the EU and beyond. The EC considers that significant effort is needed to move from a linear economy and mitigate its associated impacts on the environment. The new Circular Economy Action Plan is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2020. On January 2, 2020, the EC invited all stakeholders to provide feedback on the relevant roadmap (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/>

[better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-7907872_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-7907872_en)). The process closed on 20 January 2020.

The European Investment Bank launches its Circular City Funding Guide

The Circular City Funding Guide was launched, on January 31, 2020 at the Cities Forum in Porto, Portugal. The guide provides information and support on funding and financing of Circular Economy in an urban context. It was one of the actions under the Urban Agenda Partnership for Circular Economy and developed by external service providers and EIB experts involved in and funded by the European Investment Advisory Hub, a partnership between the EIB and the EC. The guide has two main target groups: fund-seekers and funders of circular projects in cities. Fund-seekers can be local governments, businesses, and other actors that are active in urban contexts.

CIRCLE-IN Platform

CIRCLE-IN Joint Pilot Platform

The Joint Pilot Platform for the promotion of Circular Economy of CIRCLE-IN is currently finalized and is available at: <http://platform.circle-in.eu/>.

The platform is the main outcome and an important tool for promoting Circular Economy to stakeholders and the target audience of the project. It offers added-value services that inform stakeholders about the principles and applications of Circular Economy, educate, network and guide them in implementing

relevant initiatives and investments.

The main objectives of the platform include the following:

- Engage stakeholders in the project through the provision of high added-value services related to the development of knowledge and skills in circular economy.
- Awareness-raising and informing stakeholders on both the principles and latest developments of circular economy.
- Developing synergies and cooperation between stakeholders of project

regions to promote the principles of circular economy as well as relevant investments and initiatives.

- Develop stakeholder capacities through the provision of an integrated education program about circular economy.

The platform is being updated frequently in order to provide all necessary data and relevant updates on recent news and developments in the area of Circular Economy.

Upcoming Events

Conference: Responsible industry leads sustainable development - industry clusters connecting circular economy

The Conference will take place in Finland between 11 Feb 2020 to 12 Feb 2020 and will bring together representatives of local, regional, national and European public authorities, together with industry and civil society stakeholders. In this context, they will have the opportunity to share their experiences and provide insights into future cluster policies related to the circular economy, with a

focus on trends, interregional and cross-sectoral collaboration as well as funding opportunities.

More information can be found here:

<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/conference-responsible-industry-leads-sustainable-development-industry-clusters-connecting-circular>

Waste Management Conference in Circular Economy 2020

The Conference will take place between 27 Feb 2020 to 28 Feb 2020 at the

European Academy for Taxes, Economics and Law in Berlin. Leading experts from national authorities, international and national associations, and private sector will share practical insights and recommendations on legal, economic, and policy instruments.

For more information, follow the link:

<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/waste-management-circular-economy-2020>

Project Partners

Presentation of Project Partners

The project is a collaboration between three business support organizations and one university in the cross-border area of Greece and Italy, namely Chamber of Ioannina and Chamber of Lefkada from Greece, Chamber of Commerce of Foggia and University of Salento from Italy.

Each of the project partners has a specialized role depending on their type of expertise and bringing in the project complementary skills which are important in achieving the project's objectives.



CHAMBER OF IOANNINA, Greece



**CHAMBER OF
LEFKADA**

CHAMBER OF LEFKADA, Greece



**CAMERA DI COMMERCIO
FOGGIA**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF FOGGIA, Italy



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEL SALENTO**

UNIVERSITY OF SALENTO, Italy

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