

# SCREEN Project

## Minutes of First Policy Lab in Brussels

04/05/2017 - Lazio Region office in Brussels – Rond Point Shuman 14

*(List of attendees in Annex 1)*

### Executive Summary

The first Policy Lab Meeting started discussing three first issues raised from the SCREEN activities and described in the specific Briefing document (Annex 3): the need for a common agreement on how to assess the “circularity” of a certain value chain in comparison with another one; a more effective use of the Seal of Excellence launched by the European Commission and currently adopted for the SMEs instrument with few practical results; and, how to finance cross-regional value chains with funds coming from different European regions.

SCREEN is still working on the indicators and in the first meeting only general comments have been provided, however all the participants are concerned about the need of simple and easy-to-handle indicators. European Commission is delivering a monitoring framework document including a set of indicators. In order to avoid any possible confusion and overlapping, SCREEN will work on “assessment criteria for specific projects”, which is the specific goal of the project. These criteria will be linked to the indicators presented by the Commission.

After a brief presentation of the existing "Public Public Partnership" instruments and their limits, the discussion focused on a “bottom-up” approach proposed by Lazio region, consisting of a “common pot” established by the regions on a voluntary basis and topped up by the Commission. It could be used to reopen the ranking lists of H2020 (or future FP9) with a procedure that will guarantee that each region will fund only subjects belonging to its territory.

The extensive discussion focuses on the timing and scale of the proposed approach, as well as on the political opportunity of asking to the regions to delegate part of their funds to European scopes. However, an instrument able to foster and finance cross-regional projects dealing with circular economy is welcome by all the participants, even if the practical difficulties should not be underestimated. The leverage effect of the international approach and the EC topping up, together with the guarantee that the funds of each Region will be used to finance only partners coming from their own territory may facilitate a solution that the Policy Lab should elaborate and present to the decision makers before the end of the SCREEN project. Regional officers dealing with the management of structural funds should be involved in the discussion.

The possible extension of the scope of the “Seal of Excellence” has been postponed to a further meeting, due to the missing counterpart from the Commission’s side.

Feedbacks from participants outlined the need for a more structured organization of the Policy Lab, which should be able to discuss and comments the project findings and tools in order to ensure their application and replicability. It should also be a forum enabling a wider discussion about the role of the regions in stimulating circular economy. Further feedbacks are expected from the LinkedIn Group. An action plan for the next steps has been set up on the basis of the first meeting.



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## Background

According to the Task 3.2. of the SCREEN Grant Agreement 730313, 6 further European Regions have been involved in the project and a Policy Lab has been established.

In fact the above mentioned Task says:

*"....the project will establish a Policy Lab composed by the participating regions, further involved regions and representatives of the European Commission, in order to establish a permanent link between the project and the officers in charge of the implementation of the Circular Economy Package adopted by the EC in December 2015... Policy Lab members will have physical meetings and will continuously discuss through the LinkedIn group specifically established by the project.*

*....A simple set of at least 10 indicators for an objective common ranking of Circular Economy activities will be discussed and defined, the identified indicators and the procedure for their practical application by the structural funds managing authorities will be further discussed ..the Policy Lab will also discuss the possibility of addressing legislative obstacles to innovation... ..the task Leader will establish contacts with DG ENV and other concerned Directorates or Agencies for their participation at the Policy Lab.*

*The Screen exploitation plan will analyze the possibility of making the Policy Lab a permanent table of discussion after the end of the project.*

The first Policy Lab meeting was held on 04<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 with the following agenda .

## Agenda

- Introduction and explanation of the working method
- Item A - "How to promote an effective synergy between Horizon 2020 and regional funds, particularly for projects dealing with circular economy?"
- Item B - "How to enhance the effective application of the Seal of Excellence and extend it beyond the SMEs instrument?"
- Preliminary conclusions and definition of the next meeting date - overview of further items to be discussed
- Feedback of the participants on the format of the Policy Lab and its follow up on LinkedIn

