



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No730313

Synergic Circular Economy across European Regions

SCREEN

Deliverable D 4.1

PROCEEDING OF WORKSHOP 1

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Due Date	July 31 st , 2017
Delivery Date	July 24 th , 2017
Work Package	4
Dissemination level	Public

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VELTHA (Carlo Polidori)

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. List of Participants	3
3. Agenda	5
4. Minutes	6
4.1 Opening Address – <i>Mario Nova</i>	6
4.2 Horizon 2020 support for Circular Economy: opportunities and levers for European regions – <i>Keti Medarova-Bergstrom</i>	6
4.3 Analysis of the existing circular capabilities – <i>Marcello Colledani</i>	8
4.4 Regional Local Analysis – <i>Alessio Braccini</i>	8
4.5 Local and cross-regional value chains – <i>Bart Volkers</i>	9
4.6 Workshop Parallel Round Tables	10
a) Regional Analysis Tool – <i>Marcello Colledani</i>	10
b) Cross Regional Value Chains – <i>Bart Volkers</i>	16
c) SCREEN Policy Lab – <i>Carlo Polidori</i>	18
4.7 Summary of the round table outcomes (MAIN CONCLUSIONS)	20

1. Executive Summary

This document reports the proceedings of the first international workshop, held in Lombardy Region.

28th of June 2017- Lombardia Region Palace, Sala Biagi, in Piazza Città di Lombardia – Milano

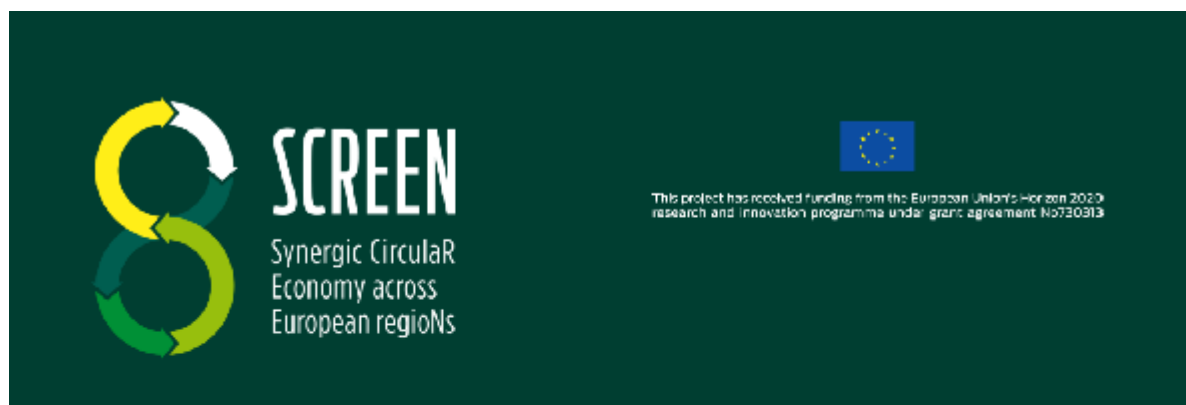
2. List of Participants

Organization	Name
ACR+	Philippe Micheaux Naudet
AFIL	Chiara Catgiu
AFIL	Federico Albè
AFIL	Marcello Colledani
ARS ambiente - H2020 Waste4Think	Michele Giavini
CCDRCentro	Ana Pires Quintais
CCDRCentro	Carlos Silveira
CCDRCentro	Margarida Franca
Council of Tampere Region	Johanna Alakerttula
Council of Tampere Region	Nillo Halonen
EASME/ European Commission	Keti Medarova-Bergstrom
Ecodom	Alessia Accili
ECODOM	Michele Di Mauro
FRCT - Regional Fund for Science and Technology of the Azores Regional Government	Natália Silva
Gobierno de Navarra	Pedro Zuazo
Gobierno de Navarra	Raul Salanueva
Junta de Extremadura	Isabel de Vega Fernández
Junta de Extremadura	Francisco López Piñero
KTN Ltd	Viola Hay
Lazio Inniova	Giaime Gabrielli
Lazio Innova	Elisabetta Paladini
Lazio Innova	Lorenzo Lo Cascio
Metabolic	Gerard Roemers
Nexa	Philippe Holstein
North-East Regional Development Agency Romania	Bogdan Chelariu
Primorje-Gorski Kotar County	Ljudevit Krpan
Primorje-Gorski Kotar County	Luka Dragojević
Province of Fryslân	Eric Vos
Province of Fryslân / Water Alliance	Bart Volkers

