



Contents

Part I - General information.....	3
Part II - Policy context	4
Part III - Details of the actions envisaged.....	4
ACTION 1:.....	4
The background	4
Action	6
Players.....	7
Timeframe	7
Costs	7
Funding sources	7
ACTION 2:.....	8
Players.....	9
Timeframe	10
Costs	10
Funding sources	10

Part I - General information

Project: LCA4Regions - Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through use of Life Cycle Instruments for implementation of regional policies of the European Union

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Part II - Policy context

1. The Action Plan aims to impact:
 - X **Investment for Growth and Jobs programme**
 - European Territorial Cooperation programme
 - Other regional development policy instrument
2. Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

Operational Programme for the European Union Funds' Investments in 2014-2020 Republic of Lithuania. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors Priority axis 5. Environment, Sustainable use of Natural Resources and adaptation to Climate Change.

Part III - Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: Improvement of the resource efficiency and waste management at regional level by fostering the Eco innovations for the transition to Circular economy

The background

The main benefit of the LCA4REGIONS project was the exchange of experiences, which allowed the researchers from Kaunas university of technology, and their stakeholders to know, learn and understand new and innovative practices regarding the Life cycle instruments application for resource efficiency and environmental improvement. Actually, the project was the main source of information and inspiration to for the successful regional and local cooperation, as well identification of the Good practices and involvement of the local stakeholders for the development the Action plan.

Researchers of the KTU were directly involved in the analyses of circularity of Lithuanian industry and possibilities to apply the Life cycle instruments to the transition of Lithuanian industry to a circular economy. The potential to streamline current and future policies into a coherent and coordinated overarching Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan to advance Lithuania's resource efficiency will be directly influenced by the EU policy landscape.

As already mentioned the Life cycle instruments were integrated to be essential for the overall environmental performance assessment in the resource efficiency and waste management in the Circular Economy Roadmap (CER).

In this context, it was identified as a priority for our region - Lithuania, the announcement of the new calls for the Action Plan for the Transition of Lithuanian Industry to CER.

During the Transnational learning journeys - Exchange of Experience and Case study visits there were presented different GP's, which were of high importance for our country.

The need to foster the circular economy and waste management, resource efficiency, public procurement, as well as capacity building on the life cycle tools was emphasised by many of the partners at the first Kick-off LCA4REGIONS meeting at Navarre office in Brussels (Belgium) on 30th September- 1st October 2019.

The attendees at the June 16-18th, 2020 meeting in Navarre (Spain) identified in the Exchange of experience and Study visit a number of common problems regarding the resource efficiency and the life cycle application.

The good practices and case studies from Finland and other partner regions presented during the meeting in Satakunta (Finland) on 20-22 October, 2020 have been very useful as examples of waste management and life cycle assessment at regional level.

The good practices included the use of life cycle tools and methods on waste management and material flows and provided potential learning and inspiration for all regions with ideas to be integrated into local policies and procedures.

The approaches by other partners in terms of waste management have been particularly useful.

In accordance with the above, Lithuanian's action plan within the scope of the LCA4REGIONS project focuses on action, which is based on the experience of the Italian partner (Lombardy region) that shows the benefits of the Construction and demolition waste, which was identified as a priority waste due to its large amount and recyclability. Also the good practices presented by Finish partner during the Transnational Learning Journey (TLJ3) on 20-22 of October 2020, use of the Life cycle tools for the waste management and circular economy, as well for the material flows, which provided inspirations for our region with ideas to be integrated into national policies and procedures.

The Good practices have been presented for the stakeholders, which have participated at the local stakeholder meetings and the transnational learning journeys. They have indicating the GPs as the most important and relevant for our country:

Good Practice TP2: GERLA project: Waste management in Lombardy - Life cycle assessment (Lombardia, Italy)

In the GERLA project, the LCA methodology was applied to analyse the environmental performance (global warming, acidification, human toxicity, photochemical ozone creation, Cumulative Energy Demand) of the current waste/resource management system implemented in Lombardy region. This would be relevant for the national government since it may guide them in improving the sustainability of their waste or resource management policies. It may allow to improve regional competitiveness in successful economic and policy development.

