



SinCE-AFC
Interreg Europe

6th NEWSLETTER
August 2022

You are reading the 6th SinCE-AFC Newsletter!

After three years SinCE-AFC project has reached the end of its first phase of activities. The 6th and last Newsletter sums up our activities in the last semester.

You are welcome to our website for more project news and also you can find there the main project outputs.

Visit: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/since-afc/>





The main focus in the 6th semester of the project was on:

- interregional meeting with site visits in Hungary
- organisation of local support group (LSG) meetings
- finalization of Action Plans
- preparation of the project final video

6th INTERREGIONAL MEETING, 11-12.05.2022, Debrecen, Hungary

Hajdú-Bihar County Government hosted the 6th SinCE-AFC Project meeting and study visit which was organised in a hybrid form. Representatives from Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania arrived to Debrecen the other partners joined in online. On the first day on behalf of the host institution, Mr. Zoltán Pajna, President of Hajdú-Bihar County's General Assembly opened the event. He highlighted that building on the fruitful cooperation of the SinCE-AFC partnership, Hajdú-Bihar County Government has succeeded in integrating the circular economy into the policy-making process and finally in incorporating the relevant concrete measures into the planning. Telling about the role of the SinCE-AFC project, he confirmed that the project has provided significant added value in identifying the most appropriate solutions and adapting them to the circumstances





at county and municipal level. He added: this will result in a higher quality of life for the population, a more sustainable use of the available natural resources, while also providing an opportunity to increase the knowledge and awareness and responsibility of the many small agri-food businesses. The SinCE-AFC collaboration has been fundamental in helping the county to play an active role in the ongoing development of the national circular economy framework strategy. On behalf of the host and the Lead Partner, Judit Karácsonyi and Vasiliki Papadopoulou launched the Interregional event presenting the agenda and planned work timing. Following the introductory issues, partners presented their Action Plans, project activities, achievements and results so far. After the presentations the following tasks were discussed:

- Administrative and Financial Issues
- Introduction to Phase 2
- Monitoring of Action Plans' Implementation
- Briefing of next steps and discussion

During the second day of the event 2 study visits took place:

1. On-site visit to a collection point of "Not a Drop" in the centre of Debrecen - coordinated collection of used cooking oil.

The practice is initiated by a private actor, Biotrans Ltd. (having an ISCC certificate) to organize a collection program for residential used cooking oil responding the increasing demand of municipalities. The practice is a successful example of partnership between public actors and engaged private ones. Mr. László CSERHÁTI, head of the "CseppetSem!" (Not-a-Drop) Programme, presented the details of the initiative to the partners.

At present, containers for the collection of waste cooking oil have been placed in 40 locations in Debrecen, in every neighbourhood. Some Hungarian municipalities already have such a





collection system, but as the 40 collection points in Debrecen cover practically the whole city, this is unique in Hungary. It is also important to underline the environmental impact of this programme, as one litre of used cooking oil can pollute one million litres of water. The people of Debrecen can now put used cooking oil, cooking fat, coconut oil and palm oil - only used household cooking oil, not motor oil - in sealed plastic bottles in containers at home. It is therefore very important that used cooking oil is not poured into the containers, but is placed in a sealed plastic bottle together with the bottle. If drips do occur, they will be caught by the drip tray underneath the container, so that the ground underneath the container cannot be contaminated. The innovative feature of the Debrecen solution is that the installer equips the 800-litre collection containers with saturation sensors so that they can be replaced when they are full. Based on experience in other cities so far, it is estimated that in Debrecen, 1 kilogram of used cooking oil per inhabitant per year - around 200 tonnes in total - is planned to be collected. Biotrans Kft., a 100% Hungarian-owned company that also collects the used cooking oil, will produce biodiesel and biogas, thus contributing to the energy security of the country.

