



ACTION
PLAN



2022

Portugal

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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

Partner organisation: CIMBAL - Baixo Alentejo Intermunicipal Community

Country: Portugal

NUTS2 region: Baixo Alentejo

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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: **ERFD OP 2021- 2027 – Alentejo 2030**

Due to the fact that Alentejo 2020 Operational Program (initial policy instrument considered) is at its ending stage, CIMBAL considered for the present action plan the new financial programme Alentejo 2030 (ERFD OP 2021-2027) that is under conclusion, to be available soon.

Alentejo 2030 operational program, included in Portugal 2030 program, materializes the partnership agreement to be signed between Portugal and the European Commission, which establishes the major strategic objectives for the application of European Funds in the country, for the period 2021-2027.

Five strategic objectives, including a greener Europe strategic objective, are programmed, with the following specific objectives:

- Making the economy circular;
- Reducing risks and valuing environmental assets.

Due to its relevance to the Operational Program, it is relevant to mention that in Portugal, there are currently three action plans related to circular economy:

- PERSU 2020 - Strategic Plan for Urban Waste 2014-2020;
- Action Plan for Circular Economy (APCE);
- National Strategy for the Ecological Public Procurement (ENCPE 2020).

PERSU 2020 - Strategic Plan for Urban Waste 2014-2020 was approved by Decree No. 187-A on the 17th September 2014. The plan sets national targets for Urban Waste (UW) prevention and presents measures associated with accomplishing this objective. The waste strategy, advocated in this plan, maintains the objective of guaranteeing a high level of protection of the environment and human health, through the use of appropriate processes, technologies and infrastructures. It also promotes the minimization of the production and hazardousness of waste and seeks to integrate them in the production processes as secondary materials in order to reduce the impacts of the extraction of natural resources and ensure the essential resources to the economy thus creating opportunities for economic and employment sustainable development.

Action Plan for Circular Economy (APCE) approved by ministers Resolution n. ° 190-A/2017 presents actions aligned with the European pillars of Action for the Circular Economy aims at establishing a carbon neutral economy with neutral GHG emissions and effective use of materials by 2050, focusing on research and innovation on sustainability. It creates solutions, with emissions and resources integrated into business models that stimulate the creation of jobs, an efficient and effective use of the resources mobilized and their



economic duration, enabling inclusive and resilient economic prosperity and a thriving, responsible, dynamic, inclusive, informed, participative and more collaborative society.

The **National Strategy for the Ecological Public Procurement (ENCPE 2020)** approved by Resolution No 38/2016 of the Council of Ministers of 29 July 2016, provides that the inclusion of environmental criteria in public procurement is mandatory. Moreover, it is an instrument that intends to promote the reduction of pollution, the consumption of natural resources and integration of efficiency in the system.

There is, in Alentejo region, a specific and dedicated **Circular Economy Forum**, implemented by Alentejo Coordination and Regional Development Commission (CCDR Alentejo).

Alentejo Circular Economy Forum's main objective is to stimulate circular economy in Alentejo region. It is a network of regional stakeholders, from public and private sector where opportunities and constraints related to circular economy in the region are discussed. Through regular and systematic interactions among different entities, Alentejo Circular Economy Forum is a space of debate, but above all, is a space where different stakeholders exchange knowledge, contacts, experiences, projects and identify opportunities or constraints for the application of circular economy concepts. Public authorities, as contracting authorities, have a very important role in circular economy implementation, and it is up to them, among other things, to actively promote in their tendering procedures standards that stimulate the use of circular economy principles.

Another point to take into consideration is the access to finance, that plays a central role in stimulating innovation in the circular economy, either through European and Structural Investment Funds or even through national programs, all of which are managed by a wide range of entities, to which are added emerging forms of financing such as collaborative financing or green bonds.

In the new ERFD OP 2021- 2027 - Alentejo 2030 there is an improvement, namely through its improved governance. CCDR Alentejo is responsible for the execution of the new regional programme and works closely with regional entities such as CIMBAL. Therefore, the improvement of this policy will be relied on improved governance and consequently improvement of the specific objectives and actions to be taken into consideration in the regional operational programme (namely for the next programming period).

This will be accomplished, since CCDR Alentejo, in the framework of another Interreg Europe project - CircPro - in which CCDR is partner, is developing specific elements for the preparation of new calls in Alentejo 2030 programme and specific elements for the new project's selection, taking into consideration the integration of circular criteria in the forthcoming calls.

CCDR Alentejo proposed actions in CircPro project will contribute to improve Alentejo's regional policy instrument and national plans related to circular economy but will also have dissemination and replication potential to other national regions, contributing for the regional, national and European objectives.

This way, CIMBAL will contribute with specific actions and results to the improvement of the policy instrument.

