



region  
**lodzkie**

**Poland**  
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## Part I - General information

Project: LCA4Regions - Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through use of Life Cycle Instruments for implementation of regional policies of the European Union

Partner organisation: Lodzkie Region

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## Part II - Policy context

1. The Action Plan aims to impact:
  - Investment for Growth and Jobs programme**
    - European Territorial Cooperation programme
    - Other regional development policy instrument

2. Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027 (FEŁ 2027)

The development of the circular economy (CE) and the "green economy" is currently one of the main trends in the global and domestic economy. In recent years, due to the special interest of national and community authorities, the possibilities offered by the CE model, also at the level of regions and local governments, have been looked at much more closely.

Along with the development of the green economy in the world, including the dissemination of life cycle assessment (LCA), also in the Lodzkie Region, in recent years, there have been initiatives directly related to these areas which we tried to identify under the LCA4Regions project. The above circumstances were a signal for Lodzkie that the inclusion of the concept of the LCA methodology as one of the elements of circular economy in the mainstream of the development of the region's economy is important.

The necessity to transform the Polish economy in accordance with the CE concept was defined in the strategic document of the Polish government "Strategy for Responsible Development 2020 (with a perspective until 2030)" and adopted by the Council of Ministers as the "Map of transformation towards a circular economy". The Lodzkie Region, in recent years, when creating instruments dedicated to the development of the region, was based on the "Development Strategy of the Lodzkie Region" - the most important document adopted by the resolution of the Board of the Lodzkie Region, defining the key areas of support not only in terms of the economy but also the environment, transport and social issues. The document, currently in force, defines the vision and goals of the regional policy until 2030. However, the most important document for supporting the implementation of Life Cycle Assessment may be the project of the regional program European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027 (FEŁ 2027). FEŁ2027 (program replacing the Regional Operational Program) defines the main areas and directions of activities for the development of the Lodzkie Region with the use of the EU funds planned for the region for the years 2021-2027. On March 15, 2022, the project documents were officially sent to the European Commission, which is the beginning of formal negotiations of the program.

Moreover, another strategic document, which is the Territorial Plan of Just Transformation of the Lodz Region (TPSTWŁ), states that "There is a need to shape a modern economic profile of a given transformation, including transforming business models, manufacturing processes and products for which it will be necessary to introduce intelligent solutions based on digital technologies. Building a climate-neutral economy will force the mobilization of the industry sector to raise the currently low level of solutions in the field of the circular economy. This will include the design of sustainable products with reduced consumption of

materials and their re-use before recycling, and the strengthening and extension of producer responsibility. One of the challenges identified in the TPSTWŁ project in the area of Economy in Transition is to mobilize the industry sector for a clean circular economy.

The involvement of Lodzkie in the LCA4Regions project allowed the regional authorities to gain knowledge about practical solutions enabling the improvement of local policy in the application of LCA. In phase 1 of the project focusing on the exchange of knowledge and experience between partners, Lodzkie diagnosed the current state and defined opportunities and barriers to the development of LCA in the region. This goal has been achieved through the document Regional Analysis and Benchmarking (RAB).

Good practices identified by project partners from Finland, Lithuania, Slovenia, Portugal and Spain provided a significant inspiration for the action described in this Action Plan.

One of the main challenges for public institutions to implement the LCA4Regions objectives is also to disseminate knowledge about successful examples of the application of life cycle assessment and related methodologies. The issue of adequate education of the public and private sector as well as building the capacity of entrepreneurs in the field of LCA is crucial for the success of circular economy projects. This is confirmed both by the experiences gathered during meetings with project partners and stakeholder events. As a strong scientific center, Lodzkie also has an appropriate training and education base to develop LCA potential in this pillar.

Therefore, the Lodzkie Region included the following action in the Regional Action Plan:

- introduction of LCA issues to the program "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027" (program replacing the Regional Operational Program)

## Part III - Details of the actions envisaged

### ACTION 1: Introduction of LCA issues to the program "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027"

#### The background

The action was developed on the basis of the experiences from the first phase of the LCA4Regions project consisting in the exchange of experiences and good practices between the project partners. Lodzkie was interested in solutions at the level of specific operational programs that enable direct support for entities in disseminating the use of life cycle assessment. In this context, the most inspiring practices were presented by partners from:

