



Circular Innovation and Resilient City Labs in the Adrion Region

WORK PACKAGE T3

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CIRCLab Camp Report

School Center Velenje

November 2022

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Introduction

CIRCLabs (Circular Innovation Resilient Cities Labs) are urban laboratories which focus on the creation and implementation of circular models through innovation processes in the field of waste management. The main goal of the CIRCLabs is to design and test circular models focused on 4 pilot fields, i.e. industrial symbiosis, organic waste, WEEE and CDW, and transfer and exchange knowledge about circular principles in ADRION region.

The CIRCLab Camp is an event. It can be a stand-alone event or be part of wider initiative related to the same matter (e.g. the European week for waste reduction, Ecomondo fair, the Labelab event). The CIRCLab Camp must take place in an innovative format, mixing training and key-note speeches with collaborative exchange, and designed to ensure its full effectiveness. Its characteristics (animation, key-speakers, presence of facilitators and experts) have to be guaranteed in all the regional editions.

The aim is to ease knowledge on the results and further promote the urban labs and the circular approach to waste management.* ¹

CIRCLab SAŠA, which coveres the areas of Savinja and Šaleška Valley and includes Municipalities Velenje, Šoštanj and Šmartno ob Paki set up several activities which took place in the span of one day. The morning part was dedicated to workshops and the afternoon maing focus point was a discussion/round table of several important actors in the field of re-use.

¹ *Definition taken from CIRCLab CAMP report of CIRCLab Forli.

Preparation of CIRCLab Camp in Slovenia

The CIRCLab Camp in Šoštanj, Slovenia, was organised on 9th November, 2022, by project partner SC Velenje in collaboration with slovenian outside partners: Pristop Association entrepreneurs with social impact, Insitute ŽIV!M and ZEOS, d.o.o., in newly opened Center Skupno dobro (centre for circular economy initiatives). It was moderated by SC Velenje's Community manager, Mr. Franci Pečnik (both the event and the discussion).

Workshops and some of the events were made in collaboration with different Schools of School center Velenje. Teachers served as workshop leaders and sub-events coordinators.

The Camp was mainly planned for the live audience, but it was accessible to observers online through ZOOM application. Link was unlocked an sent to all project partners in advance on Monday, 7th November.

Communication

The holding of the CIRCLab Camp was communicated through a series of initiatives:

- Facebook post on CIRCLE ADRION homapage
- Invitation posted on CIRCLE project webpage
- Invitation posted on Slovenian Press Agency portal STA
- Invitation posted on SC Velenje and MIC webpages (under news)
- Invitation posted on Municipality Šoštanj (location of CIRCLab CAMP) future event's page
- E-mail invitations to members of discussion
- E-mail invitations to other participants
- E-mail invitations to local elementary school
- E-mail invitations and ZOOM links for CIRCLE project partners
- Press conference the day of the Camp

Camp Program

The Camp program was as follows:

9.00 - 16.00:

Display of the classroom and workshop of the Common Good Center

Workshops: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.,

- Basics of designing and 3D printing
- Woodworking workshop simple repairs and procedures (Velenje reuse center)
- Electrical workshop Diagnosis of malfunctioning appliances, simple repairs and procedures
- E-Transformer 2.0 tour of the vehicle and workshop for groups

11:00 a.m.: Fashion show "When clothes come to life again", students of School Center Velenje.

11.15: Press conference

11:30 a.m.: Reception for local companies and municipalities. Presentation of the Common Good Center. Initiative for the CIRClab network and a supporting environment for the development of circular economy potential in the region

12.00: Official pening of the permanent Exchange of still working appliances (presentation of the company ZEOS, d.o.o. and of the Life project We encourage e-circular and the presentation of the exchange)

12.30: Consultation on the circular economy in the region and beyond and CIRCLEcamp Topic: Circular - business models: examples of practices and opportunities

- Mojca Metelko KNOF Institute
- Ph.D. Marinka Vovk Centre REUSE
- Ph.D. Luka Zajec Syncycle (Austria)

Location: Sredisce Skupno dobro, Trg svobode 11, Šoštanj, Slovenia Considerations

The main objective of the CIRCLab Camp was to present workings and activities of CIRCLab SAŠA to wider audience and reach several segments of target groups and make them connect. It was also a way for CIRCLab staff to test combinations of several events, both from organisational point of view as well as the content dissemination methods.

We had a full programme, which included a demonstration of workshops with an emphasis on raising awareness about the reuse of electrical appliances and small repair skills that anyone can do at home. We learned about the basics of 3D printing, which makes many repairs easier when we simply make the missing part. The company ZEOS provided educational vehicle which demonstrated ways of re-use of old electronic equipment.

