

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

Event report for day 2 (18 Oct 2017)

**BACK-TO-BACK NETWORKING EVENT ON ENERGY AND RESOURCE
EFFICIENCY**

17-18 OCTOBER 2017, SEVILLE, SPAIN





Contents

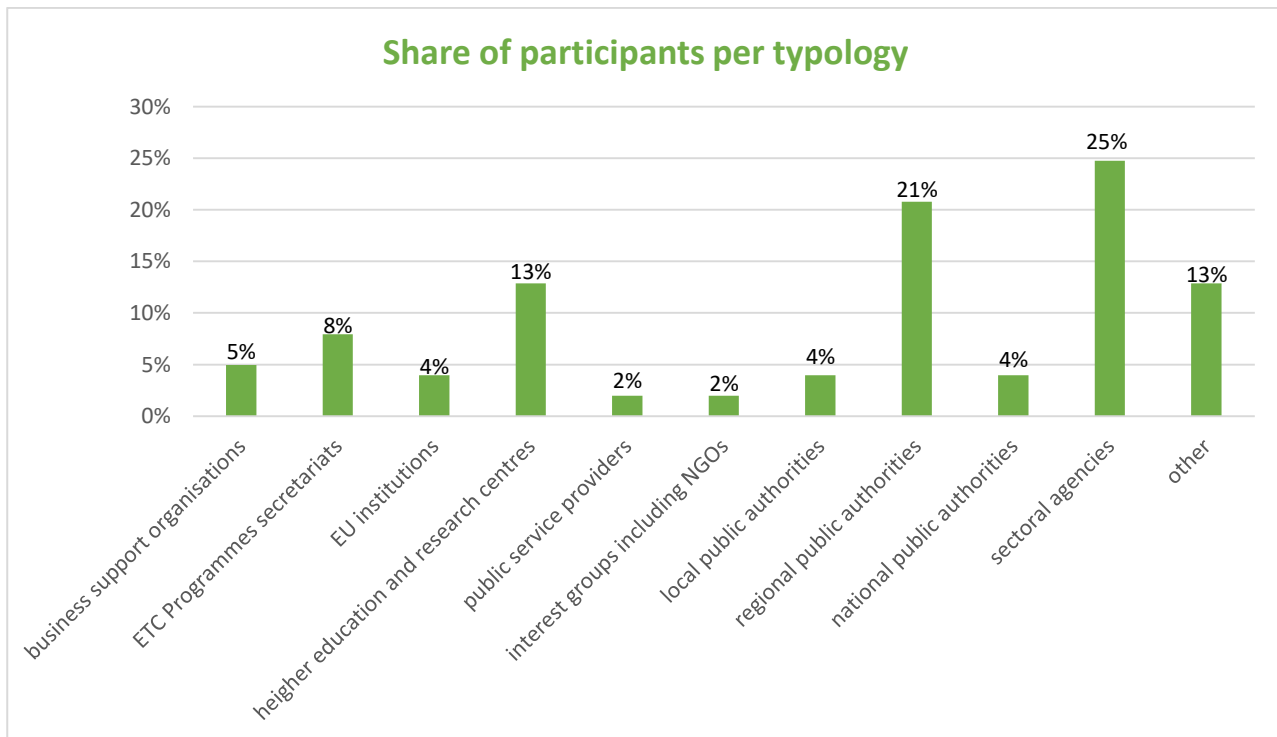
1. Participation	3
2. Summary.....	4
2.1 Plenary session	5
2.2 Break-out sessions: good practices on resource efficiency from Interreg Europe projects	7
2.3 Break-out sessions: policy learning	9
2.4 Panel discussion.....	11
2.5 Closing	13
3. Conclusion	13
4. Contacts.....	14
5. Further reading and other relevant information	14
6. Appendix A – Materials for breakout sessions: policy learning	15

