

Introduction

Welcome to the fourth CIRCLE-IN eNewsletter!

Since our last newsletter not a lot of changes took place overall.

The new era of COVID-19 has become a reality in our everyday lives. It seems that this pandemic is here to stay, calling everyone to find news ways to cope with everyday activities.

Against this background, the continuity of projects lies, also, on trying to find alternatives and solutions mainly via technological means and digitalisation.

Unfortunately, some of the project's activities were delayed.

At the same time, with the use of technological means, the partners managed to proceed with a number of activities online. Social

media enabled also the promotion of such activities to all partners and other interested stakeholders.

On the basis of the new dynamics that were established during the previous period, project partners also continued



discussions on future steps and actions.

Approaching the finalization of the project, it is important to continue building on the progress made so far.

Partners are optimistic that the next period will provide for the necessary time to finalise remaining actions in the most efficient way, bringing positive results.

COVID-19 is here to stay, and so are our projects. It seems that the means will change, but horizontal targets will be the same.

Projects are made by people, so coordination is vital at this stage.

Digitalisation will pave the way and we need to be ready to accept our new role by sustaining, at the same time, our projects' principles and priorities.

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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.



CIRCLE-IN Activities and Achievements

CIRCLE-IN has so far reached a number of achievements and goals responding to the majority of the project's requirements.

Due to the pandemic, the duration of the project was extended and until December 2020.

Some of the delays in programmed actions continued during this period.

However, partners managed ultimately, to find the right equilibrium in order to proceed with all programmed activities and sustain the dynamic of CIRCLE-IN.

Our website and Circular Economy platform are being updated on a frequent basis with all the latest news on Circular Economy and all relevant areas of interest, including COVID-19 and the new reality that this has brought.

Webinar: Introduction to the Circular Economy (July, 06, 2020 and July, 20, 2020)

Unioncamere Puglia, in cooperation with the Apulian Chambers of Commerce and the Regional Section of the Environmental Managers Register and in collaboration with Ecocerved, promoted a training appointment organized by Filippo Corsini (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa). The initiative is part of the

action promoted by Unioncamere, at national level, through a specific fund on the circular economy for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The main objective of this course was to provide participants with the fundamental knowledge on the context in which the circular economy develops and is realized, in the political and regulatory dimension, as well as in the technical and economic dimensions.

The training was free and it was divided into two sessions, each of 2 hours, scheduled for 6 and 20 July 2020 starting from 10 am.

Due to the situation related to COVID-19, participation was only possible by remote connection.

The first webinar was held on July 6 with the following schedule:

- The political and regulatory framework at EU and national level on the economy circular
- What is the circular economy?
- Benefits of implementing circularity improvement paths
- Some examples of businesses

Expert: Dr. Filippo Corsini - Sant'Anna Higher School of University Studies in Pisa.

Recipients: companies, mainly SMEs; consultants; trade associations; others professionals.

CIRCLE-IN Web Academy

One of the main achievements of this period was the realization of the CIRCLE-IN Web Academy that was coordinated by the Laboratory of Management Engineering of the University of Salento in collaboration with the all project partners.

A series of discussions took place in the month of July with a number of experts in the field as well as on best practices already applied by entrepreneurs in the area. These were used as a basis for the organisation of Academy's Programme.

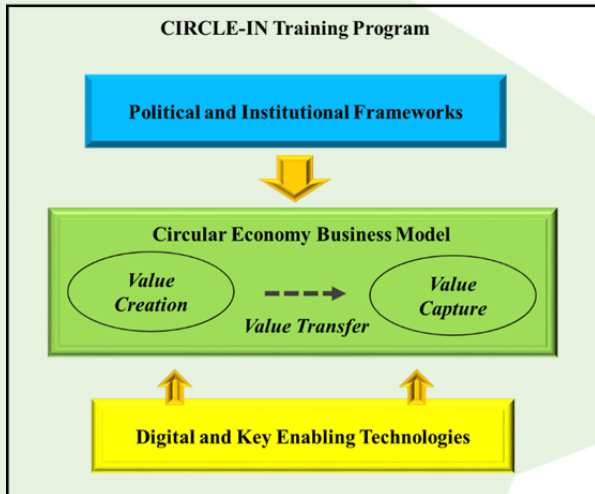
The Web-Academy was finalised at the end of July 2020.

CIRCLE-IN Web Academy is a training initiative that aims at promoting the development of entrepreneurial competencies in the field of Circular Economy.

This programme is structured around three (3) thematic areas:

- i) Political and Institutional Frameworks
- ii) Circular Economy Business Model
- iii) Digital and Key Enabling Technologies

CIRCLE-IN Activities and Achievements



All these thematics include seminars of academics and researchers, professionals and entrepreneurs that are available online since 21.09.2020.

In order to participate in this series of seminars and obtain a certificate one will have to access the Web Platform of the programme, as shown in the picture below, by following this link: <http://platform.circle-in.eu/it/>.

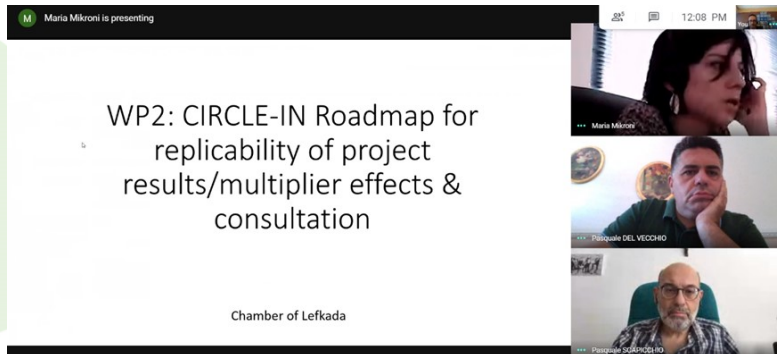


Circle-IN Partners Meeting

A web meeting was initiated and organized by Chamber of

Ioannina, the lead partner of the project, in order to summarise on

from Salento presenting all the main activities that



pending issues and remaining actions and activities.

