An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with a winding path that forms a circular shape. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text in white.

Economía Circular y transferencia de conocimiento

Circular Economy and knowledge transfer in
Granada

2019-2023

Approved on the

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Preface

This document details the Action Plan for the province of Granada, within the context of the Color Circle project, and whose objective is to influence the implementation of the political instrument "Urban Agenda of the Province of Granada" thanks to the learning acquired in the participation of the project.

The objective of this document is to establish and detail the specific actions that are going to be implemented in certain territories, the municipalities in which the Urban Agenda of the Province of Granada managed by the Granada Provincial Council is currently being developed, or where it plans to do so until 2023 included. A series of lines of action and measures are proposed that would not have been possible without the participation in this project, since the mutual interaction between partners has allowed a fruitful exchange of information that implies the improvement of local policies.

With this plan, the aim is to make the most of the effort and investments for the development of the circular economy in the province of Granada, giving more visibility to this economic model and supporting initiatives that work in this direction, always prioritizing the transfer of knowledge as a key element, and especially the rapprochement between local entities and the field of academia & research.

As rightly stated in the starting hypotheses of the Color Circle project, the Circular Economy supposes a new paradigm that affects the entire economic process, a paradigm towards which a progressive transition should be made, and for which both the permanent innovation, as well as access to expert knowledge are necessary. And this should be started from below, with local entities or municipalities being the territorial scale on which to start, due to their privileged role as a public administration capable of channelling policies from other levels and being at the same time the closest to citizens. However, at least in Spain, it is the public administration least endowed with resources, for which permanent innovation and access to technical knowledge is limited, at this point the project reaffirms that connection with academia & research is extremely needed.

The action plan will be implemented by the Granada Provincial Council, specifically by the Employment and Sustainable Development area, and by the University of Granada, specifically by the Office of the Vice Rectorate for Institutional Policy and Planning. These will be the two main areas responsible for the implementation and monitoring of each institution, although other areas of both institutions will participate in the development of some specific actions. However, we must not forget that one of the main actors are the recipients of a large part of these actions, the municipalities. Therefore, must be highlighted the role of both the political leaders and the technical staff of the municipalities where the urban agendas are being implemented.

The timeframe for implementation is set by the project, with its limit being August 2023, a deadline that requires starting with certain actions as soon as possible, at least in terms of design and planning to ensure that the objectives set are achieved. It should be noted that thanks to the general knowledge of the Color Circle project, a pilot action was developed in Granada, the Puentes Program, of which a first pilot phase has been carried out, and that due to its success it has been decided to continue, at least in a new call that is already in the preparatory phase and about which it will be explained later.

Our preferred partners are the University of Granada, as the main actor in training and research in the province, a university considered among the 300 best universities in the world and among the top 3 in Spain. However, it must be taken into account that there are other research centers or organizations that we hope can be incorporated into this process as it consolidates, we are referring to centers such as the IFAPA or the CSIC, however, being realistic with the deadlines for the phase 2 of the Interreg Europe programme, its inclusion was not feasible at this time.


We have proposed four major actions that feed each other, these are:

1. The continuation of the Bridges program.
2. The creation of a work table between both institutions

These actions are based on a good practice known through the partners, 1000 Phd's for the territory, from the leading entity Hesam, precisely the initiative from which this project is based.

The COLOR CIRCLE project is implemented with the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the INTERREG Europe Programme 2014-2020. This publication reflects the author's views only and the INTERREG Europe programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Part I



GENERAL INFORMATION

Project

The objective of the Action plan is to :

- Design a knowledge transfer model for the province between the University and its associated research centres and the territory (Municipalities and other supra-municipal administrative forms)

- Establish the channels to put in the research agenda, define, publicize and address the needs of the local territories in the research area.
- Help to face the challenges of the province within the framework of the Urban Agenda 2030 of the province of Granada.

- Create the appropriate framework to promote the Circular Economy in the province

It was created in 2021-2022 by the Granada project technician and the university provider Esteban Romero Frias.

