



REPLACE 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event

Report of the Event

AGENDA 10th March 2022

9.30	Welcome
9:40-10:00	State of the Art of the Project
10:00-11:00	Round table of discussion: Good Practices Martin Picard (NEXA): 'The circular economy in Tropical building sector: issues and perspectives' Mirko Kruse (HWWI): 'Circular Construction in Hamburg'
11:00-11:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:20-12:20	Round table of discussion: Funding instruments in Focus Sector Sander Bos (Fryslân) CCDRC
12:20-13.20	Assessment Criteria and monitoring (Lodzkie) ROP assessment criteria Pilot 5
13:20-14:30	Snack Break
14:30-15:30	Cross-regional synergies updates and discussion each task leader summarizes the work
15:30-16:30	Action Plan workshop and preparation for Review meeting
16:30-16:40	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:40-17.30	Financial matters and Steering Committee





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4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event

The 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange event took place in Brussels on the 10th and 11th of March 2022 at StamEuropa premises in Rue d'Arlon 104, Brussels.

REPLACE 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event was supposed to take place in Hamburg, hosted by HWWI, but due to a severe COVID-19 outbreak in the region and the impossibility to cancel the gathering, REPLACE Advisory Partner VELTHA ivzw offered to organize the event under a short notice. REPLACE usual event scheme of arranging an internal and a public event was followed:

- **REPLACE 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event** Consortium meeting with Steering Committee on 10.03.22 from 10:00 to 17:00
- **On-Site Circularity Tour public session** on 11.03.2022 from 10:00 to 14:00

Due to the current pandemic restrictions, the 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event was held in hybrid format: not all the partners were able to travel to Belgium, but all Consortium members actively took part in the meeting by joining via web. Representatives from CCDRC Centro, Crete Region, HWWI, NEXA and Veltha were attending in presence.

The event opened with a brief introduction and presentation of the **state of the art of the project**, by Sara Bergamin (VELTHA) to highlight what has been done and what the partnership has to finalize before the end of Phase 1 (31/07/2022).

The partnership had successfully concluded and delivered the Local Analysis, the output of the latter are now being exploited for the identification and exploration of possible cross-regional synergies, namely areas of cooperation and opportunities to boost circular economy by supporting the implementation of complementarities among companies working in the same field but based in the different REPLACE regions. The work on cross-regional synergies served also to study the available funding instruments supporting circular economy in the REPLACE regions, to evidence best practices and to learn from others; while identifying possible new financing schemes tailored to the needs highlighted by stakeholders during the project's activities.

Furthermore, the adoption and testing of the SCREEN and REPLACE assessment criteria for circular economy need to be investigated in relation to the new Regional Operational Programmes 2021-27.

The **first round table of discussion** focused on **good practices** in the important sector of **Construction**, with presentation from NEXA and HWWI.

Martin Picard (NEXA) offered an overview of the circular economy applications in La Reunion island Tropical Building Sector through the re-use of inert materials, including also social inclusion aspects, while Mirko Kruse (HWWI) brought the example from Hamburg 'Hafen City' zero-emission developments in the port area of the city, that combines sustainable materials with a circular planning. To ensure circularity in the construction sector, the re-use of inert materials is very important, but it has to be accompanied by a strategic and circular planning, at the design stage accounting for the end-of-life aspects, allowing the development of new buildings that are not only composed of sustainable materials but that will allow the complete re-use of all their parts.



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The **second round table of discussion** was dedicated to **Circular Economy financial instruments**, with contribution from CCDRC Carlos Silveira. He presented a detailed overview of the funding opportunities dedicated to circular economy transition: regional, national and supranational mechanisms.

The discussion among partners allowed to highlight the importance of easy-to-use funding schemes, such as the Voucher Scheme implemented in Centro Region: a simple way to create interests and generate opportunity for the local companies to act in a circular manner, having a great direct impact even with a small scale support. The scheme operated in an accessible manner and generated awareness about the importance of circularity, supporting companies in capacity building activities and in exploring possible circular innovation. Such scheme is crucial at early stages, to promote and generate interests, then regions have to carefully plan support instruments to allow companies to present full-scale projects to request funding aids to shift their business models from linear to circular.

The event proceeded with the presentation of the DigiPrime platform www.digiprime.eu and its Pilot 5 activities: the Digital Platform offered services targeted to regions and provinces, enabling them to monitor and assess the state of the art of circular economy in their territories, investigating also material flows, possible areas of cooperation with other regions and ultimately the possibility to overcome crucial legislative barriers that are hampering the circular operations of regional companies.

The **third round table of discussion** is dedicated to the ongoing work on **cross-regional synergies**. A summary of the work performed by the two workgroups: Textile and Plastics. The methodology developed by REPLACE to tackle the interregional synergies support consists of:

- exploration meeting between interested REPLACE partners, with overview of regional capabilities,
- internal regional stakeholder meetings (each region performs) to collect inputs from companies,
- REPLACE interregional exploration meeting with interregional stakeholders to facilitate the communication between companies located in different regions and to support the identification of possible areas of cooperation,
- REPLACE partners working meeting to structure possible funding scheme to support synergies
- Internal stakeholder consultation (each region) to validate the outcome of the support scheme
- REPLACE partner update and finalization of characteristics





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The working group of Circular Plastics, already has performed all the stages and has prepared a proposal for a Pilot Action to support circular plastics in the REPLACE regions, the idea will be presented at the Review Meeting.

The **Action Plan workshop** reviewed the AP prepared by the partners, allowing the Consortium to work together on how to successfully build this essential document, stressing how to link the project activities of Phase 1 with the Phase 2 actions.

A session was dedicated to the Preparation for the Mid-Term Review Meeting of 24/03/2022.

The event concluded with a **Steering Committee** and the discussion of important financial issues, since the Consortium has 4 months to spend the allocated budget.



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