## 09:30 Start of the Policy Lab Meeting

### Key Issues or Discussion

#### **Carlo Polidori (SCREEN project manager)**

He briefly resumes the working methodology thought for the Policy Lab, as described in the Reference document (Annex 2) and recommends to each Policy Lab member to discuss it internally and to give feedbacks through the LinkedIn Group that will be activated in the next days. Then, he sums up the first items to be discussed in the first Policy Lab, as detailed in the Briefing (Annex 3): the SCREEN goal is to agree on a common methodology for the identification of local and cross-regional circular economy value chains, as well as on criteria and means to support the development of such synergies into practical cross-regional



initiatives and projects. It is therefore clear that SCREEN needs a common agreement on how to assess the “circularity” of a certain value chain in comparison with another one, as well as on how to finance cross-regional value chains with funds coming from different European regions. The project is expected to develop a set of 10 indicators, able to be easily handled by proposers and verified by the funders, in order to provide common coherent and transparent ranking criteria to those regional authorities managing specific funds for circular economy projects. The study of these indicators has just started, so there have not been proposals to be discussed in this first Policy Lab yet, but preliminary comments are welcome. With reference to the possibility of integrating H2020 and ESIF funds to support cross regional circular economy projects (Item A in the agenda), Carlo points out the issues related to the already existing tools, namely, Article 185 and ERA-NET, which present a lot of practical barriers. The Policy Lab is expected to define a common agreed proposal based on a “bottom-up” approach to be forwarded to the decision makers. A first proposal to be discussed comes from Lazio region and deals with a “common pot” established by the regions on a voluntary basis, topped up by the Commission and used to reopen the ranking lists of H2020 (or future FP9) with a procedure that will guarantee that each region will only fund participants belonging to its territory.

Slides available at: [www.screen-lab.eu/documents/First\\_Policy-Lab\\_4May2017.pdf](http://www.screen-lab.eu/documents/First_Policy-Lab_4May2017.pdf)

***Richard Tuffs, director of ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network)-member of the SCREEN Advisory Board***

He welcomes the idea of the Policy Lab as well as the suggestion of the “common pot”. He underlines that each region can invest up to 15% of its regional funds outside of the region, even if option is not commonly used. The proposal will foster collaboration between countries/regions and contributing to Europe’s added value. One issue is how to use the “common pot” in the best appropriate way: the suggested solution in fact may improve not only H2020, but also other programmes, such as INTERREG Europe, and the future FP9. He underlines that increasing international collaboration will also have a positive impact on the cohesion policy.

***Esteban Pelayo, director of EURADA (European Association of Economic Development Agencies)-member of the SCREEN Advisory Board***

He starts his speech reflecting on how H2020 can be combined with structural funds and presents “EUREKA” initiative ([www.eurekanetwork.org/](http://www.eurekanetwork.org/)) as an example of “common pot” leveraging funds from regional and national stakeholders. He considers the different focuses present in the evaluation of H2020 projects, namely, impact and excellence, as not adequate enough to lead to practical applications, which are largely missing in H2020. He suggests to make national authorities less relevant for the efficiency of the future FP9.

***Philippe Micheaux Naudet, ACR+. - member of the SCREEN Advisory Board***

Mr. Naudet underlines the value of the proposed bottom-up approach, which will be welcomed by local and regional members of his association. In his opinion, the management of regional funds should be revised because of the presence of strong and well-funded areas along with scarcely funded ones in the regions. He outlines the fact that regions have



difficulties in matching local needs with the complexity of the EU topics, also because of the different time deadlines. The two main needs are consistency and simplification, allowing the proper and efficient use of funding. He suggests to set simple indicators in order to have a simple framework and he offers to provide some documents that could be used as a baseline.

***Irene Palomino, representative of Extremadura region)***

Ms. Palomino underlines complexity and administrative barriers in the combination of funds. Being not the person in charge with these issues within Extremadura region, she commits to report details internally and to provide feedback through the LinkedIn Group.

***Dirk Plees, representative of Limburg province***

Mr. Plees reports that Limburg province has already agreed upon a combined use of funds for common projects with two border regions. He acknowledges the pot as a good idea, underlining that the most difficult steps will be the internal discussion with stakeholders and the reorganization of the budget for circular economy.

***Maria Grazia Pedrana, representative of Lombardia region***

Ms. Pedrana underlines the complexity of the combination of funds and its management, adding that the creation of regional strategies about circular economy could decrease the level of complexity. Given the cross-cutting dimension of the issues related to the Circular Economy, she recommends that the suggested “Pilot pot” is not linked to a specific axis, integrating focus on research, innovation, environment and society. She states the importance of indicators assessing both “circularity” and resource efficiency. In the end, she underlines the need for more skilled people fostering Circular Economy strategy.

***Aurore Médièu, representative of ORDIF Agency***

Ms. Médièu explains that in Ile-de-France waste management is run at regional level and welcomes the idea of coming up with indicators for circular economy related to waste management in order to shape a concrete waste management strategy.