Good Practice TP2: Optimization of the regional management of construction and demolition waste through the LCT approach (Lombardia, Italy)

Construction and demolition waste was identified as a priority waste due to its large amount and recyclability. In this context, Regione Lombardia chose the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) as a tool to assess and optimize its own CDW management system from an environmental point of view. The analysis allowed to identify the most effective solutions for enhancing the sustainability and circularity of the CDW by quantifying their effects on the environmental, energetic and economic performances of the entire system.

Good Practice TP5: Course "Business Models in the Circular Economy" (PP2, Spain)

Concept of Life cycle is not well known within professional community neither companies in general. So then, this course lands life cycle concept, explaining the needs to perform Life cycle assessment to know economic, environmental and social impact of a product or service. The training course introduces the Circular economy and Sustainability concepts applicable to a company, a business model and for the development of products and services. It describes the different European strategies, legislation and sector trends related to Circular economy and Sustainability implementation.

Action

The Action is oriented to the improvement of the resource efficiency and waste management at company and regional level by fostering the Eco innovations for the transition to Circular economy, and will be implemented by the following steps:

- 1) Merging of institutions participating in the processes of Lithuanian transition to a Circular economy and distribution of responsibilities.

Cooperation within the stakeholder group in order to guarantee the transparent, smooth and on-time implementation of the resource efficiency, waste management for the circular economy process through Eco innovations - continuous improvement of the administration process.

- 2) Preparation of the National action plan for the circular economy, which integrates the key areas of the Lithuanian industrial transition to the circular economy roadmap.

As the initial diagnosis of the needs of Lithuania regarding the Circular economy and resource efficiency was performed, this step aims to prepare the principal strategic elements to consider in the National action plan for the circular economy.

These elements should focus on the following aspects:

- Identification of national economic development goals, allowing for targeted orientation of the goals and actions of the circular transformation of individual sectors (including industry);
- National, cross-sectoral, inter-institutional, inter-institutional cooperation in the field of CE;
- The key directions of the industrial CE roadmap and integration of objectives.

3) Integration of the National action plan in the policy framework.

This step aims to integrate the results of the local action plan in the Policy instrument framework. The action plan for the circular economy and resource efficiency will be a key instrument for improving the regional policy instrument addressed by LCA4REGIONS project.

Players

Players will be involved in the action from the very first step, which specifically focuses on the consolidation and promotion of the regional stakeholder group. Some of the players that will be involved will be:

- Ministry of Economy and Innovation - the role of MoEI is to organise and manage process of the transition to the Circular Economy on country level.
- Industrial associations;
- Industrial companies - the role to initiate the Eco innovations on company level.
- Research institutions - the role to help with the Life cycle tools application
- Local municipalities
- Etc.

Timeframe

The timeframe for the implementation of the described action covers Phase 2 of the LCA4REGIONS project (12 months).

Costs

Following the adoption of the Circular Economy Program, a number of activities are foreseen for which new calls will be launched.

The Action Plan will be financed by generally the funding sources coming from the PI that is improved and also other sources for contribution could be foreseen.

There will be involved several staff members of the Ministry of Economy and innovations and the actions will be integral part of the activities foreseen in the mentioned period.

Funding sources

The funding source is the National funds and ERDF funds.

ACTION 2: Stimulation of the Public procurement process by the education and communication about the Good practices and results

The background

During the Transnational learning journeys - Exchange of Experience and Case study visits there were presented different GP's, which were of high importance for our country regarding the green public procurement procedures.

The need to foster the public procurement processes in country and the life cycle tools was emphasised by many of the partners at the first Kick-off LCA4REGIONS meeting at Navarre office in Brussels (Belgium) on 30th September- 1st October 2019.

The attendees of the Transnational-learning journey "Exchange of experiences on LCA for public procurement in Slovenia" on the May 25-27th, 2021 have identified in the Exchange of experience and Study visit a number of benefits regarding the public procurement and the life cycle application.

