Stakeholders meeting | Minutes

## 

## Date 24 June 2020 – 10h30-12h30 | Location Online (Microsoft Teams)

Number of participants 22

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# Welcome Speech

Mr. José Mateos Moreno, General Director of Employment and Sustainable Development of the Granada Provincial Council, welcomed the participants to the first virtual stakeholders meeting of the second interregional learning event (IRLE2), organized by the Granada Provincial Council within the framework of the European project Color Circle. His intervention, however, was interrupted due to technical issues and was Ms. Trinidad Manrique de Lara, policy officer and member of the European Projects Office of the Granada Provincial Council, who completed the welcome speech.

In her statement, Ms. Manrique de Lara stressed the fact that **the province of Granada doesn’t have yet a circular economy strategy as such. Therefore, the implementation of this European project should positively contribute to fully introduce the circular economy principles in the two Strategies for Urban, Sustainable and Integrated Development (“EDUSI”) that the Provincial Council is currently implementing in two zones of the metropolitan area of the city of Granada.** Both strategies are co-funded by the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF) in the framework of the urban axis of the Multiregional Operative Programme for Spain 2014 – 2020, and include main action lines around four axes: Smart Cities, Low Carbon Economy, equality and fight against poverty, and energy efficiency ―the area in which it was initially foreseen to have the focal point to transfer a good practice identified through Color Circle.

Despite the lack of a general political framework in Granada, several stakeholders have developed in the province some interesting experiences that were presented in the “Case study” and “Local Experiences” sessions. Moreover, there are two general policy, strategic frameworks that represent the starting point for the province as territory: the Spanish Strategy of Circular Economy, approved on 2June 2020, and the Andalusian Bio-economy Strategy. Both strategies were presented in the “Case Study” session, along with the first steps taken in the inclusion of the circular economy principles in the energy sector in the province of Granada. The third session was dedicated to present “Local Experiences” in key sectors of the economy of the province, such as waste management and the agri-food industry.

# Case Study

During the second part of the session, the Granada Provincial Council organized a discussion panel on circular economy policies and key issues in the province.

**Dr. Julio Berbel Vecino, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Circular Economy, and Professor of Agricultural Economy in the University of Córdoba (Spain), made a brief on the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy “Spain 2030”.** In his intervention, prof. Berbel reviewed the current situation as regards recycling policies and strategies (e.g. waste management, recycling rates, local policies, etc.).

**Ms. Judit Anda Ugarte, Technical Adviser at the Andalusian regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, focused her intervention on the Andalusian Bioeconomy Strategy. She stressed the potential of the bioeconomy in the region, mainly because the importance of the agri-food production in Andalusia, its industrial capacities and the availability of biomass resources, as well as the political support provided by the regional government to this sector of the economy, which comprises financial means and the backing of the newly created Cluster**. The Strategy, in addition to being coordinated with the European and national strategies, also takes into account a mainstreamed approach involving 4 regional ministries and sectors, and has established 2030 as the timeline horizon to implement the 17 measures and 39 actions provided in the Strategy. Finally, she briefly presented the proposal for a regional circular economy law, which is currently being negotiated by the regional Government.

The third and final paper was dedicated to the implementation of the principles **of the Circular Economy in the province of Granada, in particular in the energy sector, presented by Mr. Gonzalo Esteban López,** Energy Policy Officer in the Granada Provincial Council. After outlining the participation of the Granada Provincial Council in two European projects currently underway ([POCITYF](https://pocityf.eu/) and [ESMARCITY](https://esmartcity.interreg-med.eu/)), he focused on the potential of biomass from the agricultural sector in the province, such as olive pruning and pits, and their reuse as raw materials for the production of energy, for instance, as some ongoing projects are exemplifying in rural areas such as Huétor Tájar, with positive results.

# Local Experiences

The third session was dedicated to present the main results of four local experiences in four different sectors of the economy developed in the province of Granada.