1. Participation

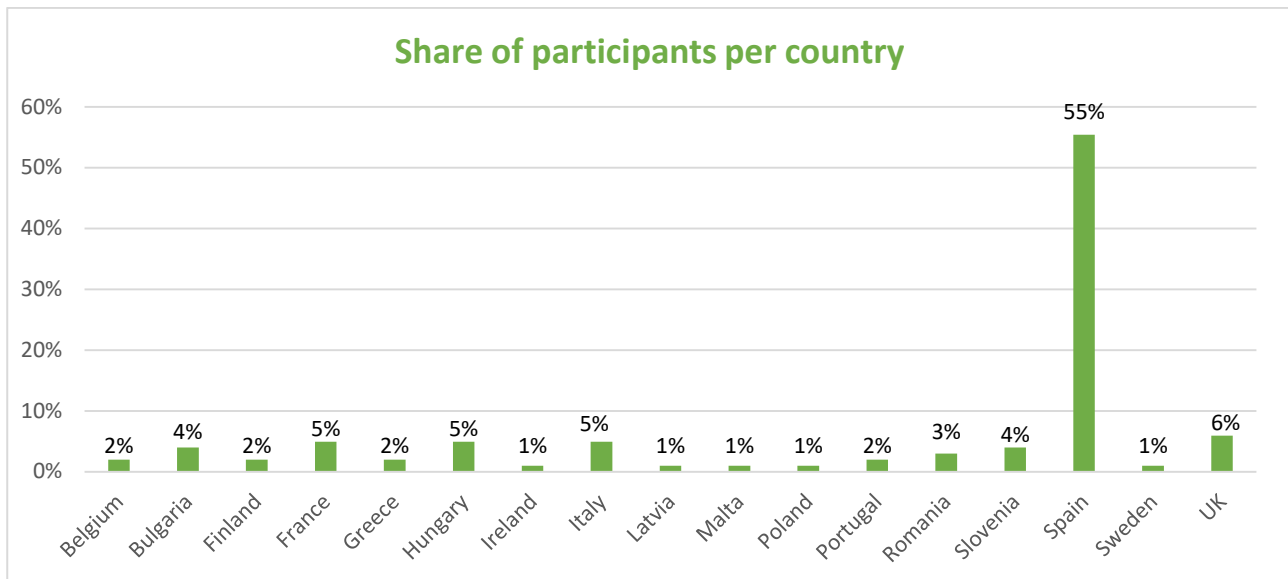
80 participants attended the second day of the event which was focused on resource efficiency.

The target audience included representatives of Interreg Europe project partners, representatives of managing authorities of structural funds programmes and other policy actors working with energy efficiency or with resource efficiency, and has been reached.

The detailed distribution of participants per typology (based on online registrations) is illustrated in the chart below.



Regarding the origin of the registered participants (excluding the Joint Secretariat and the Policy Learning Platform team), 17 member states were represented. A bit more than half of the registered participants came from Spain and the rest were distributed among other countries, as shown in the chart below.



2. Summary

The second day of the policy learning event was dedicated to the topic of resource efficiency. The event brought together Interreg Europe project partners, representatives of managing authorities of structural funds programmes and other policy actors working in the field of resource efficiency. At the event nine Interreg Europe projects targeting resource efficiency from various angles, were represented. These included BIOREGIO, GPP4GROWTH, INTHERWASTE, CircE, ECOWASTE4FOOD, SYMBI, COCOON, ENHANCE, TRIS. In addition, the event was attended by representatives of European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy as well as representatives of Interreg Europe's Secretariat.

The overall objective of the two-day policy learning event was to enable public authorities (among which managing authorities) and other stakeholders to get engaged with the services of the Policy Learning Platform and learn from each other's energy efficiency and resource efficiency policies and practices. During the second day of the event the focus was on:

- Presenting recent developments at EU level in the field of resource efficiency;
- Enabling new users of the Policy Learning Platform, among which Interreg Europe projects and public authorities, to network and exchange with each other;
- Exchanging and discussing the needs of cities and regions for better resource efficiency;
- Exchanging and discussing interesting approaches, practices and policies applicable at regional and local level;
- Making the participants aware of the services of the Policy Learning Platform and learn about good practices stemming from Interreg Europe projects.

Facilitation during the second day of the event was done by the platform environment and resource efficiency team, Ms. Ieva Kalnina, Ms. Venelina Varbova, Mr. Tamas Kallay and Mr. Peter Szuppinger. Similarly to the first day of the event, Ms. Ieva Kalnina, Community and Communication Manager continued with the overall facilitation in an original and interactive

manner which was essential for the networking and smooth transition between plenary and break-out sessions.

