

FOURTH NEWSLETTER

MARCH
2018

PARTNERS



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CIRCULAR ECONOMY OFFERS A VIABLE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC MARINE LITTER

The European Commission's plastics strategy to fight plastic waste in our oceans and seas and along our coasts was long awaited. Marine litter generates considerable pollution; hundreds of millions of tonnes of waste. Around 85 per cent of litter found on beaches is plastic. It was time to remedy the situation.

EU must establish new rules, particularly when it comes to recycling. The Commission has also proposed stopping littering at sea by revising the directive on port reception facilities. I support this initiative, on which Parliament's fisheries committee will be giving its opinion.

The fight against marine litter is part of the transition to a true circular economy, which allows for proper waste recycling. We must mobilise all actors: the plastics industry, sea users and public authorities. We cannot ask a single sector alone to make additional efforts - this would be discriminatory and ineffective.

We must consider a horizontal, cross-sectoral approach in order to deal with the issue collectively. The circular economy offers a viable solution to the problem of plastic marine litter. I sponsor the Waste Free Oceans foundation, which has developed a remarkable recycling model for plastic waste. It is collected at sea by fishermen and handed over to different specialised recycling companies. This process allows for waste to be used in a new production cycle - a truly virtuous circle. These types of projects go far beyond the simple environmental dimension. They constitute an industrial cycle that is both ecological and competitive and offers concrete and sustainable solutions to the problem of marine litter. The sector also offers obvious potential for job creation.

We needed political action to combat plastic marine litter and the European Commission has heard our call. What we now need is concrete action.

Alain Cadec (EPP, FR). Chair of Parliament's fisheries committee.



SYMBI Project Activities

THE THIRD INTERREGIONAL POLICY WORKSHOP ON "HOW TO STIMULATE SECONDARY RAW MATERIAL MARKETS" HOSTED BY ITALIAN PARTNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MOLISE (20-21 MARCH 2018)

Chamber of Commerce of Molise organized the Interregional Workshop on "How to stimulate the creation of regional secondary raw materials markets" to support the transition towards circular economy. The event took place from 20th to 21st March 2018 in Chamber of Commerce of Molise premises in Campobasso.

The workshop ensured an in depth analysis of the subject that was investigated from a technical, economic and legal point of view thanks to the

contribution of relevant experts at national and regional level. Speakers were representatives of: Italian Ministry of Environmental, Land and Sea; Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development; Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, National Steel Packaging Recycling Consortium; National Packaging Consortium; University of Molise; Colacem and Herambiente enterprises committed with circular economy projects; Ecolabel – Ecoaudit Committee members and

environmental legal experts.

Works have been introduced by Francesco Paolo Oriente, Chamber of Commerce of Molise Councillor, who remarked the Chamber commitment in sensitizing the regional government in adopting a regional law relating to Circular Economy.

Really successful the participation recorded during the interactive sessions, dedicated to the discussion on main aspects emerged and to the sharing of ideas and views.



SYMBI
Interreg Europe

See the full video of the workshop by clicking on the following links:

[INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP MOLISE 20 MARCH 2018](#)

[INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP MOLISE 21 MARCH 2018](#)



Camera di Commercio
Molise



SYMBI Project Activities

THE FOURTH STEERING GROUP MEETING HOSTED BY SYMBI PARTNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MOLISE IN CONCOMITANCE WITH THIRD INTERREGIONAL POLICY WORKSHOP.



Symbi Project 4th Steering Group Meeting took place from 21st to 22nd March, in Campobasso (Italy). It was organized by Chamber of Commerce of Molise in concomitance with 3rd Interregional Policy Workshop.

Several the topics in the agenda discussed, such as Action A1.3 “Best Practices”, each partner made a presentation of best cases identified and collected. Part of the works have been destined to the analysis of the “Action Plan” as well, the document to be produced by each partner within its own region. During the SGM were also analysed next steps of Symbi Project and set dates for the upcoming events.

THE SECOND SYMBI REPORT MAPPING THE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS IS PUBLISHED

The first version of the SYMBI project report “A1.2 Mapping the investment potential in industrial symbiosis” is published. The report is the second of the four main reports conducted during the project. This is the first version of the report and improvements will be made based on the comments from stakeholders and the public hearing. The Finnish SYMBI partner Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) was in charge of the survey methodology and analysing and combining the results into a report. The aim of the activity was to map the investment potential in industrial symbiosis (IS) in the project partner regions and find out the willingness and capacity of relevant stakeholders to make investments and allot financial support to IS. The main information of the report was collected by a survey targeting companies, public sector, investors and banks. The results of the survey were analysed using a SWOT analysis. The objective of the SWOT analysis was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, oppor-

tunities and threats related to the investment potential in industrial symbiosis. Most of the responds to the survey came from companies. A strong willingness to participate in IS projects was notable even though a lack of knowledge towards the concept was present trough out partner regions. Results show that many companies invest in IS at the SYMBI partner regions, especially in the field of sharing secondary resources.

