



Introduction

Welcome to the third CIRCLE-IN eNewsletter!

A lot has changed since our last newsletter with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the beginning of year 2020.

Starting with our everyday lives and reality, this pandemic could not but impact also the continuity of projects. Indeed, many of our project's actions and activities that were programmed to take place during this period had to be postponed since it was not ractically possible to be realised. Against this background, advanced technological means,

social media and digitalization has enabled us to remain

At the same time considering the new reality we started



active and in contact with each other. By revisiting new ways of communication and interaction, we managed to continue our discussions in relation to our future steps and actions.

building on new dynamics that will need to be found and established in this new era of COVID-19 that seems to be here to stay!

Inside this issue:

Introduction	1
Circle-IN Activities and Achievements	2-3
Upcoming Meetings & Events	4
CIRCLE-IN News	5
Project Partners	6

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.



CIRCLE-IN Activities and Achievements

CIRCLE-IN consists of an active project with a number of achievements reached so far responding to the majority of the project's requirements. The main issue, that is directly linked to the challenge of the pandemic of the previous period, was the extension of the project.

The general lockdown has caused a lot of delays in many of the programmed areas and actions. Thus, it is important to find again the right equilibrium for the implementation of such actions and in the best way in order to sustain the viability and dynamic of CIRCLE-IN.

All partners are optimistic that the extended period of six (6) months, until October 2020, will provide for this vital space for the successful completion of our project.

Currently our website and Circular Economy platform are also being updated with all the latest news not only on Circular Economy but also on COVID-19 and new 'green reality' that the stakeholders and interested parties will need to take into consideration and to adopt accordingly in the years to come.

Seminars on CIRCLE-IN, a cross-boarder cooperation project aimed to promote Technological Entrepreneurship and

Circular Economy— Master Degree course in Management Engineering of the University of Salento (March, 11-18, 2020)

Starting from the academic year 2018-19 the course of Technological Entrepreneurship being taught by Prof. Giuseppina Passiante at Management Engineering of the University of Salento, offers seminars and project work carried out on the issues of innovative entrepreneurship and circular economy with a specific session on the ongoing and future research activities of CIRCLE-IN project.

The course of technological entrepreneurship aims to guide students in a process of identifying business opportunities deriving from the exploration of key enabling technologies (KET) in traditional and non-traditional sectors.

The course draws inspiration from the recent European directives on entrepreneurial education (Entre Comp) and the Smart Specialization Strategy.

Consistent with what is suggested by the agenda for smart specialization, entrepreneurship is in the course of being identified as an attitude, mentality and behavioral dynamics (entrepreneurial behavior),

from contextualization in entrepreneurial initiatives or managerial contexts, starting from the evaluation of know-how technological.

Starting from the 2018 edition, the topics of circular economy have been



UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO

Interreg
Greece-Italy



Technological Entrepreneurship

A.A. 2019-20

**Technological Entrepreneurship and Circular Economy:
CIRCLE-IN Project**

introduced into the thematic areas and related work project activities of the first module titled "Foundations of Technological Entrepreneurship".

30 master students participated in the classroom managed online due to the emergence of the pandemic of last March.

Due to the interest in the issues of sustainability and circular economy curricular internships and master's degree theses were carried out and managed by the Laboratory of Management Engineering at the University of Salento.

CIRCLE-IN Activities and Achievements

Presentation of CIRCLE-IN project in the training sessions of Contamination Lab at the University of Salento (CLab@Salento) - April 7, 2020

The CLab@Salento is an entrepreneurship education program financed in 2017 by the Italian Ministry MIUR with the aim to develop entrepreneurial and technology-driven entrepreneurship in university students through the engagement of the Entrepreneurial University stakeholders.

Through the involvement of a large ecosystem of stakeholders, CLab@Salento aims to sustain the development of entrepreneurial mind-sets and awareness, of creativity, innovation, a "spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship", the ability to translate ideas into actions through the integration of managerial and scientific skills and a profitable contamination between different scientific areas.

In the frame of the ongoing

third edition of the CLab@Salento, that will close in the next June 2020, Pasquale Del Vecchio, project manager of CIRCLE-IN project for the University of Salento has been invited to take a seminar on the topics of circular economy and innovative entrepreneurship. The seminar has seen the presence of more than 40 potential entrepreneurs who had the opportunity to deepen the CIRCLE-IN project's main goals and activities. A particular attention has been reserved to the presentation of the project's preliminary results and mainly to the activities of competencies development and innovation vouchers that will be launched.

Due to the pandemic emergence, the seminar has been managed on the Google Meet platform, but the presentation has been largely appreciated and a several of

interesting questions have been done by the attendants about the opportunity of depicting a business model for their entrepreneurial ideas aligned with the principles of circular economy.

Circle-IN Partners Meeting

A web meeting was initiated and organized by Chamber of Ioannina, the lead partner of the project, in order to provide certain updates in relation to the extension of the project and certain modifications regarding the budget and the actions that will have to take



place. The meeting was held on 21st of May 2020 and all partners were present.

