



Action plan PP2

Regione Lombardia

Project: Interreg Europe Plasteco
Supporting EU regions to curb plastics waste and littering

Date: July 2022

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PART I – GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT	PLASTEKO Interreg Europe
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PARTNER ORGANISATION CONCERNED	Regione Lombardia
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COUNTRY	Italy
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NUTS2 REGION	Lombardia
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INTRODUCTION

The widespread plastic pollution requires a strong reaction from EU regions, to address growing environmental and health concerns. PLASTEKO, in line with the “European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy”, will support participating territories to take the steps necessary for a transition towards a “new plastics economy”. The focus of the project will be on advances in waste management, eradication of single-use plastics from regional value chains, and spurring growth through eco-innovation. PLASTEKO will cover the areas of waste management, public procurement, funding/investments, secondary raw materials, and awareness raising.

PLASTEKO will support 8 partners from 8 EU countries, through joint policy learning efforts and exchanges of experiences, to benefit from the momentum of the EU plastics strategy and achieve their goals in terms of protecting the environment, increasing resource efficiency, relieving health effects, and boosting innovation. PLASTEKO will enable partners and key stakeholders to:

- assess the current situation, potential, and barriers in their regions;
- identify pathways for sustainable growth in plastics value-chains;
- design and put into effect new policy measures and regulations.

The implementation of PLASTEKO will:

- Lead to increased capacity of 180 staff of public administrations to effectively support new growth trajectories & energy security
- Potentially unlock 19 million euros to support projects on plastic reuse, eco-innovation, alternative technologies
- Increase awareness & consensus building among plastic producers and consumers/the public

To achieve these goals and results, the relevant regional organizations of the Plasteco Partners worked together to exchange their experiences and share practices on the above policy issue.

The Plasteco partnership is a balanced combination of regions of varying development levels and also in terms of geographical coverage.

THE BACKGROUND IN LOMBARDY REGION

In recent years, Lombardy Region has been actively participating in several European projects on Circular Economy and has designed some specific policy tools to support and address Circular Economy, also specifically in the plastic sector.

In 2016 and 2017 Directorate Environment and Climate took part as a partner in the H2020 SCREEN project, Synergic Circular Economy across European Regions, aimed to develop a replicable systemic approach towards the transition to circular economy in EU regions within the context of their Smart Specialization Strategies, through the identification and implementation of operational synergies between R&I investments from H2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds, thus contributing to novel future eco-innovative and horizontal business models across different value chains.

SCREEN developed a common agreed approach to support a transition to a circular economy and to enhance existing smart specialisation strategies of the involved regions. The project also developed some policy support advisory services to enable regions to invest EU funds in trans-national value chain that will be identified and ranked by adopting common criteria.

Since 2017 Lombardy Region has been leading the Interreg Europe Project CircE, European Regions towards Circular Economy, aimed to support and improve the transition to a circular economy in definite business sectors. Through the analysis of players (project partners, stakeholders and other entities), multi-disciplinary projects and good practices, the project identified a series of opportunities (stemming from circularity gaps) that should enhance the transition to a circular economy model. Both the barriers that need to be overcome in order to seize the identified opportunities, and the policy options to be used to overcome these barriers, are analysed.

The CircE project has been addressing ERDF ROP, both the 2014-2020 and the 2021-2027.

As a project outputs, a set of decision support systems for circular economy analysis of the value chains was set up.

The project addressed also the plastics sector and the pertinent results were transferred to the

Plasteco project as well.

Finally, the data produced by the project analysis were one of the reference inputs for the design of the Roadmap described below.

Lombardy Region in December 2020 approved the Lombardy Roadmap for Research and Innovation on Circular Economy, which provides a framework for the development of a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive strategy for the transition to a more circular economy in the Lombardy Region, under a smart specialization perspective.

The Roadmap is an opportunity to define a structured strategy to boost circular economy in the region starting from the needs and the priorities collaboratively pointed out by diverse regional stakeholders. In particular, the Roadmap provides an overview of the European and National context, and the Lombardy Region vision and challenges related to Circular Economy. Then it describes Research and Innovation Priorities together with the details of the methodology implemented for their identification. The Annexes include report in details specific R&I priorities in the targeted sectors, complemented with numerical data highlighting the relevance of those sectors for Lombardy Economy and their Circular Economy potential.

