

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## *Circular economy management in enterprises*

### Lodzkie Region, 23.09.2020

On September 23, 2020, the 2nd Regional Project Stakeholder Meeting of the REPLACE project was held at SkyHub (RED TOWER building – Łódź, Poland). Due to thematic reasons and pandemic situation it was organised together with LCA4Regions and Green Hub projects. The meeting was conducted in online and traditional format.

### **Stakeholder event - semester 3**

Event organized by *Lodzkie Region*, titled "*Circular economy management in enterprises*"

**Number of participants: 50**

#### **Typologies of stakeholder involved:**

Education +  
Research+  
Public Sector +  
Industry +  
SMEs +  
Civil society organization +

#### **Stakeholder involved:**

Piotr Barczak (remotely) - Waste Policy Coordinator at the European Environmental Bureau - Brussels Belgium.

Konrad Witczak, PhD - specialist and practitioner in the field of building technology, experience gained among others with the Rockwool company. Currently associated with the Department of Building Physics and Building Materials (TUL's Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Environmental Engineering).

Sebastian Czernik, M.Sc. (remotely) - coordinator for contacts with administration and industry organizations in ATLAS company.

Barbara Kozłowska, PhD - Assistant Professor at the TUL's Faculty of Process and Environmental Engineering. Head of postgraduate studies "Managing Municipal Waste".





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Konrad Gładyszewski, M.Sc. - entrepreneur, graduate, PhD student and researcher at the University of Łódź and Dortmund Technical University, currently "Prospin" sp. z o.o. (CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies).

Bartłomiej Zgorzelski - founder and Managing Director of BZB Projekt - a design studio specializing in procedural, administrative and technical risk analysis for construction investments.

Marcin Podgórski (moderator)- Employee of Self-Government of the Lodzkie Region, expert in the development of regional policy.

## AGENDA

The meeting lasted from 10.00 - 12.00, the following was discussed:

- Introduction
- Panel discussion on pro-ecological business solutions. Preparation of production processes in compliance with environmental standards in the construction and building industry.
- Participants will show how the product life cycle is carried out in practice using concrete examples.
- Question and answer session.

## REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION

Circular Economy (CE) is an alternative to the traditional, linear model of economy. Its aim is to prevent the wasting of resources by using innovative business models in companies. The change in the way of thinking of the management staff in enterprises is caused not only by the need to look for savings in connection with the continuous contraction of natural resources (and thus the prospect of an increase in raw material prices), but also by the change in consumer attitudes and growing environmental awareness. Promoting the idea of sustainable economy, especially the principles of circular economy at every stage of business, allows you to create a competitive advantage of the company. The solutions developed within international projects can be an inspiration for entrepreneurs in the Lodz region. One of them is the methodology of the product life cycle assessment (LCA) which, using special tools, allows to define the most efficient model of natural resources management and to minimize their influence on the environment. LCA also gives wide possibilities for the most optimal use of resources in economic terms.

During the meeting, it was pointed out that when evaluating the effects of LCA and the effectiveness of CE, one should first of all pay attention to the indicators which show the measurable effects of actions. The focus should not only be on the carbon footprint, but also, and perhaps even more, on other aspects of the LCA, such as biodiversity. Waste processing is also expensive and not all waste is worth processing, so it should be preceded by research and analysis. During the discussion, it was pointed out that plastic packaging, which until recently was said to be supposedly not ecological, today is more and more often considered to be environmentally friendly than paper or glass packaging (due to processing costs and energy consumption of the processes).

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Plastic packaging can be reused over a dozen times and at the same time it is light. Reusable packaging is also not an ideal solution because it is layered packaging which contains elements of paper, plastic and other materials. The process of separating them, separating them for reuse is therefore energy and time consuming, and thus not always cost effective.

**Methodology for ENGAGEMENT:** Panel discussion, Q&A, Report on findings before and after the discussion.

## CONCLUSIONS

- It is important to disseminate the idea and approach of LCA and to have a simpler procedure for accessibility to LCA (e.g. through the use of tools such as environmental certificates), so that businesses do not perceive LCA as something unattainable and become accustomed to using life cycle assessment in their operations;
- The challenge is also how to implement life cycle in practice;
- There is a need for regulatory and stimulating actions (government, self-governments) as well as the application of already introduced actions concerning CE, e.g. selective waste collection;
- In the context of CE, there is often a need to reconcile different interests. Taking into account social, environmental and economic aspects, the challenge is to find a common denominator in the form of an acceptable level of effective implementation for sustainable development for all stakeholders.

## PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

Representatives of stakeholders of REPLACE, LCA4Regions, GREEN HUB projects, employees of International Projects Department of Promotion Department, Lodzkie Region, panellists (as above).

Organizations represented by meeting participants :

- Lodz University of Technology (TUL);
- TUL's Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Environmental Engineering;
- TUL's Faculty of Process and Environmental Engineering (cooperation with Rockwool);
- European Environmental Bureau - Brussels Belgium;
- ATLAS company;
- "Prospin" sp. z o.o.;
- TU Dortmund University / Technische Universität Dortmund (TUD);
- BZB Projekt (cooperation with Skanska Property Poland, Ghelamco, HB Reavis);
- Lodzkie Region;
- Smartcity Expo ;
- The Łukasiewicz Research Network.

