

# 4<sup>th</sup> Interregional Learning Event | MINUTES SUMMARY

Date 15 -16 June 2021 | Location Zoom platform& Principia Museum

## Summary

On 15-16 June the COLOR CIRCLE project partners and their stakeholders met for the 4th interregional learning event, hosted by RDA Centru, PP5 within COLOR CIRCLE project. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the current travel restrictions, in order to combine the benefits of both face-to-face and virtual events, this meeting took a hybrid form: the project partners and their guests and some of the regional stakeholders attended online and some of the speakers and other regional stakeholders attended physically.

This innovative way of organising the event ensured more engagement between participants and increased interaction between regional stakeholders and their peers from Burgundy-Franche-Comté (FR), Granada (ES), North-East Friesland (NL), Central Bohemian Region (CZ).

This IRLE was broadcasted online and can be watched on YouTube [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#)

## Attendees

Day 1: 54 unique users registered online via Zoom (based on Zoom reports) + 26 attendees on-site (based on the attendance lists)

Day 2: 48 unique users registered online via Zoom ((based on Zoom reports) +25 attendees on-site (based on the attendance lists)

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## Day 1 | STRATEGIC APPROACH & REGIONAL MAPPING

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*This summarises the 3-hour (2 sessions) organised on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the event.*

The first day of the event was dedicated to **strategies and regional approaches on circular economy**. This day included discussions and debates regarding the status quo of circular economy in Centru Region and short presentations of the regional mapping exercise conducted in other COLOR CIRCLE regions, including discussions with the project partners and their stakeholders on the results and proposed approaches to improve the current policy instruments.

### Session 1 - Circular economy in Centru Region status quo & current strategies

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The **first session of Day 1** started with an introductory session from Mr. Simion Cretu the General Manager of RDA Centru and key actors in drafting the regional policies: Mr. Csaba Borboly, President of Harghita County and President of Regional Development Council of Centru Region, Mr. Ion Dumitrele, President of Alba County and Mr. Gabriel Plesa, Mayor of Alba Iulia. All speakers highlighted that circular economy is an important focus at local, county and regional level. This session also included a short presentation of Centru Region.

After this introductory session, the National Strategy on Circular Economy and the existing regional policy framework to support circular economy initiatives were presented. The National Strategy on Circular Economy (ROCES 2030) was drafted by IRCEM and will be implemented through a 10-year National Action Plan. The Action Plan includes establishing regulatory instruments to support a circular economy, plans to stimulate action at market and policy level, and the development of communication plans to drive the change. The main objective of ROCES 2030 is to implement circular economy principles in all Romanian main economic sectors and to achieve a circularity rate of used materials of 21%. ROCES 2030 is a framework document that will enable Romania to advance in the transition to a circular economy by implementing various action plans, in different sectors. The result will be assessed as the various actions are carried out and, where appropriate, necessary adjustments will be made in order to achieve the objectives set out in the action plans. For the transition to a circular economy in Romania, both the elaboration and implementation processes of ROCES 2030 include collaboration between public authorities, NGOs, the private sector, and the communities.

### Session 2 - Regional mappings

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The second session of the first day was dedicated to sharing regional mappings progress with partners and their stakeholders. Regional mapping methodologies: all partners have involved their stakeholders in the elaboration of the regional mapping. A total of 17 good practices have been identified so far.

## DAY 2| How CE is approached in Centru Region & Networking session

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*This summarises the 3-hour (2 sessions) organised on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the event.*

The second day of the event was dedicated to regional good practices on circular economy and networking with peers from the COLOR CIRCLE regions.

### Session 1 – GPs from Centru Region

The first session of the day included video presentations of **eight regional good practices** (GPs) identified in Centru Region and **one challenge** - *how circular economy can be applied in the rehabilitation of historic monuments .how CE principles can be adapted to cultural heritage buildings – study case [Palace of Culture Targu Mures](#), an Art Nouveau historic monument which currently is under rehabilitation & renovation.*

Within each video key regional/county/local policy decisions actors were invited to present how they address the challenges mentioned in the video and what are the opportunities to support new projects.

The GPs presented during this session were grouped into 3 topics:

- **TOPIC 1 – Wool - from waste to resource** - GPs/ challenges and possible improvements.