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Province of Limburg	Dirk Plees
Provincie of Fryslan	Tjeerd Hazenberg
Provincie of Limburg	Harma Albering
Region of Crete	Lena Kargaki
Region of Crete	Maria Kandilogiannaki
Regional Office of Lodzkie Region in Brussels	Ewa Gabryelak
Regional Office of Lodzkie Region in Brussels	Marcin Podgórski
Regione Lazio	Ferdinando Rossi
Regione Lombardia	Angelo Elefanti
Regione Lombardia	Christian Fabbri
Regione Lombardia	Giorgio Gallina
Regione Lombardia	Valentina Caimi
Regione Lombardia	Anna Maria Ribauda
Regione Lombardia	Caterina Dal Bianco
Rijeka promet d.d.	Robert Maršanić
SODENA	Sergio Villava Gomez
Università degli Studi della Tuscia	Alessio Maria Braccini
VELTHA	Carlo Polidori
VELTHA	Silvia Giannisi
VELTHA	Claudia Lorenzetto
VELTHA	Sara Bergamin
Interministerial Programme for the Circular Economy Action Plan (Portugal)	Inês Costa

3. Agenda



28th June 2017

Sala Biagi at Palazzo Lombardia Entrance N4
Regione Lombardia, P.zza Città di Lombardia, 1 - Milan

Circular Economy International Workshop Programme

13:00 – 14:00	Welcome appetizer and participant registration
14:00 – 14:15	Opening address <i>Mario Nova, Director-General for Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development, Regione Lombardia</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Horizon2020 support to circular economy: opportunities and levers for European Regions <i>Keti Medarova, SCREEN Project Officer, EASME</i>

Screen project outcomes

14:30 – 14:45	Analysis of the existing regional capabilities <i>Marcello Colledani, AFIL</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Regional local analysis <i>Alessio Braccini, University of Tuscia</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Local and cross-regional value chains <i>Bart Volkers, Province Fryslan</i>

Exchange and discussion session

15:15 – 17:00	Workshop parallel round-tables <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional analysis Tool 2. Cross regional value chains 3. Co-creation of synergies between H2020 and Structural funds: SCREEN Policy Lab
17:00 – 17:30	Coffee Break
17:30 – 18:30	Summary of the round-tables outcomes <i>Carlo Polidori, Veltha</i>

www.screen-lab.eu



4. Minutes

Valentina Caimi welcomes the delegation and introduces the speakers of the meeting. She then leaves the floor to the first speaker.

4.1 Opening Address – *Mario Nova*

Mario Nova explains that the Circular Economy is an important challenge for the Lombardy Region, since the potential impact of its economic activities on the environment can be compared to the one of a small European state, considering its population and GDP. The environmental legislation contributes to Circular Economy in Lombardy, following the indication that resources should be kept in the production/use loop for the longest time as possible.

He reports that the separated waste collection rose to around 59% in the last year, and that in the Region 1/4 of waste collected is used for energy production. The aim of Lombardy Region is to reduce that share in the next years. He reports that his reference DG started working on food waste, which he considers a paradox of the model of development, not aligned with a sustainable development. The Regional law on food rights, going in this direction, includes a set of provision to avoid food waste.

He reports that the construction and demolition waste is one of the most complex one when it comes to treatment. They are generated in renovation and demolition of civil engineering works. A lot of stakeholders are involved in the generation of this type of waste stream as well, increasing the complexity of its management. Those are constructors, consultants, engineers, third parties, and so on. He informs that they are working with all of these stakeholders to reduce the generation of waste.

He concludes the speech stating that thanks to innovation, business activities become more sustainable, and more profitable, at the same time.

4.2 Horizon 2020 support for Circular Economy: opportunities and levers for European regions – *Keti Medarova-Bergstrom*

Keti Medarova presents herself and her role. She explains that she is a Project Advisor from EASME – the Executive Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises -, and that she's responsible of all H2020 instrument targeting the Circular Economy.

Her presentation targets the opportunities for regions and cities that can be leveraged through the H2020 program. She explains that H2020 is the biggest centrally managed program of the European Commission, accounting for 77 billion euros over 7 years. One of the key features of H2020 is that the program has a non-territorial base, creating competitiveness and premiating the excellences in terms of ideas, concepts and impacts. The program is also targeted at closing market gaps, and it is directly managed by EU commission, through the EASME.

Local and regional authorities participated in H2020, accounting for a share equal to the 1.6% of all participants, up until now. The Champions, in that sense, are Spain, Italy, and UK. The

key areas for this type of actors are energy, transport, climate action, and health. Most of the funds leveraged by them are implemented through mainly RIA and CSA.

There are a lot of opportunities in the ERA-NET, in the KIC EIT, and in the regional innovation schemes as well, as it is very important in involving regional authorities in European projects development and funding.

The study has shown also the enabling conditions and barriers: the quality of human resources really helped regions in being successful in H2020 proposals, and also the availability of integrated strategies to set up strategic frameworks. Human resources are also a key barrier: in fact, if there is a lack of qualified people able to write and implement project proposals.

She reminds that CIRC has become a dedicated focus area of H2020, and the main themes are the design for circular value chains and supply chains, and water and wastewater. She highlights as an example that Marcello Colledani, who is present to the meeting, is coordinating one big IA project on circular economy (FiberEUse). She then presents some projects, as examples for circular economy, such as BlueScities, FORCE, MASLOWATEN, WASTE4THINK.

She draws that a lot of innovations are ongoing in that field. In the future, there are two open projects, one about servitization in circular economy frame, the other is a large-scale demonstration project about the next generation of water systems and services.

