



SVRK

Third semester

Stakeholders Group Meetings

Summary Report

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Introduction

SYMBI third semester was taking place from 1 April 2017 until 30 September 2017. During this period, a third series of stakeholders' meeting took place in partners' countries. The purpose of the third stakeholders' meetings in partner countries was to discuss the enablers for circular economy, particularly the public-private partnership, financial instruments and mechanisms and green public procurement. Stakeholders were invited to share their ideas and views and particularly to make a reflection on above mentioned topics. Stakeholders contributed to achieving the goals, set by methodological frame for A 2.1, where the focus is laid on:

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 designing further activities, drafting new policy recommendations 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.



Total number of stakeholders at the event was: 64

Partner	Country	No of stakeholders present at the meeting
Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy	Slovenia	23
Regional Council of Häme	Finland	6
Regional Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning in Andalusia	Spain	4
Molise Chamber of Commerce	Italy	19
Municipality of Kozani	Greece	12
Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region	Poland	13
FUNDECYT PCTEX	Spain	18
Pannon Novum Trans-danubian Regional Innovation Nonprofit Ltd.	Hungary	15
TOTAL stakeholders		110



Workshops results, conclusions and key policy recommendations

All stakeholders in all partners' regions were invited to share their experience on industrial ecosystems, 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. Currently there are many initiatives, projects, pilots and other activities going on circular economy and industrial symbiosis. To this end, we need to forge ties, find synergies and come up with accorded solutions, suggestions and proposals.

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

- Representatives of companies would like to see more concrete results from SYMBI, not only reports and documents.
- SYMBI should produce recommendations for national regulations and practices and how to boost promotion of circular economy business in the region.
- According to the surveys made in SYMBI, there is a lack of market places for renewable materials. However, companies that already act in the field of circular economy know that there are regional operators, retailers and market places for reusing materials. The problem is how to assure the quality and recyclability of the materials in these market places.
- Main problem for the companies is the bureaucracy, strict laws and regulations related to reuse of waste material, since they are seen as obstacles to innovations. It is difficult to reuse materials if they are classified as waste, even it is obvious that the reuse would be beneficial both environmentally and economically. It requires a lot of time to get permission to handle the waste material which also increases the cost.

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

- It would be useful to have financial guidelines on how to promote circular economy and industrial symbiosis (including programs such as Horizon 2020).



- Incorporate green public procurement criteria into the new Waste act of Andalusia in a similar way as it has been done in Navarre region so as to guarantee a minimum of materials obtained from reuse, recycling and recovery.
- Trainings as a tool to ensure that the results of these policy initiatives to promote circular economy reach down to the bottom.
- GPP criteria should be included among technical specifications as a prerequisite; and based on these criteria, the most economically advantageous tender should be selected.
- Andalusia should take into consideration successful experiences from other Spanish regions such as Basque Country, Navarra and Catalonia.
- Although the GPP plays a key role in the EU's efforts to become more resource-efficient economy, it is still a voluntary instrument.
- GPP can help stimulate local trade.
- It is important to change the sequence of priorities from consumers-price-quality-sustainability to sustainability first and then quality-fair price-sustainable consumers.

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

- Meetings and discussions should focus on effectiveness of the actual policies and the discussion how to improve them.
- There is a need to have a regional tool for exchange of experiences and good practices. Stakeholders are ready to take a stake in the future actions of the SYMBI project for the creation a regional system for sharing experiences.
- Importance of having a platform for exchange of products based on the model of the ENEA Project "Eco-Innovation Sicily"(one of the PPP best cases project presented during the meeting), in order to match request and offers of waste and by-products.
- Companies highlighted the fact that in the Regional ERDF there are not financial measures related to circular economy and industrial symbiosis directly.
- The reuse of household food waste could generate a high annual income for municipalities and investors by collecting and separating them in the whole Molise region, while processing it in line with circular principles it can generate biogas and return nutrients to agricultural soils. If municipalities in the region achieved the level of recyclability and separation at around 80%, the income from this stream would a new source of revenue.

● **Municipality of Kozani (Greece)**

- Stable political environment is a key for timely organization and implementation of PPPs.
- Certain level of flexibility is needed for mitigation of unexpected factors (crisis) during the operation of PPPs vis-à-vis the initial planned/contractual provisions.
- More people should be involved and participate at events like stakeholders meetings.
- Private sector should be more represented at SYMBI stakeholders meeting.

● **Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region (Poland)**

- In many cases there are some gaps in the industrial ecosystem which prevent achieving effective industrial symbiosis – as the missing link in certain areas, there is a lack of non-agricultural biogas plants



- Low level of awareness and lack of confidence in the community is seen as the main barrier in developing the circular economy.
- The main obstacle to the PPP development in Poland is the reluctance to take risk and low level of trust in PPP.

• FUNDECYT PCTEX (Spain)

- The concept of the green public procurement is not clear enough, especially for small companies, due to the vague legislation and not well defined benefits.
- It is important to promote awareness raising campaigns for GPP and its benefits.
- There is a strong need for knowledge sharing related to green economy and circular economy.
- We need to create and promote training activities for industrial symbiosis.
- Stakeholders' involvement in taking decision related to policies implementation. These kinds of workshops / meetings are valued for offering stakeholders the opportunity to give their point of view.
- Economic and financial incentives for companies and well defined criteria are needed in order to promote the industrial symbiosis and circular economy.
- Fiscal taxes improvement for companies would be important to apply green criteria / circular economy.

• Pannon Novum (Hungary)

- Good practices should be better communicated with relevant stakeholders, since they have the leverage to accelerate the transition towards the circular economy.
- It is important to exchange information about public-private partnership, waste management and green public procurement in order to raise the level of knowledge about the topics.