

Circular
Economy
Action Plan
for Central
Bohemia

Circular Economy Action Plan for Central Bohemia

2022+

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Preface

The action plan was prepared in the course of the COLOR CIRCLE project implemented in 2019-2022. Action plan helps to implement the Regional Innovation Strategy of Central Bohemia (RIS3). Additionally, the action plan is also relevant for achieving the objectives of the Strategy of Regional Development of Central Bohemia Region 2019-2024 with outlook to 2030.

In the course of the project, pilot action implementing the principles of circular economy was drafted in order to influence relevant policy instruments and implementation.

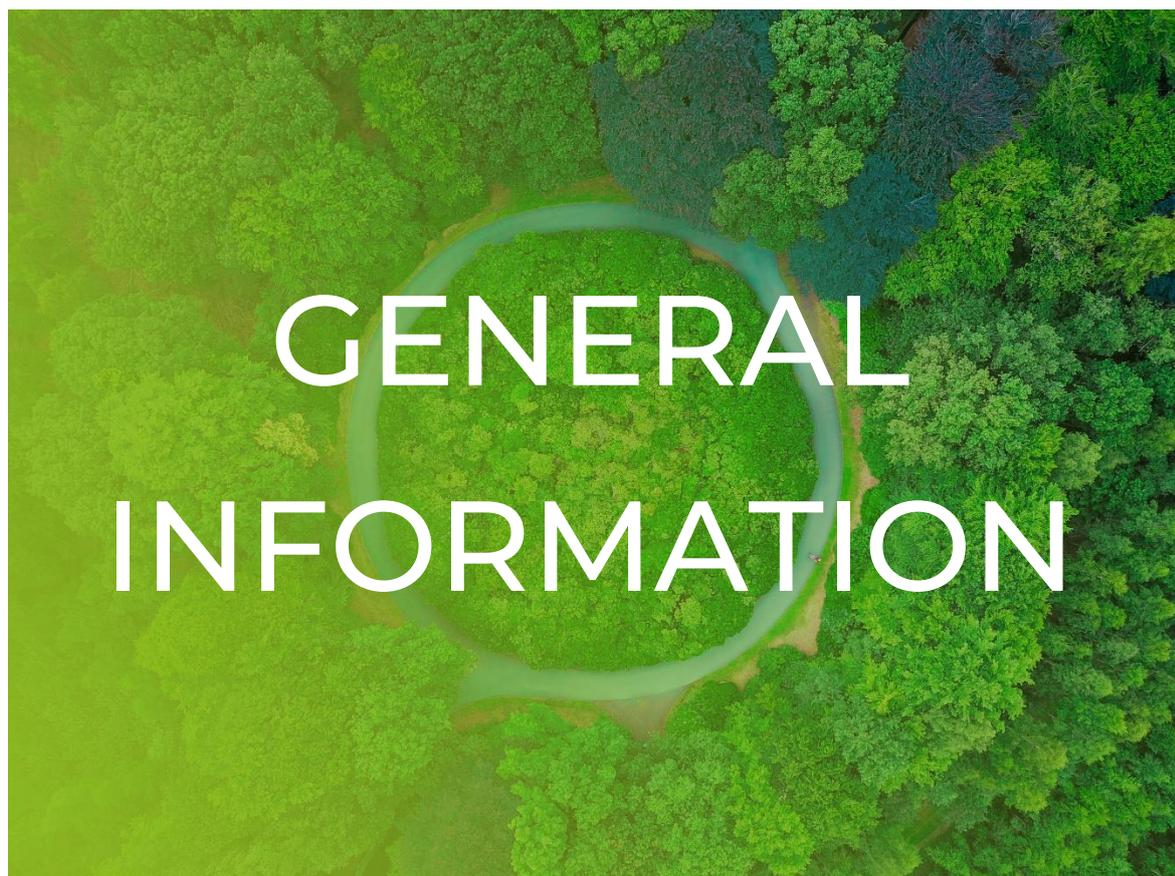
The action will be implemented in 2022 and 2023 under the supervision of Central Bohemia Regional Government and Central Bohemia Innovation Center. The latter will monitor the action plan performance.

The action's nature is such that various regional stakeholders will be participating or affected by it, such as Central Bohemia Regional Government, organizations established by the region, private organizations focused on circular economy, research and development organizations.

