

Action Plan for the Lodzkie Region

General information

Project: „**REPLACE - REgional PoLicy Actions for Circular Economy**”

Project ID: PGI05807

Duration of the project: 1 August 2019 - 31 July 2023

Partner organisation(s) concerned: Lodzkie Region

Country: Poland

NUTS 1: Central Macroregion

NUTS 2: Lodzkie

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The project concerns:	Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme	X
	European Territorial Cooperation Programme	
	Other of regional development policy instrument	
Policy instrument:	European Funds for Lodzkie 2027 (FEŁ2027)	





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REPLACE project overview

REPLACE project aims at improving the management of regional policy instruments dealing with circular economy by exploiting cross-regional cooperation, REPLACE is structured in 4 logically linked steps:

- Local Analysis
- Cross-regional synergies
- Funding Instruments: focus on sectors
- Assessment Criteria

In addition, REPLACE developed the **Circular Benchmark Tool** to offer public authorities an easy to use assessment method to evaluate the state of the art of circular economy in the territory.

The cooperation activities suffered from the lack of interpersonal exchange, caused by the impossibility to travel for the most part of phase 1 due to COVID-19 pandemic: the consortium recovered all learning activity through online events.

The Local Analysis applies a methodology, previously built through interregional cooperation by 17 European regions within the SCREEN H2020 CSA (coordination and support action) project www.screen-lab.eu, to assess local capabilities and potentials, while mapping relevant stakeholders, research and educational capacities. The Local Analysis reflects the approach used to identify the RIS3 sectors, namely the EDP (entrepreneurial discovery process), and further explores regional potentialities at a micro-level, involving stakeholders from the Quadruple Helix.

Out of this analysis the regions were able to identify possible synergies in sectors endowed with thig potential for circular economy.

The funding instruments and opportunities are studied at sectorial/value chain level, in order to understand how the region is supporting circular economy crucial areas.

Under REPLACE logical framework, the last step is the testing and adaptation of the Assessment criteria for evaluating circular economy proposals: within the 2014-2020 programming period, circular economy did not have a dedicated set of indicators to verify the level of circularity of project proposals.

REPLACE wants to overcome such gap by studying how to apply and tailor the Assessment criteria (developed through the H2020 SCREEN project) taking into account that each region and/or managing authority presents its own evaluation procedures and assessing methodologies: the point of strength of the Assessment Table developed is its simplicity and adaptability, allowing its use under the different evaluation structure employed. REPLACE demonstrated to the actors involved in the evaluation of the call for proposals not only that more appropriate assessment criteria and indicators are needed, but also that an instrument is available and ready to be further tailored.

Policy context

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

In 2015, the European Commission published the communication on Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy. This document indicates that the transition to a circular economy (CE), where the value of products, materials and resources in the economy is maintained for as long as possible and waste generation is kept to a minimum, is an important contribution to the EU's efforts to create a sustainable, low-carbon, resource-efficient and competitive economy.

The Lodzkie Region during its transformation process is taking measures to support the transition from a linear to a circular economy, in particular through investments in selective collection and recycling of waste, bio-waste, investments aimed at preventing waste generation or promoting reuse.

The regional authorities plan to support entrepreneurs in investing in production facilities, industrial equipment and eco-design of products and packaging leading to a reduction in the consumption of raw materials or the amount of generated waste. Supporting investments in a circular economy will allow to increase the region's competitiveness while respecting the principles of sustainable development.

The action we plan to implement consists of supporting the development of a circular economy in the Lodzkie Region by incorporating the international solutions presented within the REPLACE project into the regional programme entitled "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027". (FEŁ2027). As a result, Beneficiaries from the Lodzkie Region will obtain co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund for the implementation of projects related to, among others, investments enabling a transition from a linear business model to a circular one.

Details of the action (s) envisaged

ACTION 1

Name of the action: **Supporting the development of a circular economy in the Lodzkie Region by incorporating international solutions presented within the REPLACE project into the regional programme "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027".**

- 1. Relevance to the project** *(please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)*

As particularly worthy and possible to implement solutions in the field of circular economy development support, we considered those developed by partners from France, Germany and Romania. They have been included in the mainstream of support intervention planned under Priority II of "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027": "European Funds for a Green Lodzkie".

A good practice that we have been inspired to develop in our action is the "Ecodesign diagnosis" from La Réunion (France), which aims to train interested enterprises in the circular economy while carrying out their individual diagnosis. This practice has a chance to be implemented in the Lodzkie Region, thanks to the introduction of similar contents in the FEŁ2027 draft on projects from the area of education or counselling in the context of the CE, preparation of planning documents on the CE and investments supporting the CE in enterprises (investments for eco-design of products and packaging).

Another example of good practice that particularly appealed to us is Hamburg Bottle - Introducing a closed loop of plastics from the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (Germany). The initiative developed by a brand that creates detergents in bottles that are 100% recycled from local plastic waste can be transferred to our region as it is part of an pro-environmental production activity.

