

"Circe - European regions toward Circular Economy"

Interreg Europe Project

Action Plan

Lower Silesia Voivodeship

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*Dzga A. Furka WJ*



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## 1. Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents.....	1
2. Executive summary.....	1
3. Current Policy instrument .....	2
3.1 General informati .....	2
3.2 Policy Context.....	4
3.3 Tools and instruments of the Policy instrument to foster CE .....	4
3.4 Actions.....	4
4. Future Policy instrument .....	12
5. Policy recommendations for the Policy instrument.....	13
a. Current Policy instrument .....	14
b. Future version of PI .....	14
6. Policy recommendations for other Policy Instruments.....	15

## 2. Executive summary

Project: CirceE

Partner organisation: Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia, Lower Silesia Voivodeship

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): -

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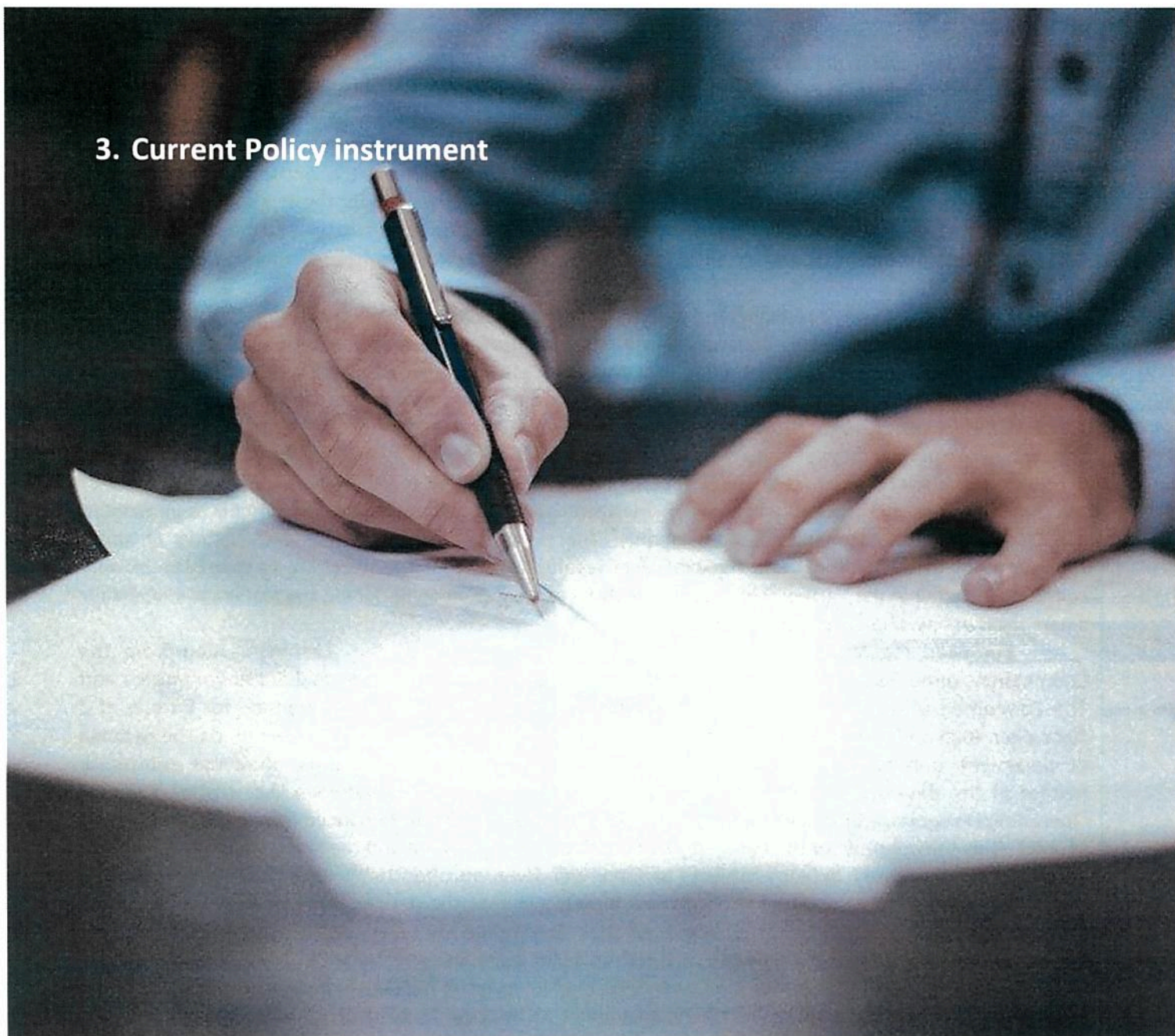
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### 3. Current Policy instrument