The Regional Stakeholder Group, a partnership platform established during the project, will continue to participate on awareness raising activities on the project outputs in the region and dissemination of the good practices among relevant target groups.

The COLOR CIRCLE project is implemented with the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the INTERREG Europe Programme 2014-2020. This publication reflects the author's views only and the INTERREG Europe programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Part I



Project

The objective of the action plan is to initiate projects in Central Bohemia that will implement the principles of circular economy in public and business sector. It will also function as an awareness raising tool and good practice generator.

It was created in 2021-2022 by the Central Bohemian Innovation Center.

Project

COLOR CIRCLE - Connecting and empowering Local authorities with Research capacities to unlock the full potential of Circular economy

Nationality partner organisation



Country & NUTS2 region

 Czech Republic, Central Bohemia

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Part II



The action plan

The action plan aims to impact

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument: Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of Central Bohemia" (RIS3 Strategy)

EU Circular Economy Policy

The first circular economy action plan at the European level was adopted in 2015. The measures supported the European Union's transition from linear to circular economy by covering product life cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. In Spring 2019, its implementation was reviewed by the European Commission, paving the way to defining new challenges for future circular economy policies. In 2020, the European Commission adopted "A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe", which is part of the European Green Deal. The new Circular Economy Action Plan supports EU's transition towards circular economy to achieve by 2050 climate neutrality, as well as support sustainable growth and jobs. The Action plan identified seven value chains as particularly relevant for reaching EU's targets : electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients. The Action plan encourages the cooperation of civil society, universities, research organisations, industry and SME.

National context

Circular economy has become a focus of Czech government lately and in 2021 a new strategy « Strategic Framework of Circular Economy of the Czech Republic 2040 » was elaborated by the Czech Ministry of the Environment. Also the topic is reflected in the Operational Programme Environment 2021-2027.

Regional context and programmes

The action plan is linked to the "Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of Central Bohemia" (RIS3 Strategy). approved in 2020 by the Regional Assembly.

Policy instrument

Regional Innovation Strategy of Central Bohemia has three priority areas:

- A) People for Innovation,
- B) Competitive and Innovative Businesses,
- C) Quality Public Research and its Benefits for the Region's Development.

RIS3 Strategy presents a strategic document providing efficiently focused support to research, development and innovations areas.

In the course of the implementation of the COLOR CIRCLE project, the circular economy was included in the RIS3 strategy as another horizontal theme. This was approved in June 2020 by the Regional Assembly as part of the update of the RIS3 strategy. Later, the topic was reflected in its action plan approved on 7th December 2021 by the Council of Competitiveness of Central Bohemia Region which serves as a steering committee of the RIS3 strategy.

RIS3 Strategy also serves as an underlying policy document upon which the EU Cohesion Policy funding to support research, development and innovation is provided in the Czech Republic. Hence, relevant parts of operational programmes in the 2021-2027 period require project applicants to link their projects to the RIS3 Strategy (either national or regional one). This need of interconnection between the operational programmes and the RIS3 has already been in place since the 2014-2020 period.

The action included in this action plan will be a new addition to activities already implemented to achieve the objectives of the strategy and will broaden its scope to include the circular economy principles.

Part III



Action plan preparation

COLOR CIRCLE project goals

The overall objective of the COLOR CIRCLE project is to unlock the full potential of circular economy by reinforcing the role and capacities of local authorities thanks to strengthened cooperation with local research communities. The project focuses on rural and small cities areas. It relies on sharing good practices of cooperation between research and local authorities that boost and tool territorial intelligence. Color Circle contributes to improve the role of local governance in regional circular economy policies by recognising circular economy as a cross cutting priority, by strengthening the connection between research and local communities and by empowering local authorities.

Action plan development

- Regional Stakeholder Group and Institute of Circular Economy provided inputs for elaboration of the action plan using good practices of project partners
- 2022+ Central Bohemian Innovation Center will monitor the implementation of the plan.

Good practices methodology as base for the Action Plan

The Interreg Europe programme supports the exchange of good practices and experience between public authorities, managing authorities, research institutes, as well as non-profit organisations to develop and deliver better public policy. During the first phase of the project, partners have to set up a stakeholder group, contribute to the policy learning platform and produce an action plan based on the good practices identified by the other partners in their regions. This action plan is implemented during phase two.

