



Circular Innovation and Resilient City Labs in the Adrion Region

WORK PACKAGE T3

DELIVERABLE T3.2.1

CIRCLab Camp Report

Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska

December 2021 – Final version

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Introduction

The circular economy concept is widely promoted by the European policy framework and this is unambiguously depicted in the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) which was adopted on 2020. The CEAP emphasises on the value chains utilizing resources with a high potential for circularity and focuses on the waste sector through the promotion of enhanced waste policy to strengthen waste prevention and circularity as well as through the creation of a well-defined secondary raw materials EU market.

In the context of the CIRCLE project, CIRCLab is described as *an interactive physical or online space where circular business models in the field of waste management are implemented by involvement and collaboration of different stakeholders*. The five main principles under which the CIRCLab will operate include **I.** Investigate new circular business models, **II.** Open character of the lab, **III.** Real-life context, **IV.** Collaborative context and **V.** Raise public awareness and promote the participation of citizens.

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. 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.

Preparation of CIRCLab Camp in Goriška region

The Goriška CIRCLab Camp, in fact the first of the planned in the Circle project, was organized by Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska.

Despite the difficulties due to the continuing pandemic of Covid, it was still decided to organize the event in person.

Some considerations were taken into account in the organization:

At the CIRCLAB CAMP, held in Nova Gorica, the challenges of the transition to a circular economy were highlighted, a summary of the European framework for the transition to a circular economy and key opportunities for Goriška and for cross-border cooperation in the field of green transition and reduction of organic waste were being discussed. The importance of research and development partnerships for cross-border and inter-regional cooperation in the field of innovation, which the EC puts in the foreground, for example the Interreg and Horizon programs, was emphasized. In addition to our discussions in CIRCLab, we participated in January 2022 in submitting a project proposal with the title Circularinvest within the Horizon Europe programme, HORIZON-CL6-2022-CIRCBIO-01-01, - Circular Cities and Regions Initiative's project development assistance (CCRI-PDA), in cooperation with the Municipality of Nova Gorica as a promoter and a pilot area of the Circular Economy investment initiative. The project proposal has been approved for funding and the implementation of the project will start in December 2022.

Communication

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

- Facebook post
- Event created on Facebook
- Sending an email to the email address of Circlab
- Sending an email to the Circular Forum

Considerations

As already mentioned, this Camp was born with aim to redefine growth in a way that multiple benefits for the society are gained. This involves gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system

One of the goals of CIRCLab Camp is to introduce CIRCLabs to other realities, organizations, institutions and maybe invite them to start their own CIRCLab. From this point of view, the first camp functioned as a two-way communication, between the moderator and the participants, discussing the possibilities of a circular way of living in Goriška region.

Annex 1



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