

1st Newsletter

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<http://www.interregeurope.eu/cesme>

Editorial

Each year Europe loses around 600 million tonnes of materials contained in waste, which could potentially be recycled or re-used benefiting businesses and the economy. In addition, rising environmental issues and concerns require us to modify our linear economy model, moving to a circular one. Promoting circular economy concept could bring substantial benefits in the European Union, such as an increase of GDP up to 7%, savings of €600 billion - or 8% of annual turnover - for businesses, 170,000 direct jobs, while at the same time reducing total annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2-4%.

As circular economy is gaining attention in the European Union and worldwide, it is important to support SMEs to enter the green economy and future proof their business in a greener and more sustainable way. In this context, projects such as the Circular Economy for SMEs (CESME) are of

great significance, as they provide assistance both to SMEs and to policy makers to take full advantage of the potential that circular economy model provides.

The Circular Economy for SMEs (CESME) project was launched in April 2016 in the framework of [INTERREG Europe](#). With an overall budget of €1.63 million and supported by €1.39 million of [INTERREG Europe](#) funding, CESME will share experiences, identify best practices and provide guidance to SMEs to become included in the circular economy. The CESME project is expected to last for four years (until March 2020). Ten partners are taking part in the project from six EU member countries.

During the first project semester, project partners were able to identify key stakeholders in their countries and regions



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

and establish connection with them. This process will go on as familiarization of policymakers and SMEs with the circular economy model is at the core of our project. Project partners also started to collect best practices that will help SMEs to think about how to transform their business models from linear to circular ones. A White Book platform was set up, to assist in disseminating the concept of circular economy and presenting project results in a more systematic way. Two successful interregional partner events were organized in Wales and Aalborg, Denmark. Local Support Group meetings took place in all our regions. Our [webpage](#), social media pages and other communication material were also created.

In the next semester the development of the project White Book will start with all

material collected up to now and with more input coming from our partners, stakeholders and experts. An interregional partner event is scheduled to take place in Bologna, Italy, in November, aiming to present SOLLUTIONS WITHIN CIRCULAR ECONOMY. Local Support Group meetings will be held in each region and partners will keep on disseminating the project and circular economy model in their countries and regions.

By high quality work from all partners the project aspires to have a positive impact and significant added value in our economies and the environment.

Business Development Centre North
Denmark

You may Read here

The INTERREG Europe Programme	3
Introducing CESME	3
CESME Partnership	3
From linear to circular economy: A new business model for SMEs	6
Circular Economy Best Practices	7
Upcycling materials and skills / Two Hands workshop (FL).....	7
“Orangebox” Chair for Life and G64 take back and remanufacture scheme (UK).....	7
Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto (FL)	8
Circulation in Kohiwood Wood Processing Factory (FL).....	9
The Circular Plastics Economy in Wales (UK)	10
News and Events	10
... on Circular Economy	10
... on CESME project	11
Upcoming project events	12

The INTERREG Europe Programme

[INTERREG Europe](#) helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. By creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions, it aims to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and places.

By building on its forerunner, INTERREG IVC (2007-2013), INTERREG Europe aims to get maximum return from the EUR 359 million financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for 2014-2020. INTERREG Europe co-finances interregional cooperation projects with an amount of up to 85% of total project budget

Project activities have to be carried out in a partnership of policy organizations based in different countries in Europe. The areas of support for 2014-2020 are: 1) research and innovation, 2) SME competitiveness, 3) low-carbon economy, 4) the environment and resource efficiency.

Read: www.interregeurope.eu

Introducing CESME

The [CESME](#) project aims to improve the effectiveness and impact of available policy instruments, stimulating SMEs to overcome years of conventional production methods and shift towards green innovation – and circular economy. More specifically, the project will provide policy makers with the knowledge and understanding of the potentials within green economy, while at the same time make them aware of the challenges and barriers that SMEs face in this regard. It will also provide concrete tools to SMEs assisting them to approach green economy. The CESME outputs and results comprise:

- a collection of good practices;

- a White Book with all the lessons learnt and the recommendations targeting 1) policy makers at strategic level and 2) SMEs at practical level;
- a toolkit containing a green profile assessment as well as a return on investment calculation model targeting SMEs;
- six Action Plans (one per Region).

The CESME has an overall budget of €1.63 million. It is supported by €1.39 million from [INTERREG Europe](#). It started in April 2016 and it is expected to last until March 2020. Ten partners are taking part in the project from six EU member countries.