Research capacities to unlock the full potential of CIRCular economy

Nationality partner organisation



Country & NUTS2 region

 Spain, ES614, Granada

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Project

COLOR CIRCLE - COnnecting and empowering LOcal authorities with

Part II



The action plan

The action plan aims to impact

- ~~Investment for Growth and Jobs programme~~
- ~~European Territorial Cooperation programme~~
- Other regional development policy instrument: **2030 Urban Agenda for Sustainable Development in Granada**

EU Circular Economy Policy

The first circular economy action plan at the European level was adopted in 2015. The measures supported the European Union's transition from linear to circular economy by covering product life cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. In spring 2019, its implementation was reviewed by the European Commission, paving the way to defining new challenges for future circular economy policies. In 2020, the European Commission adopted "A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe", which is part of the European Green Deal. The new Circular Economy Action Plan supports EU's transition towards circular economy to achieve by 2050 climate neutrality, as well as support sustainable growth and jobs. The Action plan identified seven value chains as particularly relevant for reaching EU's targets: electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients. The Action plan encourages the cooperation of civil society, universities, research organisations, industry and SME.

National context

In recent years, a huge number of laws and regulations directly related to the circular economy and in particular to waste management have been enacted, along with plans and strategies aimed at achieving it. This issue is very complex due to several factors; the transposition into Spanish law of European directives has given rise to many legal texts, especially considering that the Spanish regulations on waste are made up of:

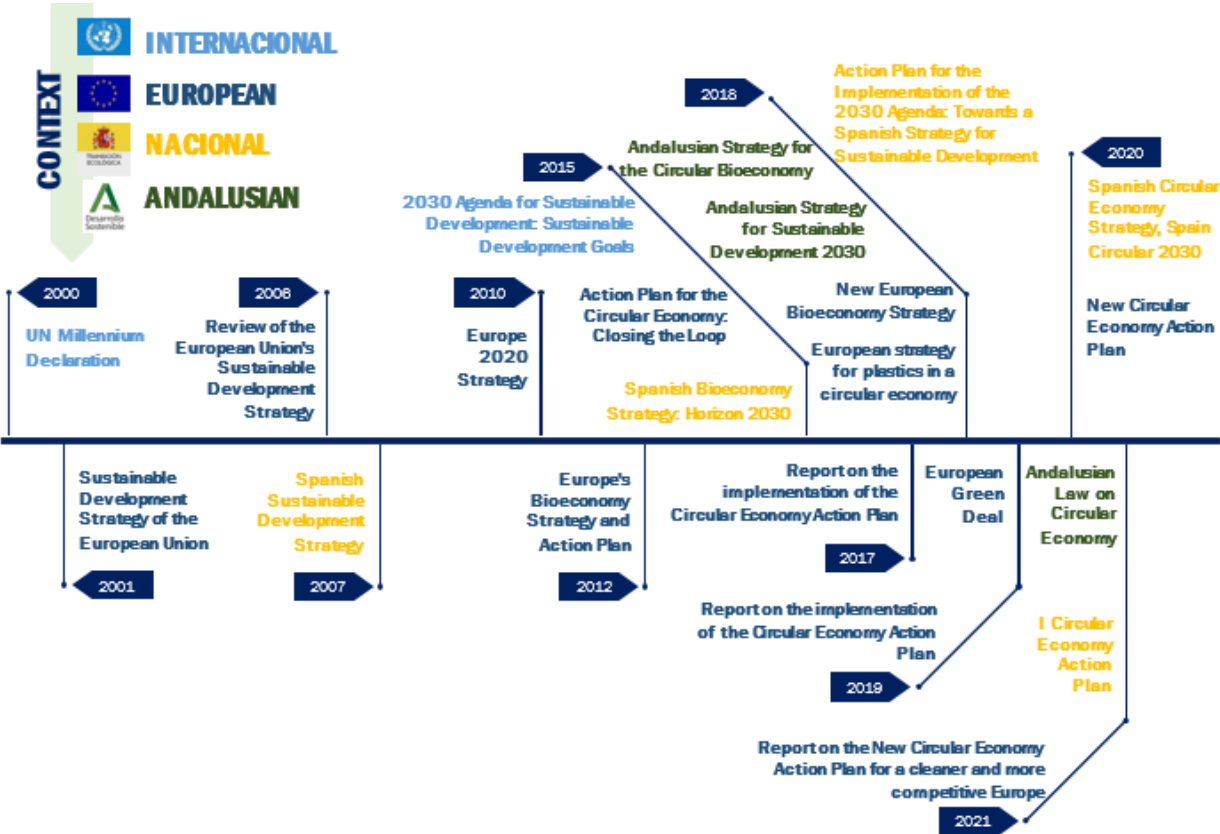
- Basic state legislation
- The legislative developments approved by the autonomous communities and,
- The regulatory authority of the municipalities for the development of regulations on this matter.