As the final part of the Circular Days, we invited the entrepreneur and ambassador of the circular dr. Marinko Vovk Center for Reuse and Ms. Mojco Metelko Knof and Mr. dr. Luka Zajec, technical director of Syncycle. At the consultation, we learned about the operating practices of various business models in the circular economy. From social entrepreneurship, which also enables the employment of vulnerable groups in order to realize circularity. With a clear vision of solving the social problem of waste reduction and reuse, we got to know the already functioning locations of reuse centers and the project Studio KROG - Studio of circular economy, which is being created in Slovenske Konjice. They are also enthusiastic about the operation of the circular laboratory in Krško.

dr. Luka Zajec presented a development project for processing materials that are otherwise intended for incineration through chemical decomposition by pyrolysis. In doing so, it is possible to carry out chemical decomposition of materials and obtain new granulate in the plastics industry and propellants.

As a conclusion of the consultation, we concluded that there is a need for integration between the actors of circularity at all levels. From raising awareness in the local environment, schools and kindergartens as well as in companies, public institutions and municipalities. After all, the technology and knowledge set of initiatives already in operation enable savings in the costs of waste management and responsible consumption in new products, which are still on the rise.

In the Common Good Center, we will provide a meeting place for everyone who is aware of the importance of sustainable and responsible development of society. We are convinced that exchange and re-use should be done not only in materials but also in the transfer of knowledge, practices and relationships. After all, a constant circularity in giving and receiving is necessary, which creates liveliness and life.

The discussion was very lively and the selection of key speakers proved to be well made. Their points were well received and there was a lievly debate after speakers introduced their points.

On the subject of reaching target audience we were successful in the segment of students and less successful in the segments of general public, which can be attributed to the timing of the event and perhaps location. As it took place in the middle of the week it was great for the students and local legislation but less optimal for public which would participate outside of their work hours. It also took place in town Šoštanj, which, while central to the region, boasts far less inhabitants than Velenje. Perhaps we were also late in the event promotion since we re-scheduled the event and didn't promote sufficiently. Nevertheless, we reached some of our target augdience and the audience present seemed to be satisfied woth the event, both according to our Questionnaires and general remarks expressed during the event.

Annex 1: Invitation/poster



Figure 1: Invitation/poster

Annex 2: Photos from the event

























Annex 3: Analysis of the Evaluation Questionnaire

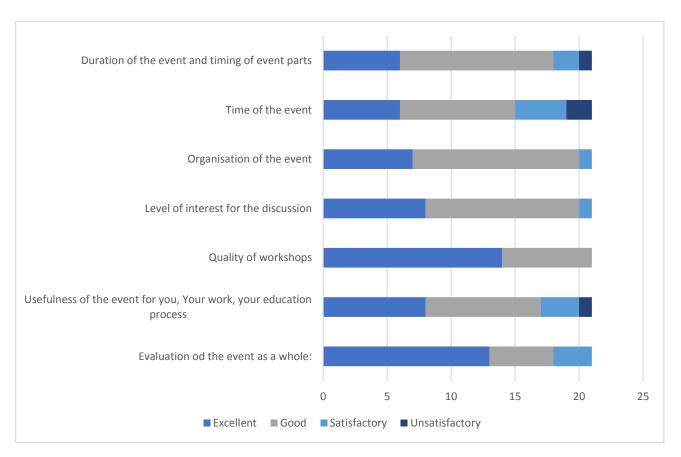


Figure 2: Impressions about the event, taken from Evaluation Questionnaire, prepared for CIRCLab SAŠA Camp on 9th November 2022.

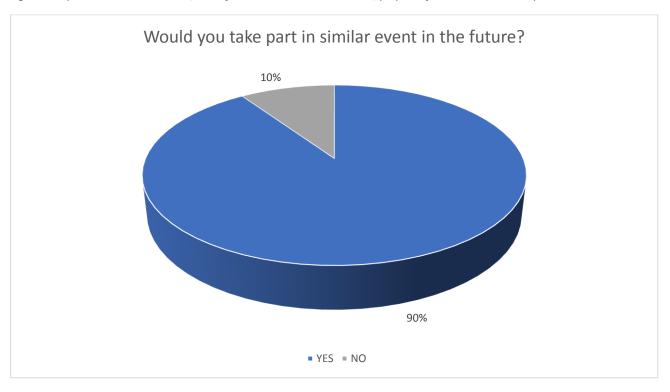


Figure 3: Answers about potential furthure participation in similar events.





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