The Roadmap was a reference document for the drawing up of the Regional Smart Specialization Strategy 2021-2027.

The plastics sector is one of the sectors addressed by the Roadmap. Therefore, in addition to the Plasteco project's results, the roadmap can help in defining and tailoring a more detailed framework for the Plasteco Actions.

Finally, another initiative is worth to be mentioned as background of regional plastic actions, connected to the project activities. In 2020 Lombardy Region launched the initiative "Contaminazioni" (see the image on the cover), an exhibition/initiative to raise awareness among employees on the issue of the conscious use of plastic. The works created by Mandy Barker, a British photographer who has been carrying out research on pollution in the seas for decades, were proposed in unconventional spaces, such as dining areas, corridors and inside an elevator of Palazzo Lombardia. The artist reinterprets plastic pollution in an aesthetic key and lead to a profound reflection on what it means to consume less and more consciously.

PROJECT'S LEARNING

During phase 1, the PLASTEKO Project identified the best practices, actors, opportunities and barriers of the Circular Economy in the project sectors (collection, disposal and recycling of plastic) through the Exchange of Experiences, where the support of the Stakeholders has been fundamental.

The exchange of ideas, information, methods, and applications to tackle the "plastic" theme in general promoted by the Plasteco project, has made it possible to structure the Action Plan of the Lombardy Region. Due to the way it has been structured, the Action Plan mainly takes its cue from inter-regional workshops where various initiatives are presented, in particular, those relating to the organization of calls for proposals or calls for funding to make economic resources available to local stakeholders.

Interregional Workshops

Interregional Workshop on "How to support regional businesses to invest on eco-innovation in plastic production and reuse"

One example from which Lombardy Region take inspiration was the Interregional Workshop on "How to support regional businesses to invest on eco-innovation in plastic production and reuse", organised by the French Plasteco partner Auvergne Rhone-Alpes (AURA) on Thursday 27th of May 2021.

The event wanted to show how AURA implemented different strategies in order to invest in eco-innovation into the plastic value chain, from production to reduction and recycling. The main discussion that takes Lombardy's attention was the first one after the meeting introduction: Criteria for public (co-)funding in research and development - Leonard Boniface, ADEME (French Agency for ecological transition)

In this first speech the representative of the French Agency for ecological transition, explained their method to co-financing projects who aim to reduce plastic pollution or to recycle it, for example thanks to the instruments *ORPLAST – Plastics Recycling goals*.

Due to the tougher regulations that Europe and France implemented in the last years such as:

UE

- Single-use plastics directive (2019)
- Tax on non-recycled plastics (2020-2021)

FRANCE

- Energy transition law for green growth (2015 - LTECV)
- Anti-waste law for a circular economy, who aims to Change the use of packaging in France, improve collection, use and recycling (2020 – AGEC)

the French Agency for ecological transition



The slide is a detailed agenda for an interregional workshop. It features logos for PLASTEKO, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, and the European Union. The title is 'Interregional Workshop on How to support regional businesses to invest on eco-innovation in plastic production and reuse'. It specifies the date as Thursday, 27th of May 2021, from 9:30 to 14:30 CET. The agenda includes a welcome and introduction, criteria for public funding, a break session, and an interactive workshop. Logos for 'la Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes' and 'la Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté' are visible at the bottom.

implemented 4 measures in the recovery plan to speed up plastics recycling.

	Measure	Target
1	Financial support for studies and feasibility tests on the integration of recycled plastics, particularly for companies that do not already incorporate them	Plastics manufacturers
2	Financial support for companies' investments in adapting their equipment to incorporate more recycled plastics	Plastics manufacturers
3	Aid for the supply of recycled plastics through direct operating support to plastics manufacturers/processors to support demand during COVID19 period	Recycling companies
4	Support for R&D on chemical recycling of plastic waste	Recycling and chemical companies

One of them was the ORPLAST 3, which is at the third edition after the first two (ORPLAST 1 – 2016) (ORPLAST 2 – 2018), who had as main outcomes for beneficiaries the Increased use of recycled raw materials and new applications, Competitive advantage and Job creation. The instruments permitted to AURA region to create a voluntary agreement in favour of the circular economy in plastics and composites in partnership with ADEME and POLYVIA (French trade association for the plastics and composites sector).

