

SVRK
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Stakeholders Group Meetings
Summary Report

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Introduction

SYMBI second semester was taking place from 1 October 2016 until 31 March 2017. During this period, a second series of stakeholders' meeting took place in partners' countries. The purpose of the second stakeholders' meetings in partner countries was to enable regional stakeholders to provide evaluation and feedback on SYMBI A1 activities. Stakeholders were invited to provide views and feedback on the joint thematic studies and analyses developed by partners. According to methodological frame for A 2.1, the focus of these meetings was in following topics:

1. Comparative analysis of regional and national policies on industrial symbiosis and circular economy (theme of SYMBI activity A1.1).
2. Mapping the investment potential in industrial symbiosis (theme of SYMBI activity A1.2)
3. Identification of good practices and benchmarking of ecosystems of by-product and energy exchanges (theme of SYMBI activity A1.3).
4. Prescribing green public procurement as an enabler of industrial symbiosis (theme of SYMBI activity A1.4).

Their feedback was essential for drafting new policy proposals and particularly to unveil obstacles that hinder the transition towards the circular economy. Stakeholders thus shared their valuable from-the-first-hand experience, views and suggestions about industrial symbiosis, circular economy and green public procurement.

Suggestions and policy recommendations, as well as technical details of the meetings, are summarized below.

Total number of stakeholders at the event was: 7

Partner	Country	No of stakeholders present at the meeting
Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy	Slovenia	20
Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region	Poland	19
Molise Chamber of Commerce	Italy	15
Municipality of Kozani	Greece	9
Regional Council of Häme	Finland	12
Regional Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning in Andalusia	Spain	11
Pannon Novum Trans-danubian Regional Innovation Nonprofit Ltd.	Hungary	12
FUNDECYT PCTEX	Spain	not yet organized
TOTAL stakeholders		98

Workshops results, conclusions and key policy recommendations

All stakeholders in all partners' regions were invited to share their experience on industrial eco-systems, what are the obstacles for transition towards circular economy and how the green public procurement could contribute to boosting the industrial symbiosis. Partners presented identified good practices on industrial symbiosis and discussed the investment potentials (with industry and investors).

Below, we are summarizing the main conclusions, suggestions and recommendations:

• Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (Slovenia)

- We should build on introducing a structured dialogue between public sector (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Infrastructure, Governmental Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenian Environment Agency), private sector (companies, industries) and civil society organizations.
- A need for systemic approach (based on structural dialogue) is crucial for introducing circular economy.
- We should start working on information and dissemination activities in order to raise awareness about the two concepts and to empower relevant multipliers with information about circular economy and industrial symbiosis.
- More emphasis should be given on education and training of management and employees of companies and industries with the aim to raise the level of consciousness about the need for transition in to industrial symbiosis.
- There should be a pilot project on setting up a secondary raw material market (starting with the brokerage), where companies and industries have an opportunity to discuss face-to-face what their products and needs are.
- When issuing the green public procurement tenders, the price should not play the decisive element in award criteria.
- Public administration should be a driver in using the green public procurement procedures – meaning that it should use green criteria where possible.

• Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region (Poland)

- There should be a clear definition of by-products, recyclable materials, and waste for the policy purposes. This should be used as a basis for assessment of case studies and good practices as well a source of new indicators of circular economy.

- Case studies combining environmental and social aspects should be presented and the resulting good practices should be promoted. However, there must always be sound economic calculations. This will allow to assess if the discussed solutions are profitable only for individual companies or also for the region (external cost), and consumers. The latter is which is more difficult to evaluate so more complex and precise economical tools could be employed.
- There is no methodology for collecting statistical data and with regard to industrial symbiosis; therefore, it is crucial to study existing solutions and identify good practices.
- More trust must be built between waste-generating and recycling companies.
- Green public procurements are an effective tool in developing circular economy; however, the economic aspects should be always considered.
- The new passive building, which was presented, required a higher cost of investment but there is a lower operating cost.
- Legal requirements are not sufficient for promoting eco-design, products manufactured from recycled waste, and local products. Higher level of environmental awareness is necessary. Another important factor is the existence and awareness of sound economic benefits.
- Wider education for CE, life-cycle costing and for eco-design is extremely needed.
- Raising public awareness of products obtained from recycled materials among end users is necessary.
- Certification of good practices and better information is needed, e.g. Certificate for Low-Energy Building in the Małopolska Region.

• **Molise Chamber of Commerce (Italy)**

- SYMBI is seen as a channel for setting up new contacts, therefore there should be more emphasis on networking and information sharing.
- Better resource management for better tackling new environmental challenges.
- Green Public Procurement is seen as a tool for accelerating and up-scaling the transition towards the circular economy.
- There should be more financial resources allocated for industrial symbiosis projects.
- There should be better information flows and exchange of good practices about circular economy and industrial symbiosis.
- Difficulty with the calculation of the cost of the product life cycle, especially due to the fact that the responsible for tenders of small entities were officials with no specific technical knowledge – there is a need for training and education activities among employees.

- **Municipality of Kozani (Greece)**

- Activation of the Special Development Project (a local policy instrument) for financing private enterprises in the area of industrial symbiosis.
- Incorporate measures in order to promote industrial symbiosis and circular economy to the new (under-process) Development Fund of Western Macedonia.
- Clarification of SYMBI's objective (from Municipality of Kozani to the local stakeholders and to the public) not to give the impression that the project involves only waste management.
- There should be more synergies with other similar projects (e. g. DIADYMA SA (Waste Management West Macedonia), M3P (Material match Making Platform).
- The presence of PPC (public power company – DEI SA) in the area of Kozani must be highlighted in the project since it is the basis and the center around which many industrial symbiosis activities (now district heating) can be established and to explore how these opportunities are going to be addressed in the after carbon era of the PPC.

- **Regional Council of Häme (Finland)**

- National and Regional policies
 - Futurology and foresight could offer valuable views in developing industrial symbiosis and policies.
 - Laws and regulations create also new business opportunities (plastic recycling, ban for textiles to landfill).
- Investment potential
 - Industrial symbiosis is a difficult concept for many enterprises to recognize even if they might be involved in IS themselves.
 - Interesting point was that regulation was not mentioned as constraining factor to investments even though it is typically seen as one of the biggest constrains.
- Good practices
 - In addition to the information collected from the good practices, it would be extremely important to find out about the growth processes and the development history of the good practices. This would help to identify the key success factors in developing IS.
 - Iida participated in FISS-workshop which has been reported as one of the good practices from Finland.
- Green public procurement
 - It is strange to notice that lack of information was mentioned as one of the biggest barriers in implementing the GPP.
 - Life-cycle view to the public procurement should be introduced.

- **Regional Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning in Andalusia (Spain)**

- Stakeholder suggested improving the synergies among the actors, working on waste management.
- Strengthen synergies between stakeholders.
- Get more examples and case studies of industrial symbiosis.

- **Pannon Novum Trans-Danubian Regional Innovation Nonprofit Ltd. (Hungary)**

- Discuss and address challenges and barriers, hindering the adoption of circular economy business.
- Necessity to remove barriers and to build on incentives with the aim to stimulate private sector investments.
- There should be more funds available dedicated to waste management and decontamination projects.
- There should be more funds available for projects, increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources projects.

- **FUNDECYT PCTEX (Spain)**

- *To be organized on 4 July 2017*