Interregional Learning Event n°2 | Minutes

## Date 23 June 2020 – 10h30-12h30 | Location Online (Microsoft Teams)

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Meeting called by | HESAM Université | | Type of meeting | Interregional Learning Event n°2 – Day 1 on 3 – For project partners only | | Facilitators | Jordana A. Harriss, Project Coordinator; Serge Gadbois, Head of International and EU Affairs | |

### Attendees (Country, Organization, Name, Position)

France, HESAM Université: Ms Jordana A. Harriss, Project Coordinator; Mr Serge Gadbois, Head of International and EU Affairs;

Spain, Provincial Council, Granada: Ms Trinidad Manrique de Lara Vílchez, Project Officer European Projects; Mr Manuel Pérez, European Project Officer; Mr Lucas Ruiz Diaz, European Project Officer

Romania, Regional Development Agency, Centru: Ms Gabriela Tarau, Policy Officer European Network; Ms Ovidia Caba, Director of Regional Policies Department

Netherlands, Van Hall Larenstein University: Mr Emiel Elferink, Applied Research Professor

Czech Republic, Central Bohemian Innovation Centre: Mr Vedran Bostandžić, Project Manager; Mr Cyril Klepek, Project Officer

France, Regional Council, Burgundy-Franche-Comté: Ms Pauline Treissac, Policy Officer on European Projects Policy Officer; Mr Sylvain Riffard, Head of Department on Territorial development; Mr Franck Morel, Policy Officer on Town and Country Planning; Mrs Nadège Fauvey, Policy Officer on Environment

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# SHARING LOCAL INITIATIVES

## Time allotted | 30 minutes

Project partners (PP) from Centru Region (RO) and Burgundy Franche Comté (FR) each presented a few local initiatives, based on a joint Powerpoint support sent by the lead partner prior to the event. Categories were the following: name of the initiative, date, location, short presentation, type of players involved, role of local governments, role of regional authority, policy feedback, sectors, areas. PP were also asked to give a photo for illustration and to specify for which other partner of the group the initiative could be of interest.

PP have begun to analyze the different roles that local and regional authorities can play in the development of the circular economy in their territories. In Romania, out of 8 initiatives identified so far, local authorities are mainly beneficiaries or facilitators. In the Burgundy-Franche-Comté Region, out of 36 projects identified to date, they are mainly financial backers, facilitators or beneficiaries.

From Centru Region (RO)

* **BIOVILL** - A multinational research team implemented in Centru Region the concept **„1 village = 1 MW”** which objective was to use rural renewable energy sources like agricultural waste in order to produce energy and to promote circular economy at local level. BioVill is a three years project supported by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme. The project started in March 2016. The objective of the BioVill project is to transfer and adapt experiences gained in countries where bioenergy villages already exists (Germany and Austria) to countries with less examples in this sector (Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania). The project fosters the development of the bioenergy sector in selected target countries by strengthening the role of locally produced biomass as a main contributor for energy supply on local level, considering opportunities of market uptake or expansion for local farmers, wood producers or SMEs. Core activities of BioVill include the technological and economic assessment of the target villages, the involvement and active participation of stakeholders and citizens, the development of local bioenergy value chains and technologies, as well as capacity building about financing schemes and business models. The outcome of BioVill is the initiation of five bioenergy villages in Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania up to the investment stage. After the project implementation, Ghelința a small village from Centru Region produces and uses most of its energy demand from local biomass sources (agriculture, forestry and waste). More info: <http://biovill.eu>

From Burgundy-Franche-Comté (FR)

