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## Presentation of the project, its results and follow-up

SCREEN 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 EU regions within the context of the Smart Specialisation Strategy. The project was implemented from November 2016 up to October 2018 through four different steps, all related to each other:

The *first step* was a common procedure for mapping both real and potential value chains in each region. Such a procedure was amended several times following the indications given by each region's stakeholders; It is to be underlined that SCREEN was participated by regions with extremely different characteristics and therefore the identification of a common methodology is the first success of the project.

The *second step* is the synergic approach among different regions to find common value chains and particularly to find in a certain region the "missing ring" allowing the development of a value chain in another one and vice-versa. This approach will allow a considerable strengthening of the cohesion policy, thanks to its "bottom-up" approach generated by the real needs detected on the field by each region.

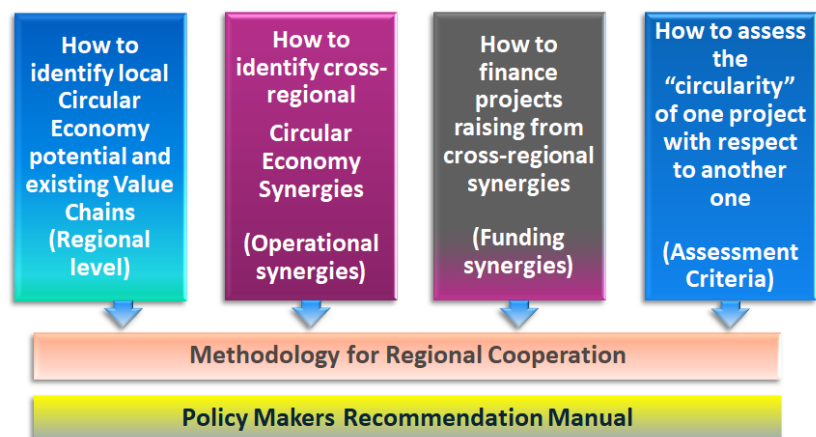
Financing interregional circular value chains through the structural funds of each involved region is extremely difficult, if not impossible, due to several administrative barriers; to overcome such barriers, the SCREEN "Laboratory on Policies" (Policy Lab) analysed the existing financing instruments, together with their characteristics and their limits, and then proposed an innovative one that allows to use in a truly synergic way both the structural funds and the European research funds (*third step*).

After one year of internal discussions and thanks to the external support of DG REGIO, an instrument called "Common Pot" has been defined (based on Art. 70 of the structural funds). It has been formalized through a "**Memorandum of Understanding**" having as first signatory Lazio and at the present already signed by further 10 European regions; others regions are going to sign, too. Furthermore, this new instrument goes beyond "Seal of Excellence" of the European Commission, that can actually be exploited in very few occasions and for projects with only one partner. **The procedure defined by the Memorandum of Understanding is open to any other region.**

To foster the joint financing of projects by different regions, the Screen Policy Lab worked on a common agreement on how the project's "circularity" should be evaluated (*fourth step*). This is also a relevant need for every single region

willing to finance circular economy projects through its structural funds: in fact, since the circular economy is a new "transversal" matter having more than 100 different definitions<sup>1</sup>, the ordinary tools for evaluating