***Mathieu Simon, representative of Ile-de-France***

Mr. Simon points out the difficulty in integrating funds given the general political opposition based on the idea that regional funds must be used to finance territorial projects. The proposal of the “common pot” could be counterproductive, since it aims to use funds originally thought to be used for the regional territory development.

***Mieke Houwen, representative of Flanders***

Ms. Houwen recalls the intervention of Ile-de-France’s representative by stressing the difficulty to find a political environment ready to make regional funds available to finance projects of European scope. She also stresses the general reluctance in accepting evaluation



criteria coming from the European Commission. Moreover, she highlights the complexity of measuring different impacts at regional/local level.

**Carlo Polidori** briefly replies to Mr. Simon and Mrs. Houwen explaining that the envisaged scheme of the “common pot” guarantees that:

- the money put by each region will be used to finance only subjects belonging to that region: such money is also expected to be increased by the Commission’s topping up;
- if the targeted regional funds are the Research ones (and particularly on circular economy) there should be few difficulties in matching regional and European aims.

**Tiina Harala, representative of Tampere region**

Ms. Harala likes in principle the idea of common pot, but she also highlights her concern about how it will concretely be managed; management procedures should be as easy as possible.

Tampere Region is participating in an ongoing Interreg Europe project which is at the moment working on a common call to be opened next spring among some of its participant regions. The idea is to “test” Article 70 (in common provisions regulation for ESI funds) and in that way try to get practical experience of international trans-regional projects using structural funds. Progresses of such project will be reported in the Policy Lab, together with lessons learned and replicable actions.

**Lorenzo Lo Cascio, representative of Lazio region**

Mr. Lo Cascio suggests to focus on the scope of application of the technology and on projects that will have real and concrete impacts: he explains that the money put in the “common pot” will be only used by regions for their regional stakeholders. Moreover, he specifies that the European Commission will evaluate projects as usual, while the further evaluation of the projects after the re-opening of the ranking lists will be done according to additional criteria that will be defined by SCREEN.

**Mikel Irujo Amezaga, representative of the Comunidad Foral de Navarra**

Mr. Amezaga asks what would happen if there is no proposal involving partners coming from a region participating in the “pot”.

**Carlo Polidori** briefly replies to Mr. Amezaga saying that according on the above mentioned scheme of the “common pot”, the money provided by each region will remain in the “pot” until it is used to finance a subject belonging to that region. In the meanwhile such amount of money will result correctly spent under the regional fund it has been moved from.

**Margarida Franca and Ana Quintais, representatives of CCDR CENTRO**

**Gabriela Bobeanu, representative of ADR Nord Est Romania**

**Natália Susana de Almeida eSilva and Mónica De La Cerda, representatives of FRCT and DRCT Azores**



They all mention that the problem of their Countries is that structural funds are managed by national authorities, so regions are not entitled to take decision about the “common pot”. Therefore, they are suggested to report this discussion to their national bodies, achieve feedbacks and invite the concerned officers to the next Policy Lab.

At the Azores structural Funds are managed at a Regional Level and DRCT manages the Funds related to Science and Technology (axe 1 of the Açores 2020 Operational Program) that meet the Region RIS3 strategy. FRCT representatives also suggest to combine assessment criteria with S3 criteria.

***Tjeerd Hazenberg and Eric Vos, representatives of Fryslan province***

They point out that the Seal of Excellence (Item B in the Agenda) is a good initiative, but projects must fulfil the regulation of the regional funds. They welcome the idea of assessment criteria, given the need for suitable indicators in Fryslan province. Moreover, he stresses the necessity to come to a political agreement to allocate more money for Circular Economy.

***Lana Zutelija – DG ENVIRONMENT***

Ms. Zutelija says that the Commission is delivering a monitoring framework document including a set of indicators. Therefore, she suggests to wait for the above mentioned document in order to avoid confusion resulting from merging different indicators.

*Carlo Polidori briefly replies by underlining that, to avoid any possible confusion, SCREEN will not use the word “indicators”, that will be substituted by “assessment criteria for specific projects”, which is anyway the aim of the project. After the delivery of the monitoring framework document, such “assessment criteria” will be linked to the indicators presented by the Commission.*

***Wojciech Klimek – DG RTD***

Mr Klimek briefly illustrates different types of funding to clarify the framework in which the “common pot” should be considered, also taking into account the difference between “parallel funding” and “sequential funding”. In his opinion the suggested initiative cannot be adopted for an early stage but only for future programmes.