Read: www.interregeurope.eu/cesme


CESME Partnership

The CESME partners are ten public organizations from six European countries (Denmark, Finland, Wales, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria).



Business Development Centre North Denmark (BDC North Denmark) is a regional business operator closely linked to the Regional Managing Authority as well as the 11 municipalities in the region. BDC North Denmark screens, maps and guides SMEs for their growth potentials free of charge. Combined with the free of charge screening and guidance, BDC North Denmark manages a portfolio of framework programmes and projects mostly funded by ERDF/ESF, in order to support the SMEs unfold their growth potential, gaining access to external experts, camps, networks,

etc. Attendance in these programmes and projects requires a fee to the BDC North Denmark. BDC North Denmark is the Lead Partner of CESME project.

 **North Denmark Region** is the Managing Authority of the Structural Funds within the region and thereby, the owner of the policy instrument addressed. The organization is represented by the Department of Regional Development aiming to promote growth and jobs through the EU Structural Funds, as well as State Funds. North Denmark Region is the only 'Climate Region' in Denmark, which implies very ambitious climate objectives each year to be met to maintain this position. Furthermore, it has a long and solid experience in promoting resource efficiency and renewable energy in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, as well as municipalities and local actors of interest. North Denmark Region covers 11 municipalities with nearly 600.000 inhabitants, in total. The regional capital is Aalborg.



The **Metropolitan City of Bologna** is an organization representing 55 municipalities and one million inhabitants. In Italy, the Metropolitan cities have as main institutional purposes: stimulating the strategic development of the metropolitan area through a strategic plan; providing integrated management of services; delivering infrastructures and creating communication networks; promoting and coordinating economic and social development; ensuring support for business and research innovative activities consistent with the vocation of the metropolitan city; promoting institutional relations with regard to their level, including those with other cities and metropolitan areas in Europe. The project will be carried out by the Department of Economic Development, which main fields of activity are: stimulating local economic development by its programming power; enforcing and creating networks and synergies between the main local actors; supporting enterprises managing funds in collaboration with Emilia-Romagna; encouraging creation of new enterprises.



ERVET is the **local development agency of Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority** and has the objective of promoting a sustainable economy, in line with regional planning and programming. ERVET supports the Regional Authority for institutional planning activities, for strategic documents (i.e. Regional Strategy Document, Regional Planning Programme), as well as for sectoral plans (i.e. Waste prevention programme). ERVET provides also support for ESIF regional calls (ERDF, ESF, EARDF). The Economic Development and Environment Unit, involved in CESME, works on enterprises' tools and practices in the field of environment and sustainability. In this context, it manages the website www.technologiepulite.it, a free website containing information about cleaner techniques that can be considered as a tool for fostering innovation among SMEs. The Unit also developed and manages the regional "Osservatorio Green Economy", a database on green enterprises, designed to support Regional Authority in the identification of financial and programming instruments.



Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (RCSO) is a statutory federation of municipalities. It acts as a regional authority in charge of regional development, regional planning, culture and internationalization of South Ostrobothnia. RCSO is owned by the 17 municipalities of the region. The regional council works on EU programmes, in close cooperation with neighboring regions in western Finland.



JPYP Business Service is a development company partly owned by the municipalities and companies operating in the region. JPYP works in close cooperation with SMEs and other enterprises in the regional

area. JPYP's mission is to develop businesses and to bring new innovations and know-how to the region.



ACEKOB

Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BAMEE) is a non-profit national association of environmental professionals - municipal environmental experts, engineers in Bulgarian municipalities, companies and other NGOs, consultants and other interested parties. BAMEE is a professional organization dedicated to the preservation of the environment by creating and promoting sustainable, municipal environmental policy. BAMEE works to enhance and improve the environmental system at local and national level. BAMEE is providing space for the open exchange of ideas, cooperation and self-support among municipal environmental experts, for the professional development of municipal environmental engineers, protecting their rights and assisting businesses to improve their communication with municipalities, concerning environmental problems. BAMEE is promoting eco-initiatives to the general public, assuring access to information and active involvement of society in decision making processes. It is a recognized and respected representative and proponent of the local authorities in the environmental field.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government. Wales is one of the four nations that make up the United Kingdom. It has had its own devolved parliament (National Assembly for Wales) and government (the Welsh Government) since 1999. Headed by the First Minister of Wales, the Welsh Government is responsible for areas such as health, economy, education, language, environment (including waste) and culture and public services. The Welsh Government is separate from the UK Government, which retains responsibility for UK-wide areas such as tax, defense, foreign policy and social security benefits. The Welsh Government takes over responsibility for landfill tax in Wales in April 2018. The Welsh Government is elected by the people of Wales to carry out a programme of government. This involves making decisions and ensuring delivery on the areas devolved to us (as set out in Schedule 7 of the Government of Wales Act 2006). We do this by:

- developing and implementing policies (including providing grants to help deliver policies);
- setting up and directing delivery and governance in these key areas, such as local government and the National Health Service (NHS) in Wales;
- proposing Welsh laws (Assembly Bills) and making subordinate legislation (e.g. regulations and statutory guidance).

We also directly fund Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies – for example Natural Resources Wales (the environmental regulator). The Welsh Government's Minister for Natural Resources has a statutory duty to produce a waste management plan and waste prevention programme for Wales. These form part of the UK's compliance with Articles 28 and 29 of the EU Waste Framework Directive. The Welsh Government's Waste and Resource Efficiency Division is responsible for producing and implementing the waste plan for Wales, on behalf of the Minister for Natural Resources.



Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki's Local Authorities, ANATOLIKI s.a has a broad shareholder base that comprises the Region of Central Macedonia, owner of the policy instrument addressed, as well as Local Authorities, Associations, Chambers and Cooperatives with significant power to influence this policy instrument. ANATOLIKI acts for more than 20 years as an intermediary body coordinating its shareholders' strategies to promote local sustainable economic development in its area of jurisdiction. In addition, it operates as a knowledge hub for transferring innovative ideas from EU-funded projects to local actors and SMEs.



The **Region of Central Macedonia** is one of the thirteen administrative regions of Greece, consisting of the central part of the geographical and historical region of Macedonia. The Region was established in the 1987 administrative reform. With the 2010 “Kallikratis” plan, its powers and authority were redefined and extended. At the given time, the Region of Central Macedonia is staffed by a total of approx. 2,000 persons. Its staff is allocated in six General Directorates (i) Planning, Environment and Infrastructure; (ii) Internal Operation; (iii) Rural Economy and Veterinary; (iv) Development; (v) Transport and Communications; (vi) Public Health and Social Welfare. Each General Directorate has further Divisions in each of its seven Regional Units. In addition, independent bodies exist that report directly to the Governor of the Region and the Deputy Governors of the Regional Units. Directly subject to the Governor of the Region is the Managing Authority of the Region of Central Macedonia that is responsible for the management of actions under the Operational Programme for Central Macedonia, which are implemented within the administrative boundaries of the Region, for the programming period 2014-2020.

From linear to circular economy: A new business model for SMEs

The **circular economy** offers an opportunity to reinvent our economy, making it more sustainable and competitive. This will bring benefits for European businesses, industries, and citizens alike. It is estimated that by promoting circular economy concept in the European Union, there will be an increase of GDP up to 7% and savings of €600 billion - or 8% of annual turnover - for businesses. In addition, 170,000 direct jobs will be created, while total annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions will be reduced by 2-4%.

The circular economy is a key concept of the **green economy**, based on optimizing systems rather than components, away from ‘Resource to Waste’ to resilient and productive circular systems.

The circular economy plays an important role for boosting innovation, resource efficiency and thus competitiveness. In order for the circular economy to become successful, there is a need for new business models which stands for recycling, maintenance and upgrading. This requires a large number of new and closer collaborations between SMEs, as SMEs counts more than 98% of all businesses in EU, to a kind of symbiotic cooperation where businesses continuously use each other’s waste by transforming them into new resources

(industrial symbiosis). Therefore circular economy is an EU challenge that calls for a strong need to change the way that we do business in order to support Europe’s vision of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package, which includes revised legislative proposals on waste to stimulate Europe’s transition towards a circular economy. The Circular Economy Package consists of an [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#) that establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of action, with measures covering the whole cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. The [annex to the action plan](#) sets out the timeline when the actions will be completed.

The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.

Consequently SMES can benefit from the opportunities that circular economy can offer. However, policy makers need to fully understand the potential of the circular economy, whilst being aware of the barriers that SMEs face regarding the greening of their products, production

processes, business practices and services. Moreover SMEs need to have the access to knowledge networks to stay up to date with new technologies, or communicate with potential clients or investors in order to exploit the opportunities of circular value chains.