She then explains that in the last two years of H2020, the circular economy will remain one of the big areas for financing, with SC5 projects. Next H2020 opportunities will be explained in the next info days in Brussel, on 8-9 November, when a particular mention will get to raw materials.

She explains that a valuable way to be involved in the European Circular Economy, is to [become one of the EASME experts](#). There is a strong interest in the diversification of their database of experts, also including policy persons.

In conclusion:

- CE remains a key focus area, there are a lot of opportunities for participation.
- Region and cities have a really important role. They are looking for systemic innovation, not only technological innovation. Here authorities play a big role.
- It is important to exploit synergies between H2020 and ESIF. Practical examples are needed, and evidence-based proposals are very welcomed for the creation of FP9.

4.3 Analysis of the existing circular capabilities – *Marcello Colledani*

Marcello Colledani starts presenting the overall structure of WP2, focusing on the three tasks within it, their scopes, and their outputs. He then focuses on task 2.1, the responsible of which is the Lombardy Region. He highlights that this task delivered the definition of criteria for the analysis of the existing regional capabilities, regarding to the circular economy, which guided the creation of the methodology. Lombardy Region delivered the tools, the guidelines and a glossary supporting the methodology on January 30th, 2017.

Colledani introduces the methodology generated within the SCREEN project, explaining that it has been developed leveraging on the experience of the Vanguard Initiative cooperation, and on the literature (A Toolkit for Policymakers by Ellen MacArthur Foundation). He then presents the methodology, and recalls that there will be a workshop in the afternoon with the aim of collecting feedbacks on the use of the related tool. The methodology is circular, and subsequent implementation loops can zoom into more strategic topics, and more in detail, at each iteration. It is important to start from already existing ideas, connecting actors already present in the value chain. Each stakeholder has been assigned to a particular position in the value chain, and different circular economy based strategies are identified for each position.

Colledani concludes illustrating the data that partners were requested to collect, in order to draw the baseline situation of their regions.

4.4 Regional Local Analysis – *Alessio Braccini*

Alessio Braccini shows the main results gathered by the application of the tool by partners, on a regional basis. This collection of data produced detailed descriptive results. A data collection report (D2.2) has been delivered on May 19th, 2017.

According to the received data, a representation of each regional baseline has been provided, synthesizing the results using a meta model. The meta-model describes how circular economy applications stem out of organizational innovation actions of the type of: (i) business models, (ii) processes, and (iii) products. These innovation actions are stimulated by fiscal and financial stimuli, and they are influenced – and influence on turn – by consumer behaviour. Organizational innovation leads to reduced resources, and reuse of waste. The reuse of waste and the organizational innovation enable in turn inter-organizational symbiosis, which is a form commonly reported by the literature of stimulating circular economy. Finally, organizational innovation and reuse of waste happen within the limits of regulation which is in the position both to foster and to hamper innovation.

He then reports the results, in terms of quantity of data, and data fields compiled, from each region that implemented the tool (Figure 1).

Region	RIS 3	Swot Analysis	Focus Sectors	Companies	Capabilities	R&D	Innovation	Education	Emerging ideas	Legislation	Funding instrument
Lazio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	8		
Lombardia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7		
Navarra	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	✓	6
Tampere	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21		
Centro	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
La Reunion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7		
Scotland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3	✓	
Crete	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17		
Fryslân	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	10		1
		Innovation Symbiosis	Symbiosis	Innovation Symbiosis	Innovation Symbiosis	Innovation	Innovation	Consumer behaviour	Innovation	Regulation	Stimuli

Figure 1: data collected by the partner regions, through the Tool

Some implications have been drawn from the local analysis. For example, it was quite challenging to provide data about industries and wastes, but it is also impossible to estimate the possible impact of circular economy practices implementation without those data. This means that **data availability in the region is crucial to inform policy makers in an effective way**, if they are going to create instruments fostering the regional circular economy.

4.5 Local and cross-regional value chains – Bart Volkers

Bart Volkers presents the approach used in the identification of potential cross-regional synergies in Circular Economies. He stresses that a lack of data made difficult to analyze the matter in detail, and that this is the reason that made them think about another approach.

Volkers explains that the starting points for the new proposed approach were the Vanguard approach in connecting regions, and a local analysis done in Fryslan region in the past. He explains that, according to the new proposal, the partnership is going to analyze new data and identify possible synergies.

He explains that the approach used so far started with a mapping tool (D2.1), and a local analysis (D2.2). Then, after the first interaction, data check has been performed, along with definition of criteria and a first analysis of data. During the third step, a selection of few, more specific themes has been drawn, and some grids have been drafted. After this step, a new methodology has been finalized; Volkers informs that a proposal to complete the Screen Methodology will be presented during the internal meeting (the day after the workshop).

Volkers then presents the results stemming from the application of the approach. Starting from the criteria and requirements, they asked to prioritize two focus sectors per region, during the Rome meeting. They identified 7 preliminary themes around which synergies could be created. Synergies are created around the three different fields of R&D, Education, Business, which are the three main types of regional capabilities, as suggested by the methodology and the tool generated in T2.1.