The agreement had 3 main axes:

- Axis 1: Inform and train
- Axis 2: Provide financial assistance to companies for the integration of recycled plastics
- Axis 3: Support companies to develop eco-design

This method presented by the French PLASTEKO's partner, of creating a tool for allocating funds to support innovation in the plastics supply chain, has allowed the Lombardy Region to take a cue as to how to structure a co-financing strategy for projects related to the reduction and to support for innovative technologies and models for the collection, recycling and reintroduction of plastic into the production cycle in its territories, which is the main objective of its Action Plan.

Interregional Workshop on "How to facilitate the market placement of alternatives for single-use plastics"

Another example from which Lombardy Region take inspiration was the Interregional Workshop on "*How to facilitate the market placement of alternatives for single-use plastics*", organised by SZREDA on Thursday 27th of May 2021.



INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
HOW TO FACILITATE THE MARKET PLACEMENT OF
ALTERNATIVES FOR SINGLE-USE PLASTICS
15th April 2021, 11:00 EEST
AGENDA

REGISTRATION LINK: https://zoom.us/join/join?register=WN_U-CHROCZQGOngmTbMFvuQ
* Agenda according EEST (GMT+3)

11:00 - 11:15	Workshop opening and welcome	SZ REDA & LP
11:15 - 11:30	Get to know each other	All participants
11:30 - 12:00	Topic 1: • Green public procurement for generating initial demand for alternatives to single-use plastics Lecturer: Nikolay Dimitrov, Head of Public Procurement And Concessions Department – Municipality of Gabrovo, BG	Nikolay Dimitrov
	Q&A session	All participants
12:00 - 12:30	Topic 2: • Eco-labelling schemes For boosting the use of alternatives to single-use plastics Lecturer: Nadezhda Hristova, Ministry of Environment and Water, Representative for EU Ecolabel in Bulgaria	Nadezhda Hristova
	Q&A session	All participants
12:30 - 12:45	What does this sign mean? – interactive game	All participants
12:45 - 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 - 13:45	Find the alternative! – interactive game	All participants
13:45 - 14:15	Topic 4: • Barriers to market uptake How to mitigate the impact of barriers to single-use plastics alternatives in PLASTECO territories Lecturer: Teodora Zhelyazkova, Ate Plast Ltd. , a leading manufacturer of flexible polyethylene foils and packaging, BG	Teodora Zhelyazkova
	Q&A session	All participants
14:15 - 14:45	Topic 3: • Development of secondary markets	Hristo Dikov



	How to support secondary raw plastic markets through effective policy & financial tools and influence societal behavior Lecturer: Hristo Dikov, Operative Manager, Ecopack Bulgaria , the largest organization for recovery of packaging waste in Bulgaria	
	Q&A session	All participants
14:45 - 15:00	Coffee break	
15:00 - 15:15	Interactive Breakout Session	All participants
15:15 - 15:30	Conclusion and recap	SZ REDA



The main presentation that takes Lombardy's attention was "Developing secondary raw plastic markets"

"Developing well-functioning markets for secondary raw materials will speed up the transition towards a New Plastics Economy. Such a transition can be achieved by assessing the consumption-production-resources nexus and introducing a series of initiatives in this area. While single-use plastic constitutes a ubiquitous material in the market, the same does not necessarily apply for secondary plastics. Manufacturers across Europe often encounter difficulties in locating suppliers who can supply them with secondary raw materials with the right specifications. Also, recyclers often experience similar problems in identifying potential buyers for their products. Thus, to enable better matching between supply and demand, it is critical for local communities to establish a well-functioning market for these materials, with sufficient transparency on material specifications and mechanisms to align supply and demand.

Policy measures taken by different governments across Europe have worked towards increasing the demand for recycled materials. These include, among others:

- Public procurement rules.
- Criteria in public tenders to boost market conditions for secondary raw materials.
- Abolishment of regulations that hinder recycling.
- Financial incentives (capital allowances and/or tax privileges)".

Exchange of Experience

Another input that helps Lombardy Region to implement its Action Plan, is the Plasteco action A. *Exchange of Experience*, in particularly the A1.2 policies:

- presented from the Styrian partner “EXTENDED SEPARATE COLLECTION OF PLASTIC FRACTIONS IN STYRIAN WASTE COLLECTION CENTRES”
- presented from the AURA partner called AURADECHET

Extended separate collection of plastic fractions in styrian waste collection centres

“In the case of Styria, recyclable material (i.e. lightweight packaging) can be disposed of in a door-to-door system in the yellow bags, “gelber Sack” in German, or in a bring system in the yellow bins (containers at collection points close to households). Furthermore, problematic materials, WEEE, batteries and recyclable materials, hence lightweight packaging, can be disposed of at local waste collection centres (ASZ) and resource parks. In general, up to 90 different waste fractions are collected separately in the Styrian ASZ. However, not all types of waste are collected in all ASZ, more than 80 fractions are collected in the "resource parks".

