



REPLACE 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event

Report of the Event

AGENDA 11th March 2022 *On site Circularity Tour*

10:00-10:10	Welcome and Introduction Ferdinando Rossi (REPLACE project manager)
10:10-10:20	Lazio Region Circular Economy Objectives for the programming period 2021-27
10:20-11:00	Getting to know REPLACE regions
11:00-11:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:20-11:30	Circular Flanders: circular economy in Flanders region
11:30-12:00	Madeira: circular economy strategies (Mariana Aguiar) Forum for Circular Economy in Alentejo: CCDRA (Rosa Onofre) Limburg: Chemelot Circular Hub (Dirk Plees)
12:00-12:10	CENTRO COT - Circular economy in the textile sector (Roberto Vannucci)
12:10-12:20	REFLOW project (www.reflowproject.eu)
12:20-12:30	PLASTECO (www.interregeurope.eu/plasteco/)
12:30-12:40	DigiPrime Pilot 5 (www.digiprime.eu)
12:40-12:50	Circular Economy in Navarra (Uxue Itoiz)
12:50-13:00	Discussion and closing remarks





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The **4th Interregional Learning and Exchange event** took place in **Brussels** on the 10th and 11th of March 2022 at StamEuropa premises in Rue d’Arlon 104, Brussels.

REPLACE 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event was supposed to take place in Hamburg, hosted by HWWI, but due to a severe COVID-19 outbreak in the region and the impossibility to cancel the gathering, REPLACE Advisory Partner VELTHA ivzw offered to organize the event under a short notice.

REPLACE usual event scheme of arranging an internal and a public event was followed:

- **REPLACE 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event Consortium meeting** with Steering Committee on 10.03.22 from 10:00 to 17:00
- **On-Site Circularity Tour public session** on 11.03.2022 from 10:00 to 14:00

Due to the current pandemic restrictions, the 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange Event was held in hybrid format: on 11/03/2022 12 people were present at the Brussels premises, while 32 participated online.

Usually, REPLACE consortium visited local stakeholders active in circular economy, as part of the **REPLACE Circularity Tour: an occasion for the partnership to discover the regional characteristics and the peculiarities of the territories and the social, educational or economic activities devoted to the transition.**

Unfortunately, due to a severe COVID-19 outbreak in the Hamburg area, the 4th Interregional Learning and Exchange event had to be moved to Brussels at the last minute: as the only partner not representing a managing authority, VELTHA ivzw (Advisory Partner) decided to host an “**on-site Circularity Tour**” devoted to the exchange of experiences with other regions, projects and initiatives active in circular economy.

The goal was to encounter other public authorities, additional projects and actions fostering circular economy, both from the regional point of view and under sectorial perspectives, to enlarge the transfer of good practices, expertise, know-how and strategies.

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With the aim of creating a networking and experience-sharing public event, the “**on-site Circularity Tour**” of 11th March 2022 saw the participation of: Flanders, Madeira, Alentejo, Limburg, Centro Cot (circular textile), REFLOW (project fostering circular economy in cities www.reflowproject.eu/), PLASTEKO (project www.interregeurope.eu/plasteco/), DigiPrime Pilot 5 (www.digiprime.eu digital services to support public authorities for circular economy transition) and Navarra.

Veltha ivzw, the host and organizer, opened the event and welcomed the participants, then **REPLACE project was introduced**: the objectives and the main results achieved so far (www.interregeurope.eu/replace).

REPLACE regions’ efforts in enhancing circular economy were briefly reported with examples from Crete Region, Centro CCDRC Portugal, NEXA La Reunion and HWWI Hamburg.

Lazio Region, Lead Partner of REPLACE, kickstarted the meeting with an overview of the circular economy strategy for the new programming period 2021-2027: the objective is to improve the region circularity, generating spill-over effects to boost sustainable and circular development, ensuring the involvement of the civil society.

Flanders highlighted the outstanding achievement of the **circular economy monitoring framework**, resulting from numerous years of continuous effort. The monitoring framework is composed of diverse indicators, is available online and is updated every year. The Flanders strategy relies on the cooperation of different types of stakeholders, in fact public-private partnerships are playing a key and proactive role in achieving the objectives of reducing the footprint by 30%. Nonetheless, one of the bottlenecks identified is the under-representation of associations and civil society.

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Madeira (Portuguese region) presented the “Madeira circular platform”, a collaborative space to promote cooperation among Quadruple Helix actors to support and facilitate the transition toward a circular economy. In fact, the platform brings together civil society, public administration, academia, research and innovation actors and the private sector, offering a collaborative tool to promote best practices.

Alentejo (Portuguese region) evidenced its unique tool, namely the “Forum for Circular Economy”. The Forum is open to all actors: private companies, citizens, public authorities, educational institutions and even children. The goal is to promote community-engagement to foster circular economy and cooperation.

Limburg (Netherland Province) offered a detailed overview of “Chemelot Circular Hub”, as an example of proper and well-studied policy action that turned a pressing issue into a positive opportunity. In fact, Chemelot served to reinvent a polluting and outdated sector into a circular hub for chemicals, evidencing the significant virtuous results that an innovative, creative, sustainable and circular strategy can have on a territory and on its development.

Centro Cot (Centro Tessile Cotoniero e Abbigliamento spa www.centrocot.it/), an Italian center specialized on the textile sector (funded by the cooperation of associations of entrepreneurs, categories, labour association, public authorities and credit institutions) and offering support and services throughout all the textile value chain, presented an overview of the future implications that circular economy brings to the textile sector, being the latter very high-consuming and polluting, especially focusing on the new technologies and new methodologies to re-use materials.

REFLOW (www.reflowproject.eu) H2020 project brought the perspective of the cities and the creation of circular and regenerative flows involving communities, business and local government; the pilot actions in different cities allowed to reuse water in Berlin, avoid food-waste generation in Milan and construction of circular advanced technologies for the Fair system in Paris.





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PLASTEKO (<https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/plasteco/>) Interreg Europe project presented its goal of reducing plastic waste within all value-chains by inserting and promoting new business models focusing on circular design, while supporting regions in reducing littering.

DigiPrime (www.digiprime.eu) is an H2020 project delivering the first European federated platform dedicated to circular economy, the platform offers numerous services, targeted to companies and to public authorities. The services dedicated to the regions were presented, namely cross-regional value-chain identification, Material flow monitoring and aggregated system oriented key performance indicators, Circular Innovation Hubs Integration and Barrier Identification and Legislation support.

Navarra (Spanish region) contribution focused on circular economy strategy, in line with the RIS3 cross-cutting priorities of ecological and digital transitions. The Circular Navarra Catalogue was presented as a tool to promote circular business models and best practices in the region, fostering Research and Innovation opportunities.



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