

Introduction to the Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding (in the following MoU) in its version 2.1 dated 06/12/2017 has been prepared by taking into account all the discussions incurred during the SCREEN Policy Lab between the participating Regions, the members of the Advisory Board and the representatives of the Commission services.

It is composed by a series of “*whereas*” recalling the needs raised during the Policy Lab discussions and the article 1 defining the subject matter and scope: to establish a *pilot action* dealing with “international circular economy projects”, able to be applied during the current programming period and then to use the results to discuss with the European Commission on how to insert such a measure in the structure of the future programmes

The pilot action is described in article 2: it will be done in fully alignment with the ongoing structural funds programme through the application of ESIF article 70 (text in a separate document).

Article 3 specifies how the pilot action will be taken into consideration for the discussion of how to apply the scheme of the “Common Pot” in future programmes.

The last 2 articles deal with the involvement of further regions or programme owners and with the future amendment of the MoU.

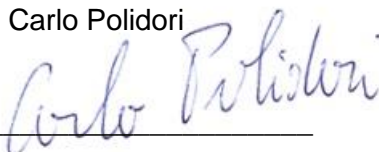
It is to be underlined that:

- The signature of the MoU does not imply any specific financial commitment (point d, paragraph 3 of the article 2), and the approval of the Monitoring Committee is requested (point a of the same paragraph).
- Even if Article 70 deals with operations implemented outside the programme area, the MoU in its point c, paragraph 3 of the article 2 clearly specifies that “*each Region funds only its own project partners*”.

Due to the above, the MoU is a practical shortcut to define a sort of “*Multi-partner Seal of Excellence*” and to pave the way to the future synergic application of funds for cross regional projects dealing with Circular Economy; its opening to further regions fully complies with the aims of the SCREEN project

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