



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

***CENTRO REGION (CCDRC), FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022***

## **Stakeholder event (semester 6)**

The main objective of the Interreg Europe REPLACE project is to improve the management, implementation and monitoring of regional policy instruments targeted at facilitating the transition towards a Circular Economy (CE), while boosting sustainable development by exploiting cross-regional cooperation. To achieve its goal, REPLACE prepared a 4-step based approach: i) Local analysis; ii) Cross-regional synergies; iii) Funding instruments; and iv) Assessment criteria.

As described in Centro region's local analysis report (the summary of this report is available at [https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/tx\\_tevprojects/library/file\\_1619175436.pdf](https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/tx_tevprojects/library/file_1619175436.pdf)), Centro, both from a socioeconomic and Circular Economy standpoint, is characterised by the prominence of different manufacturing industries, being the manufacture of plastic products one of the most strategic ones.

With the purpose of exploring cross-regional synergies, project partners worked on the identification of complementarities in their respective strategic economic sectors to be tackled through a Circular Economy approach. Given the economic and strategic importance of the manufacturing of plastic products for Hamburg, Fryslân and Centro region, project partners engaged in coordinated efforts to promote interregional synergies within the plastics value chain.

At local level, within the scope of this project task, on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, CCDRC had organised a stakeholder meeting with representatives from CENTIMFE, the Portuguese technological centre for the plastics, mould making and special tooling industry (<https://www.centimfe.com/index.html>).

Later, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, both CCDRC and CENTIMFE joined the larger stakeholder meeting with other relevant stakeholders from Fryslân and Hamburg to discuss possibilities for interregional cooperation, the promotion of Circular Economy in this value chain and the possibility of developing a pilot action in this context.

This meeting was organised online, via Zoom and had 11 participants (four people from CCDRC; two people from CENTIMFE; three people from Fryslân; one person from Hamburg; and one person from Veltha, representing the REPLACE project).





## AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction to each other
2. Background REPLACE and short intro on the opportunity for cooperation
3. Introduction from participating regions: what can we bring to the cooperation?
4. Discussion on possibilities for cooperation / funding instrument
5. Next steps

## REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION

After the contextualization on the project aim and its focus on the promotion of interregional cooperation, all participating regions shared a brief overview of their capabilities and some of the main bottlenecks in the promotion of circularity in the plastics value chain.

While discussing the possibility of developing, within the Interreg Europe Programme, a pilot action focused on activities aligned with the project's approach, the partners identified three themes within circular plastics to be further explored through interregional cooperation:

- 1) Society: i) waste / consumers; ii) youth / education
- 2) Research: Applied research - facilities and knowledge exchanges
- 3) Business: closing the gaps / problem solving / business2business

As discussed, all participating regions agreed on the potential of exploring solutions to support local beneficiaries from the plastics value chain to develop, test and exchange innovative ideas aligned with the Circular Economy approach.

Through an adequate funding instrument (such as a voucher scheme), the participating regions could set up a pool of experts from the circular plastics chain to assess the quality of proposals, while inviting the local potential beneficiaries from these regions to pitch their innovative idea. Through this approach, circular innovative projects as well as cross regional connections could be supported.

With the purpose of defining a more concrete proposal and further discuss the potential of such instrument, the participating entities agreed to work on a concept note.

## CONCLUSIONS

While understanding the importance of promoting the circular and climate transitions in the plastics value chain, all participating regions agreed to cooperate on exploring the possibility of developing a common mechanism to support circular innovative ideas in this sector. With the purpose of assessing the possibility of developing such mechanism as an Interreg Europe pilot action of the REPLACE project, the participating regions agreed to work on a concept note to further identify the potential beneficiaries, the form of support, as well as the evaluation procedure to adopt.





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## ANNEXES



Figure 1 – Presentation on the REPLACE project and approach

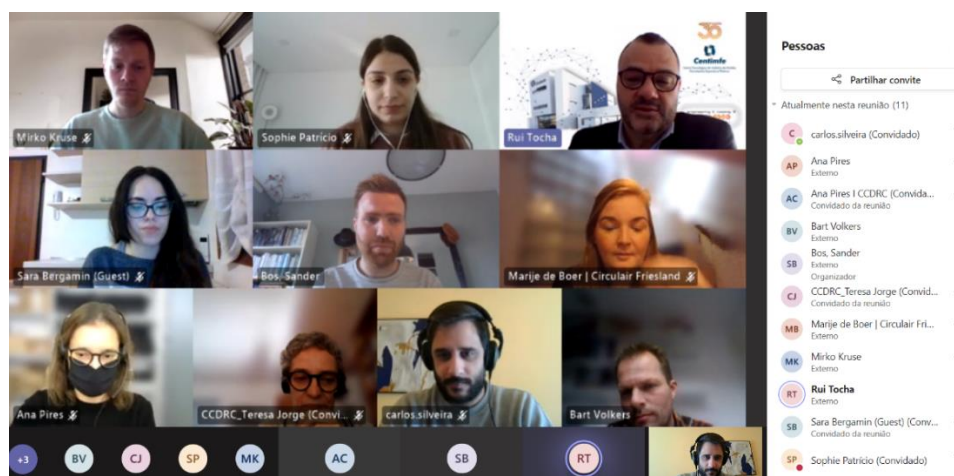


Figure 2 – List of participants

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