Volkers underlines that, at this moment, there is need of champions to take the initiative and to coordinate each theme autonomously. Activities of WP3 will have as an input the different outcomes of WP2. These are potential partnerships around themes, synthesized by the Synergy Grids. Some outputs are prospected for WP3, to understand possible impacts stemming from synergies. Around each identified theme, Volkers suggests that five **outputs should be generated: Value Chain Maps, Circular Data, Stakeholders set, Local Workshop outcomes, Opportunities**.

Volkers concludes declaring that the proposed methodology, to be applied within this phase, will be the subject of the parallel workshop session.

4.6 Workshop Parallel Round Tables

a) Regional Analysis Tool – *Marcello Colledani*

The round table started at h 15,15 and was attended by 14 persons, including the moderator.

Colledani explains that during the workshop, feedbacks on the use of the tool will be collected and discussed, and the different approaches used by each partner will be compared. At the end, surveys will be distributed to formally collect feedbacks, and to draw analyses on them.

Colledani then asks each participant for their contributions, asking to present the implementation of the Tool in their region:

- Presentation of Lazio Innova, Italy: it is difficult to define the perimeter of the Circular Economy with NACE codes. It was not simple to map the regional analysis in the Lazio region and it was difficult to contact the associations of the enterprises to get the data.
- Presentation of North-East Romania, Romania: the region has 3.5 million of inhabitants; the tool hasn't been compiled yet since the Region is a new partner of the Screen Project. The region has RIS3 smart specializations strategies but not a methodology to map the circular economy. There are some projects and dialogues with other European Regions on the topic.
- Presentation of Crete: the tool has been filled on February 2017; the data were collected in different ways from the Greek national statistics agency. The difficulties were a lot, since the national codes are completely different from the NACE codes. In the next period, they will try to collect data based on the NACE codes. They will complete the tool compilation in the next six months-one year and they will ask for external help.
- Presentation of Comissao de Coordenacao e Desenvolvimento Regional do CENTRO, Portugal: the tool was already completed on March 2017; there is the fear of losing competitiveness; there are no courses, degrees or masters in Portugal on the Circular Economy; the tool allowed the government to identify these educational gaps.
- Presentation of Limburg Province, The Netherlands: sometimes the tool requires very detailed data, there are difficulties to find them; the cross-regional analysis is very interesting, the tool is useful to support the synergies not to find them.
- Presentation of Wojewodztwo Lodzkie (Lodzkie Region), Poland: it was difficult to work on the tool before the gathering of the data; some of the statistics were not aligned with the data requested by the tool. It was difficult to identify the stakeholders needed to help and support the region in compiling the tool; technical universities were useful for the support and the compilation of the tool; problems were found in the emerging ideas collection; the data were not compliant with the tool, this allows the region to identify lack of specific knowledge.
- Presentation of Regione Lombardia, Italy: difficulties were found in the selection of focus sectors; in fact, the Lombardy Region is a big region and few sectors cannot be selected to cover all the regional competencies; complexity in the data selection process.
- Presentation of Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Croatia: new partner of the Screen Project, they haven't compiled the Tool yet;

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- Presentation of Comunidad Foral de Navarra - Gobierno de Navarra, Spain: the tool has been filled; the focus sectors and the related codes of the companies working on the Circular Economy were difficult to extract.

At the end of this roundtable, surveys were distributed, compiled and collected. The results of the surveys have been elaborated to extract key information, which are displayed below.



Regional Analysis Tool

Survey Results

8 Responses

7 Valid

Perceived Usefulness of Data

Did the process of gathering requested data allow you to better understand your regional dimension?

Overall Usefulness



Useful (70.99%) Not Useful (29.01%)

RIS 3



Useful (42.86%) Not Useful (57.14%)

SWOT Analysis



Useful (51.02%) Not Useful (48.98%)

Focus Sectors



Useful (59.22%) Not Useful (40.78%)

Companies



Useful (54.76%) Not Useful (45.24%)

Capabilities View



Useful (76.19%) Not Useful (23.81%)

R&D Capability



Useful (85.71%) Not Useful (14.29%)

Innovation Capability



Useful (83.33%) Not Useful (16.67%)

Education Capability



Useful (85.71%) Not Useful (14.29%)

Emerging Ideas



Useful (76.19%) Not Useful (23.81%)

Existing Legislation



Useful (100%) Not Useful (0%)

Existing Funding Instruments



Useful (81.17%) Not Useful (18.83%)



Regional Analysis Tool

Survey Results

8 Responses
7 Valid

Difficulty of Gathering Data

In which extent did the process of gathering requested data needed effort? Was data available?