***Katerina Sereti – European Institution of Technology***

Ms Sereti states that it is vital to agree and share the evaluation criteria, considering the fact that some regions do not manage structural funds directly.

***Keti Medarova – EASME***

Ms Medarova suggests to focus on FP9 maintaining a large overview on both regional and national scales. Several regions do not have a policy base nor assessing criteria to foster



Circular Economy, thus she recommends to follow the EC monitoring system in defining SCREEN criteria. Unfortunately, colleagues from DG REGIO dealing with this specific issue and from DG RTD dealing with the Seal of Excellence are not present at the first meeting: their point of view could be beneficial for the discussion.

*(During the lunch break two flipcharts were placed in the room and the participants were invited to write their suggestions both in general and related to topics they would like to discuss within the Policy Lab )*

## Preliminary conclusions

**Richard Tuffs** lists the overall preliminary conclusions noticing the shared agreement upon the “*common pot*” of all SCREEN regions, while recognizing the regional government acknowledgements as a practical issue. He states the double necessities of defining clear rules and promoting the value of the “*common pot*” as a chance to gain benefits. He endorses the strategic importance of the synergies for the future FP9, since the national budgetary allocations on Research and Innovation are insufficient because Member States and Regions spend too few money into Research and delegate such important issue to the EC. He remarks the vital need for a major legitimacy of the Policy Lab.

**Carlo Polidori** recalls the need for the definition of the assessment criteria, clarifying the significant importance of both local workshops and international meetings to gather inputs to foster international cooperation. He reaffirms the priority of identifying barriers and consequent solutions. He recalls the incoming opening of the LinkedIn group.

**Keti Medarova** states that the identified synergies should be easy and replicable. She stresses the necessity to enlarge the visibility of the Policy Lab discussions by engaging both DG RTD and DG REGIO to obtain relevant feedbacks. She asks for a bigger and evident correlation between the Policy Lab discussions and the results of the Work Packages, i.e., the analysis of the value chains.

## Feedback from the participants

**Keti Medarova** suggests a different organization of the Policy Lab with two groups: the first one joined by a limited number of regions and the policy advisors, the second one aimed at enlarging the discussions and including the sole participating regions. The suggestions of the regional representatives regard the importance of analyzing the work done in the Work Packages and the need for considering the relations with the policy environment, since the final deliverable should represent a guidance for policy makers. The support of the identified value chains is a topic that the participants are willing to discuss.

Regarding the LinkedIn Group **Aurore Médièu** suggests to add more members, in order to enlarge the knowledge base. Several partners agree on sharing the problematic histories, while **Maria Grazia Pedrana** exhorts to post also positive experiences. **Mieke Houwen** asks about alternative ways to update her about the discussions on the Group.

## 15:00 End of the Policy Lab Meeting



### Suggestions written on the flipcharts

*(In the LinkedIn group I would like to discuss about:....)*

- *Role of the region in stimulating Circular Economy.*
- *Involvement of regional clusters in activating stakeholders.*
- *Results of Work packages/(Value chains)*
- *Uptake of EC in regional policy documents and operational programmes/RIS3*

*(In the LinkedIn group I would like to discuss about:....)*

- *Policy recommendations to all levels: EU, Member States and Region themselves*
- *Build a complete and exhaustive list of participants: each region to propose stakeholders*
- *Format of Policy Lab: first questions, then discussion about present and past meetings*
- *Result-oriented discussions*

### Action Plan

| Next Meetings | Location      | Date                  |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Brussels      | To be defined | Probably October 2017 |

| Actions to be taken  | Responsibility                                       | Deadline            | Status      |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------|
| Start an internal discussion in your institution about the first Policy Lab findings                       | All Policy Lab Members                               | As soon as possible | To be done  |
| Activation of the LinkedIn Group and invitation of the members   | Veltha   | 16/05/2017          | In progress |
| Alternative source of info for those not having a LinkedIn account   | Veltha   | 16/05/2017          | In progress |
| Collect feedbacks from the internal discussion and post them on the LinkedIn Group                         | All Policy Lab Members                               | As soon as possible | To be done  |
| Involve colleagues managing Structural Funds and invite them to join the Policy Lab and its LinkedIn Group | Policy Lab Members coming from Regions and Provinces | As soon as possible | To be done  |



|  |  |                     |            |
|--|--|---------------------|------------|
| Involve officers of national Authorities managing Structural Funds and invite them to join the Policy Lab and its LinkedIn Group | Those Policy Lab Members coming from Regions where Structural Funds are managed at national level. | As soon as possible | To be done |
| Moderate the LinkedIn Group and organize the second meeting, taking also into account the suggestions written on the flipcharts  | Regione Lazio, Veltha  | As soon as possible | To be done |

## Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: Reference document –link only (<http://www.screen-lab.eu/documents/PLReference.pdf>)

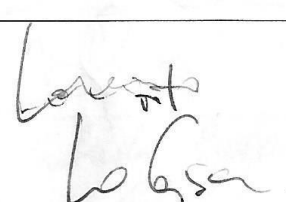

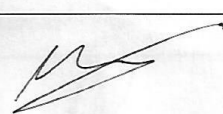
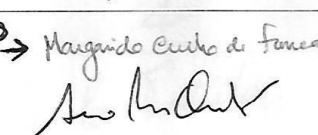
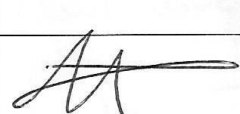
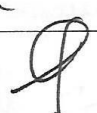

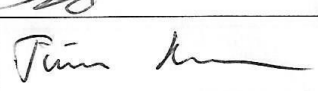
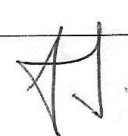
Annex 3: Briefing document – link-only (<http://www.screen-lab.eu/documents/PLBriefing1.pdf>)





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## First Policy Lab meeting - Brussels – 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2017

| <u>SCREEN Partners</u>   |   |
|--|---|
| Regione Lazio (Italy) – Lorenzo Lo Cascio  |   |
| Regione Lombardia (Italy) – Maria Grazia Pedrana   |   |
| Comunidad Foral De Navarra (Spain) - Mikel Irujo Amezaga   |    |
| Comissao de Coordenacao e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro (Portugal) – Margarida Franca<br>ANA QUINTAIS | P →    |
| Lodzkie Region (Poland) – Marcin Podgorski   |   |
| Kriti (Periferia), (Greece)- Heleni Hatziyanni   |   |
| Limburg Province (The Netherlands) – Dirk Plees  |   |
| Provincie Fryslan (The Netherlands) – Tjeerd Hazenberg<br>- Eric Vos                                       | → P <br> |
| Pirkanmaan Liitto – Tampere (Finland) Tiina Harala   |   |
| Extremadura (Spain) Irene Palomino   |   |



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| Ile de France (through its agency ORDIF), <b>Aurore Médiéu</b>   | <i>AM</i>  |
| Ile-de-France Europe (Brussels office)<br><i>Patrice SIMON</i>   | <i>Simon</i>   |
| Flanders (Belgium), "Mieke Houwen"   | <i>Mieke</i>   |
| Nord Est Romania, -<br><br><b>GABRIELA BOBEANU</b>   | <i>Gabriela Bobeanu</i><br><i>GBob</i>   |
| Azores (Portugal), <b>Natália Susana de Almeida</b>  | <i>Natália</i>   |
| <b>Silva Mónica De La Cerda</b>  | <i>Mónica De La Cerda</i>  |
| Primorje-Gorski (Croatia) - <b>Luka Dragojević</b>   | <i>Luka</i>  |
| Tuscia University through its linked third party VELTHA<br><br>- <b>Carlo Polidori</b> ,<br><br><b>Silvia Gianni</b> ,<br><br><b>Chiara Lorenzetto</b><br><i>CLAUDIA</i><br><br><b>Sara Bergamin</b><br><br><b>Reihaneh Eshraghi</b> | <i>Carlo Polidori</i><br><br><i>Claudia Lorenzetto</i><br><br><i>Sara Bergamin</i><br><br><i>Reihaneh Eshraghi</i> |
| <b>Advisory Board</b>  |  |
| <b>ERRIN Richard Tuff's</b>  | <i>RTuff</i>   |
| <b>ACR Plus Philippe Micheaux Naudet or Françoise Bonnet</b>   | <i>Françoise</i>   |



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|--|--|
| EURADA Esteban Pelayo                              |    |
| Commission Services                                |  |
| DG ENV - Lana.Zutelija-                            |    |
| DG RTD - Wojciech.Klimek                           |    |
| and Pavel Misiga                                   |  |
| DG RTD - Annamaria.ZONNO                           |  |
| DG GROW - Magnus.GISLEV                            |  |
| DG REGIO - Sander.Happaerts                        |  |
| European Institute of Technology - Katerina.Sereti |  |
| EASME (as Observer) Keti Medarova                  |  |