CESME
Interreg Europe



1st Newsletter CESME+

March 2022

http://www.interregeurope.eu/cesme

Editorial

The Circular Economy for SMEs – Additional Activities (CESME+) project was launched in October 2022 in the framework of INTERREG Europe. The Additional Activities of the CESME project, aim to improve the update of policy makers on circular economy, on more effective measures to strengthen SMEs and also to facilitate SMEs to adopt circular economy step by step. The additional activities will be implemented over a period of two semesters, ending in October 2022. At the core of the activities is the exchange of experiences, through the promotion of good practices and through meetings of partners and stakeholders. Seven partners are taking part in the project from four EU member countries.

Overall budget: €301.600.

European Union
European Regiona
Development Fund

CESME Partnership

The CESME partnership consists of seven organisations from four European countries (Greece, Italy, Finland and Bulgaria):

- ANATOLIKI SA: Organisation for Local Development, Greece
- Metropolitan City of Bologna, Italy
- ART-ER Joint Stock Consortium Company, Italy
- Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia, Finland
- JPYP Business Service, Finland
- BAMEE Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts, Bulgaria
- Region Development Fund of Central Macedonia on behalf of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece

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The INTERREG Europe Programme

INTERREG Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. By creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions, it aims to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and places.

By building on its forerunner, INTERREG IVC (2007-2013), INTERREG Europe aims to get maximum return from the EUR 359 million financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for 2014-2020.

INTERREG Europe co-finances interregional cooperation projects with an amount of up to 85% of total project budget. Project activities have to be carried out in a partnership of policy organisations based in different countries in Europe.

The areas of support for 2014-2020 are: 1) research and innovation, 2) SME competitiveness, 3) low-carbon economy, 4) the environment and resource efficiency.

Read: www.interregeurope.eu

CESME+ activities and next steps…

During the first project semester, the project partners were identifying good practices on circular economy in all the participating regions.

In addition, four meetings of Local Support Groups in all partners' countries took place, while the kick-off meeting held online on October 21st 2021.



The 2nd project meeting organised on March 29-30th 2022 in Thessaloniki, Greece with the participation of partners stakeholders from four countries.



In addition, a report on COVID-19 impact on SMEs and their actions to promote circular economy was developed by the projects partners.

Furthermore, a good practice (Biogas Lagada) identified in Greece was presented in Interreg Europe workshop in January 2022.

In the 2nd semester, the 3rd project meeting (final meeting) will be held in Finland as well as four Local Support Group meetings will take place in all regions.

For further information:

CESME website

CESME FB

CESME Twitter

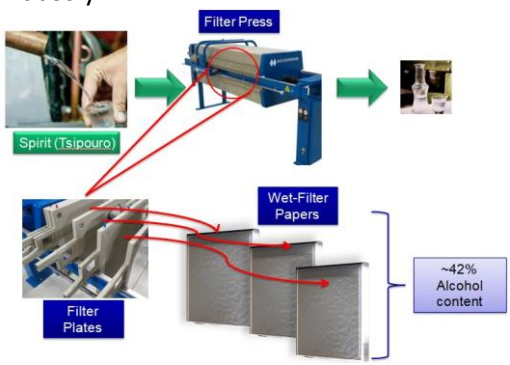
CESME LinkedIn

Circular Economy Good Practices

One of the outputs of the CESME+ project is to identify Circular Economy Good Practices. Each partner is invited to search and present its good practices during the interregional events held. The good practices collection within the field tackled could act as a turning point in order to produce concrete, transferable practices not only benefiting the partner regions, but also for inspiration to all European Regions.

Domain Agrovision-Reuse of wine-industry by-products (GR)

Domaine Agrovision is a winery located in Ierissos, Chalkidiki (Region of Central Macedonia). Agrovision tries to reduce this high cost via the re-use of its by-products. A challenge that an industry has to phase due to Covid-19 is the high cost of the cleaning and the disinfection of their equipment and surfaces. In this context, two disinfectants are produced by the waste and by-products of the wine-industry.



Wine industry generates various waste and by-products such as wine lees, grape pomace and grape seeds. The above can further be used for the production of a spirit called tsipouro.

During the distillation process, the first litter (called 'head') generated by the traditional copper vessels used for tsipouro production is rejected due to its composition in ethyl acetate and acetaldehyde as well as due to its high content in alcohol (80%, v/v). This rejected quantity is being utilized by Agrovision as disinfectant at the industrial surfaces.

Similarly, a second by-product generated during the production of tsipouro, i.e. the filter papers, are also being used for cleaning and disinfecting the industrial surfaces. These filter papers contain alcohol since they come from the filtration of the spirit before the bottling process for the removal of various residues.

At the moment, Agrovision is the sole beneficiary of the practice due to the produced quantity.

For more information.

Responsible Innovators Award (IT)

Responsible Innovators Award is an initiative of Emilia - Romagna Region (Italy) to reward significant experiences about sustainable development including social responsibility and circular economy in the regional territory by different categories of subjects including enterprises.

