

## SIXTH NEWSLETTER

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## PARTNERS



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[WWW.INTERREGEUROPE.EU/SYMBI](http://WWW.INTERREGEUROPE.EU/SYMBI)

### OUTSMARTING WASTE: DOES AI HOLD THE KEY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

Despite our fears, might Artificial Intelligence prove to be a force for good in the world? A new study released by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Google suggests AI's super-human analytical power could be harnessed to wipe out inefficiencies in global supply chains, in everything from food to consumer electronics, delivering massive cost and environmental savings in the process.

Specifically, it suggests AI could be used to design out waste in the food system to deliver annual savings of \$127bn or in the consumer electronics industry could save up to \$90bn a year by 2030, the report estimates, through improving predictive maintenance of machines. But the paper stresses the opportunities for AI to drive a more circular economy are not limited to just these two sectors, in fact, "Combining the power of AI with a vision for a circular economy represents a significant, and as yet largely untapped, opportunity to harness one of the great technological developments of our time to support efforts to fundamentally reshape the economy into one that is regenerative, resilient, and fit for the long term", the report suggests.

The report came on the same day as a separate study from the Circle Economy business group detailed how just nine per cent of the minerals, fossil fuels, metals, and biomass resources that are extracted each year are re-used. Consequently, material use is responsible for 62 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, excluding those from forestry and land use. And those emissions keep climbing as resource use spirals upwards.

However, there are encouraging signs technology is already helping to drive a more circular economy where businesses shift from a 'take, make, dispose' model to a circular, closed loop resource model. Smart sensors and the 'Internet of Things' are helping to ensure energy hungry appliances are monitored and optimised, blockchain is boosting supply chain traceability, and innovations such as 3D printing are helping

to promote reuse and repair.

For Full Article by Madeleine Cuff click:

[Businessgreen](#)



# SYMBI Project Activities

## TRANSFORMING LEARNING INTO ACTIONS - INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION RESULTS

We are approaching now to the end of the first phase of SYMBI project, three years full of activities based on exchange of experiences favoring the process of learning through the exchange of experiences related to circular economy and more specifically to industrial symbiosis. We want to take the opportunity of this last newsletter to review what we have done during this exciting journey.

Nothing better to start than establishing a framework through the analysis of different issues related to the development of policies related to Circular Economy as:

The analysis of the existing policies not only to the participating regions, but also taking into account successful policies belonging to other regions. From this analysis we can highlight, the list of policy recommendations to to achieve the advancement of Circular Economy.

The map of investment potential in industrial symbiosis, to find out the willingness and capacity of relevant

stakeholders to make investments in developing industrial symbiosis in partners' regions, where we found a strong willingness to participate to such projects is notable even though the lack of knowledge is still hindering the activity. Results showed that many companies invest in industrial symbiosis at the SYMBI partners region especially in the field of sharing secondary resources.

The identification of Good Practices, where partners learned directly what Industrial Symbiosis means, not only from small scale projects in the private sector, but also as an strategical point of view in industrial areas promoted from the public sector, through the awareness creation, the research and mapping related to waste in companies, and the support of exchange through different tools as networking sessions, platform, etc

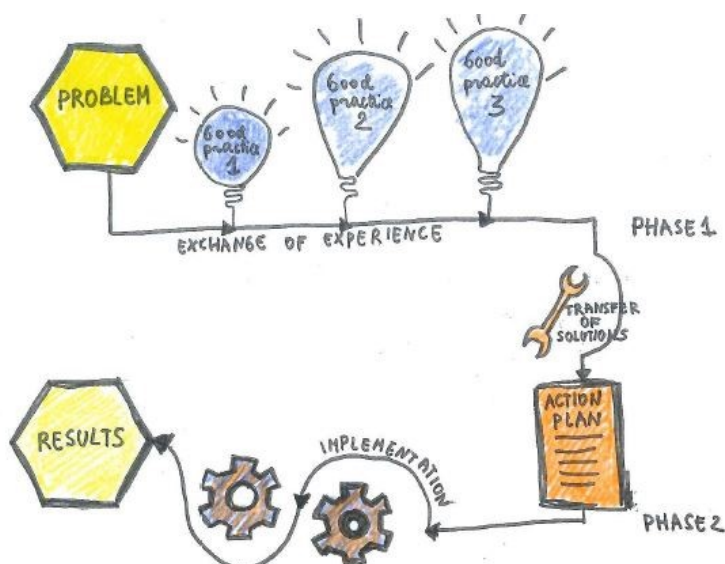
The analysis of Green Public Procurement as an enabler of Industrial Symbiosis, as it can helps public authorities to achieve environmental targets but at the same time it provides social, political

and economic benefits. GPP also provides incentives to industry to innovate, i.e. to produce and supply environmentally sustainable and socially responsible products in order to be more competitive and lay the foundations for industrial symbiosis projects.

