

4th Newsletter

March 2018



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

Editorial

The Circular Economy for SMEs (CESME) project was launched in April 2016 in the framework of [INTERREG Europe](#). As circular economy is gaining attention in the European Union and worldwide, projects such as CESME are of great significance, in order to support SMEs to enter the green economy and future proof their business in a greener and more sustainable way.

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.

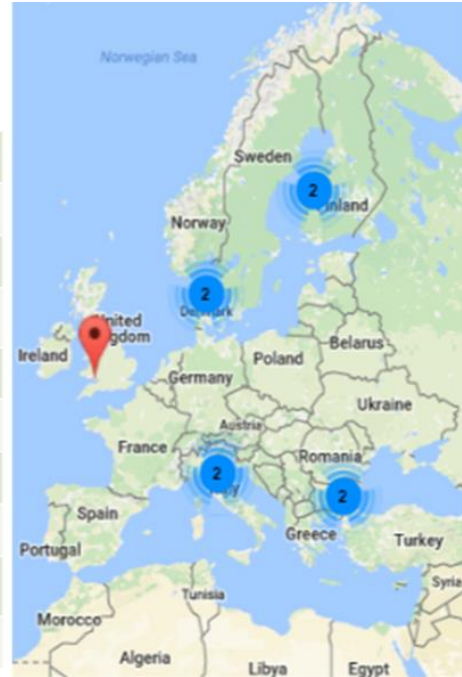


European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

CESME Partnership

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

	Business Development Centre North Denmark_Leader Partner (DK)
	North Denmark Region (DK)
	Metropolitan City of Bologna (IT)
	ERVET – Local development agency of Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority (IT)
	Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (FI)
	JPYP Business Service (FI)
	Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BG)
	Welsh Government (UK)
	ANATOLIKI SA, Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki's Local Authorities (GR)
	Region of Central Macedonia (GR)
	



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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 organisations 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

CESME activities and next steps...

During the 4th project semester, the Italian partners (ERVET and Metropolitan City of Bologna) participated in the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), organised in the context of Connect4Climate initiative on February 26th. In the International event which held in Bologna, Italy themes of interest for CESME project such as circular economy and industrial symbiosis were discussed.

Furthermore, Sfridoo, CESME project's stakeholder was awarded as the first marketplace in Italy dedicated to companies wishing to put circular economy into practice referring mostly to industrial and agri-food waste.



With respect to the CESME project's targets, the guidelines for the Metropolitan Strategic Plan of Bologna Metropolitan City were approved. In particular, one of the five directions of this Plan included urban regeneration through the promotion of circular economy in SMEs.



In addition, CESME project partners were invited and participated in the European Week of Regions and Cities held in Brussels in October 10th. The partners from North Denmark Region presented the good practice of 'Industrial Symbiosis Database' in Denmark.

The 4th STC and interregional CESME partner meetings were organised in September in Seinajoki, Finland. Local Support Group meetings took also place in the participating regions.



Finally, ANATOLIKI SA from Greece participated in the 2nd Verde-Tech Exhibition on environmental technologies in Athens, Greece under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Central Union of Greek Municipalities, the Technical Chamber of Greece, the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Hellenic Recycling Agency, the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving, the Hellenic Recycling and Recovery Corporation, the Hellenic Association of Enterprises for Environmental Protection, the Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies and the Hellenic Scientific Union for Wind Power. ANATOLIKI SA participated through a stand operation and presented CESME project.



Recommendations to Policymakers

The development of both the White Book and the tool for green profile assessment and return of investment calculations will be of great use for policymakers.

The presentation of the Action Plans of different regions/countries will provide

Greek partners of CESME organised also a conference on 'Circular economy in SMEs' in Thessaloniki, Greece. The event held in March 5th, gathered more than 150 participants from national, regional and local authorities, SMEs and industry.



Concerning project deliverables, 6 Action Plans (1 for each country) produced. Moreover, the Tool for green profile assessment and return on investment calculations within Circular Economy was developed and applied in SMEs in all participated countries.

The White Book including the Action Plans, the toll, the good practices and the national frameworks also developed.

In 5th Semester (September 2018), an Interregional meeting will take place in Bulgaria disseminating the project and circular economy model. For further information:

[CESME website](#)

[CESME FB](#)

[CESME Twitter](#)

[CESME LinkedIn](#)

useful information for setting circular economy priorities. Policymakers would also identify any possible obstacles occurred in other areas of implementation and opportunities that could appear as well multiple market sectors.

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.

EU level

- In **December 2017**, the 5th International Conference of the Hellenic Solid Waste Management Association titled 'Solid Waste Management and its Contribution to Circular economy' took place in Athens, Greece.

<http://conference2017.eedsa.gr/en/>

... also

- The 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 September 2018 the 5th Interregional partner event of the CESME project will take place in Bulgaria.

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.

Read more about Toolkit for Green Profile assessment

In the frame of CESME project a toolkit for evaluating Circular Economy policies was developed. With the vast number of possibilities for creating value out of the Circular Economy and cradle-to-cradle thinking, it can be challenging to assess all the options. The Circular Economy Toolkit has consolidated all the opportunities and provided information on how companies could start finding benefits. This happens by running workshops based on the characteristics and policies of each

company which provide more valuable and sustainable products and services.

The Circular Economy Toolkit utilise data from 7 distinct opportunity/action areas: products as a service, usage, maintain/repair, reuse/distribute, refurbish/remanufacture, product recycling and design.

As far as now 3 workshops already run and 40 genuine business and environmental opportunities found.



www.interregeurope.eu/cesme

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