2.1 Plenary session

Mr. Erwin Siweris, Programme Director at the Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat, welcomed the participants and highlighted the main objectives of the second day of the event. The plenary session also included:

- an overview of the services of the Policy Learning Platform and its objectives presented by Ms. Venelina Varbova, Policy Learning Platform Thematic Manager environment and resource efficiency;
- an overview of national resource efficiency policies in Europe presented by Mr. Theo Geerken from European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE);
- presentation by Mr. Karel Haegeman from the European Commission, Joint Research Centre on resource efficiency in the context of Smart Specialisation Platform;
- brief introduction of the key features of the Policy Learning Platform website by Ms. Venelina Varbova; and
- the Policy Learning Platform's knowledge hub; overview of Interreg Europe projects on resource efficiency and key themes addressed presented by Mr. Tamas Kallay, Policy Learning Platform Thematic Expert resource efficiency.

In her opening speech **Ms. Venelina Varbova** presented the objectives of the second day of the event and structure of the agenda. She also gave a short overview of the services of the Policy Learning Platform providing examples how the users can benefit from them.

Mr. Theo Geerken from European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE) presented key findings of the report "More from less – material resource efficiency in Europe" prepared by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in collaboration with its European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE). The report includes an overview of policies and instruments in the field of resource efficiency. An integral part of the report are 32 country profiles and self-assessments prepared by countries. Countries' recommendations for future directions regarding resource efficiency are focused on:

- providing better definitions, scope and focus;
- integration of material resource efficiency into other policies, and broader stakeholder involvement;
- improvement of data availability;
- adopting a more systemic approach.

Other main findings of the report:

- Economic factors have become the major driving force now, compared with 2011 – the logic of doing more with less seems widely embraced;
- More than half of the countries presented initiatives on secondary raw materials and on waste management and prevention as the core of their work on resource efficiency;
- The services sector accounts for more than 70% of most economies' GDP and yet, it seems to receive limited attention;
- A few countries reported to already have a circular economy strategy or an action plan;
- Increasingly, there are examples of resource efficiency oriented initiatives at a local or regional level (i.e. province) that go beyond green public procurement.

Possible synergies with the Policy Learning Platform and its good practice database were outlined. Specifically, next edition of the report on national resource efficiency policies can include also examples from regions, as many good approaches already exist at regional level and need to be promoted across Europe. It was highlighted that platform's good practice database can be useful source of information for the next report. The platform team will follow-up with ETC/WMGE on this opportunity for increasing the visibility of the practices on resource efficiency from Interreg Europe projects.



Mr. Karel Haegeman from European Commission, Joint Research Centre talked about resource efficiency in the context of Smart Specialisation Platform (S3). Key points in the presentation:

- Resource efficiency highlighted in research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) of 127 regions;
- Resource efficiency in Smart Specialisation Platform for Agri-food, examples of agri-food consortia of regions;
- Resource efficiency in Smart Specialisation Platform for Industrial Modernisation;
- Stairway to excellence as collaboration between member states, regions, and Joint Undertakings operating under Horizon 2020;
- Collaboration between regions and European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Innovation Communities.

Ms. Venelina Varbova presented the key features of the Policy Learning Platform website and how the users can benefit from it, namely by:

- finding contacts with peers and getting contacted;
- accessing expert support;
- sharing own good practices and, contacting good practice owners and seeing expert opinion;
- attending online events and getting information about in-person events;
- accessing policy briefs, articles, and other materials on the topic.

She also explained how to become a member of the community and access the services, and provided details about recently launched good practice database.

Mr. Tamas Kallay, Thematic Expert on resource efficiency presented an overview of the Interreg Europe projects on resource efficiency, outlining relevant thematic aspects addressed by the projects and common topics. Interesting examples of practices and approaches stemming from Interreg Europe projects from first and second calls were also highlighted as well as specific thematic challenges. The content of the knowledge hub of the Policy Learning Platform was also explained.