Mr. Daniel Chaves Romero, Head of the Environmental Unit of the Salobreña Town Hall (Granada), addressed the issue of waste management and the role of circular economy in its improvement. He stressed the strong commitment of the Municipality to integrate circular economy in the local public policies and to promote it amid private companies. He also outlined that Salobreña participates in numerous networks related to the circular economy and has signed agreements with other entities to develop pilot projects in this area. Concerning current projects, the Municipality has drafted a technical specification for waste management and street cleaning that includes a scoring system that prioritizes the best technical project guarantying the achievement of the recycling objectives set by the European circular economy regulations, as well as a system of indicators to measure the evolution of waste recovery and recycling objectives. Mr. Chaves, finally, also briefly commented several projects involving the citizenship, such as the eco-market.

The second local experience focused on water management, presented by Mr. Gonzalo Jiménez Espinosa, R Sustainable Development and Research & Innovation Director at Emasagra, the Granada Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Company. The company is fully committed to integrate circular economy principles in its daily activity and, consequently, adopted its Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2017-2021), which envisaged the implementation of a new paradigm: the Biofactory ―specially designed to achieve a circular model through energy generation, water reuse and recovery of waste resulting from the purification process. This change of paradigm promoted by the Granada South Biofactory has demonstrated to have positive results in the whole area concerned, and has been recognized by the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform as a best practice.

The third presentation, made by Ms. Edurne Azcona, R&D Department in the Grupo La Caña, highlighted the positive results of the inclusion of the circular economy principles in the agri-food industry. She stressed that the Grupo La Caña has a long successful story in the field of applied research and the use of by-products as raw materials, in line with the circular economy principles. She presented to examples of the valorization of these by-products and the reduction of waste materials: Avocemtum, for the production of high-quality guacamole, and AguacaValue, the revaluation of avocado by-products in animal nutrition and cosmetics.

The final presentation was made by Dr. Antolino Gallego Molina, Professor of Applied Physics in the University of Granada, who addressed the local initiative “Mesa del Chopo” (the Poplar Group) and the environmental and economic benefits of farming this traditional crop in Granada. In his intervention he paid particular attention to the advantages for the environment of growing poplars compared to monoculture intensive crops and its potential use in the construction sector. To promote the reintroduction of this crop in Granada, the Social Council of the University of Granada led the initiative “Mesa del Chopo”, having among its main objectives to incorporate the innovation generated by the local and regional actors (Universities, Research Centers, companies, etc.) to provide added value to the poplar wood and biomass in order to create innovative products for niche application markets like construction.

# Questions and Answers

During the “Questions and Answers” session, the audience showed its interest in several of the local experiences presented.

# Annex I: Attendance List

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| MOREL, Franck | Region Bourgogne Franche Comté |
| GARCÍA MARTÍN, Jose Antonio | Ayuntamiento de Albolote |
| RUIZ LÁZARO, Juan | Asociación Clúster de la Construcción Sostenible de Andalucía |
| ELFERINK, Emiel | VHL PP4 |
| RUIZ DÍAZ, Lucas J. | Granada Provincial Council |
| GIRARDON, Stéphane | Arts et Métiers |
| CABA, Ovidia | Regional Development Agency Centru |
| BREAZU, Daniela | Regional Development Agency Centru Romania |
| RIFFARD, Sylvain | Région BFC |
| TREISSAC, Pauline | Regional council of Burgundy-Franche-Comté |
| GADBOIS, Serge | HESAM Université |
| TARAU, Gabriela | Regional Development Agency Centru (RO) |
| HARRISS, Jordana A. | HESAM Université |
| MANRIQUE DE LARA VÍLCHEZ, Trinidad | County Council of Granada |
| BELEAUA, Monica | Făgăraș Municipality, Brașov County, Romania |
| NEAU, Claire | Communauté de Communes du Pays Châtillonnais |
| AZCONA REY, Edurne | Grupo la Caña |
| ESTEBAN LÓPEZ, Gonzalo | Diputacion de Granada |
| JIMÉNEZ ESPINOSA, Gonzalo | EMASAGRA S.A. |
| PÉREZ SOTO, Manuel J. | Granada county council |
| ADAM, Sandrine | PETR Grand Auxerrois |
| AYLLÓN MORENO, Mª Dolores | EMASAGRA |