

# Action plan



ELVERUM  
KOMMUNE



## Norway

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## Part I – General information

Project: **Smart Circular Procurement - CircPro**

Partner organisation(s) concerned: **Elverum Municipality**

Country: **Norway**

NUTS2 region: **Hedmark and Oppland (Innlandet)**

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### Project partners:

- Kouvola Innovation Ltd., Finland – Lead Partner
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development - Regional Government of Andalucia, Spain
- Regione Piemonte, Italy
- University of Turin, Italy
- Region of East Macedonia and Thrace, Greece
- Commission for regional Development and Coordination of Alentejo, Portugal
- Bulgarian Association of Recycling, Bulgaria
- Development Agency IGRA, Croatia
- Lithuanian Innovation Centre, Lithuania
- Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre, Estonia
- Municipality of Elverum, Norway
- Environmental and Water Agency of Andalusia, Spain

### Stakeholders:

- Engerdal Municipality
- Stor-Elvdal Municipality
- Trysil Municipality
- Våler Municipality
- Åmot Municipality
- Regional Council of South Østerdal (Political umbrella for the 6 Municipalities)
- SØIR – Inter-municipal Waste and Recycling company (Local)

## 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:

- **Strategy for use of wood** (In Norwegian: TRESTRATEGI).

The strategy has a main focus on on shaping and sharing a policy framework for sustainable development in the building sector.

- **Adoption and implementation of an updated Energy and climate plan (SEAP) by the stakeholders, including sub-strategies.**

As for Elverum, this SEAP's are a policy instrument to be the basis for policy instruments regarding circularity. Ref. Part II: Policy Context.

- **Strategic recommendation on circularity in the building sector / circular use of circular materials in the public sector in the Innlandet County.**

We are aiming for a political and policy decision In the Regional Council for Sør Østerdal as example and for inspiration for the other Regional Councils in the Innlandet County, as well as with the County itself.

3. Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments

Public authorities are a large owner and developer of buildings for public use, such as schools, kindergartens, nursing homes, etc. Even in small municipalities, the public sector can own dozens of buildings, and renewals and expansions are always ongoing.

The public sector has a responsibility to manage society's resources properly, and there are therefore it is a need for a clear policy.

In many Norwegian municipalities (such as Elverum) we want to build a logical hierarchy of strategies, as well as encourage other municipalities in the region (= our stakeholders) to do the same.

The Municipal strategies has the following structure:

- 1st level: Municipal plan – an long term **overall political strategy**.  
(to be updated in each election period)

- 2nd level: Municipal Sub-plans, as the **Energy and climate plan - SEAP** (to be updated every other year)  
The basis for more specific strategies in different sectors, among them internal activities in the Municipal administration.  
The current version of the SEAP is from 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and was updated in close cooperation with the Norwegian CircPro team.
- 3rd level: Strategies for important and selected key areas.  
**Strategy for use of wood.**  
This strategy is about Circularity in the wood building sector by procurement, implementation and realization in Municipalities. During the work on the strategy, there was clear input and expectation from our political management to make it as simple and short as possible, even if the wording is not always fully accurate and complete. The current version is from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and the Norwegian CircPro team was central to the work. It therefore follows naturally that this strategy is followed up with a concrete collection of examples and recommendations for increased understanding on the practical level.
- Other partners in CircPro project did influence our input and views, although none of them has had a focus on the same issues and challenges.
- Strategies (and policy papers) at all levels must be based on (and support) the level above.

Wood construction has a circularity in two ways:

- The biological circularity represented by photosynthesis where carbon in the atmosphere is bound in the woodwork, and through use in building constructions can be stored for several hundred years.
- The engineered circularity where with various measures and strategies one can increase the circularity both in the short and long term.

For all the actions mentioned under part III:

During the interregional partner and stakeholder meeting in Spain (May 2019), the importance of incorporating the CP concept into strategic policy documents at national, regional and local strategic level was widely discussed. We - the Norwegian partner - presented an initiative to strengthen climate- and environment-friendly public procurement at the national level in Norway taken by the Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry (April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019). The document «Smart procurement - efficient and professional public procurement» outlines, among other things, the main principles for the circular economy and emphasizes the importance of the life cycle cost perspective in public procurement. This

document has been used and presented as an example of the importance of CP and improvement of policy level. See <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-22-20182019/id2641507/>

Correspondingly, we have received valuable input, knowledge and experience from the other partners, to varying degrees and relevance.