On the other hand, we participated in interregional activities such as Workshops and that helped us to learn directly from real examples related to different topics as how the private-public partnerships can foster industrial symbiosis, how to stimulate the emergence of secondary raw materials market and how to launch industrial symbiosis demonstration projects.

Nowadays, we can see how the inspiration provoked by this learning takes shape in the participating regions through the action plans.

We hope to see the results of this actions during the second phase!



## SYMBI Project Activities

### STUDY VISIT IN MAŁOPOLSKA REGION, 30 -31 January 2019

On 30 and 31 of January 2019 the Project Partner Małopolska region organised a study visit in Poland. This was the last study visit in the framework of the project SYMBI, focused mainly on the examples of industrial symbioses identified in our region. There were many interesting actions in the area of circular economy presented, among others at the national level - the project of road map of transformation towards a circular economy and at the regional level: EkoMałopolska – draft of the programme for improving the efficiency of selective municipal waste collection and information campaign promoting proper waste management.

The most valuable focus during the study visit were the cases of

industrial symbioses in Małopolska. One of them was the cogeneration (CHP) system in fruit and vegetable processing plant in Tymbark, part of the Maspex Group, one of the biggest companies in Central and Eastern Europe in the segment of food products. This system produces electric heat energy, process steam and chilled water for the needs of the apple juice production. Industrial symbiosis is also realized in Tymbark plant by treating external wastewater from Tymbark municipality and a local dairy plant OSM Limanowa.

The second practice was the recovery of zinc and lead ores from post-flotation waste in ZGH Bolesław, part of the largest company processing zinc in Poland and a producer of Special High Grade Zinc and its products. It's

assumed that in total two-thirds of the feed in the company will ultimately come from the recycling.

Study visits were accompanied by the sightseeing of some historic and touristic places, among others, the Historic Museum of Cracow and the exhibition "Mind of knowledge about zinc" in Bukowno.

During both days, 30 persons took part in the study visit in Małopolska Region. Except the project partners, there were stakeholders present from Hungary, Slovenia and Poland (together 8 institutions/companies).

At the end of the study visit in Małopolska Region the steering group meeting of partners was organised. There was the progress in the project implementation discussed, especially the stage of Action Plans preparation by selected partners.



# SYMBI Project Activities

## BOOSTING INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS FOR CIRCULAR REGIONS—BOHINJSKA BISTRICA (SLOVENIA), 6 MARCH 2019

The conference on 'Boosting Industrial Symbiosis for Circular Regions' was organised by Slovenia's Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC). Opening remarks were delivered by State Secretary Dr. Nevenka Ribič.

A number of foreign and Slovenian guest speakers, practitioners and participants at today's conference discussed the synergies between industrial symbiosis and effective spatial planning, looked into ways to estimate the market potential of industrial symbiosis, and outlined the possibilities of implementing research projects on industrial symbiosis.

Opening the event, Dr. Nevenka Ribič State Secretary at GODC said that Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 placed the shift to a circular economy among the twelve development goals to be pursued in the upcoming period; she also underlined the importance of Slovenia participating in international projects aiming to support this transition. 'As our national institutions work together with partners in projects like SYMBI and other similar projects, they show commitment to becoming more flexible, adopting innovative approaches and embracing trends. They show their willingness to learn by

translating knowledge into meaningful action on the ground, and to adopt good practices. The lessons we have already learnt and those which are yet to come are invaluable in helping us better implement Cohesion Policy now, and will help us shape the new programming period beyond 2020', added Dr. Ribič.

The real meaning and role of industrial symbiosis has already been recognized and implemented abroad. The Danish region of Kalundborg was among the first ones in the world to successfully introduce this concept; Lisbeth Randers of Kalundborg Symbiosis, currently a partnership of six companies and three public institutions whose beginnings date back to 1960s, shared their experience, and identified the results and outcomes of cooperation and sharing between the actors involved. This excellent example of a successful public-private partnership provides energy solutions with energy consumption savings and reduced CO2 emissions (annual savings of 635,000 tonnes). According to Ms Randers, the key to successful cooperation lies in building trust among actors.