In ASZ Ratschendorf and Leibnitz for example in addition PET blue, PET green, PET clear, PE closures, coloured films, clear films, etc. are collected separately. This further separation is remunerated with higher prices compared to the normal Module 5 material. With this form of further separation high-quality input materials can be obtained for further recycling.”

In the **Study Visit** which took place in Styria from 5 to 7 April, the **Ressourcenpark Leibnitz** was visited.

The further detailed separation of particular types of plastic waste and the adjoining re-use shop is a model that the Lombardy Region can propose to the local administrations of its territory.

“The higher the sorting depth, the more homogeneous the packaging material is, the more suitable it is for material recycling, the lower the re-sorting effort and the more likely it is that packaging will be sent for high-quality rather than low-quality recycling”.

AURADECHET

AURADECHET is a subsidy scheme which main objective is to develop new sorting and recycling capacities in the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region. Eligible projects are those focusing on:

- investments in exemplary equipment and solutions for sorting and/or recovery of waste;
- the development of innovative solutions.

This policy is based on calls for proposals, on which companies must fill an application form and a jury selects the most promising and efficient projects. Calls for projects are opened twice each year (January and June). and repeated each year. This policy is not restricted but includes projects focusing on the improvement of the plastic wastes management value chain, such as:

- sorting and recycling of plastic cables
- improvement of plastic waste recycling (qualities and quantities)
- creation and improvement of commercial and industrial wastes collection facilities.

The total funding for this policy is 2M€ per year. About 6 to 7 projects benefit for this subsidy scheme each year.

Regional Stakeholder Meetings

The regional stakeholders group in Lombardia has found an optimal location within the Observatory for the Circular Economy and Energy Transition.

The **Observatory on Circular Economy (CE) and Energy Transition** was established in October 2018 in response to stakeholder requests to have a space for institutional debate on the main sustainability challenges of the Lombardy region. The CE Observatory is divided into 3 main areas:

- 1) Institutional Table with the function of guiding and sharing general strategies at the regional level;
- 2) Technical Secretariat that provides technical and scientific support to the development of regional strategies and coordinates the thematic tables, monitors the work and reports back to the Institutional Table;
- 3) Thematic Tables: attended by Observatory stakeholders directly interested in the specific topic or sector. One of the thematic tables is the **Plastics Table**, which also performed as the **Stakeholders group of the Plasteco Project**.

The main objective of the Observatory is to share the picture of the situation, problems and possible solutions and improvements, with a view to developing the circular economy and energy transition. In addition, it aims to disseminate

- knowledge: the observatory's working tables should enable greater dissemination of knowledge of circular economy opportunities in the various production sectors, both from the environmental, economic and social points of view
- concreteness: collaboration among the different members of the observatory must be directed towards problem solving and the search for concrete and operational solutions that can be immediately applied in the Lombard territorial reality and potentially pioneered in other national and international realities;
- conflict resolution: the observatory must also be a place for debate in which to address potential conflict situations between different sectors or social environmental and economic needs with a view to sharing strategic choices and accompanying the growth of awareness among institutions, businesses and citizens;

The Plastics Table of the CE Observatory also acting as the Stakeholders Group of the Plasteco project worked to disseminate new recycling, sorting or collection practices from the region's major plastics companies. Issues related to prevention and proper communication on the topic of plastic waste were also addressed.

All stakeholders in the plastics supply chain are involved in the Stakeholders Group of the Plasteco project: trade associations of manufacturers (of both plastic polymers and plastic products), retailers and collection and sorting operators, as well as universities, research organizations, environmental inspectors and associations, and trade unions.

Regional Stakeholder Meetings held from Regione Lombardia helped to identify the main issue and the main goal at a regional level useful for drafting the action plan.