Schematically we highlight the latest changes in the Andalusian situation. The Circular Economy Law of Andalusia (LECA) is in the last phase for definitive approval, and will serve to

address many of the changes that are necessary to encourage and accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable, competitive and innovative economy.

With its approval, both the regional government and local authorities will have a legal system in line with European directives, allowing the work of the different actors involved in the implementation of the new model to be promoted. There are also strategic initiatives such as the Comprehensive Waste Plan for Andalusia "Towards a Circular Economy in Horizon 2030 (PIRec 2030)" which arose from the need to review waste management planning.

The following table outlines the regulation at different levels:



Regional context and programmes

At the provincial level we could say that the circular economy paradigm is not mature (public awareness and even the authorities), in fact there is no specific strategy on circular economy. Therefore, the different actions that are carried out in the province are covered by the recent legislation and strategic plans cited by the higher public administrations (autonomous and national). In this sense, it should be pointed out that a strong impulse is opened up for local entities, but at the same time, there are also a series of mandatory legal requirements, especially in the field of waste management, for which they will have to make a great effort.

In this context, the Color Circle Project, and specifically the action plan, can be a useful resource to face these new demands for local entities.

Policy instrument

This policy instrument (Granada Urban Agenda) responds to the need to adapt the Spanish Urban Agenda (SUA) to Granada. The SUA is the roadmap to guide sustainable urban policies with social, environmental and economic objectives.

It is a strategy aimed at all public and private agents that seek balanced, fair and sustainable development from their respective fields. The different actors should develop their own action plans that determine how they want/can implement the objectives of the Agenda, in this sense the Granada provincial council performs a double action:

- As an advisory body to local entities, it helps municipalities that so wish to carry out their own action plans and advises for their implementation.
- It is carrying out a specific action plan at the provincial level in its area of competence and geography.

This action has become stable and expandable since it progressively covers all the municipalities of the province, as the municipalities request such assistance through a service agreement program with the Provincial Council officially approved on November 26, 2019. There are two specific programs in the Concertation System (method used by the Granada Provincial Council to provide services to municipalities):

- 15422 Design of the 2030 Urban Agenda for sustainable development
- 15423 Technical assistances in the initial implementation and consolidation of action plans of the 2030 urban agendas

In addition to the actions in the municipalities that request this technical assistance, two important urban Agendas are incorporated for the province as a whole:

- The Urban Agenda of the Metropolitan Area of Granada
- The Urban Agenda for the Province as a whole.

The general objectives of the Granada Urban Agenda are to achieve:

- Improving people's quality of life.
- Efficient service management.
- Economic and environmental sustainability.
- Innovative use of resources.
- Innovation in local public policies, to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

Part III



Action plan preparation

COLOR CIRCLE project goals

The overall objective of the COLOR CIRCLE project is to unlock the full potential of circular economy by reinforcing the role and capacities of local authorities thanks to strengthened cooperation with local research communities. The project focuses on rural and small cities areas. It relies on sharing good practices of cooperation between research and local authorities that boost and tool territorial intelligence. Color Circle contributes to improve the role of local governance in regional circular economy policies by recognising circular economy as a cross cutting priority, by strengthening the connection between research and local communities and by empowering local authorities.

