

THIRD NEWSLETTER

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PARTNERS



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WWW.INTERREGEUROPE.EU/SYMBI

EU INCREASES ITS COMMITMENT TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission (EC) have pledged their stronger commitment to the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy sectors in Europe through a set of actions aimed at facilitating access to finance. The announcement was made 1st June 2017 on the occasion of the "Innovative Enterprise Week – Access to Finance for Research, Innovation and SMEs" conference hosted in Valletta by the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. During the conference an InnovFin Advisory (IFA) study on access-to-finance conditions for investments in Bio-Based Industries and the Blue Economy was published, opening up ways to support EU climate goals and important societal challenges.

Moreover, the EC and the EIB signed an amendment to the InnovFin Advisory Technical Assistance agreement, setting up the conditions for improved access to finance for the Circular and Bioeconomy sectors. The EIB and the EC are expected to announce further steps towards offering fully integrated access-to-finance solutions for innovators in the Circular Economy sector in the weeks to come.



EIB in the circular economy

Why is the circular economy relevant to EIB?

- CE is **high on the EU policy agenda** - as **the EU Bank**, we have a role in supporting the circular economy transition
- We lend to CE relevant sectors and projects – **CE lending** in the period **2012-16 was EUR 2.6bn**
- CE presents new **lending opportunities** for EIB

Why is EIB relevant to the circular economy?

- EIB can **bridge financing gaps** and catalyse investments through EFSI, InnovFin and other risk sharing instruments
- EIB can **advise** on CE project structuring/financing
- EIB can contribute to CE **awareness** building
- EIB is active in CE **networking** and discussions

More EIB CE info: www.eib.org/circular-economy



The EIB in the circular economy



31/07/2017

European Investment Bank Group

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SYMBI Project Activities

2nd Policy Workshop on Industrial Symbiosis and 3rd Steering Group Meeting hosted by Greek Partner Municipality of Kozani (20-22nd June 2017)

For the purposes of the SYMBI project, the Municipality of Kozani, more specifically the Development and Planning Bureau, organised and hosted a two-day workshop to investigate how regional authorities can develop Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) as an enabler of industrial symbiosis. The workshop topics focused on how to setup, finance, monitor and capitalise such partnerships, as

well as barriers that may hinder these processes. During the workshop, successful case studies from Greece and other partner's countries was presented, which will assist participants in identifying possible obstacles during all the phases and aspects of developing and implementing PPP initiatives and projects. Besides the SYMBI partners, relevant stakeholders (e.g. local authorities etc) and external experts (special secretariat

for Greek PPPs and representatives from the case studies among others) were participated in the workshop to provide valuable input. Overall, since existing evidence underlines the importance of PPPs as a tool for the reinforcement of industrial symbiosis networks, the workshop aimed to identify the factors of successful PPPs that can foster the emergence of industrial symbiosis projects and secure their success.

About Project Activity 1.1 "Comparative analysis study of regional and national policies on industrial symbiosis and circular economy".

The first SYMBI project output (activity A1.1.) called "Comparative analysis study of regional and national policies on industrial symbiosis and circular economy" has been completed. The analysis was based on data collected by the SYMBI partners from all partnership countries and from the remaining EU-28 countries by the Malopolska Region. The study presents many circular economy and industrial symbiosis related policy examples as: application of "Minimum Environmental Criteria" in Italy, the Spanish bio-economy strategy or the Finnish Biofuel quota obligation. The A1.1 document resulted with recommendations according to countries category in terms of the level of development of industrial symbiosis. The activity indicated 5 SYMBI partnership countries with a relatively low level of development of industrial

symbiosis: Italy, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia and Poland. Due the transition phase to circular economy Spain was included in the second category with medium development of industrial symbiosis. Finland belongs to the third category countries with the highest development of industrial symbiosis leading among the partnership.

Recommendations have been divided into the following four categories economic, policy, social, environmental-technical. The most common ideas were concerned about:

Economic: Lower taxes on labour in industrial symbiosis systems and increase taxes on the consumption of non-renewable resources, carefully analyse and reform the VAT system, so that goods produced by secondary materials (where VAT has already been paid once) are exempted from VAT and the use of secondary materials is promoted.

Policy: Develop an integrated policy approach to industrial symbiosis,

consisting of: defining, at the national and regional level, the concepts of industrial symbiosis, circular economy and secondary raw material market, adopt resource efficiency targets, review eco-design legislation.