#### 3.1 General information

Since 2004, when Poland became a member of the European Union, the Lower Silesian Voivodship has been consistently developing a policy supporting an innovative economic culture, based on the assumptions of a knowledge-based economy formulated in the EU Lisbon Strategy, which imposed on governments and regions the need for creating strategic documents on innovation in the economy.

The first document of this type in the Lower Silesian Voivodship was the *Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy* adopted by the Board of the Lower Silesian Voivodship in 2005, it was in force for 6 years. After

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that period, in 2011, due to intense socio-economic changes in the region, this document was updated and the Board of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship adopted the Regional Innovation Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship for 2011-2020 (RIS). RIS is a strategic development document. It identifies the so-called key industries as well as scientific and technological specializations in the cross-section of scientific centers and enterprises operating in the region. The document was based on a SWOT analysis and it includes a monitoring system for the indicated objectives, evaluation of the entire program and the suggested sources of financing for the indicated activities. An Executive Plan for the Strategy for 2012-2014 was developed along with RIS. The process of document development involved, among others, representatives of business and science; the environments were also represented in the Steering Committee for RIS.

The document was supplemented in 2015 with the *"Strategic Framework for Smart Specializations of Lower Silesia"* appendix. This appendix and a description of 6 Smart Specializations identified for the region was the result of an entrepreneurial discovery process, the origin of which were recommendations of the European Commission (*Europe 2020. A strategy for smart and sustainable development conducive to social inclusion*) along with recommendations for Member States on how to reform the system of conducting research and development and innovation activities which is to be based on increasing the role of knowledge and innovation as driving forces for future development in EU countries. The introduction of the concept of regional and national areas of smart specialisation was one of the instruments to implement the EU priority - a knowledge-based economy. The need for identification and indication of smart specialisations at the national and regional level resulted also from the necessity to meet the *ex-ante* condition included in the Partnership Agreement and was a criterion conditioning the receipt of support for smart areas in operational programs for 2014-2020.

European regulations in the area of CE includes first of all the "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and The Committee of the Regions Towards a Circular Economy: A Zero Waste Programme for Europe of 2 December 2015 on the closure of the circular operation - EU Action Plan". Work in Poland, on the national CE document, only have started in 2017. The topic of circular economy was therefore not prioritized, neither in the development of existing strategic documents nor in the work on the existing Regional Operational Program, which have resulted in projects in the area of CE not financed from state or european sources. Only the adoption of the European Commission Communication and the change of the paradigm in European policy steered by such projects as CircE had given an opportunity to influence the shape of currently prepared or just updated strategic documents, including the Development Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship 2030 and the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy. For this reason in current voivodeship budget there are still no financial resources for activities concerning CE. It has to be changed.

One of the main reasons for the Lower Silesia Voivodeship in joining CircE project was to gather the experience from partners representing regions more developed in CE and update regional strategic document that deals with research and development issues in the region - Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2011 – 2020 - so that the provisions regarding CE will be included. It also gives an opportunity of organizing the pilot test that in the next years, even on a bigger scale, can be conducted in the region and financed from domestic or european money. Such Test would be a possibility to investigate proposed solutions and activities regarding CE and their effective implementation during next decade.

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### 3.2 Policy Context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Regional Innovation Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodship for 2011-2020

