



SCREEN

Synergic Circular
Economy across
European regions



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POLICY LAB

Introduction to the first meeting

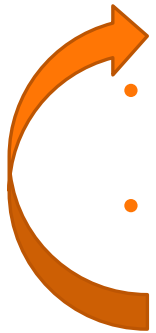
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Brussels – 4th May 2017



Agenda

- 09,00 Welcome Coffee
- Introduction and explanation of the working method
- Self-introduction of participants
- 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?"
- 13,00 Snack lunch
- Preliminary conclusions and definition of the next meeting
- Feedback of the participants
- 15,00 End of the first meeting



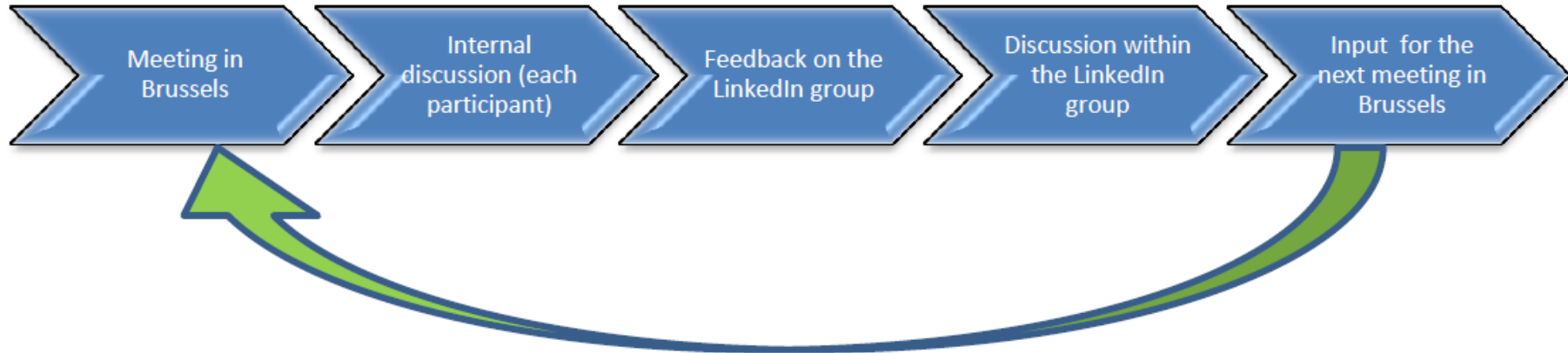
SCREEN Goals

1) Common methodology for the analysis of the existing regional capabilities, in order to prepare a reference framework for the identification of local and cross-regional circular economy value chains.

2) Identification of synergies and complementarities among regions, as well as with criteria and means to support the development of such synergies into practical cross-regional initiatives and projects

- Need of common agreement on how assess the “*circularity*” of a certain value chain respect to another one, as well as on how to finance the selected ones with funds coming from different European regions
- “*Table of discussion*” among 17 Regions, Advisory Board and EC Services
- Based on the project findings

Working Methodology



Each meeting will last for one day in Brussels, with the outcomes of one feeding the next, through the online discussions

Participants will be briefed in advance through a specific “Briefing Document” that will be sent in advance

Dedicated LinkedIn Group restricted to the sole members of the Policy Lab.



Role of the members :

- **“disseminate” the Policy lab findings within their institutions,**
- **stimulate and facilitate internal discussion,**
- **collect feedbacks and post them in the group.**

The on line discussion will lead to the agenda of the next meeting in Brussels.

Assessing the “*circularity*” of a project/initiative

Several relevant studies providing analyses and indicators for circular economy

Current knowledge base is rather fragmented and a set of indicators able to be adopted in practice is still missing and far to be achieved^(*)

(*) as underlined during the “Monitoring Framework session” held on 09/03/2017 in Brussels within the Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference

From the point of view of a regional authority dealing with specific funds for financing circular economy projects, the specific need is a set of *no more than 10 simple and clear indicators*, easy to be handled by proposers and verified by the funders.

SCREEN has already developed guidelines and tools for the local analyses in each region, and the synergy grid among the participating regions is in progress.

The final results of these activities will provide a further basis for the definition of the simple set of indicators.

The preliminary definition of the social indicators to be proposed is still running.

Therefore there are not yet proposals to be discussed during the first Policy Lab meeting, a first proposal will be discussed in the second one.

Combining H2020 and ESIF funds (Public-Public Partnership)


Already existing Instruments:

- Article 185
- ERA- NET

Pro, contra and synergy issues summarized in the briefing document

RESULTS OF THE FIRST QUESTIONNAIRE AMONG THE REGIONS

- The majority of the regions is available, even if “in principle”, to finance their partners in well ranked but not financed H2020 projects
 - “Seal of Excellence” well known and appreciated, but very few practical results
- No shortcuts for proposals that are H2020 follow up in almost all the regions
 - Need of a tool allowing entrepreneurs to surf among the H2020 results, in order to not jeopardize the Commission’s efforts in R&I programme



Further
investigation
needed

Combining Horizon 2020 & ESIF for ambitious industrial project

Define **scope of industrial project** (incl. beneficiaries), detailed activities, budget (private/public)

Look at eligibility of activities: localisation (e.g. region), type of cost items (e.g. equipment) in combination with beneficiaries and timeline

Prepare financial plan for industrial project: group activities in projects (=set of cost items for certain beneficiaries), identify costs and funding options for each (ESIF, H2020, national funds,...), contact Managing Authorities,...

Prepare **H2020 proposal** (project & consortium) => self-standing multi-national project

Prepare **ESIF proposal** (projects + beneficiaries) for each region/country involved taking into account Smart Specialisation Strategies

Submit H2020 and ESIF proposals including master plan for industrial project

First Item to be discussed

A) How to promote an effective synergy between Horizon 2020 and regional funds?

- 1) Opportunities and barriers of the existing instruments
- 2) Possible modification of the existing instruments to comply with the synergy needs and Circular Economy
- 3) New instruments (*bottom-up approach*). Discussion about the Pilot Pot and further proposal may arise during the meeting.

Second item to be discussed

A) How to enhance the effective application of the “Seal of Excellence” and extend it beyond the SMEs instrument?

- 1) A proposal well ranked by the Commission should be taken into the due consideration by the regional funds administrators, if submitted exactly in the same terms it was submitted under H2020.
- 2) Given the interest raised by the seal of excellence, the same approach should be investigated for multi-partner projects.

Preliminary proposal for a *bottom-up* approach

Each participating region puts, on a voluntary basis, a certain amount of money (*), coming from structural funds, in a specific “pot”.

European Commission “tops up” the pot (*% to be defined, feasibility to be checked*)

(*) *Each region is free to decide its own amount*

The "pot" will be used in H2020 and/or the future FP9 to re-open the ranking lists for those proposals complying with the following conditions:

- *Proposals with an evaluation score at least = 12/15 (to be discussed).*
- *Proposals' partners should belong to those regions that filled-in the pot.*
- *The amount put by each region should be enough to finance its own proposal partner(s).*
- *Proposals should comply with circular economy principle: such a compliance will be ranked against the simple set of indicators that will be provided by SCREEN.*

Common advantages:

- *Each region finances only its own participants and encourages them to have an international approach.*
- *H2020 and/or the new FP9 will have more funds.*
- *Regional stakeholders will have more opportunities in H2020/future FP9.*
- *Money put in the pot 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 “normal” ranking list*
- *No double funding.*