Social: Development of selective municipal waste collection system which will provide high quality input materials for recycling processes, Introduce and capitalize on educational programmes.

Environmental-technical: Develop bio-waste treatment and biogas production plants. Add industrial symbiosis in the principles of rational management of water resources in the area. Promote material-efficiency through maintenance and repair services. We deeply believe that those recommendations will contribute to the development of industrial symbiosis and transition into circular economy in European regions.

See the full Report on SYMBI Project website: [Report SYMBI Activity 1.1](#)



SYMBI Project Activities

Interreg Europe Thematic Workshop “Circular Economy: a necessity and transformative opportunity for cities and regions in Europe”

Representatives of Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) invited representatives of different INTERREG EUROPE projects on circular economy to Brussels with intention to discuss the topic, search for synergies among projects and to share experience. The main aim was to get acquainted with setting up the Policy Learning Platform that serves to forge closer ties and synergies among Interreg project partners. Participants had intensified and profound debates on:

- obstacles, suggestions and solutions on legal aspect, planning, strategies and policy-making process in the field of circular economy, secondary raw materials and industrial symbiosis;

- waste management, recycling systems, separation processes and resource efficiency.

Searching for synergies with other projects, we found SYMBI to have a lot in common with several projects. Once we presented SYMBI project, we found strong links with TRIS projects, since both projects are focusing on industrial symbiosis and how to make the support environment more favourable for setting up industrial eco-systems. Other links were identified also with the RETRACE project that is focusing on promoting systemic design as a tool to identify input and output potentials in the particular territory or region and thus, support transition into circular economy. The link with the ENHANCE project was established as well since the project looks into

how EMAS systems could support transition into circular economy. Aiming at identifying good practices and make these cases transferable, projects contribute to drafting the European industrial symbiosis roadmap. The last panel discussion was dedicated to discuss the policy measures targeting circular economy at national, regional and local level. Panellists pointed out several challenges that we need to address and tackle if we want to speed up the transition towards circular economy, among them consumer behaviour, production cycles, use of secondary raw materials, adaptation of legislation to technological and innovation trends.

See the news on the Project Website:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/symbi/news/news-article/1447/symbi-project-attends-policy-learning-platform-event/>



SYMBI Project Activities

Project Partner Chamber Of Commerce of Molise (Italy) is organizing its Third Stakeholders Meeting on 29th of September 2017, the meeting will be attended by many relevant regional stakeholders furthermore it will be also attended by few national Stakeholders such as representative of Ministry of Environment and National Center of Research. The Meeting will discuss and focus on Public - Private Partnerships in the field of Industrial Symbiosis and Circular Economy. The meeting is planned to be held in Chamber of commerce of Molise premises in Campobasso.

For more info and agenda:

[Chamber of Commerce of Molise](#)

[SYMBI PROJECT](#)



Camera di Commercio
Molise



Project News

ITALIAN ON LINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

The Italian Minister for the Environment just lunched an interesting consultation about the Circular Economy, it is accessible online through the web site:

<http://consultazione-economiacircolare.minambiente.it>

Everyone can participate and express opinions on the ministerial document: it is about efficient use of resources and production models. The future of the Italian circular economy? Citizens can also decide it. The Ministry of the Environment and of the Economic Development have launched an open online public consultation on the document "Towards a Circular Economy for Italy", which is part of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The goal is to contribute to the definition of a more efficient and resource-efficient use of resources and more productive and sustainable pro-

duction models, also through more attentive and aware consumption habits.

Here you can find out how the consultation works, read the document "Towards a circular economy model for Italy" and, signing up, express your opinions on it.

On the dedicated portal, to welcome citizens, there is a message from the Ministers of Economic Development Carlo Calenda and of the Environment, Gian Luca Galletti, who stated: "The great challenge that Italy, along with the most industrialized countries, will face in the next decade it will respond adequately and effectively to the complex environmental and social dynamics while maintaining the competitiveness of the production system."

The aim of the document is to provide a general framework for the circular economy and to define the country's strategic positioning on the

theme, in continuity with the commitments undertaken under the Paris Climate Change Agenda, United Nations Agenda 2030 On sustainable development, at G7 and in the European Union. "Towards a circular economy model for Italy" wants to become an important milestone for the implementation of the wider National Strategy for Sustainable Development, contributing in particular to the definition of the objectives of efficient use of resources, sustainable consumption and production models.

