QUESTIONNAIRE ON ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECTS

A cross-regional strategy for an uniform evaluation of circular economy projects

INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCREEN (www.screen-lab.eu) is an H2020 coordinating and supporting action participated by 17 European regions, aiming at the definition of a replicable systemic approach towards a transition to Circular Economy in European regions.

A specific task is dealing with a common agreement on a specific set of "evaluation criteria for circular economy projects". Even if each regional authority managing structural funds already has its own assessment criteria for the evaluation and selection of projects, specific criteria for circular economy projects are still missing. The criteria to be defined are therefore the additional ones to be used for the sole purpose of evaluating the "circularity" of one project respect to another one and help the evaluators to make a clear and transparent ranking list.

Since the proposed criteria should be "*user friendly* "for both proposers and evaluators, SCREEN needs to collect feedbacks from external stakeholders, particularly from those expected to apply for regional funding.

Your opinion is therefore important and will have an influence on the definition of the final set of criteria that will be used by the SCREEN regions. Such a set, in its final version, will be also proposed to:

- **European Commission, for its adoption as additional criteria on European funded projects.**
- **Other European Regions and programme owners, in order to have a common uniform evaluation of circular economy projects in Europe.**

Please have a look to the Draft table of assessment criteria for circular economy projects in fig 1 and its explanatory notes in the following pages, then fill-in the on-line questionnaire.

The European Commission issued on 16th of January 2018 a Communication "on a monitoring framework for the circular economy" (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/monitoring-framework.pdf), containing 10 indicators selected to capture the main elements of a circular economy. Although SCREEN has worked in a completely independent and separate way from the Commission's product, there is a noticeable correspondence between the indicators of the document mentioned and the evaluation criteria proposed for the projects, as shown in Figure 2).

The questionnaire remains open until the 11th of May 2018; results will be discussed during the next SCREEN Policy lab in Brussels on 30th of May 2018. Depending on the results of the discussion, the final list of assessment criteria will be used in the "SCREEN operational plan" of the participating regions(open also to external regions) and will be proposed to the European Commission for its adoption in the evaluation of the H2020 Circular Economy projects.

DRAFT TABLE OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECTS

Projects dealing with waste recycling or reduction should select one of the cases indicated in the rows from 1 to 4 and provide the requested data . Then data can be provided fo criteria 5, 6 nd 7.

Indirect projects (such as supporting actions) should only provide data for criteria 8, 9 and 10

Select only one among the four

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	N.	**Description**	**Explanation**	***Metrics***	***Additional parameters***	***Assessment indicator***	***Weight***	***Data that should be provided by the applicants***
Environmental Criteria (choose *only one criterion among 1, 2,3 and 4*)	1	Mass of waste resources recovered and re-introduced in the own production cycle, **or**	Waste recovered is re-used in the same location as a secondary raw material	Kg/year	Economic value of the secondary raw material (€/Kg)	Metrics x additional parameter (€/year)	10	*Description of the new process with a clear demonstration of quantity, quality and economic value of the waste re-used in the same location*
	2	Industrial symbiosys: Mass of waste resources recovered and re-introduced in another production cycle , **or**	Waste recovered is re-used in another location as a secondary raw material	Kg/year			9	*Description of the new process with a clear demonstration of quantity and quality of the waste recovered, AND statement of the owner of the other process that buys the secondary raw material at the described cost*
	3	Increase in the recyclability of waste generated, **or**	Waste recovered is put on the market as a secondary raw material	Kg/year			8	*Description of the new process with a clear demonstration of quantity, quality and economic value of the waste recovered*
	4	Avoidance of waste generated	The new process generates less waste	Kg/year	Cost of disposal (€/Kg)		7	*Description of the new process with a clear demonstration of quantity, quality and economic value of the waste re-used in the same location*
	5	"Net Energy balance respect to the previous system" or "Amount of energy recovered"	The new process consumes less energy or same energy of th new process is recovered	Kwh/year	Cost of Energy (€/KWh)	Metrics x additional parameter (€/year)	6	*Description of the new process with a clear demonstration of the quantity of energy saved or recovered*
	6	Reduction of emissions	The new process has less emissions respect to the old one	CO2 Kg/year (*)		Metrics (CO2 Kg/year)	6	*Comparative description of the old and new processes, with a clear justification of CO2 remission reduction(*)*
Social Criterion	7	Net balance of jobs	Number of new jobs created by the circular economy project, minus the number of jobs lost in the previous linear process	Number of full time working units		Metrics (number of full time working units: in case ofpart time units decimals should be used)	6	*Comparative description of the old and new processes, with a clear justification for new jobs created and old job lost. In case of no jobs lost a description of the new tasks for workers previously working at the old process should be provided*
Economic Criterion	8	Increase of economic value (lyfe cycle)	Ratio of economic value of the new process respect to the previous one	%		Metrics (%)	6	*Comparative description of the old and new processes, with a clear justification of the increased economic value, if any*
Criteria for indirect projects	9	Project promoting waste recycling					From 1 to 5	*Score assigned by the evaluators on the basis of the information contained in the project proposal : 0 = not complying with the criterion; 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 =excellent*
	10	Implementation of "green procurement" in the project					From 1 to 5	
	11	Inclusion of relevant stakeholders education on circular economy					From 1 to 5	

(*) In case of other pollutans, a table of equivalence should be used to convert them into CO2 equivalent emissions - https://climatechangeconnection.org/emissions/co2-equivalents/

