



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Event: Smart Specialisation for Sustainable Development Goals. A reflection framework for strengthening sustainability dimension in Smart Specialisation Strategies

Presentation by CCDRC, April 28th 2022

Stakeholder event (semester 6)

Since 2018, Joint Research Centre (JRC) has engaged in research, policy debates and experimentation exploring the contribution of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In October 2021, the JRC launched e-Talk webinar series to explore this subject.

On April 28th, a JRC e-Talk was organised to present key findings from the research on embedding the sustainability challenges and the SDGs in the Smart Specialisation approach and introduce a revised reflection and self-assessment framework for regions and countries wishing to strengthen the sustainability dimension in their S3.

During this event, JRC hosted a moderated discussion with participants, allowing them to share practical recommendations and relevant lessons from so far experiences. Centro region was invited to join this discussion and took the opportunity to present the experience of including Circular Economy assessment criteria in a Regional Operational Programme call – which was defined as CCDRC's policy goal within the REPLACE project.

The event was organised in an online format and had around 120 participants, with representatives from the Joint Research Centre and from other organisations such as Development Agencies, Public Authorities, Managing Authorities and Research and Education institutions.

AGENDA

11.00 – 11.10 Opening remarks

Moderation: Monika Matusiak, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Markku Markkula, President of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region; Member of the European Committee of the Regions

11.10 – 11.40 Presentation of the publication

Prof. Lars Coenen, The Mohn Center for Innovation and Regional Development, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. Dr Henrik Larsen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.





11.40 – 12.40 Panel with S3 practitioners

- Łukasz Dąbrowski, Pomorskie, Poland
- Florence Hennart, Wallonia, Belgium
- Tomáš Holinka, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czechia
- Luc Hulsman, Northern Netherlands
- **Teresa Jorge, Centro, Portugal**
- Petra Szávics, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj; formerly Nord-Vest RDA, Romania
- Bruce Wilson, Social Global Studies Centre, RMIT University, Australia

12.40 – 13.10 Moderated discussion with participants

13.10 - 13.15 Closing remarks and next steps

Alessandro Rainoldi, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

DESCRIPTION OF CCDRC'S INTERVENTION

Practice: Inclusion of Circular Economy assessment criteria in a Regional Operational Programme call

The Regional Operational Programme of Centro region of Portugal for 2014-2020 (Centro 2020) is particularly oriented towards the reinforcement of companies' competitiveness and jobs creation, promoting a knowledge-based economy and intensifying the knowledge transfer between the scientific and technological system and the regional economic base. As for Circular Economy (CE), although it is a transversal and broad concept, its development depends on knowledge and innovation activities, which are mainly supported by Thematic Objectives 1 and 3 of Centro 2020.

While understanding the importance of the challenge ahead, CCDRC has been actively engaged in promoting the improvement of some of its most relevant policy instruments to support activities in line with the CE transition. In the context of an Interreg Europe project (REPLACE), CCDRC assumed the goal of including CE assessment criteria in the merit evaluation process of a Regional Operational Programme call, within TO1, that was launched in 2021.

In the context of the strategic impact assessment, project promoters were asked to demonstrate their alignment with the regional S3, as well as their contribution to the CE transition, according to a table that was made available as an Annex to the call text. This table was based on the one proposed by SCREEN (an H2020 project in which CCDRC also participated), and contemplated the following criteria: Circular design; New production processes using "secondary raw materials"; Re-Use, Re-Manufacturing, Refurbishment, Repair; Waste reduction; Industrial symbiosis; Project promoting waste recycling; Net energy balance; Reduction of emissions; and Net balance of jobs.





European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

REPLACE
Interreg Europe



From the total number of proposals that were submitted, the majority of proposals were considered to be aligned with at least 1 relevant criterion for the transition to a CE, thus benefitting from an increase in their overall score.