A [video](#) was presented which included GPs related to the technologies used by Zlatna Municipality for carding and combing wool, the activity of a start from Sura Mica, Sibiu for transforming sheep wool into eco-fertilizer pellets (Naked Sheep, [info@nakedsheep.ro](mailto:info@nakedsheep.ro)) and the activity of a small upcycled craft shop from Brates Covasna which produces carpets from recycled textile fibers. Besides, research from two regional research institutions were presented during the event. The National Research & Development Institute for Textiles and Leather showcased the projects developed by the Institute, and how they can support cooperation with the regional ecosystem, including public authorities. Information on using wool in order to obtain insulation materials for buildings and to valorise this valuable raw material was provided ( contact details for possible collaboration are available [here](#)). In addition, the 1 Decembrie 1987 University Alba Iulia, Faculty of Exact Sciences and Engineering, explained its project of creating urban GIS-based evidence of the urban green areas focused on the Hidden Tree pathology in order to increase the safety of the urban parks and to develop an instrument for decision making actors in eliminating the trees which endangering the citizens' safety due to hidden pathology (contact details for possible collaboration available [here](#)).

- **TOPIC 2 – Urban Regeneration and Circular economy in cities** – GPs/ challenges and possible improvements.

A [video](#) was presented which included GPs related to Culture Factory, Sibiu - a concrete factory transformed into a culture factory ([tnrs@sibfest.ro](mailto:tnrs@sibfest.ro)) in the context of Sibiu European Capital of Culture 2007 and the rehabilitation of a polluted site and construction of a business centre in Odorheiu Secuiesc, HR. Within this video a challenge was addressed - how circular economy principles can be applied in the restoration of historic monuments – study case Palace of Culture Targu Mures, a building of 110 years old.

This panel was moderated in Romanian. Local stakeholders were invited to present their approach on supporting urban regeneration and circular economy in urban areas from Centru Region.

- **TOPIC 3. Energy and biomass – GPs/ challenges and possible improvements.**

A [video](#) was presented which included GPs related to efficient use of existing energy production resources and sustainable communities of Centru Region: Viscri a sustainable community, on which the Council of Europe based a social contract/agreement, including its wastewater treatment plant, Ghelinta – a bioenergy village from Covasna and the energy efficient office building of Multinvest. The video ended with an input from the President of Mures County and how energy efficiency is addressed in Mures County. The way the funds from the Just Transition Mechanism will be used to create sustainable communities in Mures County was also highlighted. Mures is the only county in Centru Region which will benefit from the Just Transition Fund, a new instrument developed by the European Commission and a key element of the [European Green Deal](#). In Mures, JTF will actively support the changes leading to a thriving and socially fair climate-neutral economy.

After the video presentation, the GPs promoters were invited to give more information on their approach in supporting sustainable communities. A representative of the academia from the Transilvania University

Brasov, was invited to discuss and present the projects, initiatives and the possible collaborations with public authorities, including the role of education in developing sustainable communities and the existing cooperation projects of Renewable Energy Systems and Recycling Research Centre with the local, regional and national public authorities (contact details available [here](#)).

## **Session 2 - Networking and learning from your peers**

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This session included discussions and debates regarding the challenges and the solutions presented during the first session. Representatives from the PPs region presented other solutions/ approaches used for similar challenges on methods/ways used to support the cooperation between academia and public networks:

- From Spain, the Huétor Tajar case study presented by Gonzalo Esteban Lopez, Sustainable Energy technician at the County council of Granada. Aware that only good energy management can keep energy consumption in a controlled environment, and in line with energy policies, first signing the adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors on 14 March 2012 and subsequently developing the Action Plan for Sustainable Energy, the Huétor Tajar Town Council has designed and committed to a new model of energy development of the municipality based on savings, improved management and operation of facilities, promoting the optimal use of available resources, which have resulted in the development of the following actions: Biomass District Heating 750KW with Olive Pits. Biomass boiler of 225 KW for the Padre Manjón nursery school. 80 kW Biomass Boiler for Nursery School. 20 KW Photovoltaic Plant on the roof of the Heated Swimming Pool. Improvement in the Exterior Public Lighting 421 luminaires to LED, remotely managed control panels, and 265 points of light from single VSAP to double level. Photovoltaic Plant 30KW, Geothermal and Biomass Heating for the Agri-food Centre for Technological Innovation of the Poniente Granadino.
- From NL, production of Bokashi by the local processing of residual biomass flows used as soil fertilizers with involvement of the waterboard, researchers and entrepreneurs.
- From FR, a project aiming at the value maximation of secondary local wood resources in Cluny involving multiple stakeholders (municipalities, researchers, civil society).