Action plan development

Different local agents have participated in the process of creating the action plan, to whom we have transferred both the learning from the exchange of experiences and the good practices learned. On the other hand, to advance the action plan, extensive field work and review of other types of sources have been carried out. The development of the document is being carried out by the technical team of the Granada County Council and with the technical assistance of the University of Granada.

The work with the RSG has been essential to be able to decide on the good practices that inspire us, in Circular Economy there are many very interesting good practices, but many suffer from some difficulty in terms of the ability to be transferred to certain territories. There are good practices that due to their technical-scientific nature are difficult to carry out from an institutional point of view, others are conditioned by the particularities of the territory of origin, in short, the collective work between different local actors has helped to determine which elements we had to take into account, emerging governance and strategic alliances as the key aspects. In turn, once the orientation of the action plan has been determined, the local group of stakeholders has made it possible to fine-tune the specific actions to be carried out, as well as the specific elements to try to ensure its success. In the sessions with the stakeholders of the sixth semester, this plan will be finalized.

Regarding the phase of field work and review of sources, the following sequence has been followed:

1. Detailed analysis of the reference good practice, to know the model to which we aspire:
 - Strengths
 - Core aspects
 - Developed tools
 - Methodologies and know-how

2. Determine what aspects are replicable or not, considering the calendar of our project
3. Know the reality from which we start: Internal analysis
4. Internal dynamics of our public administrations and the University
5. Identify possible barriers
6. Learn from other experiences: Review of different projects related to the transfer of knowledge and the circular economy, also in national as international cases.

Regarding the period that marks the Project, this has been a fundamental element to determine the possible actions, this term determines both the actions and the expected result.

The Good Practice "1000 Doctorates..." is very ambitious and is endowed with state funding, so it cannot be replicated in a year, but we have had the opportunity to create a similar program on a smaller scale, achievable in a short period of time and aimed at the educational levels of university degree and master's degree. Although we are working on a similar development at the doctoral level, it was not feasible to propose it in this time horizon, so its progress will not be included in this document.

Good practices methodology as base for the Action Plan

The Interreg Europe programme supports the exchange of good practices and experience between public authorities, managing authorities, research institutes, as well as non-profit organisations to develop and deliver better public policy. During the first phase of the project, partners have to set up a stakeholder group, contribute to the policy learning platform and produce an action plan based on the good practices identified by the other partners in their regions. This action plan is implemented during phase two.

During three interregional learning events, the partners presented their situation according to a case study methodology that enabled different stakeholders - regional and local authorities, research centres, circular economy solution providers, civil society - to cross views on good practices. Following this presentation, parallel sessions were held by peer groups (Local Government group; Regional policy makers' group; University / Research group; other stakeholders) to analyse the case study against several criteria: policy challenges; improvements; conditions on transferring the good practices in other regions. The groups reported in plenary. A dedicated time was given to partners from the same region to share their views on the case study, identify first lessons for their territory, and input for regional stakeholder group (RSG) meetings.

Criteria for COLOR CIRCLE good practices

The selection criterion for good practices has been adaptability to the circumstances of our territory and coherence with the sphere of competence of our institutions. In this sense, good practices directly related to innovation in governance and the transfer of expert knowledge have been the main core.

Partner Good Practises

Name	Short description	Link to the COLOR CIRCLE webpage for more information
1000 Phd ´s for the territories	<p>State program managed by the University of Hesam that facilitates the access of PhD st. in territories, NGOs and local entities for three years.</p> <p>They have created a system/platform to support this process between three types of actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Future PhD student– The host: Public administration/association– Researcher (Belonging to university or similar)	<p>https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5616/phd-students-in-local-administrations-to-address-climate-economic-and-social-challenges/</p>

Part IV



The GRANADA COUNTY COUNCIL project stakeholder group has defined the following actions for the action plan.