That offered all partners the opportunity to catch up and share news and updates in relation to actions of the previous period.

Partners discussed on ways to complete pending activities by the end date of the project that is 15 December 2020.

More specifically, all issues under WP1 on the management of the project and the need to certify more expenses.

Under WP2 the Chamber of Lefkada presented the methodology for the development of the Roadmap that is one of the main outputs of the project ensuring its continuity. Consultation will be based upon the questionnaires submitted to the other partners.

Under WP4 the partner

took place for the development of the Web Academy that is the main output under this WP. The Web Academy is expected to be launched on October 5, 2020.

Info-points were already established in University of Salento and Chamber of Foggia. Chamber of Ioannina and Lefkada shall finalise the establishment by end of October and end of September respectively.



The lead partner under WP5 also presented the methodology that will be followed for the development of the Follow-up plan that is the second output for the replicability of the project's results. This will take the form of an action plan and will set intermediate targets and milestones following consultations with local stakeholders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

World Circular Economy Forum goes online!

The World Circular Economy Forum will be organised in a form of a webinar, between 29 Sep 2020 to 30 Sep 2020, presenting some of the world's top business leaders, policy makers and thinkers as speakers.

Towns, September 30-October 02, 2020

The Conference will take place between 30 September 2020 to 2 October 2020 in Mannheim, Germany.

It will demonstrate the urgent need for local governments to assume responsibility for urban transformation and lead the way in guiding Europe towards a secure and sustainable future.

For more information you can follow the below link: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/9th-european-conference-sustainable-cities-and-towns>



9TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS
MANNHEIM | GERMANY | 30 SEPT - 2 OCT 2020

European Recycling Conference 2020, September 30, 2020

The Conference will take place in Madrid, Spain on 30 September 2020. In light of the European Green Deal, ERC will line up executives from the industry and high-level speakers from European institutions to discuss the contribution of the European recycling industry to the Circular Economy and the EU Industrial Strategy. For more information click here: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/plastics-recycling-world-expo>

circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/european-recycling-conference-2020

Plastics Recycling World Expo

The plastics industry exhibitions - Compounding World Expo, Plastics Recycling World Expo, Polymer Testing World Expo and Plastics Extrusion World Expo - plus all their related conferences will take place at Messe Essen in Germany on 7-8 October 2020. Participants will be able to:

- meet leading suppliers
- source new systems, technologies and solutions
- network with other stakeholders within the industry
- increase technical knowledge through training seminars, business debates etc
- take advantage of the venue's central location in Germany's industrial heartland
- put questions to the experts in a face-to-face environment
- stay up-to-date with new challenges and opportunities within the plastics recycling industry

More information here: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/plastics-recycling-world-expo>



The full programme consists of six separate sections (three per day), with keynote speeches, panel discussions and networking opportunities.

More information about the programme and registration can be found in the following link: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-events/world-circular-economy-forum-goes-online>.

9th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and

CIRCLE-IN News

ECESP Coordination Group: New mandate, new members NEW DEADLINE - 11 September 2020

In July 2020, a call was published for the expression of interest for the new mandate of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. The call was open until 11.09.2020 to all stakeholders willing to participate.

24 members will be selected bringing together the following circular economy-related:

- Multi-stakeholder networks/platforms
- Groupings/organisations of businesses, of trade unions and from the civil society
- Networks of national, regional and local public authorities/bodies
- Organisations from the knowledge and research communities, think-tanks, universities.

More information found here: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-news/ecesp-coordination-group-new-mandate-new-members-new-deadline-11-september-2020>.

Circular Economy Stakeholder

Conference, 3-4 November 2020

The 2020 edition will focus on the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the first phase of its implementation. Recommendations from the Belgian authorities will be monitored in order to



guarantee a safe conference for all guests. More information will follow on the meeting arrangements.

More can be found here:

<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/news-and-events/all-news/save-date-2020-circular-economy-stakeholder-conference>

Ellen MacArthur Foundation: Weekly live show returns for Season 2

In September 2020, Ellen MacArthur Foundation announced that its Weekly live show, 'Explore the Circular Economy', will return for a second season.

Season 2 will run from 15th September to 24th November. The 30-minute show will be broadcast live at 12.00 GMT+1 every Tuesday on Foundation's YouTube, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter channels

Over the course of eleven episodes, special guests will join in order to explore

topics including better growth with the circular economy and finance. For more information you can click here: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news/weekly-live-show-returns-for-season-2>

Ecolabel and circular economy at the center of the new issue of Mosaico Europa

Mosaic Europe issue 12 of 2020 is available, the newsletter focused on European issues of priority interest for the Chambers of Commerce and designed to be destined for widespread diffusion in the local realities of the chamber system. The newsletter is



produced by Unioncamere Europa, the association of the Italian Chambers of Commerce in Brussels. The issue opens with an interview with Silvia Ferratini, DG Environment, Production Unit, Sustainable Products and Consumption, Team Leader Ecolabel. More information found here: <http://www.unioncamere.gov.it/P42A4503C1895123/marchio-ecolabel-ed-economia-circolare-al-centro-del-nuovo-numero-di-mosaico-europa.htm>

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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