In the FEŁ2027 project, planned are also investments aimed at preventing waste or promoting reuse, which overlap with some of the aspects of good practices in the textile sector presented by the Nord-Est Regional Development Agency (Romania). The Lodzkie Region sees opportunities to implement the objectives of these practices: from REDU -



organizing places where textile collection takes place, from Sustainable material production - the application of modern technological solutions in the production of textiles, which will allow the production of high quality materials, the reuse of post-production waste and the creation of new jobs in the textile, clothing, leather and footwear sectors (TCLF).

2. Nature of the action (*please describe precisely the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented*)

The aim of the action is to develop the circular economy in the Lodzkie Region by integrating circular good practices and solutions from the REPLACE project into the regional programme "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027".

FEŁ2027 is one of the main regional policy instruments in the context of pro-environmental investment management. It contains a catalogue of directions and areas of investment and potential project interventions that will be implemented in the current financial perspective - i.e. in the years 2021-2027. The experience gained through participation in the REPLACE project (participation in meetings, study materials developed under the project and good practices presented by partners, submission of relevant proposals to the document under preparation during the public consultation process) were then transferred to the team of the Department of Regional Policy of the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region. The ongoing consultation and opinion process of the FEŁ2027 by the European Commission aims to incorporate the most effective and promising investment directions, including, among others, those in the field of CE. Part of the scope of intervention has been introduced in relation to the experience developed in international projects, including "Regional Policy Actions for a Circular Economy" – REPLACE.

The sequence of systemic activities in the management of the regional policy instrument is as follows. The objectives of the REPLACE project were included in FEŁ2027 draft under the category of areas in relation to which potential beneficiaries may receive funding for their projects. The European Commission, after carrying out the opinion process and after reaching a consensus on the final shape of FEŁ2027, will submit it to the Lodzkie Region authorities for adaptation. Then the schedule of calls for proposals will be announced.

The projects that will receive funding under FEŁ2027 will contribute to the strengthening and development of, among others :

- sustainable supply chains (taking into account Regional Smart Specialisations - RIS);
- Increase pro-environmental consumer awareness, making optimal choices that are also beneficial to strengthening the competitiveness of the economy in the region;
- raw material and energy efficiency in enterprises and organisations.

The final, horizontal result of the applied synergy of the REPLACE project and the FEŁ2027 instrument will be the improvement of environmental parameters, prevention of climate



change intensification, protection of biodiversity and natural resources - consequently a significant improvement of the quality of life of the inhabitants in the region.

Under Priority 2 "European Funds for Green Lodzkie", Specific Objective RSO2.6. "Supporting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy", the following possibilities have been planned:

- investments in selective collection (combined with education of the local community covered by the project, including promotion of reuse), bio-waste treatment facilities, facilities for purification of selectively collected waste or recycling of waste;
- investments designed to prevent waste or promote reuse;
- investments that support the circular economy in enterprises;
- education or mentoring on circular economy, preparation of planning documents on circular economy.

Moreover, these actions are in line with the Second Policy Objective: "A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility".

3. Stakeholders involved *(please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the implementation of the action 1 and explain their role)*

- Organisational units of the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region, in particular the Regional Policy Department (as an executive unit) which coordinates programming and monitoring of regional development, creates the Regional Operational Programme (ROP 2014-2020, FEŁ2027).
- Potential Beneficiaries of the calls for proposals announced by the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region under FEŁ2027, interested in the developing of the field of circular economy (e.g. SMEs in the region).

4. Timeframe *(please specify the timing envisaged for action 1)*

Years 2022-2023

The planned action concerning the guarantee of records related to the development of circular economy in the Lodzkie Region within the regional programme "European Funds for the Lodzkie 2021-2027" - has been achieved - relevant records were included in the draft of the above mentioned document. Currently, FEŁ2027 draft is under negotiation with the



European Commission - the programme has not been accepted yet - in the meantime it will still be necessary to monitor the process of its preparation.

Activity	Time frame
The Board of Lodzkie Region by the resolution No. 190/22 adopted another draft of the regional program "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027" together with a draft environmental impact forecast. On March 15, these documents were officially sent to the European Commission, which means the start of formal negotiations of the program.	March 2022
Comments on FEŁ2027 sent by the European Commission	June 2022
Expected time of acceptance of the FEŁ2027 by the European Commission	Q4 2022 /Q1 2023
Expected date of submission of the final application to the Lodzkie Region's authorities for official approval of the action.	Q2 2023

5. Costs *(please estimate the costs related to the implementation of action 1)*

Costs referred to Lodzkie internal staff dedicated to the support and learning exchange, including:

- Engagement of 2 staff member dedicating 1/3 of their time during the year included in Phase 2:
- Approximate cost for 2 participants in the national scientific conferences/branch congresses
- Approximate cost of participation of 2 persons in the foreign conferences/branch congresses
- Materials
- Expertise/ Report/ Expert presentation/ Publication
- Organisation of an event closing / summing up the project
- Multimedia support

Approximately - **17 000 EUR**



6. Funding sources *(please describe how action 1 will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in part II):*

Regional programme: "European Funds for Lodzkie 2021-2027"

Date: _____

Name of the organisation(s) : :

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s): _____