Regional Analysis Tool

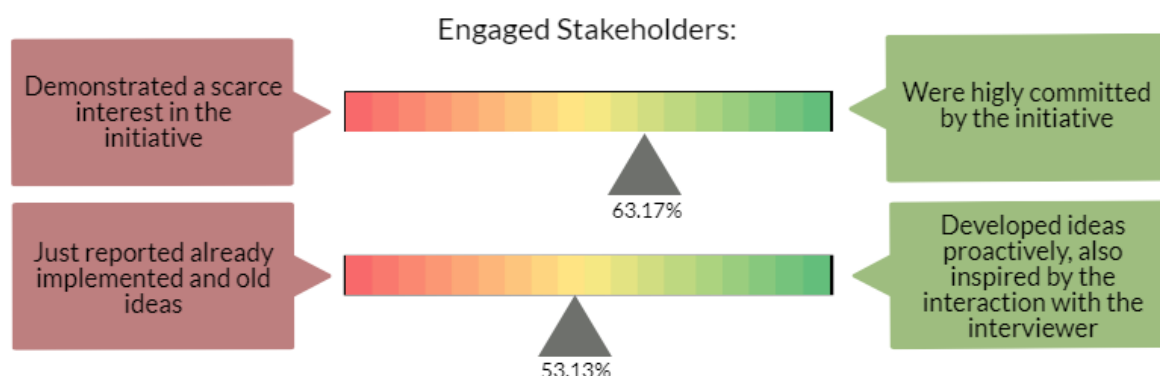
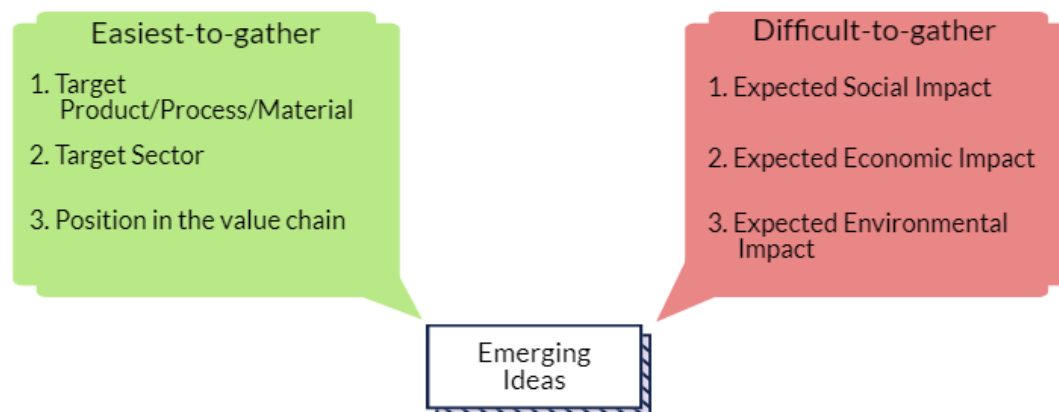
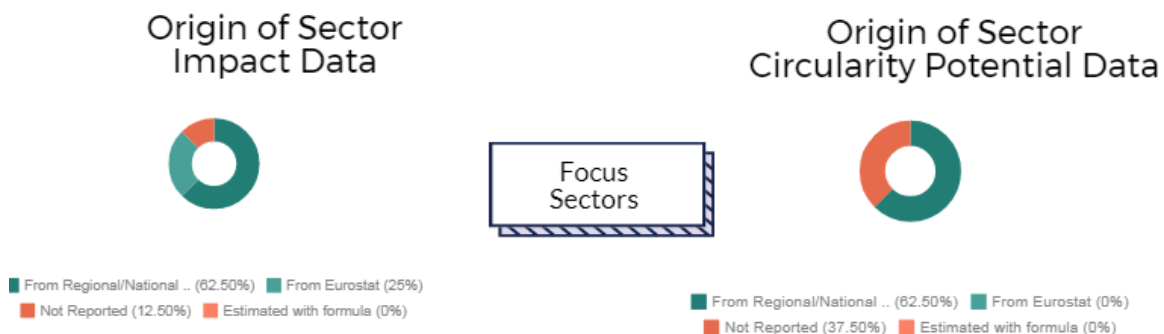
Survey Results

8 Responses

5 Valid

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Regional Analysis Tool

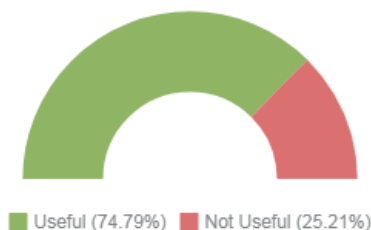
Survey Results

8 Responses
6 Valid

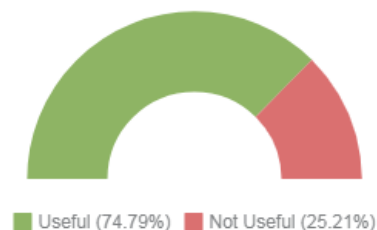
Guidelines and Annexes

Where the Guidelines and the Glossary useful in compiling the Tool, and in understanding the Circular Economy Framework?

Guidelines



Glossary



General Comments

Express some suggestions for the improvement of the Tool

Referring to the emerging ideas, it is very hard to gather the data from the stakeholders

There is a need to clarify the terms and ways of transforming the data that are available at the regional level.