The good practices and case studies from Finland, Slovenia, Portugal, Spain and other partner regions presented during the meeting in Slovenia have been very useful as examples of public procurement application and use of the life cycle tools at regional level. The approaches presented by partners in terms of public procurement process management have been particularly useful.

Good Practice TP3: Management of sustainable procurements at municipal level (PP4, Finland)

Development of sustainable public procurement management by improving efficient knowledge sharing, LCA and functionalization of societal impact categories.

City of Pori has developed its public procurement practises long-term, although policy agenda has omitted practical functionalisation. Policy agenda, divided into different procurement categories, was formulated via cross-organisational working group. Management system involves operative expertise unit, which analyses and observes the effect of procurements, total amount of 350m€. KEINO-academy facilitated development of improved impact assessments, e.g. for environmental responsibility and resource efficiency. Real-time tendering calendar and a procurement tool with LCA and LCC involvement is being developed.

Good Practice TP3: Green public procurement in Slovenia (PP7, Slovenia)

This practice describes the implementation and use of green public procurement legislation in Slovenia. The latter also considers the use of LCA methodologies. Public buyers would have to consider minimum and extra environmental requirements, as well as award criteria. It identified a number of statements or declarations, which can serve as proof of these requirements.

Good Practice TP3: Public Procurement for Innovation (PP5, Alentejo, Portugal)

The Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) aimed at stimulating the adoption of innovative services and product in the context of the refurbishing of two buildings. The fact that those buildings are inserted in historic areas, one of them to be classified as UNESCO heritage, gave the all process specificities that couldn't be addressed under a regular procurement procedure, where price would be the main focus. The building are used as services building, having one of them also a museum in the basement. So the need to the quality of the indoor environment was an issue. Last, energy consumption and CO2 produced were on of the main criteria.

Good Practice TP3: KEINO Academy for sustainable procurement management (PP4, Finland)

Many skills are required for successful public procurement such as substance competence, budget and pricing expertise, operational procurement competence, expertise in procurement law and communication skills. In addition to higher education in Finland that provides some degrees and courses on public procurement, KEINO Academy, as part of the KEINO Competence Centre, annually offers competence enhancing activities (events and courses online and offline as well as guidance through email) for public purchasing authorities.

Good Practice TP3: Environmental clauses in the contract for Pamplona street cleaning services (PP1, Spain)

Green procurement is a big challenge for the acquisition of products, services or works by public institutions. This practice shows an approach to deal with this challenge, considering the use of life cycle approach. In April 2016, Pamplona Town Hall launched the tender for the public service for streets cleaning of the municipality.

Action

The main idea of this action is to strengthen the awareness and implementation on the public procurement, about the benefits and the procedures in order to foster the qualitative environmental performance. The actions are oriented to the following directions:

- Communication on the Green Public Procurement for awareness raising
- Promotion for motivation of the companies and institutions
- Consultation for the use of the Life cycle tools

Players

The main players are:

- Ministry of Economy and Innovation;
- Public Procurement office;
- Ministry of Environment;
- Additional institutions which could act as mediators or partners.

Mediators are planned to be the stakeholders and groups which can have the role of the information multipliers. The partners are the stakeholders or the groups which could gain the direct benefit while participating in the process - for themselves or for the institutions they represent.

Timeframe

The actions will be included in the proposal for the ERDF fund calling for the awareness raising projects for the 2022-2023. Based on the strategy for the communication and awareness raising developed by Public Procurement office for the period 2016-2023, the coming call will be oriented to the second part of the second stage (2023). Therefore, the foreseen actions can be used for the second stage of the LCA4REGIONS project in order to monitor the progress in the public procurement process.

Costs

Text The funding of the activities is foreseen as integral part of ERDF Priority axis 5. Environment, Sustainable use of Natural Resources and adaptation to Climate Change. Therefore, the actions proposed by the LCA4REGIONS are not indicated as the separate ones, as those actions are integral part of foreseen projects.

Funding sources

The funding source is ERDF funds

Date: June, 2022

Name of the organisation(s): Kaunas University of Technology

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

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