More info:

<https://english.biotrans.hu/collecting-used-cooking-oil/>

2. Visit to BoldAgro Ltd., Derecske

Bold Agro is a committed agri-food business located in Derecske, Hajdú-Bihar County. Their vision focuses on three main aspects: providing locally grown food with better quality and in bigger quantities, using sustainable growing practices and working at local, national and international scale. Focusing on circular economy issues, during the processes (designing, authorization, implementation, operation, discontinuation of the activity) the company endeavoured for reduction of the emissions at the source and application of the natural resources due to the application of the technique. Bold Agro provided a short introduction of their work and success including on-site visit on apple orchard and processing facility. Project partners were welcomed and guided by the owner of the company, Mr. Imre SZABÓ, the founder of this flourishing family business. Partners had the opportunity to visit the apple orchard.





During the trip, several stops were included where details were provided concerning the history, the approach, the social and environmental responsibility and actions of the company. Numerous green solutions are currently applied on the fields and in the linking plants concerning all fields of their activities: pig farming, fruit production, fruit juice production, crop production and hospitality including the well-recognized restaurant and event rooms. They have always sought to apply state-of-the-art knowledge in practice, so knowledge-based agriculture is an important value. They also take responsibility for our environment and pay particular attention to the flora and fauna around us, air purity, soil biosphere, water use and reducing environmental pressures.

Their unique Garden Education Programme provides 10,000 young school children a year with an exciting insight into responsible gardening. In addition, more than 23,000 children are now enjoying the fruits of the Derecske garden at school through the School Fruit Scheme.

More info: <https://boldagro.hu/hu>





LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS (LSG)

Poland, 23-24.02.2022

Wielkopolska Region held the LSG meeting online on 23,24.02.2022. The participants were greeted by Mrs. Damiana Nowak, Director of the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznan. The meeting had three main topics:

- the participants were briefly reminded of the subject of the project and discussed in detail good practices presented during the study visit in Ireland
- the participants got familiar with the subsequent stakeholder consultation report.
- the third part of the meeting was devoted to the improvement of the Action Plan created so far and the preparation of its final version. The discussion focused mainly on the issue of cooperation within the Wielkopolska Stakeholders Group on the creation of the Wielkopolska CE Market (circular economy) and the rules that should apply at this market.

More information about the event [here](#).

Ireland, 15.03.2022

The sixth semester LSG meeting took place at the Enterprise Fund Business Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on the 15th March 2022. This was the first in person meeting since the onset of the Covid19 pandemic. Michael Tunney, SinCE-AFC Project Manager at Local Enterprise Office Donegal, chaired the meeting.

At the outset Maura Toner, SinCE-AFC Project Executive gave a summary of her work since the fifth semester LSG meeting in September 2021.

The LSG were advised that the 2nd Stakeholder Consultation process has been completed following the compilation of a comprehensive report by Maura and Michael. This report has been shared with the PPs.

A detailed presentation was also given of the Local Enterprise Office Donegal's Action Plan.

The LSG were invited to attend the upcoming visit to Debrecen, Hungary, which is being organised by Hajdú-Bihar County Government in May.





Italy, 17.05.2022

The One-stop-shops coordination group hosted the lasted SINCE-AFC stakeholders meeting in Bologna

32 participants issued from the one-stop-shops (SUAPs is the Italian acronym) coordination group from the metropolitan area of Bologna, met online on 17 May. The event was led by Sara Maldina, head of the office for coordination and simplification for local businesses. The meeting was opened by Giovanna Trombetti, Director of the Economic Development, then Orsola Milani presented the status of the Since-AFC project and the local action plan. In particular the guidelines setting for the local markets were presented, following three main themes: organic materials, inorganic materials and short supply chain. The results of a previously conducted survey were also presented, which naked interesting aspects: in fact they outlined how local markets are – in most cases – losing their variety and interests for the general public.

More information about the event [here](#).

Greece, 31.05.2022

The meeting was organized by the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia, on behalf of the Region of Central Macedonia, together with the Organization for Local Development, ANATOLIKI S.A.

