



## TAMPERE REGION

### Letter of Intent

concerning synergic use of regional and European funds targeted to circular economy projects

#### Background

- (1) The transition to a more circular economy is an essential contribution to develop a sustainable and competitive economy, as well as an opportunity to generate new and sustainable competitive advantages for the European Regions.
- (2) Regional authorities have a key role to play in the transition towards Circular Economy and greater synergies; nevertheless, fragmentation of resources and implementation difficulties obstruct progress towards achieving common objectives.
- (3) Article 70 of the ESIF regulation allow operations implemented outside the programme area, but within the EU, up to 15% of the allocated funds; however, there is no evidence of its actual application.
- (4) The H2020 Coordinating and Supporting Action SCREEN ([www.screen-lab.eu](http://www.screen-lab.eu)) has established a table of discussion between 17 EU regions, Commission's services and other international stakeholders on identification and implementation of operational synergies between R&I investments from H2020 and ESIF.
- (5) There is the need to explicitly support synergy opportunities in EU funded operational programmes
- (6) There is a need of exploiting the potential for synergies between Horizon 2020, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and other regional funds: regional actors should be provided with simple and effective procedures for the implementation of projects dealing with a transition towards a circular economy.
- (7) The current possibility of synergies between different funds still implies relevant administrative efforts that jeopardize their actual implementation.

#### Taking into account the above-mentioned the signatory of this document:

- supports in principle flexible, synergy-based use of EU funds whenever it brings added value to EU projects
- states that the administrative procedures should be as light as possible when financing cross-regional projects from one or more financial instruments
- is interested in advancing, in a pilot way and in accordance with EU and national regulations and legislation, the allocation of EU structural funds (ERDF) to cross-regional projects concerning circular economy

This Letter of Intent serves as a framework for co-operation, but it is not legally binding.

Tampere, 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2018



Esa Halme  
Region Mayor

Council Of Tampere Region