**This Action Plan deals with developing, adopting and implementing strategies that support engineered circular policies in the wood construction sector.** (A strategy instrument in level 3)

## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### ACTION 1:

#### Name of the action:

To complement Elverum Municipality's adopted **Strategy for use of Wood** with a concrete handbook with examples, advice and guidance

#### Relevance to the project

Elverum Municipal Council unanimously adopted in its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 a strategy through a decision where it is specified:

*"Through this strategy, Elverum Municipality has made an important contribution to the transition to the circular economy. This is completely in line with a number of guidelines both nationally and internationally, and which can be cited as good examples of inspiration in our own environment, but also for others."*

The Norwegian CircPro team has been (and will be) strongly involved in the strategy development, participated in working meetings and provided both input and information throughout the process.

Already at the start of project CircPro (24/10/2018), we were informed that our CircPro Partner Andalucía (Spain) had adopted a law on Circular Procurement that supports the Paris Agreement. This inspired Elverum Municipality to focus on the same goals, within our mandate and area of responsibility. Later, this was also followed up at the National level in Norway.

At a partner meeting in Portugal, we were introduced to a concrete producer who used waste from the cork industry as an additive in the products. This inspired us to apply the same strategic guidelines in our work with construction materials.

Market consultation and market dialogue are central to CPP. Elverum Municipality has long worked to develop this, and has in close dialogue with our Finnish partner further developed the topic. Elements from this are included in our local guidelines and routine.

Also from our partners in Bulgaria and Italy, we are inspired to strengthen the circular strategies, Bulgaria with recycling of building materials, and Italy with GPP for energy refurbishment of public building promoting recycled & short supply chain materials

Input from all the CircPro partners (in meetings, Good Practice and direct contact and through informal consultations.) has been useful for the structure and anchoring.



### Nature of the action

Basis for this strategy is the updated SEAP, and in period 4, we reported a policy change, regards to this. This action also include monitoring actions related to the SEAP, and how it influences other sectors in the municipality by effecting other strategies in level 3. (e.g. beneficiaries concerned, results achieved in terms of cleaner environment, etc.). The activities that will be carried out to monitor these changes.

The **Strategy for use of Wood** is 2-part where the first part is political (and subject to political decision), and part two in the strategy will be a handbook with examples, advice and guidelines. This is to facilitate understanding in one's own organization, as well as make it all more accessible to other public entities, and even as a recommendation for the private building sector.

The first part is also rolled out to our stakeholders (the other municipalities in the Sør-Østerdal region) as information.

The second part will be a collection of examples and practical solutions. This work has started, and collaboration has been sought with e.g. "Norwegian Wood-Cluster", the company: "Tretorget" (consultant) and the organization "Tredriveren" (lobby organization).

### Stakeholders involved.

Regional Council of Sør-Østerdal (5 Municipalities)

### Timeframe

Summer 2022

### Costs

Estimated NOK 100.000,-

### Funding sources

A mix of own and public Norwegian funding.

## ACTION 2:

### Name of the action:

#### **Adoption and implementation of an updated Energy and climate plan (SEAP) by the stakeholders, including sub-strategies.**

As for Elverum, this SEAP's are a policy instrument to be the basis for policy instruments regarding circularity. Ref. Part II: Policy Context.

Every Norwegian Municipality shall have a SEAP (regulated by law), and in Sør-Østerdal this is a subject for cooperation As described under action 1, Elverum has already adopted this, while the other municipalities are in process.

### Relevance to the project

Elverum Municipality is a partner in CircPro, with the neighboring municipalities Engerdal, Trysil, Stor-Elvdal, Åmot and Våler as stakeholders. All of these municipalities are smaller than Elverum, they have limited resources.

The stakeholders have been continuously informed about progression, good examples etc. in CircPro, and the Stakeholder meetings have been coordinated with working meetings in the development and coordination of other strategies. In this way, we have managed to communicate to the right people in each municipality.

Important input from CircPro is:

- Market dialogue inspired by communication with our Finnish partner
- From Portugal, we have learned a lot about the establishment and usefulness of a purchasing forum. Scaled down to our conditions, we will bring this strategy into our communication with the private consulting company ABAKUS, which most of the stakeholders use for their purchases.
- In many areas of public procurement, correct and fair evaluation criteria are a challenge. Both Spain with its practice around carbon footprints, and Lithuania with similar green criteria, have provided valuable inspiration and knowledge.