Sanna Tyni from Lapland University of Applied Sciences presented an industrial symbiosis case study of the Finnish region of Kemi-Tornio where industrial symbiosis activities helped revitalize an abandoned

industrial zone. Ignacio Calleja from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology – Raw Materials outlined potential support mechanisms that encourage innovative circular economy projects. Since training is of key importance, their activities are also geared towards supporting projects focused on education, training and peer learning.

Representative of Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy at European Commission Sander Happaerts said that the Commission published a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan it adopted in 2015. According to the findings of the report, implementing the Circular Economy Action Plan has accelerated the transition towards a circular economy in Europe.

Representatives of the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership – Circular Economy presented their views on and shared experience in implementing the concept of industrial symbiosis in Slovenia.

Photo gallery and presentations can be found [here](#)



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
AND EUROPEAN COHESION POLICY



# SYMBI Project Activities

## “ECOFORUM” EVENT - CAMPOBASSO - ITALY 16TH JANUARY 2019

Project Partner Chamber of Commerce of Molise in partnership with Legambiente and other relevant stakeholders has organized in Campobasso (Molise IT) on the 16<sup>th</sup> January the “ECOFORUM” Event. The initiative aims to stimulate the debate concerning the circular economy sector.

The 2018 was the year of the definitive approval of the new package of European directives on the circular economy. A series of long-awaited measures, destined to accelerate, if quickly and effectively transposed, the transition towards a new economy, stronger because it is more sustainable.

Financial resources provided by the European Structural and Investment Funds for waste management and those funds for research and technological innovation will support the efforts of institutions, companies

and consumers moving towards a more circular economy.

We are entering in a new era, the CIRCULAR ECONOMY 4.0, which can represent an epochal turning point for the economy, job creation, the environment and the health of citizens.

A challenge of extraordinary interest for us, in fact, Italy already boasts many successful experiences of circular economy and reuse, practiced by municipalities, public or mixed companies and private companies that can allow us to be one of the leading countries in the theme in Europe.

In our region, due to the lack of an ad hoc programming, the CIRCULAR ECONOMY sector is struggling to get started, with the consequent lack of employment and investment opportunities that could arise.

During the ECOFORUM event, among the various experiences presented, it was also presented Project Symbi.

At the end of the event, it was presented an award for those Molisan municipalities that, in 2017, stood out for their high percentages of separate collection (equal to or higher than 65%). The initiative was supported by Molise Region and by Anci Molise and sponsored by EWAP - European Works And Projects, GF Pubblicità and the Melise farm.



CAMERA DI COMMERCIO  
DEL MOLISE



## SYMBI Project Activities

### FRUSH 2019- A CIRCULAR ECONOMY EVENT FOR STARTUPS AND GROWTH ENTERPRISES

For the third time this year, FRUSH, a circular economy event for startups and small enterprises will be organized in Forssa, Finland. It is a networking event to bring together investors, startups, students, researchers, etc. to share their experiences and ideas about circular economy as well as update with latest trends and models under circular economy. This event provides an opportunity to new businesses and startups to introduce and promote their innovations and business models based on the concept. The event takes place in Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) premises in Forssa on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2019. The first day of the event is in Finnish language while the second day will be in English. The final program for the event will be published soon. More information on the event will be available in the FRUSH's official [website](#).



### ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY - NEW EU REPORT

A new report, "Accelerating the transition to a circular economy: Improving access to finance for circular economy projects," provides key recommendations to drive increased investment in circular economy initiatives. The study was authored by the European Commission Expert Group on Circular Economy Financing, of which EIT Climate-KIC is a member.

The new Report from the European Commission is available here: [REPORT](#)



## Upcoming thematic Events

### WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2019

The other important event for this year is the World Circular Economy Forum 2019 (WCEF2019) organized by The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. The event takes place in Helsinki, Finland from 3rd June to 5th June 2019. The event has been organized twice in the past years: the first in 2017 in Finland and the second in 2018 in Japan. The main emphasis of this year's event is to highlight the new era of circular economy and promote transitions. This event aims to bring around 2000 circular economy thinkers and doers from around the world. The event details and materials are available in the event's webpage.



## 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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