- a) Finland:
  - KEINO - Competence, consulting and training center for the implementation of circular economy solutions (including LCA)
  - Clean Plastic Finland (CPF) - recycling of plastic waste from agriculture
  - Fortum Waste Solutions - recycling in the plastics sector
- b) Lithuania:

- Application of Life-cycle assessment in optimization of municipal waste management systems
- c) Slovenia:
- Green public procurement in Slovenia - training modules in the field of green public procurement taking into account life cycle methodologies, e.g. LCC
  - workshops "Process planning and multi-criteria decision making in a circular economy" and "Introducing circular changes in the economy through product life cycle analysis (LCA)"
  - Comparative life cycle assessment of alternative packaging materials for beverage
- d) Portugal:
- "Promoting education / awareness through an e-learning course on construction and demolition waste"
- e) Spain:
- training courses "Business models in the circular economy" and "Life cycle analysis (LCA) and carbon footprint (CF)"

The inclusion of the LCA concept in the main area of support in the future budget perspective will create the possibility of more effective and systematic actions aimed at the development of this methodology in the Lodzkie Region.

### Action

The European Commission is currently being consulted on the signing of the Partnership Agreement for the programme European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027. The draft programme includes, among others, the following objectives:

#### Priority 1: EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR INNOVATIVE LODZKIE

Specific objective 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including through productive investment

- Implementation of solutions in the field of circular economy

#### Priority 2: EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR GREEN LODZKIE

Specific objective 2.6 - Supporting transformation towards a circular economy and a resource-efficient economy

- investments in separate waste collection (in conjunction with educating the local community covered by the project, including the promotion of re-use), installations for the treatment of bio-waste, installations for cleaning separately collected waste or recycling waste;
- investments aimed at preventing waste generation or promoting re-use, e.g. sharing initiatives (using the same products), preventing food waste (as part of the project), repair points, installations enabling the consumption of water straight from the tap (e.g. filters, drinkers);
- investments supporting CE in enterprises, including: investments in production installations or industrial equipment leading to a reduction in the consumption of

raw materials or the amount of waste generated, investments in eco-design of products and packaging, e.g. in order to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials used in their production, replacing them with secondary raw materials or biodegradable materials demolition waste"

- education or consulting in the field of circular economy, preparation of planning documents relating to circular economy

Additionally, when creating the project selection criteria for FEŁ2027 (or possibly other implementation documents), adding a criterion promoting the circular economy (including LCA) in selected types of projects (or possibly other provisions) will be considered. As the FEŁ2027 project has not yet been approved by the European Commission, due to the ongoing negotiations, it is not possible to indicate at this stage in which specific objectives and types of projects such a criterion (or provision) could be added.

This specific objective in the project sent to the European Commission in the point: Interventions supported from the Funds - Interregional, cross-border and transnational actions was extended with information on a given international project which has influenced the scope of intervention for a given specific objective. In the case of the LCARegions project, the following provision was proposed:

In addition, part of the scope of intervention was introduced in connection with the experience gained under international projects: Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through use of Life Cycle Instruments for implementation of regional policies of the European Union - LCA4REGIONS (...)

From the early stage of the LCA4Regions project, the department responsible for programming the regional program was involved in all Interreg project initiatives - study visits, good practices, stakeholder meetings, preparation of materials for the Interreg project. Therefore, both the implementation of the LCA4Regions project and the preparation of the regional program for 2021-2027 took place in such a way that it took into account the subject of circular economy (including LCA), i.e. the results of the Interreg project, as widely as possible.

When programming FEŁ2027 it was assumed that it should be a document indicating the directions of support in a fairly general way. Further clarifications in the field of circular economy and LCA are planned in the programming documents that will be created after the regional program is adopted by the European Commission.

### Players

Department of Regional Policy of the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region

The tasks of the Department of Regional Policy (as an executive body for decisions of the Lodzkie Region Board in the field of creating development policy) include matters related to the coordination of programming and monitoring of regional development, coordination of works on regional operational programs (ROP 2007-2013, ROP 2014-2020 and FEŁ 2021-2027), including tasks related to planning, programming, monitoring, coordination of the management and control system, evaluation, running information points, certification.

### Timeframe

Years 2020-2023

Costs

Lodzkie expects that his action will not generate additional costs.

Funding sources

Budget of the Lodzkie Region - own funds - in case of additional costs.

Date: 29 April 2022

Name of the organisation(s): Lodzkie Region

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

[www.interregeurope.eu/lca4regions](http://www.interregeurope.eu/lca4regions)  
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