From here, CCDRC will monitor the implementation of the projects in order to collect insights on what could be improved in the assessment of projects' contribution to the CE transition (since this was the first time that CE assessment criteria were used for the scoring of project proposals within the overall context of the Portuguese Partnership Agreement). More precisely, CCDRC wishes to draw conclusions on the added value of using CE assessment criteria in the evaluation of investment project's merit and deliver insights for the preparation of the programming period 2021-2027 – as CE will continue to be one of the main strategic frameworks for our regional development and our upcoming Regional Operational Programme.

REPLACE
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund





European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

REPLACE
Interreg Europe

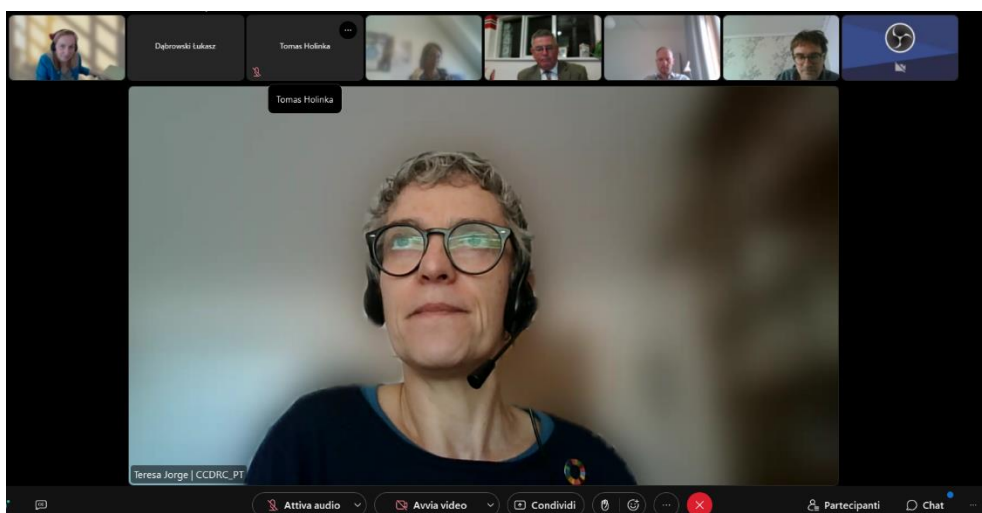


Figure 1 – Teresa Jorge's intervention (CCDR), mentioning the REPLACE action

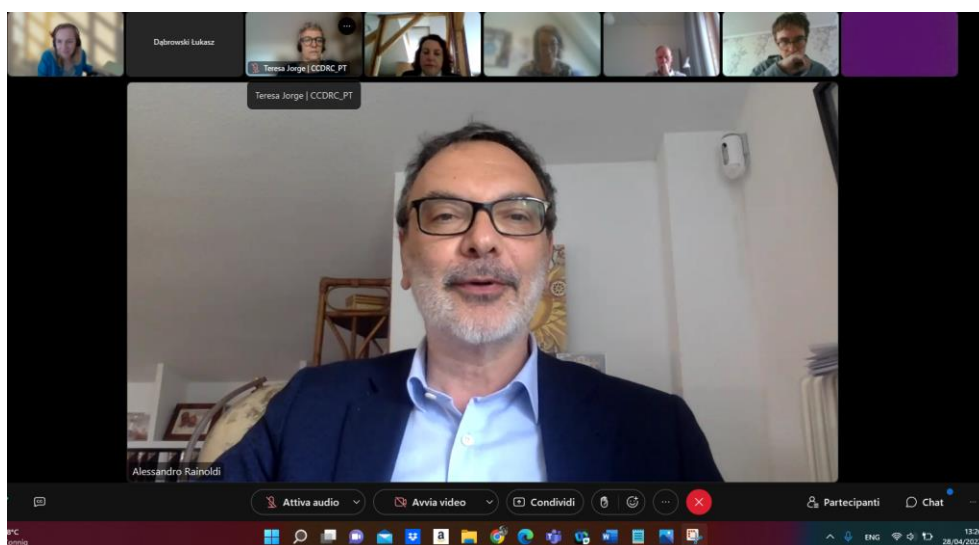


Figure 2 – Closing Remarks by Alessandro Rainoldi JRC EC

REPLACE
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