### 3.3 Tools and instruments of the Policy instrument to foster CE

The current strategic document in Lower Silesia which regulates the issues of innovation policy in the voivodship, the RIS 2011 – 2020, together with the "Strategic Framework for Smart Specializations of Lower Silesia" appendix, does not directly refer to the problem of circular economy management (CE). The document indicates four strategic objectives and related operational objectives. Objective 1. Strengthening innovative skills and attitudes, key for a knowledge-based economy, Objective 2. Increasing the chances of success of innovative business projects, Objective 3. Increasing the innovative potential of Lower Silesian scientific units, Objective 4. Development of cooperation in the economy in the area of Innovation. Due to the limited resources available during this decade of the regional innovation system, strategic objectives are implemented through projects and activities of universities, research and development units and companies financially supported by the local government from the own budget and from the Regional Operational Program of the Lower Silesian Voivodship 2014-2020 as well from national programs. Most of the implemented projects are also part of one of the six identified smart specializations in Lower Silesia. Despite the fact that the currently binding strategic documents regarding the innovation policy do not directly indicate the support of the circular economy in Lower Silesia, it is worth noting that within certain sub-areas of the identified smart specializations of Lower Silesia one can indicate activities that are inscribed into CE. The self-government supports and co-finances projects from its own and European resources, which includes developing innovative materials, biomaterials and specialty chemicals (Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry), Electromobility and Systems aimed at increasing transport efficiency (Spatial Mobility), technologies of packaging and food storage (High Quality Food), Technologies for the recovery of useful materials, recycling and waste disposal (Natural and secondary raw materials) as well as innovative solutions for "smart homes" and smart cities."

### 3.4 Actions

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# Action 1 – Updating Regional Innovation Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship for 2011-2020

PROGRAM REGIONALNY DOLNY ŚLĄSK  
Zakup współfinansowany przez Urząd  
ze środków Europejskiego Funduszu Regionalnego  
w ramach Regionalnego Programu Operacyjnego  
dla Województwa Dolnośląskiego na lata 2007-2013





## 1. The background

In the course of the first phase of the project, the Lower Silesian Voivodeship has gathered a lot of knowledge and experiences in the area of Circular Economy on the European and regional level. It has to be said, that one of the biggest Circe objective was to determine the circular potential of every region participating in the project. In the case of Lower Silesia, prior to the project, we did not have a knowledge about the circular economy sectors existing in the region and its potential of growth. First task for every project partner was to identify circular areas in which every region see biggest potential. In the case of Lower Silesia it is raw materials waste, food waste and biomass. Then, based on this findings, every partner had to gather group of stakeholders representing the branches described. With the help of stakeholders, Lower Silesia prepared the so-called Prioritisation Report in which the best opportunities of this three branches were enlisted. One of the basis of the project was also to formulate, by every project partner, an Opportunity Report and list of barriers regarding the development of circular economy system in its regions. It became a great resource of knowledge needed to determine the potential of circular economy in the region, strengths and weaknesses and circular areas that needs to be developed. It helped in formulating final operational goals in the updated Development Strategy of Lower Silesia but also will help to determine relevant provisions in the updated version of RIS.

Project gave us also an opportunity to see by ourselves examples of partners' approach to CE challenges, like this coming from the study visits in the Netherlands, in June 2018 where new circular strategy was presented, but also study visits clearly showed discovered potential of CE solutions in fashion industry and home equipment areas and the educational activity called 'Recircula Challenge' from Catalonia which started in February 2019 and involved preparing a challenge for several groups of students who worked on the problems posed by plastic bags and foils and at the end presenting solutions of half a year brainstorming and working in diversified, in terms of competences, groups of students on the one-day workshop.

## 2. Action

Actions undertaken in the second phase of the project regarding updating the policy instrument will be implemented in joined two main activities: Updating the strategy and organizing the system of monitoring and evaluating the document. First, as part of the implementation of the Action Plan, the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy will be updated to better respond to emerging new challenges, including the challenge of the circular economy. After that, a monitoring and evaluation system for the new Strategy will be developed. All contacts with other project partners and stakeholders of the Circe project will also be sustained. The outcomes of the work on the main pillar of the Action Plan will be presented through the communication channels developed in the first phase of the project, such as the project website and meetings with stakeholders and those planned in the second phase with project partners. Thanks to this, it will be possible to properly promote the results of work on the RIS update.

The process of updating the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy (RIS 2030) proceeds according to the established and adopted schedule by the Voivodeship Board:

- a) December 2019 – April 2020 - preparation of the draft of the RIS 2030
- b) April – June 2020 - public consultations of the RIS 2030 strategy project, including organizing consultations within the work of the Circe stakeholder group to ensure proper CE provisions in the new Strategy and presenting key findings from Circe project, e.g. priorities that were assessed with

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- c) June – August 2020 - preparation of the ex-ante evaluation report for the RIS 2030 project
- d) August – September 2020 - presentation of the revised RIS 2030 project to the Committees of the Lower Silesian Regional Assembly
- e) September 2020 – the Lower Silesian Voivodeship Board adopts the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2030 (RIS 2030) for implementation
- f) October 2020 – June 2021 – establishing the system of monitoring RIS 2030 and gather of data about implementation of the provisions regarding CE.