The actions proposed in this action plan will lead to a policy change since the results regarding life cycle, life cycle analysis criteria and its public procurement costs, will be shared with CCDR Alentejo, in order to be used and to improve ERDF OP 2021-2027



management procedures in what regards the preparation of new calls and the integration of circular and life cycle criteria in the forthcoming calls.

Part III - Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: Integration of life cycle analysis criteria and inclusion of life cycle cost calculator in specific procedures

The main objectives of this action are to integrate life cycle criteria in CIMBAL central purchasing procedures and to integrate life cycle and its costs in public procurement taking into consideration defined and specific product groups.

The inclusion of circularity and life cycle analysis into purchasing procedures with a prospect of extended life-cycle and product customization can generally be applied to the majority of procurement procedures which are related to the development of new sustainable products and services. This is highly related to the specific objective of the policy instrument: “Making the economy circular” and “Reducing risks and valuing environmental assets.”.

The background

In the framework of LCA4Regions partnership learning experience and inspired by the good practice presented by the Lead Partner, namely the good practice **Calculation of Carbon Footprint in services of the Commonwealth of the Region of Pamplona** (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/4270/calculation-of-carbon-footprint-in-services-of-the-commonwealth-of-the-region-of-pamplona/>) and by the good practice presented by the Polish Partner, namely the good practice **Active support of the contracting authority by the Public Procurement Office through LCC calculators** (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5430/active-support-of-the-contracting-authority-by-the-public-procurement-office-through-lcc-calculators/>), CIMBAL considers as key elements, that are suitable to be transferred to Baixo Alentejo Region, the availability of a Carbon footprint calculator and life cycle cost calculators (LCC) in CIMBAL´s website in order to help services, namely in what regards the analysis of sustainable and green public procurement criteria.

The annually carbon footprint calculation of services provided by the Commonwealth of the Region of Pamplona aims to improve the urban environment in the Region and the carbon footprint is an effective factor to take into account in what regards impacts of the provided services, applying a life cycle approach and identifying measures to climate change mitigation.

The Polish Public Procurement Office provides life cycle cost calculators on its website thus promoting the life cycle approach in public tenders. The calculators are a practical tool to facilitate the application of the life cycle criterion (as a criterion for the evaluation of bids) in public procurement, in accordance with the possibilities offered by the national Public Procurement Law.



The inclusion of circularity and life cycle analysis into purchasing procedures with a prospect of extended life-cycle and product customization can generally be applied to the majority of procurement procedures which are related to the development of new sustainable products and services. This is highly related to the specific objective of the policy instrument: “Making the economy circular” and “Reducing risks and valuing environmental assets.”.

Action

It is intended, through the execution of this action, to contribute to a more circular transition in the region, with the inclusion of circular economy and life cycle analysis criteria in CIMBAL’s procurement procedures.

One of the purchasing procedures that will benefit from this inclusion is the procurement regarding school meals acquisitions.

The main objectives are the following:

- to evaluate the availability of sustainable menus with healthy, seasonal, nutritional and organic food, contributing to the reduction of CO₂ emissions;
- to select the best suppliers in terms of price but also in terms of sustainability;
- to reduce food waste and;
- to increase awareness regarding sustainable consumption.

Firstly, CIMBAL will define the specific product groups and analyse a set of criteria to be integrate in CIMBAL central purchasing procedures, namely:

- Compliance with food criteria (fresh, organic, seasonal, certified products);
- Price;
- Transport (origin, type of transport)
- Type of packaging (material, namely if it is reusable);
- Waste (what is done with the returned packaging material...)
- Other (ISO certification, if it calculates its ecological footprint, ...).

After that the criteria will be integrated in the CIMBAL central purchasing procedures.

Taking into consideration the lessons learned and the criteria definition, a life cycle cost calculator will be developed in order to assist proposal’s analysis by CIMBAL’s staff.

To this end and additionally, information materials will be developed in order to properly inform and train public and private entities regarding the use of the life cycle cost calculator.

This action will enable a policy change. The inclusion of life cycle criteria in food supply will function as a pilot action that will be articulated with Alentejo’s managing authority (CCDR Alentejo), ERFD OP 2021- 2027 - Alentejo 2030 and Interreg Europe project, Circpro.

CCDR Alentejo, in the scope of the CircPro project - in which is partner, is developing specific elements for the preparation of new calls in the Alentejo 2030 programme and



specific elements for the new projects selection, taking into consideration the integration of circular criteria in the next calls, namely through the creation of a list of circularity criteria to be considered in the validation of projects that will receive funding.

CIMBAL will share the results of this action development by complementing the list of circularity criteria with specific LCA criteria and tools. CIMBAL will also support the managing authority in the overall process of integration of LCA criteria in new calls. Thus, a policy change will be enabled as new criteria (LCA) will be introduced in the new calls.