There is a need for definitions, that are understandable by those regional stakeholders who do not know that they are working with the circular economy

It would be necessary to explain that the focus companies have to be related to circular economy, not only related to waste

Build a solution-oriented tool: how to find policy instruments, technologies, initiatives to address challenges; To include several innovation initiatives; to include "territorial metabolism" information

It is difficult to assess the potential of emerging ideas; thus a methodology to do this could add value to the overall tool

The round table closed at h 17,15.

b) Cross Regional Value Chains – *Bart Volkers*

The round table started at h 15,15 and was attended by 16 persons, including the moderator.

Bart Volkers explains that the subject of the parallel session is the identification of cross-regional value chains. In particular, it is about the method that partners will be proposed to follow, in order to carry out activities within T 2.3 and T3.1. He explains that the methodology should aim at the creation of synergy grids, and that each synergy grid should be focused around one thematic value chain. The methodology tries to define a procedure to scope target themes as well. In fact, general macro themes, such as the ones derived from the workshop held during the Rome meeting (March 2017), are too broad to generate an idea able to support a circular economy project.

Before the workshop, Volkers prepared as a starting point two documents, which synthesize two of the general macro themes already identified in the Rome meeting: Water & Wastewater, and Agri-business. The documents list the emerging ideas, gathered through the SCREEN Mapping Tool, which are related to those macro themes. The documents also highlight regions which expressed interest in the theme during the Rome meeting, and a qualitative distribution of capabilities, among such regions, related to the theme. Capabilities are aligned with the areas of the Tool, i.e. Business (Step 2.2 Companies), R&I (Steps 3.1 and 3.2), Human Capital (Step 3.3 Education), and highlight both a relative strength, or a relative weakness (Blind Spots). Please refer to Figure 2, as an example of such a document.

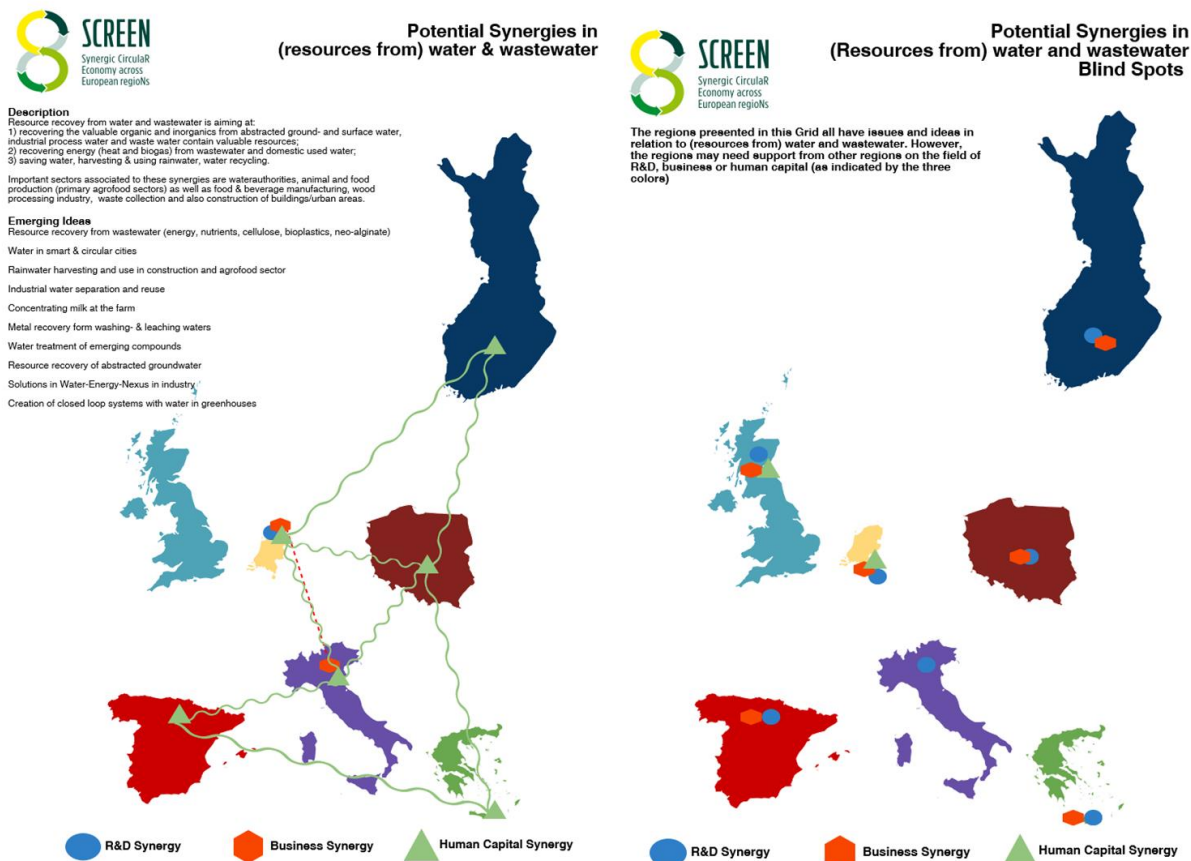


Figure 2: Example of “Potential Synergy” Document, used to inform the elicitation of ideas process within the workshop

The macro themes, that can be selected by partners, must be drawn from the SCREEN Mapping Tool, leveraging information about the strategic setting (RIS3, SWOT). They are reinforced by regional capabilities and by the emerging ideas. Capabilities and emerging ideas may highlight both a strong competence in the topic, or a lack in some parts of it. They are both useful information, in fact topics are selected because they are deemed to be relevant and interesting for a region (e.g. if a Region highlights, with an emerging idea, the need of a business to implement a under-research technology, this “lack” may be leveraged by another region. So, it is relevant to propose the topic).