Action 1: PUENTES program

The background

This action is directly inspired by the Good Practice that gave rise to the Color Circle Project <https://1000doctorants.hesam.eu/> and known in the first learning session between partners. This is a state program managed by the University of Hesam:

- It facilitates the access of PhD st. in territories, NGOs and local entities for three years.
- It has national financial support by the Cifre system (Industrial Research Training Agreements)
- In all France but with special focus on rural areas, mainly on academic subjects such as geography, sustainable urban design, political science or architecture.

They have created a system/platform to support this process:

- Explanatory sections of the project, partnership, news, testimonies, podcasts ...
- Useful tools sections
- And the CORE part, a section with offers and demands and the possibility of enrolling in the program

Three types of actors are included for its development:

- Future PhD student

- The host: Public administration /association
- Researcher (Belonging to university or similar)

The main features learnt from this good practice are:

- Very useful to connect supply and demand from different points.
- It is very dynamic, a person or administration that raises an idea can be contacted, but they can also see if someone has offered a topic that is under their line of research.
- It allows the realization of an action-research process, focused mainly on young researchers and that connects them with territories, NGOs and local entities for three years.
- Among the incentives is the financing of each of the processes and, in addition, the fact of being able to validate the doctoral thesis through a local authority/association or public establishment.

Expected impact in the regional context

The objective is to bring together needs and expert knowledge, to satisfy those needs. The challenges in local entities, especially in circular economy approach are really high, and at the same time, sometimes the universities work with a logic far from the territory in which they are inserted.

This action is very specific in terms of the impact that its first call has had in 2021-2022 (29 scholarship holders in the territory), and the impact that is expected in the second (31 scholarship holders) that has already begun and will continue until

part of 2023. This means that direct support will be given for the development of their own Urban Agenda strategy for at least 60 municipalities, since some fellows work in one municipality and others in territorial groups.

In terms of policy instrument change, it occurred on July 1, 2021 as the effective incorporation of the fellows to the territories in which they were going to work took place on this day.

Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

1. Preparatory phase

Although the preparatory work has been underway for months, the date of official approval by the provincial government board is March 28, 2022.

Identification and selection of projects or actions that generate employment and development within the annual operational programs of the urban agendas of each territory.

- Establishment of the necessary academic profiles based on the selected projects.
- Identification of young university students interested in the project in the territory of the Urban Agenda
- Identification and selection of personnel, mentors and experts.
- Design of the training process and orientation of the student body.
- Student Selection
- Selection and organization of the human team for the management of the program: technical staff, tutorials, companies/teachers for training and

guidance, technical assistance, evaluation...

- Legal and bureaucratic processing of the incorporation of students.

2. Execution of the training phase and internships in the territory

Implementation phase, when the students receive the adapted training process, including specific training on circular economy, and when they begin their research and work immersion in the assigned territory. To carry out their work, a support system is established, made up of both mentors and tutors. Lastly, in this phase there is a series of professional orientation actions for their professional insertion

3. Monitoring of the program and evaluation of results.

The program has an internal and external monitoring and evaluation system to assess its impact and achievement of objectives, the degree of satisfaction of the agents involved, as well as to make decisions on its possible future improvement.

The evaluation process begins in the early stages, and includes different types of techniques, both quantitative and qualitative, covering the following dimensions: acquisition and improvement of student skills, performance of technical staff, evaluation of the program itself, the relationship cost benefit...

In order to be able to react to possible deviations, intermediate reports will be

made from which punctual adjustments can be made if necessary.