The meeting was held online on Tuesday, 31st of May, 2022. The opening speech was delivered by Mrs. Lambrini Tsoli, from the Department of European Union Projects of the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia. Mrs. Tsoli, after welcoming all the involved members of the Local Support Group attended the meeting, made a brief presentation of the topics of the 6th and final LSG meeting, referring to the 1st phase of the SinCE-AFC project.

The first section of the meeting was about the Regional Action Plan for Central Macedonia, the next section of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the updated National Action Plan for Circular Economy and the last section of the meeting, Mrs. Vasiliki Papadopoulou, representative of ANATOLIKI S.A., the project's Lead Partner, presented the results of the 6th Project Meeting, which was held in hybrid mode, in Debrecen, Hungary, on 11st and 12nd of May, 2022.

More information about the event [here](#).





Bulgaria, 16.06.2022

On June 16, in the Plenary Hall of the Devnya Municipal Council, the sixth information meeting of the interested stakeholder parties of the project was held.

The good practices from the sixth interregional meeting of SinCE-AFC project partners, held on May 11 and 12 in the Hungarian city of Debrecen, were also discussed, together with a presentation of the Action plan.



Romania, 28.06.2022

South Muntenia Regional Development Agency organized the sixth Local Stakeholder Group Meeting on June 28th, 2022, online, through the ZOOM application.

The event was attended by representatives of national and local public authorities, business and research in the South Muntenia region, including: Arges Calarasi, Ialomița County Councils, Argeș Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, ICECHIM- Călărași branch, Teleorman Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, National Research-Development Institute for Electrical Engineering and the European Institute of Romania.

The participants were informed about the status of the SinCE-AFC project, the sixth meeting of project partners and study visits (event organized by the Hungarian - HAJDU-BIHAR County Council between May 11-12, 2022).

The implementation and structure of the Action Plan were also presented and discussed. All stakeholders were invited to the national event, that will be organized in July





NATIONAL EVENTS

Within SinCE-AFC project the project partners organise a national event in their regions for the dissemination of the project results.

Italy, 14.05.2022

The metropolitan city of Bologna and the Arrigo Serpieri Institute of Higher Education organised the event "Cultivating the City: urban fields", a joint initiative held on Saturday 14th May, aimed at disseminating the SinCe-AFC project results.

During the morning two round table discussions were organised with industry experts on issues related to innovative training experiences for the development of agricultural projects in urban and peri-urban areas and related to food routes, from the countryside to the city.



Following the round tables guided tour of the educational gardens of the Serpieri Institute was organised, held by the students, who presented the activities carried out, in a passionate manner.





Bulgaria, 17.06.2022

Devnya municipality presented its Action Plan and measures to stimulate and implement circular economy and food technologies for small and medium sized enterprises within the agricultural sector during the national event. The event was held on June 17, 2022 in the resort "Golden Sands". The meeting was opened by the mayor of the Municipality of Devnya Svilen Shitov, who welcomed the presented representatives of small and medium enterprises, the Regional Information Center in Varna and scientific institutes from the country. The Mayor shared with the guests his satisfaction with the implementation of the project aimed at the "circular economy", as according to him the future of small and medium-sized enterprises lies precisely in the development and innovations to reduce harmful emissions, striving for maximum recycling of all waste and their reuse and environmental protection.

The attendees got acquainted with action, measures and activities implemented in the Action Plan, together with the final results of the project "Increasing SME entrepreneurship in the circular economy of the agri-food chain". Later, the final version of the Action Plan was presented with measures to stimulate the implementation of the circular economy in SMEs from the Agro-industry and food technologies sector.

Participants from the Agricultural Academy in Sofia presented innovative practices in the field of agroecology and the circular economy. The national meeting ended with a visit to "Devnia Cement" JSC and a presentation of introduced good practice for reducing carbon emissions.





Greece, 07.07.2022

The final national event for the dispersal of the actions and the main results that brought about the trajectory of activities of the SinCE – AFC project was realized on Thursday, 7th of July 2022.