Using the documents as a starting point, the participants of the Workshop are split in 2 groups of 8 people, which work on the two proposed themes. Each group is animated by a chairman, who tries to follow the methodology that will be presented on internal meeting, using the two macro-themes as an example.

Volkers animates the “Water and Wastewater” theme, while Gerard Roemers animate the “Agri-business” theme.

- 1) Volkens asks the participants to firstly give a one-minute pitch about sub-themes that may be relevant, given their experience, in the macro-theme under analyses.
- 2) Volkens takes note of the themes on a whiteboard, and clusters them into different potential themes on the circular economy innovations in the “Water & Wastewater” Macro theme. Some elicited themes are:
 - Biowaste-biogas production and management;
 - Sludge management;
 - Reuse and on-site treatment of water in manufacturing operations;
 - Water transportation infrastructure.
- 3) One theme is then selected by the participants, to be analyzed in terms of value chain and relevant stakeholders. The theme “Sludge management” is chosen.
- 4) Participants are asked to compile some post-it with categories of stakeholders they would invite to discuss the topic within their region. These are the stakeholders each region should invite to a local workshop, around the chosen theme (e.g. “Sludge Management”). Stakeholders are grouped, and left as an indication of possible stakeholder groups to invite to a Local Workshop.
- 5) Volkens explains that the aim of the local workshop will be to discuss the theme and gather strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, additional emerging ideas, and additional data. Within the workshop, stakeholders are also leveraged to identify the value chains, in their region, for the theme. This data should be used to inform the case, at a cross-regional level, allowing the participating partners to draw their Synergy.

Volkens explains that the aim of the local workshops, and the methodology that has been used to guide the workshop, will be presented in detail during the internal meeting.

The round table closed at h 17,15.

c) SCREEN Policy Lab – *Carlo Polidori*

The round table started at h 15,15 and it was attended by 13 persons, including the moderator. Carlo Polidori (Veltha) briefly resumed the scope of the Policy Lab (PL) and its first steps and informed that the detailed description and the minutes of the first meeting are available on the SCREEN project web site and particularly:

- i. Reference document –link only (www.screen-lab.eu/documents/PLReference.pdf)
- ii. Briefing document – link-only (www.screen-lab.eu/documents/PLBriefing1.pdf)
- iii. Minutes of the first PL Meeting - www.screen-lab.eu/documents/1st_POLICYLAB_minutes.pdf

All the presents have been invited to join the policy lab discussion group (www.linkedin.com/groups/13531065) and to post their comments and ideas.

He then announces that the next Policy Lab meeting will be held in Brussels during the European Week of Cities and Regions (October 2017, the exact date will be communicated soon). The next PL will also discuss about the set of “assessment criteria for evaluating circular economy projects” as defined in the above mentioned minutes of the first PL (iii).

The group starts discussing the “common pot” idea as it was presented in the briefing document (ii): regions willing to participate at this pilot initiative will move some money of their structural funds towards a specific measure “international circular economy projects” (H2020 or future FP9 projects well ranked but not financed due to a lack of funds), thus creating a common pot dedicated to financing only international projects dealing with circular economy, under the following conditions:

- a) The European Commission tops up the pot (amount to be defined)
- b) Proposals with a high evaluation score (e.g. 12/15).
- c) Proposals’ partners should belong to those regions that filled-in the pot.
- d) The amount put by each region should be enough to finance its own proposal partner(s).

There are several common advantages, for both the regions and the Commission:

- Each region finances only its own participants and encourages them to have an international approach towards circular economy.
- H2020 and/or the new FP9 will have more funds.
- Regional stakeholders will have more opportunities in H2020/future FP9.
- Money moved into the specific measure by each region will result automatically and correctly spent within its structural funds.
- No efforts spent for selection and evaluation: the four above criteria will be simply applied to the ranking list issued by the Commission after the normal evaluation of the proposals.
- No evaluation efforts and costs: the scheme will use the ranking list of the H2020 (or future FP9) proposal submitted under the circular economy topics but not financed.
- No double funding.

During the first Policy Lab, this idea was discussed and it was clear that, even if the scheme appears feasible in principle and very interesting, there are several formal barriers both at the regional and at the European Commission level.