Players involved

It is a program of institutional collaboration between:

- Granada County Council (Urban Agenda) – Manages the program
- University of Granada (UGR)- Students
- the Social Council of the UGR- Collaboration, mentoring
- City Councils / Municipalities Associations - Action area

Cost and source of finance

The expected cost of the second call is:

- Budget provided by the Granada County Council (own funds): € 299,004.26 (Direct financing for the program, without including the cost of own staff in the management of the program).
- Average Cost: 9,645 per internship

Transferability to other territories

The possibility of transferring this share would be very high, for several reasons:

- firstly, the needs of small territories in terms of expert knowledge are almost universal,

- secondly, working with bachelor's and master's students facilitates management since the commitment of both parties is sufficient to achieve results but not too much to discourage the parties involved
- Lastly, it is common for European universities to have some type of external internship, adapting it to a customized program oriented to the nearby territory is relatively simple.

Timeframe

In the frame time there are two calls:

- The first one (pilot experience) officially started on 1st July 2021 with 29 scholarship beneficiaries and it ended in December 2021. In his last steps of the evaluation phase. This is the date when the change in the policy instrument actually took place thanks to the Color Circle program.
- The second call, the action on which we are going to follow up, which is currently in the preparatory phase, with a forecast to begin the training/research period in June, and end in December 2022. The evaluation phase would end in March/April 2023.

	2022												2023			
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	
Prior Preparation																
Period to apply																
Selection phase																
Administrative processing																
Training phase																
Internship period																
Evaluation of results																

Contacts

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Action 2: Working group table, linking University and Territory

The background

This action is also inspired by the Good Practice 1000 PhD for the territory.

In this case, we focus on the lessons learned related to the creation of a link of interaction between the concerned parties, on the service provided linking different actors who normally do not have the necessary connection. In this sense, we want to reproduce the logic followed, where both the needs of the territories and the proposals of actors in the research field are systematized for their connection.

Expected impact in the regional context

We consider that this action supposes a change of type 2: It allows a change in the management or improvement in the governance of the policy instrument since an extra mechanism is established, it refers to an improvement in the management of the Urban Agenda. Until now, the Urban Agenda has worked through commissions to third parties (professional consultants) to solve many problems that arise. Although this formula can and should be maintained, if it managed to get the university community involved thanks to the planned actions describe below, it will ensure that a large part of the needs that the Urban Agenda is trying to solve are

treated from the expert knowledge of the University, and therefore satisfied at least in part. Therefore, an institutional collaboration between both institutions where, as tangible results, the following will be achieved:

- The systematization of information collection (potential development actions identified or specific needs detected) on the Urban Agendas already carried out and on the agendas that are underway or will be carried out in the short term.
- Create a digital tool to make the information described open and easily accessible, in the form of a marketplace as it is in 1000 doctoral students for the territory. Putting in an open and accessible way the needs or possible actions in the territory collected throughout the actions of the Urban Agenda. In database and file format, make a possible link with the UGR.
- Promote specific actions to promote the "REORIENTATION" of the academia & research university staff to the needs of the province through a service-learning approach and awareness actions. It would be a win-win collaborative form, where the university community is provided with challenges based on reality, and with respect to the territory, it is possible to reorient the university research agenda to focus on the detected problems of the province by the UA. It is a process of collective creation and optimization of expert knowledge.
- Being the link to facilitate the connection between both parties, serving as an intermediary working group for specific needs (launching a problem, visiting a territory to delve into a topic...)

In general, promote orientation towards the needs of the territory by the teachers, researchers and the students also to help to deploy Urban Agenda. The direct beneficiaries (and the indicator) are the number municipalities where the university has addressed one or more issues thanks to this tool and approach.

Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

The improvement of the political instrument will be carried out insofar as the potential actions or needs detected throughout the urban agenda process will be given greater or lesser satisfaction, that is, a mechanism created to make it easier for those territories in which the urban agenda is developed to have a service by the university that attends, at least partially, that need

1. The activities for both institutions:

As a mechanism to improve the governance of the policy instrument the establishment of an institutional declaration of commitments between both institutions to ensure commitment in the sphere of political decision is essential. An institutional declaration setting out objectives and activities in the Urban Agenda development will be signed. The next step will be to create a technical commission and an institutional commission.

A web space that allows support for the entire process will be developed. This web tool would have the following utilities:

- Marketplace: Supply and demand system.