It was a great opportunity for all of us to catch up as well and re-discuss on the pending issues and new ways for the completion of the remaining actions, mainly with regard to the training sessions and innovation vouchers, via the use of technological means.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Free webinars related to Circular Economy issues to be offered to Apulian businesses

Ecocerved, a consortium company that belongs to the network of Italian Chambers of Commerce, along with the Union of the Chambers of Commerce of Puglia and the Chamber of Commerce of Foggia, have organised a cycle of free webinars on circular economy issues aiming at Apulian businesses.

Ecocerved provides data and statistics in all sectors of waste disposal and as well as technical assistance on management systems and environmental quality. More specifically, it helps small and medium-sized enterprises in the waste management process and in relation to the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certification that is the most important eco-management and audit system in Europe.

It has further contributed to the sector via the creation of Ecocamere platform that helps companies with regulatory obligations and opportunities in the environmental sector. Ecocamere spreads information and innovations in the environmental sector in order to provide constantly updated tools and coordinate the numerous activities that the chambers of commerce carry out in their territories.

A number of seminars already took place in the month of May.

For those still interested, the webseminars that are organised for the months of June and July and are available to all businesses of the region are the following:

- July 1 - Waste and non-waste - By-products
- 6 July - Introduction to the circular economy (1st part)
- July 20 - Introduction to the circular economy (2nd part)

Save the dates!

World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF2020) conference in Toronto postponed to 2021

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in May it was announced that the major Circular Economy event, the World Circular Economy Forum, will be postponed until 2021. In the meantime, a virtual WCEFO online event that will be held in 29-30 September 2020 will address how the Circular Economy can help reboot the economy. Rescheduling the annual forum to 2021 will ensure that all parties can participate and focus on the issues to be discussed at this vital conference, as well as allow more time for the necessary preparations to take place.

Dates for this rescheduled WCEF in 2021, hosted in Toronto by the Government

of Canada in partnership with Finland and Sitra, will be revealed in due course following further discussion with partners. For more information please click here: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-news/wcef2020-conference-toronto-postponed-2021>.

The Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference in Brussels

Another high-level meeting that was postponed due to the pandemic was the Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference. No further updates were provided so far. Relevant information can be found here: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-news/circular-economy-stakeholder-conference-brussels>.

Updates about the working groups of the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platforms - ICESP (March - May, 2020)

During the last months, the team of CIRCLE-IN project at the University of Salento has been involved into the several initiatives promoted by the working groups of the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platforms ICESP (<https://www.icesp.it/>). For more info, please visit the ICESP platform at the following link: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/about/cg-activities-documents/icesp-italys-circular-economy-platform>.

CIRCLE-IN News

EIB Guide to Circular Economy

European Investment Bank (EIB) is keen to finance projects that can contribute to the transition to a carbon neutral economy through a range of financing products, including EFSI and InnovFin for higher risk innovations.

So far it has supported this transition by placing over €2.1 bn in project financing. Its guide that was published on 15 May, provides an overview of such projects, alongside with the bank's perception of the drivers to a Circular Economy (resource opportunities, technological development and the emerging socio-economic

On 8 April 2020, the College of Mayor and Alderpersons approved the Amsterdam Circular 2020-2025 strategy. The strategy makes use of an adapted version of British economist Kate Raworth's "doughnut model". The model describes how societies and businesses can contribute to economic development while still respecting the limits of the planet and the community.

To reach these goals, the City will need to shake its economic system to the core; reviewing the way it produces, consumes and processes materials. This Circular strategy covers a large number of measures for businesses, the City and its residents: from waste

reduction to resource management to circular construction. Follow this link for more information:

<https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/policy/sustainability/circular-economy/>.

The EU's new Circular Economy Action Plan is out!

The new Circular Economy Action Plan - one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal - was published in March of this year. Its aim is to reduce the EU's consumption footprint and double its circular material use rate in the coming decade, while boosting economic growth.

More specifically, the Action Plan puts forward a series of measures, such as making sustainable products the norm in the EU, empowering consumers and ensuring less waste. The rules will also aim to reward manufacturers of products based on their sustainability performance and link high-performance levels to incentives.



Furthermore, the Commission plans to launch specific actions in a number of areas, including electronics and ICT, packaging, plastics and textiles.

The plan proposes the launch of a Global Circular Economy Alliance to explore the definition of a "Safe Operating Space". The EU plans to support innovation and investments via various existing funding schemes - from the EU cohesion funds, European Regional Development Fund and the LIFE programme to spending under the social, research and innovation programmes. More information can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_420.

FROM LINEAR TO CIRCULAR

paradigm of sustainable development), corresponding opportunities and potential business models (circular design, value recovery, optimal use & circular support). More information are provided in the following link: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/eib-guide-circular-economy>.

Amsterdam City's Circular Economy strategy 2020-2025 shapes itself on the 'Doughnut' model

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

This eNewsletter has been developed in the frame of the CIRCLE-IN project which is co-funded by the European Union, European Regional Development Funds (E.R.D.F.) and by National Funds of Greece and Italy.

The contents of this eNewsletter are the sole responsibility of the CIRCLE-IN project partners and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme's management structures.

© CIRCLE-IN | All rights reserved