During interregional learning events, the partners presented their situation according to a case study methodology that enabled different stakeholders - regional and local authorities, research centres, circular economy solution providers, civil society - to cross views on good practices. Following this presentation, parallel sessions were held by peer groups (Local Government group; Regional policy makers' group; University / Research group; other stakeholders) to analyse the case study against several criteria: policy challenges; improvements; conditions on transferring the good practices in other regions. The groups reported in plenary. A dedicated time was given to partners from the same region to share their views on the case study, identify first lessons for their territory, and input for regional stakeholder group (RSG) meetings.

Criteria for COLOR CIRCLE good practices

Transferability to regional conditions, suitable organizations (i.e. owners / guarantors) for implementation, relevance to chosen policy instrument's (RIS3 strategy) objective, availability of funds for implementation.

Partner Good Practises

Name	Short description	Link to the COLOR CIRCLE webpage for more information
Circular itineraries using biomimetic canvas (Spain)	Service for SMEs supporting their uptake of circular economy principles	https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/6090/circular-itineraries-using-biomimetic-canvas/
The circular economy project booster: a regional call for proposals to support local CE projects (France)	Programme to support local initiatives and project to use CE principles and raise awareness	https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5515/the-circular-economy-project-booster-a-regional-call-for-proposals-to-support-local-ce-projects/

Part IV



Action 1 – Consultancy Programme for SMEs for Circular Economy

The background

Inspiration comes from the good practices presented at IRLE5: Spanish project – “Circular itineraries using biomimetic canvas” and French project “The circular economy project booster: a regional call for proposals to support local CE projects”.

Circular itineraries using biomimetic canvas is owned by Ciconia, a private environmental consultancy providing services to public administrations, companies and entrepreneurs in the areas of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainability & Quality and Circular Economy who want to move towards the circular economy and implement its principles in their operation. In case of circular economy, the services focus on: circularity diagnosis, biowaste management, development of sustainable products, circular business models and industrial symbiosis.

In particular, Ciconia has developed a methodology for the transition of business models to circulation, the part of which is the biomimetic canvas that stems from Business Model Canvas and helps the businesses to properly develop its business plan using principles of design thinking, lean manufacturing, lean startup etc.

The fact that the tool is targeted also on entrepreneurial entities was especially relevant for the linkage to the RIS3 Strategy. Instruments like this one can contribute to raising awareness of circular economy among companies and help them properly approach the opportunity presented by circular economy principles to stimulate growth of their business. As economic growth is at the heart of the RIS3 Strategy, this good practice was chosen.

The circular economy project booster: a regional call for proposals to support local CE projects is organized by Regional Council of Burgundy-Franche-Comté in cooperation with the regional branch of the State Agency for the ecological transition (ADEME). Within this project the annual calls for proposals are organized to support local authorities, public and private organizations in the development of their projects related to circular economy. It is part of the regional policy for circular economy.

The programme accepted projects from one or more of the 10 following types, which can serve as an inspiration for suitable project focus:

Part 1: Territorial circular economy approach or economic sectors

Part 2: Industrial and Territorial Ecology

Part 3: Eco-design of goods and equipment or services

Part 4: Economy of functionality and cooperation

Part 5: Extension of the duration of use - reuse, re-use, repair and reconditioning

Part 6: Collection, sorting, recycling and recovery of DMA (target: communities)

Part 7: Collection, sorting, recycling and recovery of AEDs (target: SMEs, industry)

Part 8: Use of Recycled Plastic Materials (regionalization of the ORPLAST system) (targets: local authorities, SMEs, industry)

Section 9 Substitution of raw materials (other than plastics) by secondary materials (target: local authorities, SMEs, industry)

Section 10: Prevention, collection, sorting, reuse and recycling of construction waste

Again, the fact that it is targeted also on entrepreneurial entities was especially relevant for the linkage to the RIS3 Strategy.

Since the Central Bohemia Region already provides expert services to SMEs through Central Bohemian Innovation Centre (SIC), the idea is to enlarge the portfolio of these services (so far focused on business development, financial management, operations optimization and digitalization) with the area of circular economy to spread state-of-the-art approaches to resource management among SMEs in the region with a view to help them operate more efficiently in current times of cost increase of various inputs.