The results from public sector show that many public organisations can give finance to companies in certain conditions, determined bureaucratic processes and financial status. However, more often public body organisations have other tools to direct companies to finance such as guiding them to specific EU-funding mechanisms.

The respond from investors and banks was low and the results indicate that investors and banks have a general lack of knowledge about the two aspects and lack of interest to participate in such surveys.

A general strength reported in most of the survey results is the added val-

ue that participating in industrial symbiosis brings. New business activities, products, brands and cooperation are the main drivers when implementing such projects. Common weaknesses emerging from the survey results were the fear of taking the risk of forming partnership. A threat emerging from the results was the rigidity of financial instruments. As for the time being, there is a lack of innovative funding and financial mechanisms that would allow companies (especially SMEs) to get fresh capital for investments in industrial symbiosis and circular economy projects.

The low level of knowledge can be seen as an opportunity as by promoting suitable financing and good practices in IS financing the initiatives and willingness to support it could increase.

The full report is available in the [SYMBI project library](#)



SYMBI Project Activities

SYMBI PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ATTENDING THE STUDY VISIT IN SLOVENIA

The Government office for development and European cohesion policy of the Republic of Slovenia (SYMBI project partner) hosted a 2 day study visit and a conference on 21 and 22 November 2017. The aim of the study visit was to discuss the waste recovery, separation and processing systems with the context of boosting the circular economy and promoting the industrial symbiosis. Important part of the event was the field visits in [Aguapark Atlantis](#) and paper company [VIPAP Videm Krško](#). The first was the case of the shared heating, while the second about the innovation processes (e. g. deinking) that can lead towards forging new industrial synergies. Alenka Smerkolj, minister without portfolio responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion, pointed out that Slovenia has become very active and engaged when it comes to boosting the transition towards circular economy, since we are aware of the fact that linear economy no longer is an option if we want to secure decent living conditions to the future generations on our planet. As she emphasized, if we wish to make this concept functional, we need to work on structural, horizontal and holistic approach. Peter Laybourn, Executive Chief of International Synergies Limited (UK), highlighted some facts that we may not be fully aware of, e. g. extraction of raw materials will grow 4-times by 2050. In a study they made, they found that one of solutions is encouraging industrial symbiosis, since the benefit cost ration is 32:1. But we to unlock the investment potential, where public investments can play a significant role. The rest of panellists who were present and shared their opinion were Jana Miklavčič, Waste Division, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (SI), Rachel Lombardi, Director of Business Development, International Synergies Limited (UK), Arno Behrens, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Sustainable Resources, Centre for European Policy Studies (B), Susanne Fischer, Research Unit Circular Economy, Wuppertal Institute (D), Ernesto Hartikainen, SITRA (Fin), Primož Oprčkal, Slovenian national building and civil engineering (Slo), Mateja Mešl, Project "Cel.Cycle" (Slo) and Alenka Burja, Environmental Consulting (Slo).



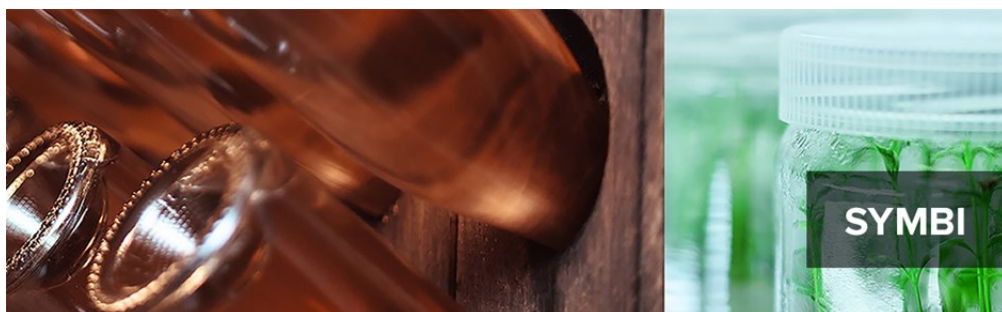
A NEW BLOG FOR SYMBI REALISED BY PROJECT PARTNER HAMK HÄME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

HAMK has set up their own national blog for the SYMBI project to disseminate information on the events, actions and results of the project. The blog aims to be a low

threshold communication channel, with free-form articles on different themes of the project. It is written by people working in the project and stakeholders' representatives.