2.2 Break-out sessions: good practices on resource efficiency from Interreg Europe projects

Following the plenary session, three break-out sessions took place facilitated by the platform team. The sessions which run in parallel presented good practices on resource efficiency stemming from Interreg Europe projects. The break-out sessions were organised around the following topics:

- Eco-innovation and waste (COCOON, ECOWASTE4FOOD, BIOREGIO, INTHERWASTE);
- Smart governance in resource efficiency (GPP4GROWTH, CircE);
- Sustainable industrial networks and the role of business (SYMBI, TRIS, ENHANCE).

Each Interreg Europe project was asked to present one good practice through five predefined slides, namely the Interreg Europe project, the good practice, advantages of the good practice, limitations, for whom is this good practice useful, where to get more information from. The following good practices were presented:

Group: Eco-innovation and waste

Project	Good practice
COCOON	Cordoba landfill management (Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Landfill management practice suitable for dry and hot weather conditions</i>
ECOWASTE4FOOD	1/ “Solidarity shop” by Cornella town council (Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Food support service for vulnerable groups, and redistribution channel of edible surplus food from local shops</i> 2/ Hävikkimestari (FoodWaste Master), Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>E-service provided for restaurants and foodservices to measure and monitor the amount of food waste in real time</i>
INTHERWASTE	Waste rooms (or “Eco-points”) in Cordoba heritage area (Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Well-equipped and adapted commercial space where waste containers are placed in order to remove them from the streets</i>
BIOREGIO	Utilisation of bio-waste streams Päijät-Häme region (Finland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biogas and fertilizer production from municipal biowaste, waste from food industry, sludge from wastewater treatment plants, etc.</i> • <i>Part of the industrial symbiosis at the regional waste treatment center.</i>

Group: Smart governance in resource efficiency

Project	Good practice
GPP4GROWTH	Electricity from renewable energy sources, (Barcelona City Council, Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Applying environmental and social criteria in local procurement including sustainability criteria to electricity supplies;</i> • <i>Procuring the supply of energy produced from renewables to accommodate for public facilities' electricity and heating needs.</i>
CircE	London Circular Economy Route Map (UK) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strategy for accelerating circular economy in London;</i> • <i>Provides practical actions, and engagement tool.</i>

Group: Sustainable industrial networks and the role of business

Project	Good practice
SYMBI	"Manresa en Simbiosi" (Catalonia, Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>First industrial symbiosis initiative of the Council of Manresa;</i> • <i>Open industrial eco-system that aims to encourage exchange of all types of by-products.</i>
TRIS	By-product management in Heineken breweries (Hungary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Focus on the management of three by-products: spent grain, yeast and kieselguth (diatomaceous earth);</i> • <i>Especially relevant for food industry.</i>
ENHANCE	Fast track permits (Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Use of information provided as part of the Environmental Management Systems (EMAS) in the request of a permit related to waste management.</i>

In addition, the participants discussed the following questions:

- Do you think of another approach that could strengthen this practice and transition to resource-efficient economy?
- What would you like to do together?
- How could the services of the Policy Learning Platform be of help?

Key points from the discussions:

On other ways and approaches that would help the transition to a more resource efficient economy:

- Targeting more the citizens by trying to involve them as much as possible and creating awareness;
- Using more economic incentives, e.g. in public tenders;
- More policies at practical level (real action plans) are needed, less high-level strategies, road maps;

- There is a need to reach out to the private sector both by informing and involving the businesses;
- The relevance of bottom-up approaches, green public procurement, training, education, as well as a specific focus on regional aspects was highlighted;
- The establishment of a platform may help in the identification of synergies.

On possible ways of cooperation:

When participants were asked on what would they like to do together, they mostly mentioned:

- Engaging in joint projects;
- Developing of a common database for stakeholders, and the elaboration of draft policy briefs as part of an exercise;
- Creating of list of measures and practical examples;
- Comparing the different methodologies developed under different projects;
- Having more regular contacts and discussions on similar problems.