The [CESME](#) project presents a unique opportunity both for policy makers and SMEs to familiarize themselves with the concept of circular economy and exploit the potentials of the policy instruments provided by the European Union for the transition from a linear to a circular economic model.

Circular Economy Best Practices

One of the outputs of the CESME project is to identify Circular Economy Best Practices. Each partner is invited to search and present its Best Practices during the interregional events held. The Best Practices collection within the field tackled could act as a turning point in order to produce concrete, transferable practices not only benefiting the partner regions, but also for inspiration to all European Regions.

Upcycling materials and skills / Two Hands workshop (FL)

Two Hands workshop is an association concentrated on providing training and jobs for the unemployed or young people in the most vulnerable position in the labour market. The workshop uses mainly recyclable material e.g. produces clothing from recycling material.

The workshop idea itself is common in Europe (e.g.. Netherlands, Belgium), but the speciality lies in the **collaboration of the workshop with the regional vocational institutions**. The students can conduct their workplace learning periods or parts of studies by working in the workshop.

Especially the studies related to business are an interesting combination with the recycling centre, and working on that area could utilize the reuse and recycling methods to develop even more towards a

business option for more and more companies.

Two Hands workshop is a great business opportunity not only in terms of the environmental benefits that derive from the recycling procedures, but also in terms of societal benefits, as most of the young or unemployed people that work in the workshop have more possibilities to get a job or continue their studies after their involvement with the workshop. Based on the national statistics of Finland, the involvement of young and unemployed people at the workshop exceeds the national percentage up to 22% of the potential to find a job or continue studies after their participation in the workshop.

For more information: <http://www.kakskatta.com>

“Orangebox” Chair for Life and G64 take back and remanufacture scheme (UK)

In 2014, Orangebox undertook an Innovate UK –funded project ‘**Office Chair for Life**’. The intention of the project was to design an office task chair and accompanying sales model optimised for a **circular economy**.

In 2015, the company also began development of a take-back scheme and

remanufacture scheme for one of their existing products, the G64 office chair.

A significant difficulty for the company was reverse logistics – providing the collection, storage space and facilities for chair return. Orangebox overcame the challenges by identify a number of new partners in their value network who would take responsibility for the storage

and refurbishment of chairs, including GreenCap, a local social enterprise.

In the case of the G64, retrofitting the take back scheme was difficult since the company sell through a network of dealers and do not always know the destination of the chairs. Orangebox undertook pilot studies with a key corporate customer to understand the typical wear and tear on the chair and how the chair may be remanufactured.

In both cases, the company faces a challenge in developing new markets for refurbished goods. Orangebox is currently developing a separate brand which will sell the refurbished goods.

Both case studies are still at pilot stage. However, the design of the 'Office Chair for Life' product and service has been modelled and shown to have the potential to reduce resource intensity by up to 75% compared to Orangebox's next best available option. It is estimated that, when rolled out, the Chair for Life will divert up to 375 tonnes of material from landfill, generate sales of up to £5 million per annum and generate £2.5 million per annum of added value for Orangebox's supply chain.

The pilot study has shown that 98% of the G64 chair is recyclable and remanufactured chairs have 78% recycled content. Carbon footprinting conducted by Best Foot Forward calculates that this represents a 32.44 kg CO₂ reduction compared to a newly manufactured chair.

Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto (FL)

Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto Oy started to use the first optical waste sorting management in Finland. The company collects waste material from construction sites, companies and also some public organizations. As a result of the new optical waste sorting the company is capable of reusing the materials unlike nobody else in Finland.

Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto is collecting plastic, metal glass, wood etc. For instance the plastics will be optically analyzed, and the different types of

The savings are gathered mainly from the reuse of metal and plastic parts. Remanufactured chairs require no additional aluminium and 75% less steel. Polypropylene requirements fall by 45% and nylon demands by 66%. The refurbishment scheme also provides a new revenue stream for the company and the expanded value network. Taking into account remanufacturing costs, remanufactured chairs are likely to generate between 60 and 90% of the sales value of a new G64.

Designing a product for a specific business model (in this case a business model extending the lifetime of a chair to fifteen years) has a significant impact on decisions made within the product development phase. Where possible, product and business model should be developed concurrently.

Implementation of circular business models requires a re-evaluation of a company's value network, including potential new partnerships and market research into how customers will respond to new value propositions. Pilot studies with willing customers can reduce the perception of risk within the company.