- Virtual space in which the needs or potential actions will be entered into a database
- Repository with useful research for the province.
- Channelling of possible calls of interest to connect with both a research department and a territory.

2. Activities of the Granada County Council:

- Establish a protocol for the collection of information/needs of the municipalities in an Urban Agenda.
- Creation of a database with the needs or possible actions of municipalities.
- Creation of a catalogue of Provincial Council resources available to research staff (Nurseries, Farms, archives, centres...) to develop different types of research

3. Activities of the University of Granada:

- Develop a service-learning approach for the university community.
- Create an advisory program for research staff requesting projects, promoting their reorientation to the themes of the territory, and thus help them to consider the social impact of their research.
- Facilitate the use of the database topics in Final degree projects and final master's projects
- Carry out protocol and internal communication (internal marketing to research groups and PDI in general) to promote orientation to these issues associated with the territory and

establish a mechanism for measuring actions.

- Analyse incentive mechanisms to promote this approach.

Players involved

Granada University, Granada County Council and municipalities.

Timeframe

The beginning of the activities will be the signing of the agreement, which should be signed before the end of phase 1 of the Color Circle project. The agreement will be an annex of the Policy Instrument, it will be incorporated officially.

	2022						2023							
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Institutional statement														
Analysis and systematisation of information														
Creation of a digital tool														
Design of participation mechanisms														
Implementation of participation mechanisms*.														
Evaluation of results														

* (I.e. Service-Learning approach)

Cost and source of finance

The actions will be carried out with the resources of both institutions through the assignment of their own personnel. The estimated staff allocation for the Provincial Council is 7,200 euros, considering a dedication of 20 hours per month.

The implementation of the proposed objectives through IT tools will be done developing the website displaying the Urban Agenda with an estimate of 10.000 euros.

(<https://www.oteagranada.com/>).

Transferability to other territories

The creation of a stable working group associated with the systematization of information from two institutions, one in charge of knowledge creation and the

other of local development actions, can be replicated by other territories, taking advantage of the knowledge generated in the implementation as well as that related to associated technological developments.

Signature

On behalf of the Regional Council of GRANADA (Granada County Council) I agree to support and promote the implementation of the action plan detailed above.

The Regional Council of Granada recognises the significance of the Color Circle project in the promotion of cooperation between the research community and local authorities and the role both can play on identifying circular economy solutions.

Date: 18/07/2022

Signature: Ana Muñoz Arquelladas, Deputy responsible for the Area of Economic Promotion and Employment, and the Policy Instrument Urban Agenda

Stamp:

Sources

Revised fonts

1. Review of some action plans of Interreg Europe related with Circular Economy and knowledge Transfer
2. Project "1000 Phd's for the territories"
3. Project Fjildlab
4. NärKomm – Municipal PhDs - When municipalities set the research agenda
5. The knowledge transfer program (Cape Town)
6. The Future Cities Node (Melbourne)
7. Planning and execution of the Puentes Program
8. Rural Erasmus Program
9. Experience of the Operative Groups of rural development in Spain
10. CeiA3.es
11. The figure of the Industrial Doctorate
12. Living labs of the European network ENoLL
13. LabIn Granada - Granada Innovation Laboratory
14. Social innovation laboratories of the University of Granada

Fieldwork carried out through interviews:

1. Jorge Lopez. Responsible for the Puentes program and the Urban agenda
2. Interview with students of the Puentes Program
3. Interview with Jordana A. Harriss, Project "1000 Phd's for the territories"
4. Interview with Patricia Martínez Alonso and Jorge Cuevas Moreno, from the National Rural Network
5. Interview with Beatriz Molina García, Director of R&D&I of Grupo La Caña. Aguacavalue Operating Group
6. Interview with Laura Sánchez Ruiz, Knowledge Transfer Technician at the Research Results Transfer Office (OTRI) of the University of Granada (UGR)
7. Interview with the Project Fjildlab Responsible