On how the Policy Learning Platform can help Interreg Europe projects and policy makers:

- Providing good practice cases;
- Providing information on the most relevant actors;
- Supporting in the identification of synergies;
- Sharing relevant project results;
- Inclusion of information on the costs of implementation of the good practice cases.
- It was also emphasised that the exchange of information with projects falling under other main themes (priority axes) of the Interreg Europe Programme are quite relevant. In this context, the topics of innovation and SME competitiveness were explicitly mentioned.
- Creating a possibility for discussing project results at a higher level;
- Exchange of good practices, e.g. legislation, regulatory approaches, economic incentives, working action plans etc.;
- Help reaching out stakeholders and to policy decision-makers.



2.3 Break-out sessions: policy learning

Under break-out sessions on policy learning the participants tested the peer review and benchmarking services. The sessions were facilitated by Policy Learning Platform thematic experts,

Mr. Tamas Kallay and Mr. Peter Szuppinger. Instructions in writing were distributed to the participants to enable better understanding of the service and the sessions.

Peer review

In the break-out group on the 'peer review' participants were divided into two groups. Both group identified one 'case'. Group 1 formulated the case "How to promote green public procurement in Spain, while Group 2 focused on "How to promote the use of recycled and reused materials (construction and demolition waste) in buildings".

After presenting both cases the whole group discussed these and agreed to merge the two topics and examine the case: 'How to encourage public authorities to apply criteria in their public procurement on recycled and reused building materials.' This became the case for the peer review. After a detailed discussion on the topic the group identified eight important steps and put that into a draft 'action plan' with the following elements:

1. Create a demand: targeted communication, use of media and as for long-term effect: education;
2. Identify good pilot projects: 'beacons';
3. Create a 'green brand' for the public authority;
4. Convince politicians to provide support, as well as civil servants;
5. Look for existing examples, criteria;
6. Make easily usable templates, try to standardize processes;
7. If possible create a certification scheme or take-up an existing one;
8. Training.

Benchmarking

In the break-out group on benchmarking participants were asked to identify in small groups specific topics that are associated with policy challenges, for which the group would need examples from other regions and cities. The identified topics included: sustainable industrial networks; green public procurement and resource efficiency; and by-products and the related regulatory background. Most of the participants voted to focus on the topic of sustainable industrial networks, however in practice during the discussion also the regulatory background for by-products was addressed.



A number of policy challenges were identified in relation to the selected topic, including:

- how to incentivise potential actors to engage in sustainable industrial networks;
- how to effectively raise awareness;
- how to ensure the longevity of the initiatives;
- how to address the lack of standards for by-products/secondary raw materials.

The group also identified certain needs to be addressed. These include:

- defining a clear mandate for key actors;
- providing an on-going supply of secondary raw materials;
- introducing well-defined rules for 'end-of-waste';
- building trust among actors of business networks and exchanging work practices.

Several relevant schemes were identified from across Europe that could serve as useful examples, such as:

- an online resource exchange platform for construction materials and textiles from Lombardy, Italy;
- a grain cluster from Finland; and
- the Green Industrial Symbiosis Programme from Denmark.

Finally, several recommendations were formulated that could support the development or further extension of sustainable industrial networks. These included:

- To involve and incentivise businesses;
- To show the benefits of a sustainable industrial network to businesses, with an aim to ensure long-term financing;
- To build on already existing initiatives;
- To build trust among potential actors of a sustainable industrial network;
- To create success stories.

2.4 Panel discussion

Four panellists, **Mr. Michael Bennett** (European Commission, Joint Research Centre), **Mr. Theo Geerken** (European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy) and **Mr. Alessandro Dacomo and Raffaele Rampazzo** (Lombardy region, Italy) reflected on potential approaches, practices and policy measures to support the regional transition to circular economy.



Mr. Michael Bennett shared his vision from joint work between DG GROW and Joint Research Centre and provided information on the specific issues DG GROW and JRC are working together in the field of resource efficiency. Specifically, he mentioned the role of green public procurement (GPP) criteria to facilitate the inclusion of green requirements in public tender documents and the work of different EC DGs on this topic. Also the demand for more efficient products was emphasised to reduce energy and resource consumption. In this respect ecodesign and energy labelling were mentioned as an effective tool for improving the energy efficiency of products. Mr. Bennett provided information about the forthcoming conference “GROW your REGION” set for 8-9 November 2017 and focused on boosting smart interregional collaboration through clusters.

