

During Semester 7, Emilia-Romagna Region and ART-ER have proceeded with the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

Regarding Action 1, "Improving secondary raw materials and by-products market uptake in the plastic sector", specific meetings were organized by Emilia-Romagna Region: firstly with the companies' trade associations to discuss the "Regional strategy reducing the effects of plastics on the environment" defined by the Emilia-Romagna Region, secondly with "Coripet" and important regional organizations representing large-scale retail trade, to adopt innovative PET collect systems to be recycled for applications in the food sector and achieve the new goals of European legislation.

Action 2 relates to the implementation of Industrial Symbiosis-Circular Economy projects financed by the Regional ERDF. The awarded projects were announced on 14/03/2019 and they have started their activities after the partnership agreement definition. Five research and innovation projects were approved under the industrial symbiosis-circular economy strategic objectives influenced by TRIS, with a total financing by the Region of 3.51 Meur.

The projects deal with key value chains for the regional productive system:

- BIOWAFER - Biorefining Waste of the Agro Food Chain in Emilia Romagna
- FLIES4VALUE - Insects for the bioconversion of agrofood byproducts into feed and high added value substances
- VALUE CE IN - Valorization of waste water and sludge with a circular economy and industrial symbiosis perspective
- IMPRESA - Using recycled plastics for construction industry applications
- FIREMAT - FIRE resistant MATerials & composites.

Progress was made also on Action 3 as for the awareness raising event: on June 7 a dissemination event was held during Research to Business - R2B 2019 exhibition in cooperation with the Regional Sustainability Observatory (chaired by the University of Bologna) and ENEA, that provided an update on regulatory aspects and on initiatives taking place in the region. The event was attended by around 40 people. To date, there are 15 companies generating by-products registered in the regional list (4 of which in this semester), but the foreseen meeting in cooperation with Regional Business Associations could not be organized.

As for Action 4: Influencing National Policies on Industrial Symbiosis, within the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ICESP), the Emilia-Romagna region is currently involving other Italian regional administrations in the attempt to influence national policies on "End of Waste". Also, ART-ER coordinates SUN (Symbiosis Users Network, chaired by ENEA) working group on policy instruments and participates in working group on good practices. During 2019, ART-ER has coordinated an analysis of industrial symbiosis actions within regional policy programmes (e.g. regional Smart Specialisation Strategy – S3).