Designing circular business models may require skills and knowledge that lie outside an SME's typical competencies. Funding open/collaborative innovation focused on circular economy activities is vital to promote uptake amongst SMEs.

plastics will be sorted to be reused. Optic sorting is capable of doing the sorting efficiently, and in a way that human eye could not do it.

In Finland municipalities have their own waste management sites for that the private consumers are obliged to use. They have significantly built more capacity to burn the reusable material. According to Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto significant amounts of reusable materials from individual homes are burned each year rather than reusing the materials. The

problem is that according to Finnish law, the municipalities are collecting the waste from the private individuals.

Even though the recycling is getting more and more popular in Finland, the individuals are not capable of sorting the materials as optical system would be. For example different types of plastics can not be sorted by individuals in a way, that they would be right away reusable.

Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto used to directly reuse 58% of the materials that they receive. 34% was used for energy production and 7% for other reuse such as biogas. As a result of the optical sorting system the company is capable of directly reusing 85% of the material that they receive. The change is very significant.

Recycling done by human eye/ hands is not the best way in the modern world.

Circulation in Kohiwood Wood Processing Factory (FL)

Advanced circulation and utilization practice of side products in a wood processing company Oy Kohiwood Ltd, Soini Finland. The factory has a sawmill and about half of the sawmill production is further processed in integrated production plant to wooden laminated glulam-panels.

All the different kind of side products of the process must be able to use in circulation, because the quantity of the material flow is so big, that it would not be possible handle it as waste. The factory is operated thought the year, but the side products are partly used as biofuel in heat production, which have more demand in wintertime than in summertime. It causes need for storing and alternative ways to utilize the side product material flow. Different kind of side products needs different kinds of partners and different technologies for using, so there must be large co- -operation partner network for complete circulation.

People are lazy to do recycling and their skills for sorting materials are limited. Today better technology is available and should be widely used.

European Union and the partner states should put pressure on using the state of art technology for more efficient recycling. We can't waste the valuable materials by burning them or not using them.

We need to create systems in which companies efficiently collect and reuse the materials. Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto mentioned City of New York as an example for the Europe on reusing materials and sorting them optically.

For more information:
<http://www.lakeudenymparistohuolto.fi>

There must be large partnership for circulation process because the capacity demand of partners is varying seasonally, but the factor's production is around the year. Some partners set different kinds of requirements for processing the side material to be suitable for their technology, so there must be good partnerships to optimize the benefits.

Production of the sawmill and glulam timber panes would not be profitable without the sales prices got from side products, so the optimized and effective way to utilize the side product circulation is the key business factor for the Kohiwood company.

Circulation must be an ordinary part of the business process in wood processing industry in order to enable profitable business and avoid waste and environmental problems.

For more information:
www.kohiwood.com

The Circular Plastics Economy in Wales (UK)

Quality can be enhanced by having access to segregated uncontaminated raw materials. A competitive edge is possible by focusing on quality and doing 'the right thing' in terms of recycling and reusing waste products and this can be attractive to buyers in internationally recognized brands.

Quality and Quality Assurance is key. This has allowed Pulse Plastics to have a competitive edge and to develop a range of markets for recycled and reused plastics.

By focusing on a quality product Pulse Plastics now supply International brands such as TATA Steel as well as companies operating in the supply chain for the automotive sector.

Pulse Plastic's operation relies on supply of locally sourced waste plastic (raw

material) and an end market for their high quality product. They can demonstrate to stakeholders circular economy thinking and delivery, which facilitates both supply and demand.

The business specializes in producing extruded and injection moulded edge and bore protection packaging for coils of sheet steel. The protection products are made from 100% recycled HDPE and are currently supplied to Tata Steel for their sites in the UK and Holland.

Pulse Plastics provide a circular and local solution. Taking in waste plastics they grind raw material and then extrude and cut the product. Thus they have control over quality.

For more information:
www.pulseplastics.co.uk

News and Events

... on Circular Economy

Circular economy is a hot issue in the EU and its member countries. Due to this fact there has been a lot of activity in policy setting during the past year. Some of the highlights during the past year have been the following:

EU level

- In December, 2015 the European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package, which includes revised legislative proposals on waste and an [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#).
- In March, 2016 the European Commission organized an event under the title "[Making it happen: European Commission seminar on circular economy financing](#)" to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities related to the rapidly growing area of financing "circular businesses" among national promotional banks and other investors. Presentation are available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm
- In August, 2016 the European Commission announced the adoption of a [new set of ecological criteria under the EU Eco-label scheme](#) for computers (personal, notebook and tablet computers), furniture and footwear. The Eco-label promotes Europe's transition to a circular economy, supporting both sustainable production and consumption. Manufacturers wishing to benefit from the EU Eco-label have to comply with the requirements for the environmental performance of the product, product safety and social aspects.