Mr. Alessandro Dacomo and Mr. Raffaele Rampazzo brought the regional perspective and highlighted the diverse actions of Lombardy region in promoting resource efficiency such as introducing regional law on food waste, mainstreaming resource efficiency into sectoral policies, measures related to construction and demolition waste, etc.

Mr. Theo Geerken pointed out policy challenges related to resource efficiency which can be successfully tackled by regions. Specifically, he mentioned spatial planning, applying economic instruments such as GPP. It was also highlighted that:

- in most countries, energy use/energy efficiency policies and resource efficiency policies appear to be largely disconnected;
- measuring and monitoring is a challenge, but there are examples of pioneering work in economic sectors/industry;
- there is a need to change the way we live and to making consumption patterns more sustainable.

2.5 Closing

Prior to concluding remarks the helpdesk service of the Policy Learning Platform was explained and the participants were encouraged to approach the platform's team with policy related questions. Ms. Venelina Varbova, Mr. Tamas Kallay and Mr. Peter Szuppinger provided closing comments. Questions and issues discussed during the day were summarised, with the following being highlighted:

- Resource efficiency has links to other thematic areas such as competitiveness of SMEs and innovation which need to be highlighted and further explored;
- There is a need to improve monitoring of implementation of measures related to resource efficiency;
- There is a need to establish new forms of cooperation between public sector and businesses to promote novel concepts such as industrial symbiosis;
- It is important to continue regional efforts towards raising awareness about consumption patterns (e.g. regarding reduction of food waste, increase recycling, promote selective waste collection);
- There is a need to further encourage and promote green public procurement.

In the second year of activities the Policy Learning Platform shall:

- Facilitate Peer-to-peer learning and provide tailored support;
- Continue with collecting and promoting good practices;
- Seek opportunities to link with other ongoing or emerging initiatives and external platforms and networks that address similar topics;
- Promote and track effective engagement of managing authorities, project partners and regional policy-makers via events, webinars, thematic workshops.

3. Conclusion

The second day of the policy learning event on energy and resource efficiency allowed a dynamic discussion and sharing of experiences and selected practices and testing the services of the platform. It was also an opportunity to find out more about the objectives of the platform, and interact with the people that operate it.

The **follow-up actions** could include:

- Continue the build and expand platform's community;
- Encourage community members to take a proactive approach so that the Policy Learning Platform can offer a mix of services tailored to users' specific needs;
- Organise face-to-face meetings with projects working on similar topics and networking;
- Organise webinars and discussion hours on thematic issues;
- Explore further potential synergies with other external initiatives and platforms, e.g. European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in Green Economy;
- Prepare publications on topics that are common and relevant for Interreg Europe projects;
- Provide information on relevant studies.

4. Contacts

The persons in charge of the main organisation of the event are listed below:

- Thematic Manager on environment and resource efficiency: Venelina Varbova, v.varbova@policylearning.eu
- Thematic Experts on resource efficiency: Tamas Kallay, t.kallay@policylearning.eu and Peter Szuppinger, p.szuppinger@policylearning.eu
- Community and Communication Manager: Ieva Kalnina (i.kalnina@policylearning.eu).

5. Further reading and other relevant information

European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy	http://www.eionet.europa.eu/etc-wmge
EEA, More from less - material resource efficiency in Europe, EEA Report, No 10/2016, 2016	https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/more-from-less
ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe and URBACT, Pathways to a circular economy in regions and cities, Policy brief, 2016	https://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/event/139/pathways-to-a-circular-economy-in-cities-and-regions/
Policy Learning Platform, policy brief on resource efficiency	https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/507/policy-brief-on-the-role-of-cities-and-regions-in-promoting-resource-efficiency-across-the-eu/
Policy Learning Platform, policy brief on industrial symbiosis	https://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/news/616/policy-brief-on-industrial-symbiosis/
Policy Learning Platform, policy brief on sustainable management of bio-waste	https://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/news/802/policy-brief-on-sustainable-management-of-bio-waste/
Policy Learning Platform, article on 'pay-as-you-throw' (PAYT) schemes	https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/550/pay-as-you-throw-schemes-increase-recycling-rates/
Policy Learning Platform, article on circular procurement	https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/991/public-procurement-can-help-the-transition-to-a-circular-economy/
Policy Learning Platform, article on construction and demolition waste	https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/1770/construction-and-demolition-waste/