Carlo Polidori explains that the first goal is to face the issues within the SCREEN regions and then show the results to the Commission, in order to push them to face their internal issues; the goal is to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Regions where it is stated that they are available to establish in their structural funds a specific measure as described above, provided that conditions from a) to d) are fulfilled and particularly the a), where the amount of the top-up has to be discussed.

Marcin Podgórski (Lodzkie Region) approves the idea and says that it could be feasible in their region under the specific measure for entrepreneurs

Johanna Alakerttula (Tampere Region) says the idea is interesting and asks some questions:

- Is the initiative open to other regions? The answer was yes: SCREEN aims at establishing a common replicable approach towards circular economy that can be used everywhere in Europe, so any other region willing to join the common pot initiative is welcomed.
- How much money regions should move into the specific measure? The answer was that each region is free to decide: in principle, an internal analysis should define how many regional stakeholders have submitted international projects well ranked but not financed in the past years and put an amount of money consistent with this analysis.

Lorenzo Lo Cascio (Lazio Region), with reference to the second answer, explains that they have first estimated the money theoretically available for the initiative, then they realized that the potential need of their regional stakeholder was lower.

Further questions were:

- What happens if in a project complying with the above conditions from a) to d) only one partner does not belong to a region not joining the initiative? The answer was: such a partner must find its own financing source. However, once the initiative is launched, its common advantages are expected to produce a “snowball effect” encouraging several European regions to join it.
- How to deal with Countries where structural funds are managed by a national authority instead of regional ones (e.g Portugal, Croatia)? The answer was: even if managed by a national authority, each region has a certain allocation and may negotiate with the central authority the specific measure. Moreover, since the initiative is open to other regions, the national authority may extend the measure to them. The suggestion is to invite representative of the national authorities at the next Policy Lab in Brussels to discuss with them.

In conclusion, it was agreed that a preliminary document containing the concepts of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will circulate among the project partners, that will discuss it internally and will provide feedbacks. Based on the received feedbacks, a preliminary draft of the MoU will be discussed during the Policy Lab scheduled in Brussels on next October.

The round table closed at h 17,15.

4.7 Summary of the round table outcomes (MAIN CONCLUSIONS)

Carlo Polidori asks the three coordinators of the workshops to draw conclusions from the afternoon sessions.

Marcello Colledani reports the general comments and the general themes, emerged during the workshop 1:

- Some stakeholders are not familiar with the terms used in the tool; the guidelines and the glossary are useful but more specific examples would be needed, such as the explanation of primary and secondary flows or of circular value chain.
- We have to address business models for the Circular Economy, not only the waste reduction; the Circular Economy is a term broader than recycling.
- The more the tool is detailed, the more complex will be its compilation.
- The tool can be shared in other Circular Economy initiatives, both at the regional and at the European level, for example it can have complementarities with the JRC (idea: invite JRC to a next meeting).
- It is interesting to have a tool which collects the initiatives of the Region dealing with the Circular Economy; it is also interesting to know what another region is doing, to take inspiration from it, in order to solve problems and avoid duplicates.
- The tool collects data from the private sector, but it is compiled by the public sector; for example, in Croatia there is a remarkable difference between the public and the private sector, moreover there is no knowledge of the RIS3 in the region.
- Each Region should be a transmitter of new Circular Economy initiatives and ways of thinking.

Bart Volkers explains that two groups have been formed during the Workshop 2, to discuss two different macro-themes, with the objective of finding themes for cooperation. One group focused on water, the other one on agri-food. The groups made an exercise of elicitation of ideas. The final objective of similar workshops was to identify what [already called before](#). He explains that they used these themes as pilots, to try the method with some initial partners. They were used to dive into the sub-themes, and started to exercise. The issue is how you get from the initial theme to the final value chain. **He also recalls that a formal presentation about the methodology developed by their consultant Metabolic will be held during the internal meeting. This methodology will constitute of a first proposal for the activities to be executed in T2.3 and T3.1**

Carlo Polidori explains that the Policy Lab should talk about regional policies. For now, they are speaking about funding models. The Policy Lab has started ahead of schedule, within the project. An example of the first discussed results are the difficulties in filling the Excel file with the data for the baseline.

The objective of the Policy Lab is to merge funds to make synergies. Results can be found in the SCREEN website. During the workshop, the proposal of Lazio Region, the use of a part of the budget from the structural funds for a common pot, has been discussed.

Polidori explains that this “policy” part must be formally discussed in detail after the identification of value chains, done by the “technical part” of the project. The strategy is to identify some themes for projects, to be allocated in the common pot.

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Polidori explains that the next step, for the implementation of the common pot, is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Regions can decide the amount of budget to allocate, and sign the Memorandum, agreeing to allocate some money, to put on a specific measure, to finance specific projects after certain conditions, if topped up by EU funds.

A question is raised by one of the participants: “What happens if there is a compliant project, but one partner doesn’t belong to a partner of the initiative?”. Polidori thanks for this contribution, and says that this will be an important issue to be discussed with the commission. Since the commission must top up the common pot, during the negotiation we can put some boundaries.

Carlo Polidori thanks all the participants, and closes the workshop. The meeting ends at 18.45.