**3. Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

- a) Board of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship - agreeing to work on the preparation of the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2030 and approving the rules of work and the work schedule for RIS 2030. Adopting the final version of the document.
- b) Economy Department, Economy Development Division – coordinating works on RIS 2030, including: commissioning the project of the updated Strategy, conducting public consultations on the Strategy, commissioning ex-ante evaluation of the Strategy project and strategic environmental impact assessment. Cooperation with the Regional Assembly in the field of presenting information on the course of work on the Strategy and presentation of the Strategy project to the committees of the Regional Assembly.
- c) RIS 2030 Expert Group - the Expert Group's tasks include in particular cooperation with the Marshal's Office Economy Department, which coordinates the policy instrument update and development process, cooperation with the contractor related to RIS 2030 development, evaluation of RIS 2030 assumptions and goals, assessment of the implementation model and RIS 2030 monitoring, evaluation of comments and proposals made during public consultations on the draft RIS 2030 document.
- d) Circe project stakeholders - participation in social consultations concerning the RIS 2030 Strategy project. Assistance in the preparation of appropriate strategic provisions regarding CE challenges, which will be included in the content of the new document.

**4. Timeframe**

November 2019 – September 2020 – Process of updating the Regional Innovation Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship for 2011-2020

October 2020 – June 2021 – establishing the system of monitoring and evaluating RIS 2030 and gather data about implementation the provisions regarding CE

**5. Costs**

Cost of updating the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2030: The cost is estimated at 207 000 PLN.

**6. Funding sources:**

The update of the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2011 - 2020 is entirely financed from the budget of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship and the European Social Fund.

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**Action 2 – pilot test of educational initiative “As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined”**





## 1. The background

In parallel with the RIS upgrade process and also after its completion a pilot test is planned, the subject of which will be a series of educational workshops for primary, vocational and secondary school students and students promoting the CE idea. All regions agreed based on reports findings that in order to improve the level of CE understanding among managers and company work force, they proposed awareness campaigns to show financial benefits, good practices, guides and consultation points to facilitate CE implementation, support for entrepreneurs, etc. To tackle citizens' interest they proposed to run awareness campaigns on eco-labeling and sustainable development, or conduct pro-ecological and pro-circular campaigns concentrated on changing social behaviours. Moreover, the Opportunities Report and Report on Barriers that were written during the first phase of the project helped region to set the potentials but also threats regarding circular economy. Two of the opportunities that were included in Lower Silesia Report contained two findings of other project partner through exchange of experience process, that consist of educational aspects (Introduce circular economy principles into relevant university courses and raising awareness for circular economy potential in citizens). At this point, in particular, the experience gained regarding CE actions and activities that could be implemented in Lower Silesia during study visits in the Netherlands, in June 2018, should be highlighted. During communication and talks with partners from Catalonia, the educational activity called 'Recircula Challenge' which started in February 2019 and involved preparing a challenge for several groups of students who worked on the problems posed by plastic bags and foils has emerged as a great example of educational and awareness activity. What is also important is that the need for carrying out extensive awareness-raising and promotional campaigns with respect to the CE idea in the Lower Silesia Voivodeship has been reported from the beginning by regional experts gathered in the CE stakeholders group, established at the beginning of the project's existence. Such educational campaign is also important on account of execution the new provisions in Development Strategy for Lower Silesian Voivodeship 2030 on strategic goal 4: Social education for Circular Economy (social campaigns, awareness campaigns) under **Development of Circular Economy** operational goal.

## 2. Action

The main goal of the planned pilot test in the CircE project is to carry out innovative educational activities with children, youth and students in Lower Silesia, the theme of which will be education for the circular economy and promotion of pro-circular attitudes, with particular emphasis on waste education and the wise use of limited resources. The main organizer of educational activities is intended to be the beneficiary's foundation or association dealing with educational and social campaigns concerning pro-ecological and pro-circular activities selected as part of an open competition organized by the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. The pilot test, in the second and third semester of the second phase of the project (2020), will include at least one class for primary, secondary, vocational students or students, however MO plans on organising possibly two or three workshops overall. The class will include a theoretical part and workshops, and a Hackathon if it is organized for students. During the Hackathon, previously selected teams made up of students will try to face challenges concerning various areas of CE and create an application for improving one of the selected CE areas in Lower Silesia. The tasks to be implemented in the Hackathon will be developed in cooperation with stakeholders of the CircE project, they will also participate in the development of a workshop program for students. The scale of the classes will be adjusted to the age and knowledge of the participants. Classes could take place in one of schools from the area of Wrocław or one of the schools from the region which would strengthen the impact of the CircE project.

