

OSDD Catalonia 28–29 November 2023

Before: interview with the host organisation ACCIÓ

- What kind of a program have you planned for the OSDD?

In Catalonia, we have prepared a program that combines the presentation of different activities carried out in Catalonia in the field of plastics throughout the entire value chain, as well as the presentation of the state-of-the-art study that we have prepared and that we believe could be interesting for the entire sector. In addition, we have prepared visits to a unique research center and a plastic waste treatment and recovery plant. In the design, we have tried to establish networking between the project partners and different actors in Catalonia.

- How many participants do you expect?

We expect more than 25 of our participants from our partners regions, and in some of the activities, such as the open seminar on Tuesday 28 November, about 60 participants comprising Catalan companies and centers and partners and stakeholders from the regions participating in the PLASTIX project.

- Are all partner regions joining?

Yes, fortunately, all project partners can participate in this meeting, and we believe we have a good selection of representatives from the regions, clusters, technology centers, and companies.

- Are there stakeholders and/or associated policy authorities attending the OSDD?

There will be some senior managers within the Catalan Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIÓ), and sectoral associations and clusters from plastics, waste treatment and chemical industries represented at the open seminar, as well as business representatives.

- What is the one thing you are waiting for the most to present to the partners?

For us, it is important to publicize the ecosystem of plastics that we have in Catalonia, which covers the entire value chain, from basic chemistry to product manufacturing, and collection, treatment, and recovery, as well as all the initiatives that are being carried out to improve process efficiencies, recycling, materials, and reduce environmental impact.

We are also very excited to visit the BSC, a reference center in supercomputing, and discover how this technology can help formulate new, more sustainable materials, with better recyclability. The GCR waste treatment plant is also very interesting regarding recyclability and circularity of plastics.

- Is there a challenge or problem in your region you are planning to discuss with the partners?

All regions share the challenges of the increase in plastic waste and the need for its treatment, recycling, and recovery.

It is important to create garbage collection schemes that allow correct treatment and citizen participation.

Additional concerns with regards of the need of eco-design tools that allow to improve the production processes and the recyclability and reusability of products (plastics) have arisen between several stakeholders.