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International cooperation for innovation in urban development policy and practice: results and perspectives from EU-NA & EU-LAC – 13 Oct. 2020

Session 2: Circular Economy & Energy Transition

BOLOGNA (IT)

Cooperating with: **AUSTIN, (USA)**

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A European Union
Programme

Enhancing the Entrepreneurship of SMEs in Circular Economy of the Agri-Food Chain

Circular Economy was the topic of the IUC cooperation with the city of **Austin**. We found common interest to design future projects in **food chain**. Thanks to the **SinCE-AFC project** – **Interreg Europe** program – the **Metropolitan City of Bologna** is contributing to the sustainable development of the excellence of its **local agricultural system**, involving SMEs in the **Agri-Food Chain in the Circular Economy**.

Through the promotion of appropriate horizontal management and financial mechanisms, the project aims at improve policies to facilitate the adoption of measures to support **innovation**, derive **knowledge** and develop close collaboration among the European Circular Economy Network. We will try to involve in these processes also the **IUC partners**.



RELOS3
Interreg Europe



SinCE-AFC
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

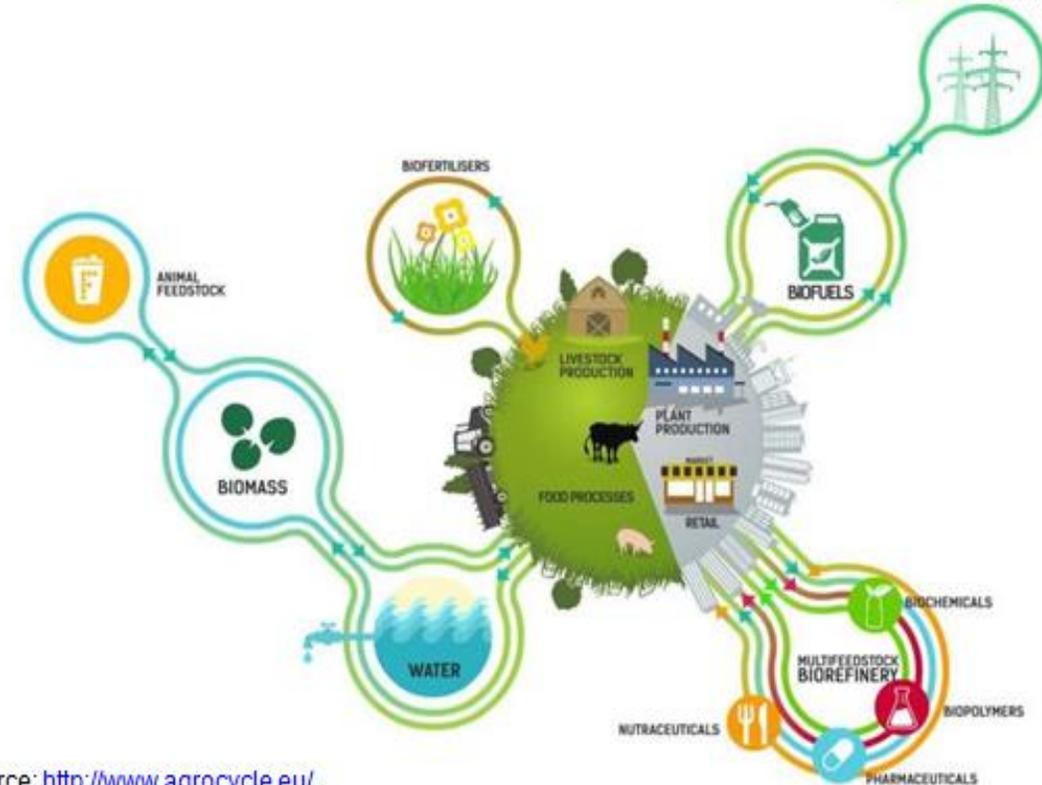
Circular Economy focus



SinCE-AFC
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Source: <http://www.agrocycle.eu/>

How were/are the thematic stakeholders successfully involved and engaged?

All activities are carried out with the involvement of local stakeholders, represented in the “**Local Stakeholder Group**”, through meetings and **consultation processes**. We are working with stakeholders to identify **best practices**.

Thanks to collaboration with ENEA, GP1 is “ICESP Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform”.

Thanks to collaboration with the LAG BolognAppennino, GP2 is “Biological District of the Bolognese Apennines”.

An important relationship was created with **Italy- America Chamber of Commerce of Texas** and a group of start ups were founded in order to support market analysis for the Texas market. A delegation of the City of Austin visited **FICO** the largest Food Park in the world, located in Bologna.

Involving local stakeholders is a fundamental issues in the project because its results will be used for the implementation of a “**Local Regional Action Plan**”. As far as Metropolitan City of Bologna is concerned, this implementation will directly affect the evolution of its **Metropolitan Strategic Plan**.

Project stakeholders are: Selected SMEs and business, Universities, Research Agencies and Institutions, Local Authorities, Experts, Associations and group of interest.



City of Food
is Bologna

How are your cities planning to sustain the cooperation and implementation of planned actions?

The **Metropolitan City of Bologna** is trying to respond to a locally embedded global challenge: to implement a sustainable use of natural resources in order to avoid potential dramatic environmental scenarios. This commitment will allow to maintain the cooperation once the IUC programme as finished because for its implementation requires the widest possible involvement of partners and cooperation.

For the new IURC programme to help cities be success in sustaining their cooperation under a thematic networking we think that these actions could be useful:

1. Tapping opportunities of the **projects funded by the Institutions of European Union**;
2. Overcoming the **fragmentation of competences** in order to solve problems with the necessary speed and effectiveness (re-composition and streamlining of decision-making procedures) and taking the risk of experimenting new integrated networking models of cooperation;
3. **Fostering the training** to improve the policy makers' skills and personal entrepreneurial competencies towards sustainability;
4. Developing shared action plans with common initiatives for sustainable cities and territories at **metropolitan and territorial level**.

What is the added value of International Urban Cooperation?

With the support of **IUC**, the expected added value for the partners are:

- 1) Creation of **Circular Economy horizontal supporting mechanisms**
- 2) **More SMEs** that make use of the new supporting mechanisms
- 3) More **SMEs, Universities, Research Centers** involved in CE processes
- 4) Improved **waste management Skills** of SMEs
- 5) New initiatives to **simplify the implementation of CE innovation activities**
- 6) New start-ups in sustainable activities
- 7) Promotion of a **IUC Center of competence** for the design of **sustainable packaging**



We want create a **synergy** between the added value of the project and international urban cooperation e.g. through the promotion of joint studies to internationally compare successful good practices in the several urban contexts.



IUC Networks of interest to continue working under IURC

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- 1 Urban Mobility, Connectivity & Transport
- 2 Smart Cities & Digital Transition
- 3 Urban Regeneration-Urban Renewal: Poverty reduction, Housing, Social
- 4 Circular Economy, Waste & Sustainable Production/Consumption
- 5 Urban Planning for Sustainable & Healthy Cities- Sustainable Land Use-NBS
- 6 Climate Action, Energy, Water & Air Quality
- 7 Innovation & Economic Growth-Strategic Sectors-Jobs & Skills



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