National and regional

- In October, 2015 the Italian Region of Emilia Romagna approved the first [law](#) at national level on circular economy.
- A [new national legislation](#) was introduced in Italy in December, 2015 to promote environmental measures of green and circular economy.

- In May, 2016 Ernst and Young (EY) published a [study on the Circular Economy in Greece](#), commissioned by SEV - Hellenic Federation of Enterprises Business Council for Sustainable Development (SEV BCSD). The objective of this study is to promote the potential for transformational change that the Circular Economy can bring to the status quo of the Greek economy, including the disruptive resolution of chronic confrontation topics, such as waste management, and extending to the provision of investment opportunities, as a catalyst towards sustainable growth.

... on CESME project

During the first semester of CESME project partners have been very active in organizing events to establish the project in the regional milieu and to promote the concept of circular economy to relevant stakeholders:

- In May, 2016 the [first Local Support Group meeting was organized in North Denmark](#), by Business Development Centre North Denmark and North Denmark Region. The project was presented to local stakeholders and it was followed by a discussion on how CESME should be aligned with other relevant initiatives in the region and how should cooperation with potential stakeholders expand.
- In May, 2016 the [CESME kick off meeting](#) was held in Wales, organized by Welsh Government and with participation of Cabinet Members and other officials. Best practices were presented by Welsh Government and Finish project partners, while study visits took place at companies implementing a circular economy business model.
- In June, 2016 the [first Local Support Group meeting was organized in South Ostrobothnia](#), Finland, by Järvi-Pohjanmaa Business Service (JPYP) and Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia. It was widely agreed, that wood industry and bioenergy should be the focus areas for South Ostrobothnia in the project.
- In July, 2016 the [first Local Support Group meeting was held in Wales](#), by Welsh Government. Welsh Government considers CESME as an opportunity to help push the circular economy agenda forward, by sharing valuable expertise that will help break down barriers for SMEs and bring this vision into a reality
- In September, 2016 the [first Local Support Group meeting was organized by the Region of Central Macedonia](#) at the city of Thessaloniki, with participation of ANATOLIKI S.A. Development Agency and various stakeholders.
- In September, 2016 the [first Local Support Group meeting was organized in Emilia-Romagna](#), by ERVET – Development Agency and the Metropolitan City of Bologna. In addition, the inaugural event of Emilia-Romagna Regional Permanent Forum on circular economy was held, with the participation of local, regional and European entities.
- In September, 2016 the [first Local Support Group meeting was organized by BAMEE](#) in Sofia, Bulgaria.

... also

- The new project webpage is active at <http://www.interregeurope.eu/cesme/>. The webpage will be regularly updated with project news and events. You may also search for CESME project on facebook, twitter and linkedin. Send to us news and good practices on circular economy to disseminate it to the public!
- The CESME White Book platform will be available soon at www.cesme-book.eu. The White Book will be collaborative developed and will contain the lessons learnt and the recommendations targeting both policy makers at strategic level, as well as SMEs at practical level.

Upcoming project events

- In November the second interregional partner event of the CESME project will take place in Bologna, Italy, aiming to present SOLLUTIONS WITHIN CIRCULAR ECONOMY. Information about the event will be available at the news section of the [CESME project website](#) and in the social media pages of the project.
- Second semester Local Support Group meetings will be held from October, 2016 to March, 2017. The meetings will be announced in the news section of the [CESME project website](#) and in the social media pages of the project.

... also

Several events relevant to circular economy are scheduled for next semester outside the framework of CESME project. Those events will be announced in the social media pages of the project on time. Two of the events that have already been scheduled are:

- The next [Circular Economy Mission](#) that will be held in China on the 23-25 November 2016. The Circular Economy Missions are a series of high-level political and business meetings in third countries to communicate and promote sustainable and resource-efficient policies. The missions are organised by the Directorate-General (DG) for the Environment of the European Commission and aim to build bridges between European institutions, NGOs and companies and the relevant stakeholders in those third countries, interested in the opportunities that the transition to the circular economy brings.
- [Pathways to a circular economy in cities and regions](#) workshop will take place on October 12 in Brussels. It is organised by the INTERREG Europe, ESPON, INTERACT and URBACT programmes and will take place during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 (EWRC).



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