



BEST PRACTICES, ACHIEVED RESULTS and BARRIERS

During both REPLACE Kick off Meeting and the first Learning Event in Leeuwarden, Philippe Holstein (NEXA) introduced the idea of gathering a sort of catalogue of best practices and barriers in the field of circular economy, underlining the importance of such exercise to enable the achievement of notable cooperation results. His analysis stated that the lack of understanding on which actions led to success stories and which strategies led to unsuccessful examples, hampering the process of policy learning. Philippe highlighted the centrality of such work to enable a smarter use of ERDF and to prove, through the presentation of best practices and failures, that change is possible and it can be stimulated through experiences and knowledge sharing. The catalogue represents also a way to collect and show the encountered barriers and how to deal and overcome them. Carlos Silveira (CCDRC) showcased Centro Region best practice: a simple voucher scheme targeted at SMEs to be employed for the organization of the circular economy transition. The simplicity of application and the support of the central government were two crucial points for the success story. Maria Kandilogiannaki (Crete Region) added how SCREEN started the talk about circular economy in Greece: it was only applied in the agri-food sector with the launch of 2 calls for proposals. Sander Bos (Friesland) demonstrated how both the ambition and the practical application of circular economy have boosted in the Province: the new economic model is, in fact, at the heart of both RIS3 and ERDF through the Circular Friesland operative framework. As a best practice, he presented a subsidy for 10 projects, while explaining how they are used to involve stakeholders all along the programming process; even in the post evaluation of phase. Bart closed by presenting the definition that the province gave to circular economy, tailored to their specific needs





Lazio Region

Best practice: an effective methodology to issue call for proposal

In accordance to both the RIS3 and the results of the local analysis performed within SCREEN project - methodology employed also by REPLACE - Lazio region launched a series of call for proposals for circular repositioning of industrial sectors, in particular for APEA.

APEA (*area produttiva ecologicamente attrezzata* - ecologically equipped productive area) are introduced by the article 26 of the Italian law number 112 of the 1998, that gives the regions the right to legislate those productive areas in which ecological infrastructures and services are shared among private and/or public actors. Being constituted of multiple enterprises, these areas are suitable for the transition toward a circular economy, mainly because Lazio region regulated that within APEA by-products, wastes and resources can be shared.

Lazio Region applied SCREEN methodology and the bottom-up approach by involving the largest number of stakeholders in an open consultation: all actors of the Quadruple Helix were allowed to participate. Then, the calls were organized in two phases: an initial support for submitting a viable action plan to receive evidence-based proposals of competitive and circular repositioning of industrial sectors, clusters, markets and segments; and a second part in which projects are implemented and APEA's constitution and operability are supported.

Policy instrument launched: calls for business innovation for circular repositioning

Effectiveness: the tested bottom-up approach resulted successful: 173 proposals were presented and 150M ERDF were awarded. Moreover, the participatory approach allowed the region to generate a new trustworthy relationship with the regional players: the stakeholder consultation allowed also the creation of new cooperative partnerships between research institutions, universities and business sector. The employed methodology is highly considered by Lazio Region, especially in the circular economy field, considered its novelty and its cross-sectoriality: the bottom-up approach is essential for the region to collect important needs and insights from those actors that operate a circular business or are willing to transition.

Preparing a call employing this approach is time consuming and needs more resources, but the methodology ensures to achieve a good result in term of adherence of support offered and support needed by the regional actors.

Future capitalization the methodology stems at the basis of REPLACE project and will be further utilized for the launch of new policy instruments; the approach will be highly used in issuing call for proposals for circular economy.

