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REPLACE SURVEY CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRONT-RUNNER REGIONS AND CIRCULAR BENCHMARK TOOL

SURVEY: Circular Economy Front-runner regions
CBT: Circular Benchmark Tool

The Survey of the European frontrunner regions in circular economy has been performed during Semester 1, the activity is lead by the Province of Fryslân, the outputs are used to kick-start the preparation of the Circular Benchmark Tool (CBT <https://circularbenchmarktool.eu/>).

The CBT has been launched in 2021 during a dedicated REPLACE event implemented within the European Week of Regions and Cities on 12th of October from 9:30 to 11:00 (Session 12PL21199), and it is currently available online.

19th EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

11 - 14 OCT 2021

Together for Recovery

Launch of the Circular Benchmark Tool (CBT)

CIRCULAR BENCHMARK TOOL

REPLACE Interreg Europe

In this session we use Mentimeter as interactive tool. Get ready and go to www.menti.com. Use the code **2289 7590**

#EURegionsWeek

CIRCULAR BENCHMARK TOOL

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The Survey represents the conceptual base: the inputs collected have paved the way for the creation of the CBT, orient the initial stage of the work.

The Survey has been implemented during two separate online meetings using a free and discursive format: instead of sending out a fixed template to collect a number of pre-settled data, a participative work-shop has been arranged, in line with the initial need of understand the operative framework and the basis for the CBT.

To facilitate a pro-active engagement of participants, two separate web-meetings were organized to keep a low number of attending regional policy officers, the task has been reported on REPLACE website 'News' section <https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/replace/news/news-article/6811/replace-conference-calls/>:

- Group 1 on 5th November 2019
- Group 2 on 7th November 2019

The objective of the discussion performed during the above-mentioned remote workshops was to highlight the state-of-the-art of circular economy in REPLACE circular economy front-runner regions and thus revolved around the following 3 aspects:

- Regional instruments deployed by the regional public authority to support and stimulate circular economy transition;
- Methodology to measure and assess the performance of the region in circular economy;
- Indicators used to assess and monitor the state-of-the-play in circular economy in the region.

The results of the Survey are here summarized:

- In 2019, the only instruments used to facilitate circular economy transition in REPLACE regions were the Regional Operational Programmes 2014-2020; with the limitation of not having a clear and dedicated policy objective for circular economy (CE).
- In this contexts, the actions targeting circular economy are inserted under other policy priorities, making it impossible to specifically monitor progress because of the lack of dedicated indicators.
- With the advent of the new programming period 2021-2027, circular economy has become a strong policy objective; not only as an horizontal target but also finding its position in both priority axes dedicated to Research & Innovation and competitiveness & support to businesses.
- Indicators and monitoring systems to assess circular economy were not available for the programming period 2014-2020.
- A well-established and shared monitoring system for circular economy has not been developed nor adopted at European level.





The results of the Survey evidenced a lack of a shared methodology for the assessment and monitoring of the regional performance in circular economy, leading to the development of the Circular Benchmark Tool as an easy-to-use instrument to facilitate the evaluation of the state of the art of circular economy in the territory.

The Survey reported a lack of strategical policy planning, magnified by the significant complexity of the circular economy transition and its requirements, together with the absence of trained policy-makers and civil servants capable of identifying and prioritizing the needs and the barriers.

The results of the Survey led to the structuring of the CBT as a self-assessment instrument that can be used to understand which are the areas that are needing more attention and resources.

By elaborating on the initial inputs provided in November 2019, the evaluation of the regional performance has been structured around categories of indicators and level of advancement.

The areas of assessment have been identified after an extensive desk research that analysed more than 150 sources, spanning from research papers to policy documents and examples:

- Circular procurement,
- Regional Funding,
- Human Capital,
- Circular Value Chains,
- Circular Legislation,
- Good Governance,
- Overarching Circular Policy Framework.

The valuation of the regional performance is categorized through numerical values representing the level of commitment ranging from 0 to 5:

- 0 - No information available,
- 1 - Mapping: Mapped and analyse the baseline situation,
- 2 - Planning: Establish objectives and processes required to deliver the desired results,
- 3 - Doing: Perform according to the plan from the previous step,
- 4 - Checking: Data and results gathered from the do phase are evaluated,
- 5 - Acting: Also called 'adjust' this act phase is where a process is improved.

The work progressed in cooperation with REPLACE partners, first to establish which indicator to measure, then to test the overall concept and its usability, leading to the Official Launch within the European Week of Regions and Cities in 2021.