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The test is proposed to be scheduled as follow:

#### Semester 1

- 1) Organising Open competition for non-governmental organisations in order to select the foundation or other association which will be responsible for organizing the pilot test event in the cooperation with Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia (MO).
- 2) I workshop in December 2019/January 2020 in one of the Universities in Wrocław – one day workshop agenda will be prepared with the help and under supervision of the MO and in line with environmental priorities in the city or region. The challenge will be in form of Hackathon. Workshop will be split into two parts, one will be more theoretical and its purpose will be to inform pupils in most engaging and attractive way about the importance of being circular and sustainable and benefits that go with it for students and environment that they live in. Second part will be even more attractive because its goal will be to present circular activities in form of active workshops and play.

#### Semester 2

- 1) Organizing Open competition for another non-governmental organisations in order to select the foundation or other association which will be responsible for organizing the next pilot test event in the cooperation with Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia (MO).
- 2) II workshop in may/june 2020 on one of the Universities or schools in Wrocław – workshop will last one or two days but it will open for everyone including entrepreneurs but be directed to students or pupils. During first day participants will familiarize with the challenges concerning one of the circular topics (for example: food waste) that will be presented by the Circe stakeholders team with the help of university employees and get to know the background of team members. On a second part of the day (or second day) the team will work on previously listed ideas and brainstorming on a final solution to the challenge. Ideas from all the teams will be presented to the jury consisted of specialists in the field: university employees, entrepreneurs or Circe SHs.

#### Semester 3

- 1) III workshop in October/November – workshop with High School or Vocational School Pupils in one of the cities in Lower Silesia (for example: Wałbrzych or Jelenia Góra). Workshop is planned as a one day event. As it was said concerning the first workshop it will be prepared with the help and under supervision of the MO and in line with Circe priorities. Workshop will be also split into two parts, one will be more theoretical and its purpose will be to inform pupils in most engaging and attractive way about the importance of being circular and benefits that go with it for pupils and environment that they live in and second part will be an active workshop.
- 2) Final financial settlement with the contractor – Semester 3/Semester 4.

#### Semester 4

*No content related activities should take place in this semester. The last months of the project should be entirely dedicated to the project closure.*

#### 3) Players involved

- a) Economy Department, Economy Division in Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia – Conducting open

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competition for non-governmental organizations in order to select the foundation or other association which will be responsible for organizing the pilot test. Accepting every stage of the pilot test programme

- b) Circe project stakeholders – taking part in the development of the workshop agenda
- c) Non-governmental organization – Organizing the pilot test and its implementation

**4) Timeframe**

- a) July – December 2019 - conducting a competition for non-governmental organizations for the implementation of a pilot test, the subject of which will be at least one educational workshop implementing the CE ideas and promoting them among pupils and students. Workshop will be carried out with the participation of invited experts and lecturers representing universities and business. The pilot test will be based on the experience gained during the first phase of the project implementation and familiarization with similar educational activities carried out by foreign project partners. Piloting is part of the CE priorities set in Development Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship 2030 as well as it realizes the Circe project ideas
- b) January – May 2020 conducting second competition for non-governmental organizations, the subject of which will be educational workshops implementing the CE ideas and promoting them among pupils and students
- c) December 2019 – December 2020 - implementation of the Circe workshops of pilot test
- d) January – July 2021 - summary and settlement of the competition for the pilot project of the Circe project. Formulating final conclusions regarding the outcomes of the Pilot Test and the implementation of the assumed indicators.

**5) Costs**

The cost of pilot test is estimated at 75 000 PLN.

**6) Funding sources**

The Pilot Test is planned to be implemented during the second phase of the project and should be financed entirely from the budget of the Lower Silesian Voivodship.

