IRLE 3| SUMMARY REPORT

## Date 3 – 4 February 2021,| Location Online (Microsoft Teams)

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Meeting called by | Central Bohemian Innovation Centre | | Type of meeting | Interregional Learning Events and other European meetings | | Facilitators | Jakub Pechlát (SIC - Head of the projects division, entrusted with project management); Cyril Klepek (SIC - senior expert);  Jordana A. Harriss, Project Coordinator; Serge Gadbois, Head of Research, Education and International Affairs |   The IRLE 3 meeting took place over 2 days and due to the covid crisis it was held online. There were approx. 30 participants for the first day and more than 20 participants for the second day. Regarding to the feedback from the participants the event can be assessed as successful. |

DAY 1 – Starting a circular economy policy in Central Bohemia: challenges and key players

The fist day was focused more theoretically. At the beginning, Mr. Pechlat introduced the Central Bohemia Region and the role and activities of the Central Bohemian Innovation Centre. His speech was followed by Mr. Klepek with introduction to the circular economy in the region and also current practices across the Czech Republic.

Mrs. Jana Skopalíková (Regional Councillor for the Environment and Agriculture) than gave the regional authority point of view. She declared the importance of the circular economy for the region and expressed an interest in preparing a circular scan as it was realized in the neighboring region of Prague.

Next speaker was Mr. Vojtěch Kadlec from the UNICO.AI company who presented the researcher’s point of view. He emphasized the need and importance of technological innovation transfer from R&D to business sector and presented several examples of good practices.

The final speaker of the first day was Mrs. Soňa Jonášová from the INCIEN (Institute of the Circular Economy). She presented the main problems of circular economy in the Czech Republic that are predominant linear economy (the “Take – Make – Waste” principal where only 8-9 % is bring back and reuse) and persisting dominant share of landfilled waste. Mrs. Jonášová also presented the methodology of circular scan elaboration and key principles of sharing know how and education in circular economy.

DAY 2 – Case Studies – Construction and Infrastructure

The second day was focused more on concrete projects presentations. It started with a presentation of Mr. Milan Kazda, mayor of Kněžice municipality. Kněžice is a small municipality with approx. 5 ths. inhabitants. This municipality realized quite a large project aiming at self-sufficiency in the field of electricity supply, heating and waste management. The municipality with a budget 250 ths. EUR per year invested more than 1,6 million EUR over a period of several years. One of the main advantages for the inhabitants is guaranteed fixed price for heating which is lower than the price of coal heating.

Next speaker was Mrs. Tereza Pavlů from UCEEB (University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings) who presented research results in selective demolition and deconstruction of buildings that enable subsequent reusing of recycled materials.

After this section there was space for the discussion about the role of local authorities and researchers in developing a circular economy. It was discussed that local authorities are little bit tired with a large number of different strategies that are changing quite often. They need concrete solutions and also relevant technical support. Appropriate funding is also very important. One of the discussed problems of local authorities was also different regulation and legislation in the field of circular economy.

Next speaker was Mr. Ondřej Koc from the ERC-TECH (Effective Recycling Concrete Technology) that is a global innovator in the development of concrete and concrete construction elements with 100% recycled aggregate.

The final presentation prepared Mr. Filip Kováč from the Koma Modular who presented modular construction systems of housing and public buildings.

From the final discussion, these are some of the main takeaways:

* Participants viewed the practice in Central Bohemia and the Czech Republic as inspirational
* Further attention should be devoted to the development of ways how to integrate latest advanced products to public policies and day-to-day practice in municipalities, e.g. through public procurement
* INCIEN approach was seen as good practice, e.g. training in the topic of green procurement, open sharing of available data/practices/experience to raise awareness of the circular economy agenda
* Some participants were interested in the solutions presented and will come into direct contact with the companies to learn more about them