Players

CIMBAL will take the leadership of the implementation of this action with the collaboration of the following stakeholders:

- Alentejo Coordination and Regional Development Commission (CCDR Alentejo);
- Municipalities;
- Regional private and public entities.

The main stakeholder’s role will be related to the criteria evaluation and specification. Also, the stakeholders will have a special role in what regards communication and dissemination of the development and results of this action.

Timeframe

One year

Activities	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
Definition of the specific product groups and criteria analyse	█	█										
CIMBAL central purchasing procedures criteria integration			█	█	█	█	█					
Life cycle cost calculator development						█	█	█	█	█		
Development of information actions										█	█	█

Costs

Costs will be related to human resources

Funding sources

Own Resources



ACTION 2: Green public procurement - Capacity building

The implementation of this action will contribute to a more circular transition in the region of Alentejo. Public and private sector informative and educational events/workshops will be organized, where interested bodies will be invited, in order to participate and to be informed and trained on the use of product life cycle analysis.

To this end, information materials will be developed in order to properly inform and train stakeholders from regional public and private bodies.

The information materials will also be prepared in order to be available online.

This action will respond specifically to the support to the creation and expansion of advanced capabilities since it will allow setting the bases to include circular and green criteria and life cycle assessment in new procurement procedures (related to action 1, previously described) and to support regional organizations in the development of projects with the integration of specific circular and green criteria.

CIMBAL intends to implement two specific and dedicated workshops.

The background

In the framework of LCA4Regions partnership learning experience and inspired by the good practice presented by the Slovenian Partner, namely the good practice **Training and capacity building on circular economy and LCA in Slovenia** (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5861/training-and-capacity-building-on-circular-economy-and-lca-in-slovenia/>) and by the good practice presented by the Polish Partner, namely the good practice **Capacity building in life cycle assessment - Lodz University of Technology** (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5794/capacity-building-in-life-cycle-assessment-lodz-university-of-technology/>) CIMBAL considers as key elements, that are suitable to be transferred to Baixo Alentejo Region, the availability of education programmes as well as modules addressing life cycle assessment (LCA).

Slovenian Good practice enhances that specific workshops provided the participants an opportunity to get new knowledge and expertise on the use of product life cycle analysis that can be used while introducing new products into production, as well as to those coming from the public sector to obtain insight and experience on creating new policies.

Lodz University of Technology focuses on the LCA approach raising students' awareness about how a product ends its life and how they can design for sustainability has a long-term effect for the local, national and global environment and how it can change significantly future waste management and carbon footprint.

The main objective of this action is to prepare specific training materials regarding the implementation of life-cycle methodologies, in order that all the details are fully taken in consideration in the development of green public procurement, for example in the mobility sector where the aim is to ensure that vehicles do not exceed specific CO₂ emission levels.



Action

This action will contribute to awareness raising and overall knowledge creating on LCA. This will enable both private and public sector to appropriately respond to the new criteria that are going to be included by the managing authority (CCDR Alentejo) taking advantage of the experience obtained both in the project LCA4Regions and Circpro.

CCDR Alentejo is developing specific elements for the preparation of new calls in the Alentejo 2030 programme and specific elements for the new project selection, taking into consideration the integration of circular and life cycle criteria in the next calls. This criteria will be used in the validation of projects that will receive funding.

With this action, CIMBAL will contribute to the regional capacity building specifically in LCA criteria. This will allow regional entities to fulfil LCA specific criteria in calls in the funding programme .

Players

CIMBAL will take leadership on implementing this action with the collaboration of the following stakeholders:

- Alentejo Coordination and Regional Development Commission (CCDR Alentejo);
- Municipalities;
- Regional private and public entities.

The role of key stakeholders will be related to the participation in the workshops and the integration of circular and green criteria and life cycle assessment in their new procurement procedures. In addition, stakeholders will have a special role with regard to communication and dissemination of the development and results of this action.

Timeframe

One year

Activities	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
Workshops program definition	█	█										
Identification of training groups and experts			█	█	█							
Development of information and trainings material					█	█	█	█				
Development of 2 workshops									█		█	
Development of communication campaign					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Costs

Costs will be related to human resources

Funding sources

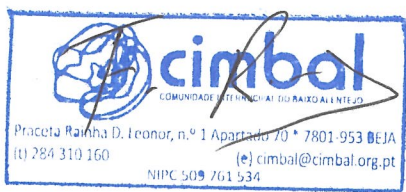
Own Resources



Date: *July 29, 2022*

Name of the organisation(s): *CIMBAL - COMUNIDADE INTERMUNICIPAL DO BAIXO ALENTEJO*

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):





LCA4Regions
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