In particular, the 5th extended Regional Stakeholder Meeting which took place online on 14th January (focus group on preparation) and 3rd February 2022 (extended meeting) focused on "Reduction of waste plastic and process optimization". The meeting had a great turnout with more than 90 participants representing different territorial realities such as Industry, Associations, NGOs, Research Institutes, Local Public government to collect data regarding state-of-the-art from them sharing proposals, suggestions, and initiatives.

Some of them presented to the participants case studies and statistics.

For a suitable action plan, the group identified the following different tools / processes to prevent plastic waste such as:

- economic support – financing (ERDF ROP)
- research of alternative products
- removal of technical barriers
- removal of regulatory barriers
- improve the interception and management of waste and create a mapping especially on small and medium-sized industries in the area
- implement guidelines and training for local public entities such as municipalities responsible for collecting. Train the technicians of the municipalities, for example, on the GPP that must be included in the tender specifications
- involve the large-scale retail trade for deposit policies on food packaging
- improve citizens' awareness on plastics with an adequate communication plan about the different type of plastics and how to recycle them
- focus on the issue of bio-plastics that are not valued in the composting processes and that create high management costs and difficulties
- creation of a real supply chain for plastic recovery from textile fibers.

PART II – POLICY CONTEXT

THE POLICY INSTRUMENT

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

The Policy Instrument addressed by Plasteco project is the European Regional Development Fund for Regional Operational Program under the European Social Fund Plus of Lombardy Region: **ERDF RP 2021-2027**.

Lombardy Region approved with a formal act n. XI / 6214 of 04.04.2022 the " Regional Program Proposals under the European Regional Development Fund and the Regional Program under the European Social Fund Plus (ERDF RP 2021-2027) of Lombardy Region ", which define the basis of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda of the Lombardy Region, identifying 5 key themes to ensure regional recovery and development:

- 1) **"The system relaunch economic and productive"** for the recovery from the activities economic, the attraction of the investments and reshoring of high value assets added
- 2) **"Beauty, nature and culture of Lombardy"** for the revival of tourism and reinvent usability of the places from the culture
- 3) **"The power of education, of training, of the research and work"** to invest on the capital human and recover competitiveness and productivity
- 4) **"The person, first of all"** to counter poverty, fragility and disability
- 5) **"A territory connected, a sustainable development"** to define integrated multisectoral strategies and create a territory connected and resilient. That address was confirmed also with the EAER 2021-2024 in connection with the Strategy Regional Development Sustainable.

The ERDF RP 2021-2027 Lombardy proposal was notified to the UE Commission on 11 April 2022 for the negotiation and the eventual approval.

In relation to sustainable development, the Lombardy Region decided to focus on the reduction of inequalities between citizens, the increase of their capabilities, to improve the quality of life, and promoting transition towards a new model of sustainable and innovative development, focusing mainly on the transition towards a model of sustainable development and growth. The new models of sustainable development are studied with the awareness that the use of environmental and territorial, economic and social resources does not compromise their reproducibility over time in favor of future generations.

One of the focuses of the system's transition towards a sustainability model is the issue of waste and the circular economy. Lombardy Region is already in vanguard in many aspects: in relation to municipal waste, 63.4% is sent for material recovery and only 0.05% is sent to landfill (2020 data) and of the over 35 million tons of waste almost 90% of the specials are on the way to recovery. The

Regional Waste Management Program, approved on May 23rd, 2022, sets even more ambitious targets than the EU ones, in particular 67.8% recycling by 2027, against a European target of 65% by 2030, and also a target to reduce waste production (-2% in 2027 compared to 2010 for special, -7% in 2027 compared to 2019 for urban). To achieve these objectives, it is therefore important to encourage forms of prevention of waste production (e.g. use of by-products, industrial symbiosis, reuse) and recovery of materials with more advanced performances or for currently critical flows, improving both production cycles and products, increasing its circularity.

The Region wants to improve the performance of the plants and adopt an approach based on new technologies and the circular economy, encouraging the efficiency in the use of resources and materials, as well as the recovery, reuse and recycling of materials, including special waste. In line with the Regional Waste Management Program (PRGR) and with the DNSH principle, investments will be aimed only at the highest levels in the waste management hierarchy, i.e. prevention (e.g. preparation for reuse, by-products ...) and recovery of matter.