Date:

29.01.2020

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*Cezary Przybylski*

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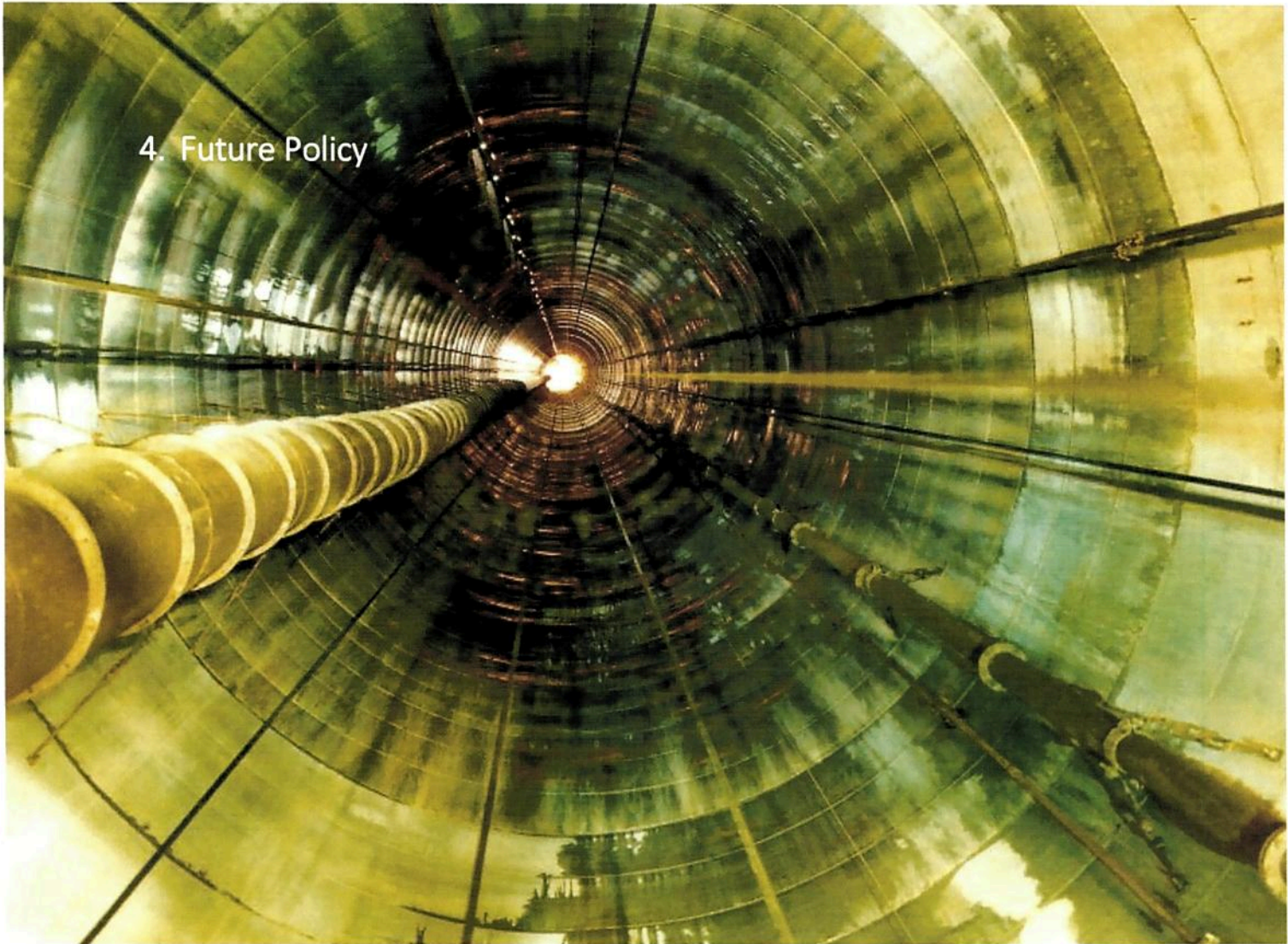
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#### 4. Future Policy