### The four steps of the SCREEN project



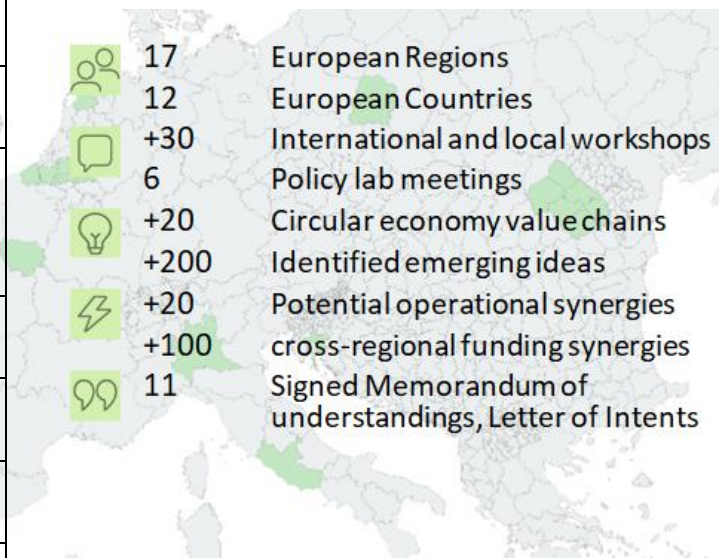
<sup>1</sup> J. Kirchherr et Al. - *Conceptualizing the circular economy: An analysis of 114 definitions - Resources, Conservation and Recycling Volume 127, December 2017, Pages 221-232, - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2017.09.005>*



projects cannot determine if and how much a project is more "circular" than another one. SCREEN elaborated a comparative methodology with a "bottom-up" approach, tested on some already financed regional projects and then discussed and refined for the next 10 months; the result was really consistent (even if elaborated in a completely independent way) with the indicators contained in the EC document " *monitoring framework for the circular economy*" [COM(2018) 29 final]. This methodology has been submitted to the judgment of the main European stakeholders , receiving 160 very positive answers and over 40 suggestions, which led to a further version, complete with instructions for both applicants and assessors, as well as a practical example of its application.

## SCREEN RESULTS

<b>Guidelines for the local analysis</b> <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/SCREEN-D2.1.pdf">www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/SCREEN-D2.1.pdf</a>
Roadmap for building Circular Value Chains <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D3.1.pdf">www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D3.1.pdf</a>
How to finance cross regional projects: Common Pot, Memorandum of Understanding and the 11 documents already signed by the Regions, <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/Step3.html">www.screen-lab.eu/Step3.html</a>
Guidelines for assessing projects' circularity <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D3.3.pdf">www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D3.3.pdf</a>
Methodology for regional cooperation <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D5.1_BL.pdf">www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D5.1_BL.pdf</a>
Policy makers recommendation manual <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D5.3.pdf">www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables/D5.3.pdf</a>
All the project deliverables and excel tools <a href="http://www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables">www.screen-lab.eu/deliverables</a>



## SCREEN Follow-Up

Considering the results obtained, which went far beyond what was expected at the beginning, and the enthusiasm expressed by the partners, SCREEN is continuing as an informal cooperation network between European regions open to other regions and stakeholders in the field of circular economy. The SCREEN network is coordinated by the Policy Lab through a LinkedIn Group [www.linkedin.com/groups/13531065/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/13531065/)

SCREEN network's motivation comes from its ability to **connect** technologically advanced regions with runner ups providing a possibility for regions and their local stakeholders to increase their innovation capabilities regardless of their starting point. Common **circular economy** goals are important both for the regional smart specialisations and for finding common opportunities

**Cross-regional synergies**, both innovation synergies and policy synergies are important fuel for the network. The SCREEN methodology enables focus in finding fit between cross-regional capabilities.

The SCREEN Network is exploiting the project results and has already presented the following circular economy projects, still under evaluation:

- INTERREG EUROPE "**Replace**";
- INTERREG MED "**CircMed**";
- Erasmus+ KA2 *Skills Alliance* "**Circular Economy in Public Administration**";
- Erasmus+ KA2 *Capacity Building* "**Circular Economy Sustainable Nutrition**".

Moreover, the internal project **SCAVENGER** [www.screen-lab.eu/Scavenger.html](http://www.screen-lab.eu/Scavenger.html) was launched by the SCREEN partner Veltha to:

- Identify H2020 projects results with circularity potential and define the state-of-the-art of the Circular Economy in Europe
- Check them against the SCREEN circularity assessment criteria
- Matching with the value chains already identified in SCREEN



More info? Visit [www.screen-lab.eu](http://www.screen-lab.eu) or send a mail to [info@screen-lab.eu](mailto:info@screen-lab.eu)