The strategic objective of the ERDF ROP 2021-2027 is the number OS2.2.6.: "Promote the transition towards a circular and resource efficient economy." This specific objective highlights the importance that the Lombardy Region recognizes in the transition to a new production and consumption model which envisages the enhancement of materials with a view to recycling and reuse. The circular economy represents an opportunity for Lombardy to reducing the negative impact of economic activity on the environment, extending the life cycle of products and helping to reduce waste production, and developing the innovation in many sectors. The strategy is promoting the growth and competitiveness of the territory both by reducing pollution of soil and groundwater. The objective will be achieved for a part through financial instruments, including combined ones, and another part through subventions destined for circular economy initiatives.

The types of actions related to this objective are:

Action 2.6.1. Support adoption of sustainable production models

The aim of this action is the gradual transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy, as a lever for competitiveness and sustainability, to establish a new paradigm based on the enhancement of resources and materials, so not just on the treatment of waste. This action encourages the involvement of non-profit entities, and also consumer representatives during the design phase, and during the distribution phase, to facilitate the transition towards the circular economy also in the first phase of the cycle.

Specifically, this action may entail support to:

- the product innovation (eco-design) and the application of new technologies starting from the recovery of materials and a design based on the concepts of modularity, reuse and reparability, recyclability and sustainability of materials (with reference for example to bio-based materials), also by favoring new distribution and consumption models and by providing for the use of energy carriers with low environmental impact
- the implementation of process innovations for the introduction of "green" international

standards in companies at all stages of the product life cycle, the reduction of the dangerousness and the quantity of waste, the promotion of the purchase of sustainable supplies and the efficiency in the use of natural resources and materials, the recovery of materials

- the transition of commercial strategies from the purchase of products to the use of rental and use services
- the processes and technologies with high innovative value dedicated to products and materials, with peculiar performance decay and excessive reprocessing costs. These processes represent challenges in terms of sustainability (environmental and economic) of the recovery operations and reintegration into the economic processes circular.

Action 2.6.2. Support for actions of industrial symbiosis, prevention of waste production, recycling and reuse for closing the cycle

The aim of the reduction of environmental impacts is achieved through the promotion of circular economy in businesses and local authorities.

Specifically, this action consists in supporting:

- the design and management of integrated supply chains and public-private partnerships that facilitate compliance to sustainable production and service processes, according to the “Life Cycle Thinking” approach
- the promotion of the industrial symbiosis as an eco-innovative system approach that favors the transfer of materials, energy, water and / or by-products between traditionally separate industries, also thanks to the synergic possibilities offered by geographical proximity
- the promotion of reuse and preparation for reuse, including through the development of reuse networks
- the promotion of techniques and practices for the reduction of food waste in all points of the supply chain (primary sector, distribution, catering, large-scale distribution, families)
- the support for innovative technologies and models for the collection, recycling and reintroduction of plastics into the production cycle, as well as for the selective interception and initiation of recycling and reuse of single-use plastic products and material alternatives
- the implementation and dissemination of innovative recycling technologies and business models, starting from the needs of the destination market of the product, with reference to quantitatively or qualitatively critical waste fractions or containing critical raw materials (es. mixed plastics, sludge from purification and recovery of phosphorus, WEEE, “SVHC substances”, textile waste, construction and demolition waste, etc ...). In line with the Regional Waste Management Program, the investments will be addressed only to the recovery of materials, as it is privileged in the waste management hierarchy, thus also contributing to the objective of minimizing landfill transfers
- The types of actions were assessed compatible with the DNSH principle also on the basis of the guidelines defined by the Italian State.

PART III – ACTION PLAN

ACTION 1:

Name of the action: Develop a programming strategy for an optimal management of the ERDF-RP resources to achieve the objectives of Plasteco project financing SMEs and local administrations.

1. Relevance to the project

How this action arises from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experiences and the lessons learned with the workshops is reported in the paragraph " PROJECT'S LEARNING" on pages 4-8.

PP2 regional staff of Plasteco project is also supporting the approval process of the ERDF RP 2021-2027 and PP2 already got a result, having proposed the following declination of a ERDF RP 2021-2027 action: “[...] *support for innovative technologies and models for the collection, recycling and reintroduction of plastic into the production cycle, as well as for the selective interception and initiation of recycling and reuse of single-use plastic products and reusable alternatives*”.

The core of action 1 is to manage that this declination, which derives from the exchange of experiences of the Plasteco project, is effectively applied in the fundings calls with adequate resources.

2. Nature of the action

This action aims to steer the ERDF RP 2021-2027 through a programming of resources and calls related to objective 2.6.