Due to the 8th anniversary of implementation of RIS 2011 - 2020, the approaching new program and financial perspective of the European Union, change of the socio-economic situation of the region, recent update of the superior strategic documents of the region (Development Strategy for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship 2030) and the country (Responsible Development Strategy) as well as the experience acquired in the course of implementation of international projects in the area of broadly defined innovation, such as Circe, it became necessary to update the Strategy. The purpose of the update is also to supplement it with elements confirming the meeting the so-called "basic condition", the fulfilment of which will guarantee receiving and spending at least 35% of the funds in the new ROP for the "Smarter Europe through supporting innovative and intelligent economic transformation" goal. The Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2030 will be adapted to the current needs and possibilities of the region's economy, allowing for the effective use of public funds available for development, including the European ones. This document will define, in the mid-term horizon, the objectives and directions of development of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship in terms of innovation, ways to achieve them, and the division of roles and tasks of institutions forming the Lower Silesian innovation system. The strategic and operational objectives and strategic undertakings developed as part of the work on updating the strategy - strategic task groups, will form the basis for formulating innovation policy by 2030. Due to that, the updated version of the strategy - RIS 2030 will indicate the possibility of sharing competencies between various entities of the Lower Silesian

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Innovation System, so that the introduction of innovations is a systematic and continuous process. In order to achieve that, a wide-scale socialization of the strategy update process will be carried out, involving many representatives of the economic, scientific and research environment and the local government at every stage of the process.

The structure of the document will include:

1. Diagnostic part, containing: diagnosis of the situation, SWOT analysis, forecast of development trends.
2. Strategic part, comprising: the vision, mission, strategic and operational goals, and strategic tasks groups (strategic undertakings).
3. Part concerning the implementation system and financing assumptions, including a description of the implementation system together with an indication of the institutions and entities responsible for implementing the strategy provisions.
4. An evaluation system for implementation, i.e. monitoring and evaluation of the strategy, including: a database of performance indicators and a description of how to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy's objectives, including collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data.



## 5. Policy recommendations for the Policy instrument

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## a. Current Policy instrument

During the development of the current version of the Lower Silesian Innovation Strategy 2011-2020, European regulations concerning CE were not yet in force, including in particular the Communication of the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of December 2, 2015 on Closing the cycle – the EU action plan on circular economy. Work on the national document on CE started in 2017, so it was not possible for the documents to influence the development of the current strategy.

The diagnosis of the state at the beginning of this decade and the formulation of forecast trends up to 2020 included attention paid in the course of work on the Strategy to a number of economic and environmental factors that will have a key impact on the economic development and innovation potential of the region. Within economic factors, the role of green development and the challenges related to climate problems was emphasized. It was also noticed that the growing challenge faced by the Lower Silesian Innovation System would be the growing awareness of the society creating new behaviour patterns and the need for focusing on green development. One of the recommendations directly related to the need to support a circular product life cycle. It was emphasized that shrinking natural resources and political sensitivity towards the growing problem of waste will make European policy go towards CE. This forecast has worked well and the EC, in cooperation with the European Council and the European Parliament, has indeed formulated the first principles of the CE policy in the EU since the middle of the current decade. However, it should be noted that despite the identification of such trends, it did not affect the formulation of the four strategic goals and operational objectives of the Strategy. The theme of CE was still poorly identified in Lower Silesia in 2009/2010, during the work on the current version of the Strategy.

## b. Future version of PI

Work on updating the current document has just started. A group of experts who will participate in the preparation of the final document is recommended, but no meetings have been held yet with working groups on smart specializations and stakeholders of the CircE project who will be involved in writing the document. Therefore, no specific political or expert recommendations can be made at this stage. The final list of recommendations will be ready in the first half of next year. One can only point to a certain range of recommendations which were developed during the meeting of the Regional Territorial Forum on March 13, the subject of which was the acceptance of starting work on a new version of the Strategy. The Regional Territorial Forum (RFT) is an advisory and consultative body of the Board of the Lower Silesian Voivodship, constituting a platform for the exchange of knowledge, information and experience in the field of issues strategic for development. The experts' comments concerned mainly the shape of the document, which according to their opinion should contain a proper list of indicators, thanks to which it will be possible to effectively monitor the implementation of the Strategy's provisions and make a useful evaluation that will show how well the objectives set in the document are implemented. Attention was also drawn to the need to verify the list of smart specializations of Lower Silesia, which is part of the proposed scope of work on a new document. Such a verification will be carried out.