This type of activity is also foreseen by the RIS3's Key area of change "Competitive and Innovative SMEs" - Strategic Objective 3: To improve innovation processes and strategic management at SMEs. As such, the above-mentioned good practices were introduced to the project platform and the

Regional Council of Competitiveness as a steering body for the RIS3 Strategy. This body comprises representatives from business, public and academic sectors. Upon their recommendation, the good practices were then adapted and fully developed by SIC's internal experts and representatives of the target group into an action described in this document using experience with an already running "SIC Platinn" programme.

Expected impact in the regional context

This action represents a Type 1 change, i.e. it introduces foreign good practice to region of Central Bohemia. It will help to raise awareness about CE among SMEs and it is expected that larger share of SMEs will use circular economy principles in their operation towards more sustainable production. Eventually, the competitiveness of SMEs will be boosted by uptake of the new know-how. Given the present system of RIS3 Strategy management with a dedicated organization (SIC), which can adopt the foreign good practice, it is expected that the action can be well steered, monitored and evaluated in the required time frame (phase 2).

Action

"SIC Platinn for Circular Economy" programme will be an addition to the present "SIC Platinn" programme, where regional entrepreneurs can get advisory services in areas of business development, organization, cooperation and finances. As a part to RIS3 policy development, circular economy theme will be added as a new

area to this programme. This programme will offer specialized consultancy / coaching / mentoring services. The programme will work as follows:

- First step is an entry consultation where the SME presents its interest to the provider (SIC) and together they formulate the actual demand of the SME.
- Based on the demand, the provider will choose appropriate expert from its database of accredited expert in various field. This database will be continuously expanded based on the demand collected from among the SMEs.
- SME will get up to 40 hours of consultancy or coaching or mentoring across an agreed period of time, usually 2-4 months. The expert will acquire knowledge of the SME's operation and provided necessary advice to help achieve the required change (this service is also called "Phase 1").
- Following the outcome of Phase 1 and an agreement between the SME, the expert and the provider, the SME can get additional up to 80 hours of services of the expert to further develop necessary change within the company (also called "Phase 2").
- The costs of this service will be partially covered by the region and partially by the SME. For the SME, the co-funding is lower in Phase 1 and higher in Phase 2.

Players involved

Central Bohemian Innovation Centre as a service provider and matchmaker of SMEs and experts will manage the programme including its monitoring and evaluation.

Central Bohemia Region will provide funding for piloting of this action in 2022.

Experts in the various fields of circular economy and experts on business development, business operation and business funding who will be providing services to SMEs.

Innovative SMEs operating in the Central Bohemia region (i.e. having seat and/or branch in the region) with significant potential of expansion.

Timeframe

The service will be opened to applicants in the 2nd half of 2022.

The pilot call will be open for several months depending on the actual demand.

By the end of 2nd Phase of Color Circle project, a first ongoing evaluation will be available. This evaluation will be part of a regular annual monitoring of the RIS3 Strategy which surveys and summarizes the present state of relevant projects. The monitoring of the programme will include number of supported companies, their basic characteristics, field of expert used, topic of the projects, number of hours provided.

Cost and source of finance

300,000 CZK for the pilot call – will allow for provision of up to 200 hrs of expert services

in the pilot call. It is expected that 3 – 8 SMEs will be supported in the pilot call. Central Bohemia Region will provide public co-funding and SMEs will partially cover the costs (20% / 50 %).

Transferability to other territories

Possible, depending on the existence of suitable managing body of the programme and available funding.

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Signature

On behalf of the Council of Central Bohemia, I agree to support and promote the implementation of the action plan detailed above.

The Council of Central Bohemia recognises the significance of the Color Circle project in the promotion of cooperation between the research community and local authorities and the role both can play on identifying circular economy solutions.

Date: 9 June 2022

Signature :



Věslav Michalík

Deputy governor for funds, grants and innovation

Sources

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4. Strategy of Regional Development of Central Bohemia 2019-2024 with outlook to 2030, available at <https://www.kr-stredocesky.cz/web/regionalni-rozvoj/strategie-rozvoje-kraje> (in Czech)
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