As explained above, the new ERDF RP 2021-2027 has a specific objective (n. 2.6.): “Promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy” with a budget of 120.000.000 euros.

ERDF RP 2021-2027 also has a specific declination on the reduction and recycling of plastic waste that perfectly reflects the objectives of Plasteco project.

However, the overall amount of the budget for the objective n. 2.6. is not divided among the different actions and the different beneficiaries who can contribute to their achievement.

After the approval of the ERDF RP 2021-2027, in order to pursue the objectives of the Plasteco project, resources assigned to the Environment and Climate Directorate need to be allocated to funding actions for the prevention of plastic waste or to improve the management of plastic waste. Hence, we need a strategy for planning the use of these resources.

The strategy, through a more detailed breakdown of resources for different objectives and over the years of validity of ERDF RP 2021-2027, intends to program at least 30.000.000 euros for providing "support for industrial symbiosis actions, prevention of waste production and recycling", with a specific declination for plastic waste.

Moreover, the experiences of the Plasteco project have shown how different players, SMEs but also Municipalities (i.e. the experience of Ressourcenpark Leibnitz), and different actions can contribute to the achievement of the objective. Therefore, it is useful that the declination related to plastics addresses different beneficiaries, each one for the role assigned in the management process.

The development of the Regional Waste Management Programme (under the SEA procedure) is also an opportunity for dialogue and comparison for the choice of actions that will be implemented in the Plasteco project.

The elaboration of the Waste Management Programme was influenced by the Plasteco Project because the Plasteco stakeholder group was involved in the SEA procedure and in the elaboration of the Plan documents. Both the Waste Management Programme and the ERDF-RP have to support the same priorities.

The Regional Waste Management Programme also identifies actions to be implemented and which can be implemented thanks to the ERDF RP 2021-2027 funds.

However, the waste plan has a wider field of action than that of the Plasteco project and it is also inherent to waste fractions that are quantitatively or qualitatively critical or containing raw materials (eg. sludge from purification plants and recovery of phosphorus, WEEE, "SVHC substances", textile waste, construction and demolition waste).

A strategy is useful to ensure an optimal distribution of resources for the various initiatives promoted by the Environment and Climate Directorate that are not only linked to the implementation of the Plasteco and plastic waste.

The strategy will contain the following elements:

- an estimate of the resources needed and an optimal distribution of resources over the years up to 2027;
- monitoring and ensure an adequate application of the specific declination "support for innovative technologies and models for the collection, recycling and reintroduction of plastic into the production cycle, as well as for the selective interception and initiation of recycling and reuse of single-use plastic products and reusable alternatives"
- the planning of calls for different beneficiaries (SMEs, Municipalities ...) to put into practice the lessons learned from the Plasteco project
- investigate in details activities to be financed to understand how to best implement the good practices of the Plasteco project at a local level through dialogue with stakeholders
- contemplate a critical analysis of calls already done, repetition of a successful calls after a

- few years, keeping what went well and improving critical issues
- adequate methods and dissemination of the calls in programming.

The strategy will be elaborated by the office that deals with waste management and circular economy and it will be shared with the Environment and Climate Directorate for the planning of the relevant resources.

The goal of the strategy proposed as Action No. 1 of the Plasteco Project is to promote, through the issuance of funding calls, the reduction or improved management of plastic waste.

3. Stakeholders involved

Action 1 will involve:

- Directorates of the Lombardy region. A discussion must certainly be initiated with the Economic Development Directorate which has an interest in issuing calls for funding on the subject of circular economy in favour of enterprises.
- Offices of the Environment and Climate Directorate which can identify actions to be implemented and which can be implemented thanks to the ERDF ROP 2021-2027 funds.
- Plasteco stakeholders group, especially the stakeholders belonging to the public administration like municipalities or their association (ANCI) whose territories or administrations may be recipients of funding.
- The responsible authority for officially approving the strategy into the PI

The method of involvement includes the organization of meetings that will be documented in order to certify the execution of the action for the project.

4. Timeframe

New ERDF RP 2021-2027 approval is scheduled by September 2022. The strategy can take a period of 9 months to be delivered with the collaboration of the stakeholders and shared with the Environment and Climate Directorate.