SCREEN
Synergic Circular Economy across European regions

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	N.	Description	Explanation
Environmental Criteria (*each project can indicate only one criterion among 1, 2,3 and 4*)	1	Mass of waste resources recovered and re-introduced in the own production cycle, or	Waste recovered is re-used in the same location as a secondary raw material
	2	Industrial symbiosys: Mass of waste resources recovered and re introduced in another production cycle , or	Waste recovered is re-used in another location as a secondary raw material
	3	Increase in the recyclability of waste generated, or	Waste recovered is put on the market as a secondary raw material
	4	Avoidance of waste generated	The new process generates less waste
	5	"Net Energy balance respect to the previous system" or "Amount of energy recovered"	The new process consumes less energy or same energy of th new process is recovered
	6	Reduction of emissions	The new process has less emissions respect to the old one
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No	Name	Relevance	EU levers (examples)
Production and consumption			
1	EU self-sufficiency for raw materials	The circular economy should help to address the supply risks for raw materials, in particular critical raw materials.	Raw Materials Initiative; Resource Efficiency Roadmap
2	Green public procurement*	Public procurement accounts for a large share of consumption and can drive the circular economy.	Public Procurement Strategy; EU support schemes and voluntary criteria for green public procurement
3a-c	Waste generation	In a circular economy waste generation is minimised.	Waste Framework Directive; directives on specific waste streams; Strategy for Plastics
4	Food waste*	Discarding food has negative environmental, climate and economic impacts.	General Food Law Regulation; Waste Framework Directive; various initiatives (e.g. Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste)
Waste management			
5a-b	Overall recycling rates	Increasing recycling is part of the transition to a circular economy.	Waste Framework Directive
6a-f	Recycling rates for specific waste streams	This reflects the progress in recycling key waste streams.	Waste Framework Directive; Landfill Directive; directives on specific waste streams
Secondary raw materials			
7a-b	Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand	In a circular economy, secondary raw materials are commonly used to make new products.	Waste Framework Directive; Eco-design Directive, EU Ecolabel; REACH; initiative on the interface between chemicals, products and waste policies; Strategy for Plastics; quality standards for secondary raw materials
8	Trade in recyclable raw materials	Trade in recyclables reflects the importance of the internal market and global participation in the circular economy.	Internal Market policy; Waste Shipment Regulation; Trade policy
Competitiveness and innovation			
9a-c	Private investments, jobs and gross value added	This reflects the contribution of the circular economy to the creation of jobs and growth.	Investment Plan for Europe; Structural and Investment Funds; InnovFin; Circular Economy Finance Support Platform; Sustainable Finance Strategy; Green Employment Initiative; New Skills Agenda for Europe; Internal Market policy
10	Patents	Innovative technologies related to the circular economy boost the EU's global competitiveness.	Horizon 2020

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Draft table of assessment criteria for circular economy projects in Fig. 1 has been prepared after several discussions between the 17 SCREEN regions and other stakeholders: it is intended as a tool for helping the evaluators of circular economy projects asking for regional funds, to be used in addition to the usual evaluation criteria. The table is a draft version and it is not yet completed, because the final step on how to practically proceed with the comparison of projects is still missing. After having processed the questionnaire's results, the table will be fine-tuned and completed.

Projects are firstly divided into two separate categories:

A. Projects directly addressing waste recycling or avoidance through a change or upgrading of the production process
B. Projects dealing with the promotion of circular economy: training, dissemination of best practices, education of relevant stakeholders, etc.

A) Projects dealing with a production process change or upgrading

The first category of projects is divided in four sub-categories having different "circularity impact" (weight), depending of the destination and the use of the waste recovered; applicant must compulsory select only one of the following cases:

1) Waste recovered is re-used in the same location as a secondary raw material: this is the best ranked case, because there is no need of transport from one place to another place
2) Waste recovered is re-used in another location as a secondary raw material: in this case there is a need of transport, but the recovered waste already has its final destination certified
3) Waste recovered is put on the market as a secondary raw material: there is a need of transport and the recovered waste does not have its final destination yet
4) The new process generates less waste, that is not recovered

After having chosen one of the above criteria, applicants are requested to indicate the energy efficiency of the new process respect to the old one (Criterion 5); these two criteria (the one selected among four and the fifth one) are converted in € per year through the parameters indicated in the table, in order to have a uniform parameter.

Applicant are then requested to provide data for a further environmental criterion and for the socio-economic criteria:

Criterion 6) Reduction of emission (Kg of CO2 per year); reduction of other GHG/pollutants should be reduced to Kg of CO2 equivalent through commonly accepted conversion tables such as the one at https://climatechangeconnection.org/emissions/co2-equivalents/. *In the present draft version this criterion is not converted in € per year*

Criterion 7) Net balance of jobs (created by the new circular process and lost in the old linear one); *In the present draft version this criterion is not converted in € per year*

Criterion 8) Increased economic value of the new process respect to the old one (%). T*his criterion is not transformed in € per year, in order to not penalize small businesses respect to greater ones: therefore only the increasing ratio is considered.*

B) Projects dealing with the promotion of circular economy

This category of projects includes promotion, training, education and any other activity dealing with circular economy, but not directly foreseeing a change of a production process from linear to circular.

Due to the wide range of possible projects, this draft version considers 3 generic sub-categories. *It is to be underlined that these criteria have been defined as additional ones to be used by the regions*, together with the usual ones, in case of projects dealing with circular economy and 3 criteria (respect to the 5 above defined for direct projects) should be enough. An excessive number of additional criteria could have a counterproductive effect.