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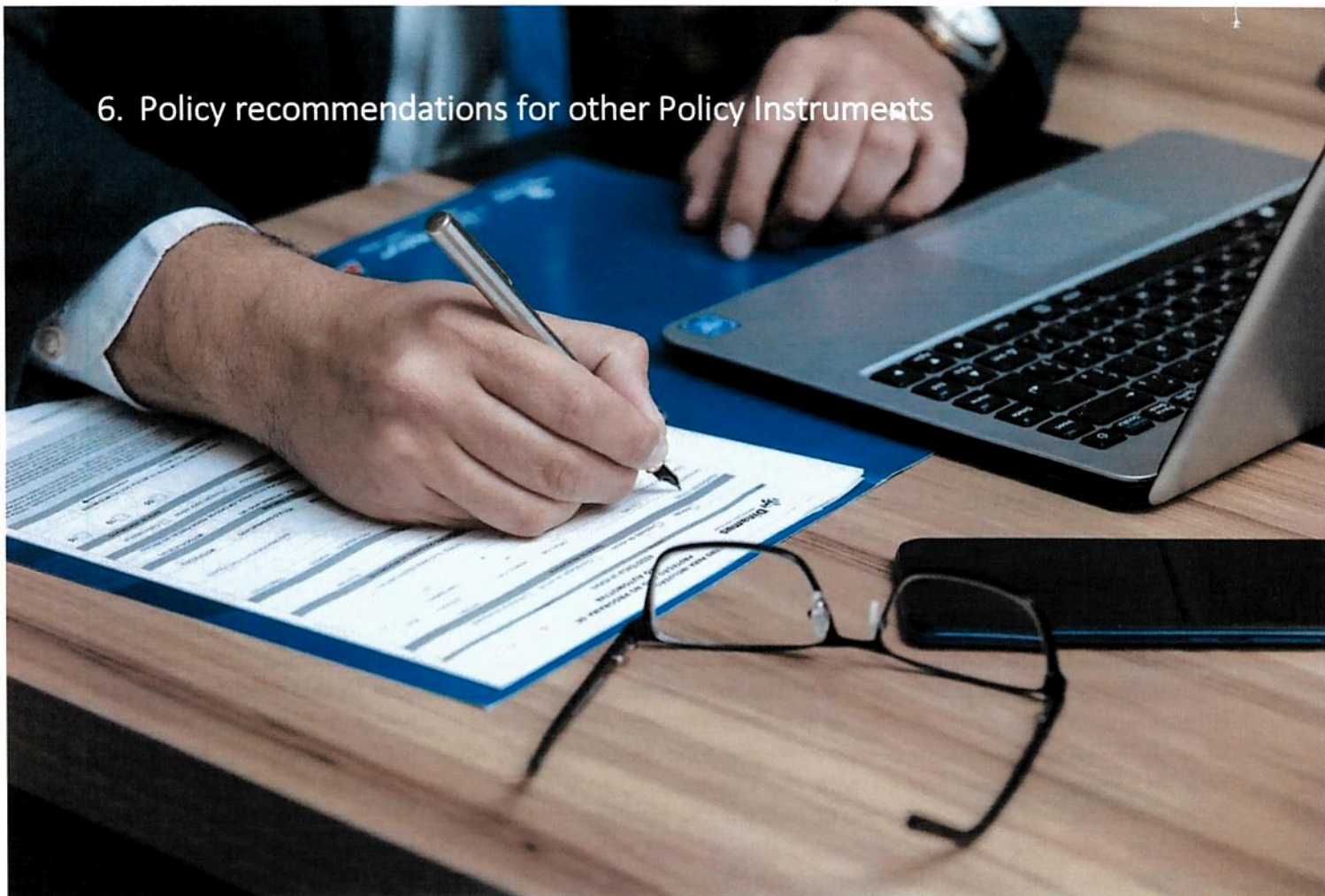
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## 6. Policy recommendations for other Policy Instruments



As has already been mentioned above in point 3, the purpose of updating RIS is also to supplement it with elements confirming the fulfilment of the so-called "basic condition" criteria, the fulfilment of which will guarantee the receipt and spending of at least 35% of funds in the new ROP 2021 - 2027 for the "Smarter Europe through supporting innovative and intelligent economic transformation" goal. Therefore, it can be assumed that the political recommendations formulated in the course of the RIS update process and the proposed goals, including CE, will have a significant impact on the new ROP 2021-2027 and on the spending of European, national and regional funds that will be more allocated to projects implementing the principles of circular economy.

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