The following is the expected timeline for the implementation of the action 1:

Discussion with the Economic Development Directorate and relevant stakeholders	January 2023
Draft of strategy proposal	March 2023
Meeting for feedbacks on the draft	May 2023
The OP2 objective manager approves the strategy and sends it to the MA	June 2023
The MA for the ERDF RP 2021-2027 will approve the strategy	July 2023

5. Indicative costs

The action requires only the costs of the personnel who will participate in the drafting of the strategy.

The following is the expected amount for the realization of the action:

- an executive working at 5% for 9 months, 5.000 € is expected;
- two technical officers, including one junior and one senior, working for 10% for 9 months, 7.000 € is expected;

6. Indicative funding sources

Personnel costs will be borne by the organizations to which they belong.

7. ERDF funds influenced by the action

ERDF funds related to Specific Objective 2.6, Action 2.6.2 will be directly affected by this action.

ACTION 2

Name of the action: **2. Publish a first call for funding**

1. Relevance to the project

This call for funding will be issued following the exchange of experiences and the lessons learned with the workshops of the Plasteco project which, as explained above on pages 4-8, illustrated the need to encourage the use of recovery materials, the use of by-products, the production of more easily recoverable goods and the use of alternative materials to plastic.

2. Nature of the action

This action aims to financing using ERDF-ROP 2021-27 budget related to objective 2.6. “Promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy”.

It consists in publishing a first call for funding using ERDF-ROP 2021-27 budget (under our responsibility as agreed following the strategy of action no. 1) to finance small and medium enterprises that implement actions like:

- changes in the production cycle to use recovery materials
- changes in the production cycle to produce more easily recoverable goods
- changes in the production cycle to prevent the consumption of materials (for example 3D printing) or to replace plastic with other materials
- companies that create a symbiotic system for the use of by-products.

The action n. 2 will be developed simultaneously with action n. 1 and therefore, before a more reasoned and shared budget subdivision, in this action we will use only a first amount of the ERDF-ROP 2021-27 budget which we are sure to dispose of. At this time, we can be sure that this amount will be at least 2 million euros.

Obviously, this call will have a specific connection to the declination of ERDF-ROP 2021-27 (explained in action n. 1): “support for innovative technologies and models for the collection, recycling and reintroduction of plastic into the production cycle, as well as for the selective interception and initiation of recycling and reuse of single-use plastic products and reusable alternatives”.

This call will be innovative with respect to the experience of funding granted so far by the Region which in the past has mainly addressed public administrations.

This call will be designed with a broad scope in order to represent at the same time an answer to companies’ needs but also a test to understand, through participation, which are the innovations in which companies are willing to invest. The public funding will be non-repayable (grants), but companies will be asked to co-finance a percentage.

3. Stakeholders involved

Action 2 will involve:

- Directorates of the Lombardy region and offices of the Environment and Climate Directorate which have ERDF-ROP 2021-27 budget under their responsibility.
- Plasteco stakeholders group, especially SMEs trade associations that can illustrate the needs of enterprises for a transition towards a circular economy and universities that well know production processes and innovative solutions.

The method of involvement consists of the organization of meetings.

4. Timeframe

The funding call will be approved by July 2023.

The following is the expected timeline for the implementation of the action:

Draft of the call proposal	January 2023
Submission of the draft to technical experts and policy makers and feedback	February 2023
New call proposal with feedback	March 2023
Drafting of guidelines and implementation of the regional platform “bandi on line”	June 2023
Approval of the call by regional government	July 2023

5. Indicative costs

The action requires only the costs of the personnel who will participate in the drafting of the call for funding.

The following is the expected amount for the realization of the action:

- an executive working at 10% for 9 months, 10.000 € is expected;
- two technical officers, including one junior and one senior, working for 25% for 9 months, 15.000 € is expected;

6. Indicative funding sources

We will use a first amount of the ERDF-RP 2021-27 budget, under our responsibility, which will be at least 2 million euros.

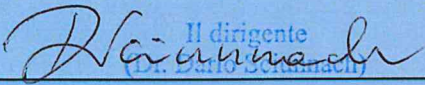
Signature

The managing Authority of ROP ERDF of Lombardy Region herewith agrees to support and promote the implementation of the actions detailed in the present Action Plan.

I confirm that I have the required authority of my organization to do so and that the required authorization process of my organization has been duly carried out.

Date: July 20th 2022

Name and job Title: DARIO SCIUNNACH, ERDF MA

Signature:  Il dirigente
(Dr. Dario Sciunnach)

Stamp of the organisation: _____

