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Part I - General information

Project: LCA4Regions - Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through use of Life Cycle Instruments for implementation of regional policies of the European Union

Partner organisation: National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Country: Slovenia

NUTS2 region: Western Cohesion region of Slovenia

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Part II - Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy for the period 2014-2020; Slovenian Smart Specialisation Strategy - Area of Application 2.2: Networks for the Transition into Circular Economy (Environmental policy instrument - Life Cycle Methodologies)

The objective is to link the stakeholders - economic entities, educational and research area, authorities and individuals - in the value chain according to the principle of completed continuous flows, as well as to develop new models for transition to a circular economy.

Part III - Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The background

The Public Procurement Agency in Slovenia was established in 2010 and went into operation in January 2011. It was responsible for carrying out joint procurements for Slovenian public authorities for a number of product and service groups. As part of its mandate, the Agency implemented GPP criteria in its procurement of electricity, paper, office IT equipment and vehicles. This built upon the work done by the Ministry of Public Administration to introduce GPP as part of central purchasing in Slovenia. The Public Procurement Directorate currently purchases on behalf of about 130 authorities across the public sector.

Categories of green public procurement in Slovenia - since 1 January 2018, the Decree on green public procurement (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 51/17 and 64/19) applies to 20 product groups of procurement:

- electricity,
- food and catering services,
- textile products,
- office paper and hygienic paper products,
- electronic office equipment,
- televisions,
- refrigerators, freezers and their combinations, washing machines, dishwashers, dryers, vacuum cleaners, and air-conditioners,
- furniture,
- water heaters, space heaters and their combinations, and hot water storage,
- sanitary fittings,
- toiletry equipment and urinal equipment,
- wall panels,

- design or construction of buildings,
- design or construction of roads,
- road vehicles,
- tires,
- electric bulbs and lamps, and indoor lighting systems,
- road lighting and traffic signalization,
- cleaning products, cleaning and laundry services, and
- gardening services, agricultural and other products, and gardening equipment and machinery.

During the course of learning experiences in phase 1 of the LCA4Regions project, the Polish partner organization Lodzkie Region presented their good practice - LCA costing model/software and the information we will use for our Action 1.

Action

We propose a plan to implement mathematical models for green public procurement (LCA costing model) into the Slovenian Public Procurement system (legislation and procedures) to help with calculating the costs of the purchase and use when buying vehicles for public authorities. Currently the Public Procurement procedure is not used for the purchases of vehicles, but we would like to implement computational predictions and learning tools, which calculate the costing model.

We will study the tool and adapt it for Slovenian Public Procurement Directorate under the Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration, and Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Players

- Slovenian Public Procurement Directorate
- Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration
- Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

We will present the idea of the LCA costing model to the Slovenian Public Procurement Directorate, organize necessary meetings and offer additional help if they decide to implement the process. At the time of writing the report, we are in active communication with the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Public Procurement Directorate where we have obtained general support for concrete actions towards improvement of the current public procurement legislation. This action is complementary with the Action 2, where we will initiate large debate about the improvements, including all relevant stakeholders and participate at the Government-initiated public debate on concrete changes in the policy instruments.

Timeframe

Spring/Summer 2022 - Studying the Polish LCA cost model, adapting it to the Slovenian procedure, preparing the guidelines and other presentation materials; Meeting(s) with Slovenian Public Procurement Directorate representative(s) and presentation of the LCA costing model options; Starting the implementation of the LCA costing model.

Autumn/Winter 2022/2023 - Final implementation of the LCA costing model; Additional meeting(s) with Slovenian Public Procurement Directorate representative(s) and presentation of the LCA costing model options, if needed.

Spring/Summer 2023 - Monitoring the implementation of the Action 1 and assessment of the results.

ACTION 2: LCA TRAINING/WORKSHOP

The background

The overexploitation of natural resources required to achieve economic growth and development has negatively impacted the environment and adversely affected their availability and cost. So, it is easy to see why the idea of a circular economy, which offers new ways to create a more sustainable economic growth model, is taking hold across the globe. Lately we are surrounded by a lot of discussion about sustainability. Important questions include: What role can business have in ensuring the sustainability of the planet? How should business work with society to preserve the environment?

We need to explore the meaning of sustainability and its impact on modern organizations as they move to circular ideas to reduce waste, increase recycling and become fit for our modern society. We should not only learn about the role of business in sustainability, but also our own personal contribution.

During LCA4Regions' Transnational Learning Journeys where partners exchanged different experiences, we learned about the business models in a circular economy that could be transferred into the Slovenian business practice in the form of training course/workshop. Our partner from the LCA4Regions project, i.e., Industrial Association of Navarra-AIN, presented a good practice of the trainings, which will be the foundation for our Action 2.

Action

Our plan is to organize a course on Circular economy for interested participants from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska¹ that will include the representative of the vocational associations and relevant Ministries. We will study and adapt the materials according to the needs of Slovenian public and private organizations and organize a training course. Our goal is to promote the idea of Circular economy to create a more sustainable economic growth model for Slovenian businesses/companies.

¹Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska is the leader of the Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership - Networks for the transition into circular economy, a connection of Slovenian business subjects, educational and research institutions (RDI), non-governmental organizations and other interested parties, in collaboration with the state, aiming to establish new value chains according to the economic principles of closed material flows. Therefore, it is very suitable for organizing our action of LCA training/workshop.

Players

- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije - GZS)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska (Štajerska Gospodarska Zbornica - ŠGZ)

We will present the idea of the Circular economy training course to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska, organize necessary meeting(s) and offer additional help if they decide to organize the training. We will actively participate in the events organized by the Chambers of Commerce and the line Ministries. During the trainings / events we will share the best practices for improvement of the policy instruments in favor of green economy.

Timeframe

Spring/Summer 2022 - Studying the Circular economy training course example, adapting it to the Slovenian business needs, preparing the draft of the training programme; Meeting(s) with Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska representative(s) and presentation of the Circular economy training course becoming a part of the organized events for their members.

Autumn/Winter 2022/2023 - Final implementation of the Action 2 plan, Additional meeting(s) with Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska representative(s), if needed.

Spring/Summer 2023 - Monitoring the implementation of the Action 2 and assessment of the results.

Date: June 2022

Name of the organisation(s): National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

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