The objective is to give visibility, promote and disseminate good practices, to encourage processes of replicability of experiences also in a logic of consolidation of the achieved good results. The selected good practices are experiences that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through an integrated vision of sustainability in terms of innovation of processes, systems and products.

Started in 2015, each year the criteria of award change depending on the economic and social context. In the 2020 edition it has been added the category of Covid-19 Resilience award where it was assessed the ability of companies to cope

with the Covid-19 emergency.

The selected good practices are rewarded and published in a report. In the 2020 report there are experiences of companies that have developed projects about the circular economy and the COVID19 resilience capacity. For example, a company has presented a project that combines the aspects of circular economy and resilience to covid-19.

This company, belonging to the textile sector, has converted its production assuring a reduction of the environmental impact connected with the intensive use of masks due to the covid-19 epidemic. Thanks to the research division they have proposed a new generation of masks made with environmentally friendly and recycled materials that allows a reduction in environmental impact.

Supporting Sustainable Growth and Vitality in Regions (FI)

Supporting Sustainable Growth and Vitality in Regions is national funding instrument allocated for Finnish regions. In March 2020 the instrument was quickly adapted to respond to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Since the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (RCSO) has under three calls funded multiple development projects that support local economy to recover from the crisis in sustainable way.

MAR 2020: The call was directed for municipal business developers to start projects that support local SME's in their recovery from the crisis. Six development projects covering the whole region was set-up. Typical activities: communicating about financing and development opportunities, activating and advising in applying funds, supporting SMEs in renewal of businesses and sharing good examples. Example: Developing businesses during crisis by JPYP Business Service.

OCT 2020: The call was directed for more general development projects based on the regional Covid-19 recovery plan. In addition, extension funds were given to all of the 1st call projects. Example: Business models after the crisis carried out by Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK).

FEB 2021: The call was directed for more general development projects that support the priorities of the regional strategy. Examples: Climate and circular economy roadmap for South Ostrobothnia (by RCSO) and Climate roadmap for the food sector (by SeAMK).

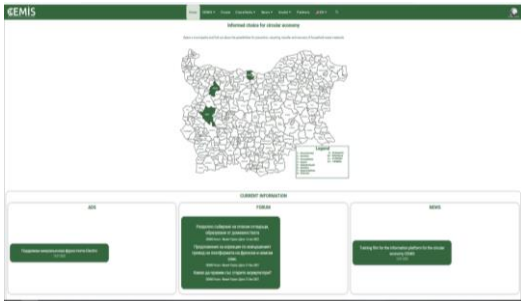
For more information

CEMIS – Circular Economy Information System (BG)

CEMIS was developed in 2021 as an information platform, providing users with a systematic and informed choice about the possibilities for prevention and reduction of the generated household waste, separate collection, preparation for reuse and recycling of household waste materials.

The main goal of the platform is to directly engage business, non-governmental and civil sector, as direct participants and users of the pilot demonstration model for circular economy, enriching their knowledge by providing understandable and user-oriented information and encourage them to increase the share of prevented household waste. The platform contributes to transfer of household waste materials for preparation for reuse and/or recycling with their direct participation.

The implementation of CEMIS has a direct impact on households (with information, guidelines and their inclusion in a resource-oriented community) to reduce the amount of generated household waste, through awareness and building environmentally sound consumer habits.



The platform is developed in close collaboration with municipal waste experts. It is now active for three municipalities in Bulgaria – Sofia Municipality, Municipality of Vratsa and Municipality of Nikopol. The main conclusions and recommendations for municipalities as a result of the implemented analyses during the practice implementation were lack of a system for collecting quality information for waste management (not measured in numbers) through efficient monitoring process.

The results achieved so far since the official launch of CEMIS at the end of 2021 there are more than

- 166 000 Facebook users reached;
- 11 000 users of CEMIS;
- 26 000 views;
- 107 000 events count;
- 600 000 impressions reached;
- 73 000 YouTube video views;
- 2 700 t more municipal waste collected for recycling/recovery

News and Events

… Report on COVID-19 impact

This report aims to document the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with an emphasis on the areas of the circular economy and sustainable development. The report is a deliverable of the Interreg Europe CESME + project.

The report records the data found in the countries of Bulgaria, Finland, Greece and Italy. The areas of the countries participating in this project are at regional level, that is the region of South Ostrobothnia of Finland, the region of Central Macedonia of Greece, the region of Emilia-Romagna of Italy and the wider area of Sofia of Bulgaria, as Bulgaria is not divided in regions. The very large percentage of small and medium enterprises in these 4 areas is the reason for the emphasis of the report in this category of business sector. In all 4 areas, small and medium enterprises dominate, almost completely.

… also

• The project webpage is active at http://www.interregeurope.eu/cesme/. The webpage will be regularly updated with project news and events. You may also search for CESME project on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Send to us news and good practices on circular economy to disseminate it to the public!Information about Circular Economy events will be available at the news section of the CESME project website.



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