

# CESME

## Circular Economy for SMEs

### Press Release

## Partner meeting in South Ostrobothnia

20.–21.09.2017, Finland



## **CESME (Circular Economy for SME's) project's 5th Interregional Partner Meeting was held in South Ostrobothnia, Finland on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September**

The fifth Interregional Partner Meeting of CESME -project was held in South Ostrobothnia, Finland on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2017. In a two-day-meeting we had 24 participants from all the six partner countries Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Italy and Wales.

On Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> the group gathered in Seinäjoki. The day started with a welcome speech by Mrs. Marjatta Eväsoja, the Director of International Affairs and Culture in the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia. In her speech Marjatta introduced the guests to the region of South Ostrobothnia and also encouraged the project partners to think about the possibilities for future co-operation.

The partner meeting was the last interregional meeting before the end of first phase and therefore it was important to exchange ideas and views about the future actions and possible synergies. Thus, the agenda for the day consisted mainly of the central issues and actions within the project such as finalization of the CESME White Book, progress of each partners' Action Plan and experiences gained from the testing of the CESME toolkit for SMEs. One of the tasks for the day was to discuss the project's outputs in smaller groups. Based on the lessons learned throughout the project each group identified possible policy recommendations and possible synergies between the partner countries. The day ended with a Steering Committee meeting which was a perfect closure for the day.

On the second day (21<sup>st</sup> of September) it was time for site visits around the region. During the day the group visited in all together four different SMEs that apply circular economy in their activities.

The first site visit was made to a waste management company Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto in Ylistaro. The company collects waste from companies, trade, industry and construction sector. From all the collected waste sorted approximately 58 % go to re-use, 34 % to energy production, 7 % to other re-use and only 1 % ends up to landfill. On the sorting plant the group was introduced to a modern optical sorting system that sorts out 8 types of plastic and 4 types of card-board.

The second site visit directed to Lapuan Peruna Oy (Lapua's Potato Ltd.), which is a local potato starch manufacturing company that produces potato starch for the paper industry. Lapuan Peruna has actively looked for new ways to make business of their side-products.

*"In the starch making process approximately 25% of the potato is starch and the rest 75% is side-products. The main side-product is potato fruit juice, which we used to spread to our contract farmers' fields at our own costs during the campaign time. During the last years we have invested to a new evaporation equipment to refine the fruit juice to more concentrated form and test this as a feed for animals. This turned out to be successful and now we are able to sell this as one of our products,"* explains Ossi Paakki, the CEO of Lapuan Peruna.

The third site visit took place in the small town of Vimpeli, where the group visited a plastic company, Plastec Finland. The company has produced injection moulded plastic products over 30 years. During the recent years the company has begun to manufacture plastic-wood based fiber composite products in which the circulated waste material can be up to 40-50 % of the raw material used.

The last study visit of the day was to a wood processing company Oy Kohiwood Ltd. in the municipality of Soini in eastern South Ostrobothnia. The factory has a saw mill where about half of the sawmill production is further processed in integrated production plant to wooden laminated glulam-panels. The company has actively looked for solutions to enhance the circulation in their production and utilization of its side-products and they now circulate almost every side-product from their production. Per day they recycle approximately 200m<sup>3</sup> of bark to be used as biofuel both in their own power plant and sold to other power plants. Daily approximately 1000 m<sup>3</sup> of loose wood chips are sold to pulp and paper production and 150 m<sup>3</sup> of sawdust is used for wooden pellet production and biofuel in the company's power plant.

*“We have had a very interesting and fruitful partner meeting in South Ostrobothnia where we have visited several companies with outstanding examples of circular economy. The visit has been a great inspiration to all of us. Now, it is time to bring the inspiration home to explore how it can benefit our own companies”, says Jane Ribergaard Holm, Project Manager of CESME from Business Development Centre North Denmark.*

The partner meeting was organized by the two Finnish partners Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia and JPYP Business Development.

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Photo 1 Marjatta Eväsoja, The Director of International Affairs and Culture from the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia gave the partnership an inspiring welcome speech on Wednesday morning. (Photo: Vesa Alanko-Luopa)





Photo 2: Group picture of the whole partnership at the outskirts of Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto's waste sorting facilities in Ylistaro. (Photo: Juha Lehtineva)



Photo 3: Ossi Paakki, the CEO of Lapuan Peruna Ltd. explains the visitors the potato starch making process and how the company utilizes the side-products. (Hanna Meriläinen)

