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REPLACE 3rd Interregional Event **Learning and Exchange Public Event** **Stakeholder Engagement**

Crete, Heraklion (Greece)
8th of October 2021

The event, hosted by Crete Region, is structured in 3 days: the first day an internal learning and exchange meeting (mixed format, allowing the connection of partners that did not travel), the second day is dedicated to the Circularity Tour and the last public event open to regional stakeholders, followed by an internal Steering Committee session.

Report of the 3rd day

Hotel Aquila Atlantis; Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Agenda

09.00 - 09.30	Welcome
09.30 - 09.45	Welcome speech (Nikos Xylouris, Vice-Regional Governor for the Environment - Crete)
09.45 – 10.00	Welcome (Antonis Papaderakis, Vice-Regional Governor for Entrepreneurship, Trade, Innovation & Social Economy – Crete)
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome (Giorgos Alexakis, Regional Counselor for Eu & International Affairs - Crete)
10.15 – 10.30	REPLACE- Analysis of circular economy Capabilities in Crete (Maria Kandilogiannaki - Directorate of Environment & Spatial Planning - Crete)
10.30 – 10.45	Case study of "Enaleia"(Eleftherios Arapakis)
10.45 – 11.00	Good practices for olive waste (Alexandros Markantonakis - cluster Delights of Crete)
11.00 - 11.15	REPLACE circular economy Good practices (Yiannis Charitakis – Crete)
11.15 – 11.30	Case Study of "Vioaorio Kritis"(Nikos Yfantis)
11.30 – 11.45	Case Study of "Sychem" (Petrakakis)
11.45 – 12.00	Smart collection of Used Cooking Oil (Nikoleta Golfinopoulou - Waste Management & Urban Environment Department- Rethymno Municipality)
12.00 – 12.15	Food for Feed: LIFE15 ENV/GR/257 (Popi Bormpoudaki, Ass. Solid Waste Management)
12.15 – 12.30	Planning of circular economy entrepreneurial actions in Crete (Aggelos Sotiropoulos)
12.30 – 13.00	REPLACE Memorandum of Understanding (Ferdinando Rossi – Lazio Region)
13.00 – 14.00	Q&A and open discussion
Lunch break (Hotel Aquila Atlantis)	
15.00 – 16.45	Steering Committee (Lazio Region – Veltha)





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The last day of the REPLACE Interreg Europe learning and exchange event, hosted by the Region of Crete from 6th to 8th October 2021, consists of a public and open event. Stakeholders playing a crucial role in Cretan circular economy are invited to take part to present their circular initiatives and to communicate their visions and strategies for the future development of the field.

The open event, held on the 8th of October 2021, opens with Emanuelle Rotilli's welcome speech (REPLACE financial manager, Lazio Region) remarking the importance of *live* (in person) meetings to learn and exchange experiences, as well as to share ideas in a more effective, creative and engaging manner, especially if compared to webinars. He underlines the significance of the Crete Event, being the first in-person Consortium meeting of the pandemic era, it launches a crucial and positive signal that the cross-regional cooperation is coming back to normality; hoping that partners will be able to organize future similar events in other Regions.

Mr. George Alexakis (Appointee Advisor on International & European Affairs, Region of Crete), points out the importance of circular economy for Crete's future planning: in fact, the Region of Crete is contributing as a partner in many European projects, under various Programmes, focusing on circular economy.

Afterwards, Crete's Environmental Regional Vice-Governor, Mr. Nikolaos Xylouris provides an opening speech to remark the positive impact that circular economy is having also on the environmental protection field, because of a more effective and sustainable model of consumption of natural resources.

Mr Trichas, participating on behalf of Mr. Antonis Papaderakis (Crete's Regional Vice-Governor of Entrepreneurship Development and Social Economy), evidences the exceptional opportunities to innovate and to create high-added value products and services offered by the circular economy transition. Moreover, he highlights how circular economy does not only entail new innovative sustainable ideas and solutions, but also novel jobs, leading to economic growth and allowing Crete to preserve its raw-material independence.

Maria Kandilogiannaki (Region of Crete's REPLACE project manager) summarizes the scopes of REPLACE Interreg Europe Project and presents the outcomes of the Local Analysis performed by Crete REPLACE team. Maria underlines how the Local Analysis was exploited to plan and build the Cretan RIS3 for the new programming period 2021 – 2027.

Lefteris Arapakis introduces the unique innovation of the local company ENALIA. Being the son of a Greek fisherman, he started his own business a few years ago, by training new employers about the fishing profession. During the lessons, Lefteris verified that a huge amount of plastic was present in the Mediterranean Sea, so he decided to expand Enalia's scope of activities to include the collection of plastic from the sea to be disposed and recycled. Enalia represents a promising innovative company, that fully embraces the circular economy principles, and is now expanded in the whole Mediterranean.

Alexandros Markantonakis, coordinator of cluster Delights of Crete, showcases a circular good practice valorizing the olive byproducts. The cluster Delights of Crete represents a group of companies active in the primary sector, dealing with agriculture, it has been reported by the Region of Crete in the good practice database of the Interreg Europe website.





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The cluster includes four local companies (Mills of Crete, ABEA, BIOHYM and Vero Kritiko) with expertise in the production of flour, olive oil, fruit juices and dairy products; these companies employ circular economy practices by exploiting the residues of the olive oil production to manufacture an Olive Pulp for animal feed and Olive Biomass for fuel.

Afterwards, Yiannis Charitakis (REPLACE staff Region of Crete) provides a brief presentation of the good practices reported by REPLACE partnership (available in the webpage) to introduce circular initiatives active in other regions to the local stakeholders.

Notis Ellinakis and Yiannis Petrakakis explain the activities of the Sychem Group that works on the field of water management, with expertise both in potable and wastewater (e.g. water filtration, desalination). Recently, the Group has expanded in the organic waste management area, by constructing and operating a Biogas plant in the industrial area of Heraklion city: the plant valorizes the organic waste, coming from the Region of Crete agri-food value chain, through anaerobic digestion to generate electric power and soil fertilizer.

Nikoleta Golfinopoulou, head of Waste Management and Urban Environment Department in Rethymno municipality, evidences the creation of a collection network to gather cooked-oil in order to generate biodiesel.

Kalliopi Bormpoudaki, chemical engineer in Association for Solid Waste management in Crete, launched a pilot case study to exploit the organic waste of Hotels and Super Markets (through a collection network) to produce animal food.

Ultimately, in the afternoon session, REPLACE project manager Ferdinando Rossi, highlights the contribution of SCREEN and follow-up REPLACE projects in providing valuable experience, expertise and database for the important aspect related to the circular economy assessment criteria, to be exploited by European regions for deploying and integrating circular economy in their programmes. In fact, one of REPLACE goals is to evaluate project proposals effectively to ensure that the more “circular” actions are funded.

Ferdinando closes the session by underlining the progresses of the Memorandum of Understanding, created within SCREEN project and signed by 11 regions, in orienting the new programmes at European level, allowing for the establishment of new financial instruments to support circular economy interregional projects.