The SEAP's (with sub-strategies) is the overall strategy document for sustainability and circularity. These policy instruments are still under development by the stakeholders, and the goal is to get as many of the stakeholders as possible to follow Elverum's example. Input and learning from CircPro partners has led to some of the stakeholders probably going further than Elverum in their strategies around CPP and GPP.

### Nature of the action

The updating of the SEAP in the respective Municipal Councils is in work under different timeframes. Some are / will be adopted politically in near future, other need to use the year 2022. The progress will be reported in Phase 2.

Next step will be to include the strategy formulations in the SEAP`s:

Goal: Reduce the CO2 footprint from municipal and private buildings and facilities, and increase the use of renewable or recycled materials

Strategy: 1. Adopt a (circular) wood strategy and implement it in the municipality, based on Elverum municipality's wood strategy.

Strategy 2. Wood as a building material must always be considered when constructing and rehabilitating municipal buildings. Buildings under the auspices of the municipality must always be considered to be made of wood materials. In the final choice of building materials, quality and economic considerations must be emphasized

Strategy 3. The use of environmentally certified wood, certified through PEFC or similar schemes, is assumed.

Information and motivation will be worked on for the respective municipalities on administrative and political level

#### **Stakeholders involved**

The administration and the political management in the Municipalities: Engerdal, Trysil, Stor-Elvdal, Åmot and Våler

#### **Timeframe**

31.12.2022

#### **Costs**

N/A

#### **Funding sources**

Part of the normal cooperation within the region, founded by the Municipalities themselves and the County Innlandet.

### ACTION 3:

#### Name of the action:

#### **Strategic recommendation on circularity in the building sector / circular use of circular materials in the public sector in Innlandet County.**

We are aiming for a political and policy decision in the Regional Council for Sør Østerdal as example and for inspiration for the other Regional Councils in the Innlandet County, as well as with the County itself.

#### Relevance to the project

Incorporating circular procurement (CP) into regional and local strategies constitutes the main target and thread of CircPro. Materials produced allow justifying importance and benefits of circular procurement for the stakeholders.

Elverum Municipality is part of Innlandet County, and in a number of cases / projects there are close contact with the County for policy discussions and information exchange. Until recently, the County Innlandet consisted of the Counties Hedmark and Oppland, and after the merging, the organization is still in a phase where strategies and political directions are under development.

CircPro project and Elverum Municipality actively promote the idea of CP in the Innlandet County

From our Spanish partner, we have learned that a regional law on CP is binding on the municipalities. In Norway, we do not have regional laws, but can adopt strategies in the municipalities that in a bottom-up process can inspire similar in both the County and in other municipalities and regional councils. Despite the differences, the goals of Spanish law are a powerful argument in influencing in such a setting

In addition, we find great relevance from Good Practice:

- Market consultation and market dialogue are central to CPP. Elverum Municipality has long worked to develop this, and has in close dialogue with our Finnish partner, further developed the topic.
- In many areas of public procurement, correct and fair evaluation criteria are a challenge. Both Spain with its practice around carbon footprints, and Lithuania with similar green criteria, have provided valuable inspiration and knowledge.
- Also from our partners in Bulgaria and Italy, we are inspired to strengthen the circular strategies, Bulgaria with recycling of building materials, and Italy with GPP for energy refurbishment of public building promoting recycled & short supply chain materials

The Innlandet County is continuously informed about CircPro, including the development of regional handbooks, good practice and regional policies. A forum is being set up where such information will be exchanged and distributed.

### Nature of the action

The Regional Council for Sør-Østerdal is one of 10 Regional Councils in the Innlandet County, which covers 46 municipalities with totally a population of almost 400.000 people. In topics related to CircPro, Elverum is one of the leading municipalities, both at a strategic and practical level.

This provides an opportunity for influence that could potentially lead to policy changes. We want to use our position to inspire both Counties, Regions and the other Municipalities to put circular economy and circular procurement on the agenda. This is primary through decisions in the Regional Council, secondly through influence in the relevant forums in which the municipality participates

Relevant policy change in the County and / or Municipalities will be reported in Phase 2.

### Stakeholders involved

The municipalities of Engerdal, Trysil, Stor-Elvdal, Åmot and Våler, and the Regional Council of Sør-Østerdal

### Timeframe

31.12.2022

### Costs

N/A

### Funding sources

Part of the normal cooperation within the region, founded by the Municipalities themselves and the County Innlandet.