The blog is mostly written in

Finnish, but also English stories are welcome. The first post handles the project's international conference and study visit held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The next topic will address the results achieved so far in the SYMBI project. The blog can be found [here](#).



SYMBI Project Activities

POLICY LEARNING EVENT ON ENERGY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY BY INTERREG EUROPE PROGRAMME ORGANISED IN SEVILLE, SPAIN 17-18 OCTOBER 2017

The Policy Learning Platform of Interreg Europe organized a Policy learning event on energy and resource efficiency in Seville, Spain 17th–18th October 2017. The event brought together representatives from different Interreg Europe projects to discuss the needs of cities and regions and explore good practices stemming from energy and resource efficiency. Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat introduced the services of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform in the event and the participants had an opportunity to try out these services in practice. The aim of the platform is to help



find and share good practices and to identify and promote the best course of action. To change through exchange is one of the key aspects of Interreg Europe projects. SYMBI-projects is no exception as learning from other project partners and their regions is a crucial way of establishing territorial synergies to promote industrial symbiosis and circular economy. SYMBI project was presented on day 2, resource efficiency, at the break out session on good practices “sustainable industrial networks and the role of businesses”. SYMBI brought out a good practice from Spain called the “Manresa en Simbiosi” which is the first industrial symbiosis initiative of the Council of Manresa (Catalonia). The key characteristic of this good practice is that it is an open industrial eco-system, which aims to encourage exchanges of all types of by-products. The conclusions, info and pictures can be found [here](#).

FUNDECYT PCTEX TAKE PART IN FIRST GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY MASTER DEGREE IN EXTREMADURA



In the context of Green and Circular Economy Framework in Extremadura region, a special Master degree was launched from regional government to improve the skills for guiding the transition from a Linear to a Circular model.

FUNDECYT PCTEX was invited to present SYMBI Project to students, the session was specially focused on Green Public Procurement as an instrument for support the transition to a more Circular model.

For more info on Symbi Project Lead Partner see its website on the link [FUNDECYT](#).



Project News

COMPANIES ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY SELLING PRODUCTS AS A SERVICE

The "performance economy," as defined by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, describes a business model in which manufacturers retain control over products throughout their life cycles and handle their maintenance and recovery, rather than saddling customers with those responsibilities.

Offering products "as a service" is also a tenet of the circular economy because it transforms the concept of ownership and encourages people to rethink how a "thing" is used over its lifetime — whether it's an apartment that often sits vacant or a specialized piece of equipment that's used relatively infrequently. Manufacturers benefit by establishing a steady stream of revenue related to a single product and potentially keeping them in circulation longer, which saves on energy, materials and other resources associated with the



manufacturing process. Customers benefit because they only pay for what they need. Both sides benefit from a more active, ongoing relationship.

Vehicle-sharing company Zipcar and accommodation-sharing pioneer Airbnb may spring to mind when we think of product-as-a-service models. But many other companies, such as lighting vendor Philips, have

created subscription programs that rethink how their products are sold. Those offerings align with principles of the circular economy, in which materials are kept in play for as long as productively possible, then recovered and reused at the end of life.

More info here: [GreenBIZ](#)

Next Project Events

SYMBI FOURTH POLICY WORKSHOP ON “HOW TO LAUNCH INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS”

In **June 2018**, as agreed during the 4th Steering Committee of Symbi Project, Partner “Regional Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia” will organize

a 2 day policy workshop on how to launch industrial symbiosis demonstration projects. The event will be followed by a study visit to a selected local company. The 2 day

Policy Workshop will represent a very excellent frame for cross-sectoral cooperation in order to activate productive and profitable networking opportunity with the scope to foster the adoption of Industrial Symbiosis and Circular Economy.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

CONSEJERÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ORDENACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO



Upcoming thematic Events

SMICE 2018 – SLUDGE MANAGEMENT IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY - ROME 23-24-25 MAY 2018

The IWA Specialist Conference on Sludge Management in Circular Economy “SMICE 2018” will be taking place in Rome from the 23rd to the 25th May 2018. SMICE 2018, organized by Water Research

Institute of CNR, aims to highlight the coming challenges for scientists and technicians who are pushed to find out new solutions with the common perspective that sludge might be a suitable material for

recycling and valorization into higher-value products.

For more info and registration:

[SMICE 2018](#)



IWA
the international
water association

SMICE 2018

ROME, 23rd-24th-25th MAY



Istituto di Ricerca sulle Acque
CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE

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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