* **Circul'ère: Preparing trades for circular economy**. Objective is to enable vocational training organizations to become more competent in circular economy related issues and jobs, in order to provide the best possible support to high school pupils, students and professionals in training, in this ongoing transition. Phase 1: a diagnosis of the training programmes and technical platforms made it possible to carry out an inventory of existing practices in terms of resource saving and circular economy. The "circular economy potential" for the evolution of current training programmes and practices is thus better identified. Phase 2: a support programme for teachers and trainers, adapted to each sector, is being set up. Phase 3: An online resource area, the [Circul'ère Platform](http://nomadif.com/vue/?a=786819d0), is already freely accessible to all trainers and teachers in Burgundy-Franche-Comté who wish to learn about the fundamentals of the circular economy. A capitalization on the methods and results of this innovative approach in France and in Europe is planned through Régions de France. The project is managed by the association Rudologia and is a beneficiary of the ADEME-Region Burgundy-Franche-Comté call for projects. More info: <https://www.rudologia.fr/circulere.htm>
* **An annual State-Region call for projects on circular economy issues**. Project leaders in the region - local authorities, businesses, associations – can apply to obtain additional financial and operational means to support the deployment of their project. In 2018 and 2019 71 projects were selected. 32 would not have been identified without call, which demonstrates the relevance of the tool.
* **“The Gardens of the Canal”: a farm employing people in rehabilitation along the Burgundy canal**. The association DEFIS 21 is inventing a model of farm run by employees on social integration schemes, which is also a place for meetings and exchanges for the local population and a support for raising awareness and teaching about the environment and healthy food. It aims at developing employment, promoting local economy and raising awareness on environment and healthy food issues.

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| Action items |
| **Other PP will be invited to do the same at future events and should send their templates during semester 3.** |

# SHARING WAYS OF WORKING WITH THE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

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To prepare the dialogue with the regional authority for the elaboration of the action plan in the coming semesters, the lead partner (LP) asked project partners (PP) to specify: the way PP work with their regional authority (frequency of meetings, invited persons, etc.), the priorities of the regional authority on the themes of the project (circular economy, cooperation between researchers and territorial authorities), the way in which the regional authority thinks about its role regarding the relations between circular economy and territorial authorities on the one hand, circular economy and researchers on the other.

* PPs meet with their regional authority regularly (from monthly to once every six months) and make sure to invite several departments each time, which is in line with the idea that the circular economy is a cross-cutting issue. It should be noted that the lead department is not the same according to the regional authorities (spatial planning in some, economy and employment in others).
* 2 out of 5 regional authorities consider themselves to be pioneers of the circular economy. On the opposite, 2 out of 5 consider themselves to be newcomers. 1 did not answer.
* For the majority of the 5 regional authorities surveyed, their role in helping local and regional authorities in the development of the circular economy is mainly 1. Funding 2. Offering a regional network of stakeholders. Option “characterizing the loop” was only chosen by 2 regional authorities.
* According to PP, main challenges when it comes to local authorities developing circular economy locally are their 1. lack of knowledge 2. Lack of skills and reduced administrative capacities 3. Restrictive legislation at the national & EU levels.
* For the majority of the 5 regional authorities surveyed, their role concerning the link between researchers and the circular economy is 1. to connect researchers with local stakeholders; 2. To get help from researchers; 3. To offer researchers a regional network of stakeholders.
* According to PP, main challenges when it comes to researchers and circular economy locally are 1. The transfer of knowledge from researchers to SMEs, workers, local authorities and bringing results from research to application 2. The difficulty to identify researchers 3. To engage researchers with communities.

Moreover, one of the recurring difficulties of the project for the PP is that the scope of the circular economy is too broad for the exchange of good practices. LP therefore asked PPs to specify the key sectors of the circular economy according to their regional authority. In order to specify these sectors, we used the list from the example of Circulair Friesland we saw in Friesland (NL) during IRLE1. **The key sectors common to the majority of the partners are: building and infrastructure; biomass; agriculture.**

# PREPARING THE 1ST THEMATIC WORKSHOP

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A thematic workshop is to be organized in semester 3. The partners proposed several possible topics.

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| FR / Burgundy-Franche-Comté | CZ – Central Bohemia | NL –North East Friesland - Van Hall Larenstein | RO - RDA Centru | ES – Diputacion de Granada |
| Circular Action Plan, what impact on territories?  Implementation of a regional circular economy conference |  | What role can local gvts best assume to stimulate CE? Pros and cons  How can local gvts best stimulate and promote cooperation between different farmers/entrepreners but also between research and SME?  How to come to an integrated approach on CE? | How innovation & Investments is adressed in relation to CE within other regions?  How to enhance the involvement of local authorities in taking into account CE within their projects related to building 1 infrastructure, energy, etc. | Agri-food industry  Energy efficiency  CE & smart cities  Building and construction  Mobility |