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REPLACE LOCAL ANALYSIS

Circular economy, a transition lever toward ecological, tropical buildings in La Réunion (Nexa)

Description

The Local Analysis for Reunion Island focuses on circular economy in the construction industry, with the objective of making the island a reference in ecological building adapted to tropical conditions. The data was gathered from public available sources through a desk research and from four workshops with local stakeholders during the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) revision launched in 2020. The results of this local analysis will contribute to the RIS3 implementation for the period 2021-2027.

Stakeholder engagement

To reinforce the synergies between REPLACE and local policies, the stakeholders were mobilized through the elaboration of the RIS3 “sustainable tropical building” research and innovation roadmap. They belong to the quadruple helix: research and education institutes, local authorities, businesses and technological centres. To turn the local analysis into an effective action plan, another workshop will be organized in September/October 2021. Such event will allow the participants to share their feedbacks on the local analysis and proposed actions, and ensure the implementation and sustainability of the action plan through the mobilization of key organizations.

Results

The construction sector plays a key economic and social in La Réunion. It also represents one of the major sources of energy and material import and consumption and 50% of the waste produced. The transition toward circular economy thus constitutes a major opportunity to reinforce the island's resilience and the development of exportable expertise for other tropical regions, confronted to the same challenges. This local analysis contributes to such objective through a 360° mapping of the existing capacities, initiatives and good practices. It also highlights the major challenges and gaps, for instance the lack of re-use and recycling solutions in the building sector. The conclusions from the local analysis will thus enrich the ongoing structuration of the regional expertise in “sustainable tropical building” though the integration of circular economy principles.

Focus Sectors

- Circular and renewable construction industry
- Urban design

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