6. Appendix A – Materials for breakout sessions: policy learning

DAY 2 – 18/10/2017 – Resource efficiency

Instructions for peer review exercise

Introduction: The Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform offers public authorities and users of the platform a chance to benefit from tailored peer reviews. Peers are there to investigate and analyse the specific context and challenge in selected European region or city, and make recommendations based on their experience.

Examples of topics for peer review (**the list is only for orientation and is not exhaustive**):

- How to initiate and support the extension of sustainable industrial networks in a region?
- How to effectively implement a scheme for retrofitting buildings, aiming at maximizing the use of existing materials?
- How to adjust water pricing to stimulate more efficient use of water?
- How to plan effectively the reuse of neglected sites (land recycling)?
- ...

Purpose of the exercise: to test the peer review service of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform through its simulation together with other participants.

Steps of the peer-to-peer review exercise:

Step 1 (5min): Participants discuss in small groups potential cases with regards to resource efficiency and agree on a specific case related to a policy challenge in a region or city which becomes the case for the group.

Step 2 (3min): Each group presents briefly the case that its members agreed on. All participants vote and the case with the highest number of votes becomes the case for peer review.

Step 3 (5min): The group whose case was selected presents the case – briefly describing the problem faced (current policy, barriers encountered, type of advice and information needed).

Step 4 (10min): The rest of the group acting as peers asks questions. The group whose case has been selected answers the questions of the peers. Examples of questions to be discussed: possible approaches, solutions, improvements of policy instruments.

Step 5 (12min): The group drafts an action plan on the course of action to solve the issue. Peers provide feedback and recommendations.

Step 6 (10min): Discussion on the pros and cons of the action plan.

The total duration of the exercise is maximum 45 minutes. Please keep your own time!

Instructions for **benchmarking exercise**

Introduction: The Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform offers public authorities and users of the platform a chance to benefit from a benchmarking exercise. The benchmarking exercise is organised to support requests from public authorities, which are not looking for peer reviews, but for examples of practices on a specific topic for improving their policies in the field of **resource efficiency**. For instance, the exercise could enable the participants to see how a specific topic of **resource efficiency** is addressed in different Operational Programmes, or to compare their respective performance to more advanced approaches applied in other regions, and motivate the participants to make specific improvements (e.g. in methods, activities, instruments applied, etc.).

Examples of topics for the benchmarking exercise (**the list is only for orientation and is not exhaustive**):

- Reuse-centers
- Resource efficiency in construction materials
- Sharing schemes
- Urban planning and land-use efficiency
- Sustainable industrial networks
- Circular procurement
- Redistribution of surplus food
- Repair schemes
- ...

Purpose of the exercise: To test the benchmarking service of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform through its simulation together with other participants.

Steps of the benchmarking exercise:

Step 1 (5min): Participants discuss in small groups policy challenges with regards to **resource efficiency** and agree on a specific topic for which the group will need examples from other regions and cities. The topic is written on a sheet of paper.

Step 2 (3min): Each group presents briefly the topic they agreed on. Participants vote. The topic that received the highest number of votes is the case for analysis.

Step 3 (5min): The group whose topic was selected presents it - briefly describing the problem faced that needs to be addressed and elements to be benchmarked (current policy, barriers encountered, type of advice and information needed).

Step 4 (10min): The rest of the group indicates what relevant solutions are implemented in their Operational Programmes and/or what practices could be of interest to help the group whose topic is being discussed, to help improve the policy issue.

Step 5 (12min): The participants draft a report with recommendations. The report shall be tailored to the needs and objectives of the 'case owner' and can suggest e.g. innovative good practices or measures/ results of an Operational Programme from other regions, contacts to relevant initiatives, expert recommendations on the next steps.

Step 6 (10min): Discussion and feedback to the report by the participants.

The total duration of the exercise is maximum 45 minutes. Please keep your own time!