The consultation is open until end of September 2017. At the end, a report and an illustrative note of the results will be published.



The 2nd International Resource Recovery Conference – New York

Harri Mattila, the project manager of the Finnish SYMBI partner HAMK - Häme University of Applied Sciences represented the SYMBI project in the second International Resource Recovery Conference in New York on the 5th -9th August. The conference brought together international

leaders from research, academia and industry for discussions around resource recovery and more precisely the climate-water-life cycle. The contribution of circular economy in water supply and resource efficiency in nutrient recovery were the principal subjects Mattila presented. Circular economy can play a key role in

nutrient recovery by advancing technologies in recycling nutrients back to the food production from agriculture and wastewater streams.

More about the event: www.irrc2017.org/about



On 20 June the **EUROCITIES Circular Economy** task force meeting took place in Brussels, with 16 cities participating.

Eveline Jonkhoff, chair of the Circular Economy task force and strategic advisor

on circular economy at the city of Amsterdam, moderated the event

which started with a presentation by the cities of Almere, Genoa, Ghent, London and Munich about the tools they use to implement circular economy. The following session, animated by key stakeholders like Circle Economy and the Ellen McArthur foundation focused on useful tools that can help to deliver circular economy.

Håkon Jentoft, circular economy partnership coordinator from the city

of Oslo, made an interesting update on the circular economy partnership as part of the EU agenda.

The day ended with a discussion about the next EUROCITIES annual general conference, that will take place in **Ljubljana from 15-17 November 2017.**

Source: <http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/issues/circular-economy-issue>

SYMBI Project at Astana Expo 2017 in Kazakhstan

The SYMBI project was displayed in the Astana Expo 2017 in Astana, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan in August 29. The Expo lasted a full 93 days from 10 June to 10 September. Astana Expo gathered over 100 countries, international organizations and

companies under the theme "Future Energy". The participants were assigned to showcase each country's know-how in the promotion of sustainable energy. The Finnish SYMBI partner HAMK - Häme University of Applied Sciences, presented the

SYMBI project in the Cleantech VIP lounge of the Finnish pavilion.

For more info:

www.expo2017astana.com
www.expo2017.fi/en



Project News

FRUSH circular economy startup event in Forssa, Finland and regional SYMBI Infoday



FRUSH is a two-day circular economy startup event organized in Forssa Finland. The event comprises of speeches, workshops and pitching. The aim of the event is to accelerate the development of startup companies to advance new circular economy actions. The focus is on advancing circular economy business activities from different perspectives. The participants will hear bulleting

facts about the latest trends on circular economy and their effects on customer needs and in the EU. In addition, the event will host an innovation workshop where students, entrepreneurs and scientists generate innovative business solutions for circular economy. A pitching contest will be held to help start-ups gain recognition and networking connections. The event is in Finnish.

The Finnish SYMBI partner Häme region will host a regional Infoday stand at the event to share information about regional and international accomplishments related to the SYMBI project output, activities, events and knowledge gained.

For more info go to (in Finnish):
<http://www.frush.fi/>

Next Project Events

On 21 and 22 November 2017, the Project Partner **Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (Slovenia)** will organize a study visit in Slovenia with the aim to discuss the industrial symbiosis, to exchange (Slovenian and European) industrial symbiosis good practices and to make an overview about how to accelerate the transition toward circular economy. Event will encompass the study visit to selected Slovenian companies and panel discussions with relevant stakeholders. Panel discussions will be focused on separation and waste recovery (closing the gap between primary and secondary raw materials) and financial instruments as enablers of industrial symbiosis. A two-day study visit will offer an excellent frame for cross-sectoral cooperation and networking opportunity.



Upcoming thematic Events

CIRCULAR ECONOMY EUROPEAN SUMMIT WILL START ON THE 14TH OF NOVEMBER 2017



For more info and to register to the event:

The Circular Economy European Summit, will take place from 14th November to 16th November 2017 at the Fira Barcelona Gran Via in Barcelona, Spain. The conference will cover areas like Circular economy, the transition of a linear model of make, use and dispose, to a circular one, one that is restorative and regenerative by design and focuses on the re-use of materials and resources.



14 - 16 NOV 2017
GRAN VIA VENUE

For more info and to register to the event:

www.circulareconomysummit.com

Social Media Contacts

To stay updated about Project's actions and events follow us on the Social Media or visit our web site:



Editorial

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