The event aimed at transferring the conceptual values of Circular Economy and disseminating the project's accomplishments to the broader audience of stakeholders, engaged in the agrifood chain. The conference was co-organized by the Lead partner of the SinCE – AFC project, the Organization for Local Development 'Anatolik SA' and the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia, on behalf of the Region of Central Macedonia.

The venue of the event was appointed to be KTIMA PEREK. KTIMA PEREK is a wide private estate, that incorporates a restaurant, a farmyard, a vegetable garden and a workshop where traditional viands are produced, by making use of the natural goods within the grounds. The attendants were given the opportunity to be informed about the circular practices that prompt sustainability in their methods of producing local dishes.

At the opening of the event, Mr. Sarigiannis Iakovos, General Manager of ANATOLIKI S.A., presented the current implementation framework of Circular Economy in Greece, targeting to the deeper explanation of Circular Economy along the entire production chain and Mrs Papadopoulou Vasiliki presented the SinCE – AFC project.

Following the Agenda, Mr. Konstantinos Michaelidis from the Directorate Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Region of Central Macedonia, presented the policy objectives of the Regional Operational Program for the programming period 2021 – 2027 and Ms. Tsoli Lambrini, on behalf of the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia, elaborated on the contribution of SinCE – AFC program to the elaboration of the new ROP (2021 – 2027).

The aspects of agricultural production that the impending climate crisis has induced, and the state-of-the-art techniques, being proposed in this scope, have been dissected by Mr Hatzinikolaou Aristides, Administrator of the Environmental Office of University of Macedonia and Mrs Panagiota Sergaki, Associate Professor of Agriculture.

The trajectory of the presentations rounded off with two good practices that exemplify good practices of the circular economic model in agrifood production chain.





The CPigfeed pilot program was presented by Dr. Georgios Banias, Scientific Manager of the project, from the Hellenic Center for Research and Technology. The project refers to an industrial symbiosis practice that investigates the main food waste producers and involves them in a common network of collected by-products that are used as raw material in swine feed production.

The project KaFsimo, of the non-profit organization InCommOn, which undertakes the planning and implementation of urban projects, was presented by the project's Collection and Transportation manager, Ms. Gousi Natalia. The project achieves the recycling of discarded coffee grounds available from a network of contracted coffee shops for fuel production.

Project KaFsimo, of the non-profit organization InCommOn, was presented by the project's Collection and Transportation Manager, Mrs. Gousi Natalia. The project manages the recycling of discarded coffee grounds that are collected from coffee shops, aiming to the production of fuel.





Hungary, 13.07.2022

Closing the main working session of SinCE-AFC collaboration, Hajdú-Bihar County Government hosted a national dissemination policy event entitled "Circular Economy in Agriculture - Opportunities, Solutions and Resources", which discussed a particularly topical issue.

As the county-level final chord of the first phase of the project, addressing agri-food actors, especially small enterprises, the event allowed to get a broader understanding of the main features of circular economy, the importance of minimising the use of raw materials and significantly reducing waste production, as well as their current and future role in it.

Hajdú-Bihar County Government plans to help by providing a wide range of new solutions and tools that were not previously available in the county.

The event, which took place on 13 July 2022 in Debrecen, was attended by agri-food companies and ministry experts, and was attended not only by policy-makers from Hajdú-Bihar, but also from the national level

During the working session, a number of international and national good practices were presented, as well as the county action plan developed in the framework of the project, which aims to provide the county's municipalities and agri-food operators with a simple-to-use professional guide for the future, and to develop a unique county-wide agri-food by-products database. The experts also had the opportunity to review available and planned financial resources.





Ireland, 13.07.2022

Donegal Local Enterprise Office hosted the national event entitled “Streamline Your Agri Food Chain” which took place online on Wednesday, 13th July from 9:30 – 11:30am. The event helped business owners within the Agri-Food sector to implement the Circular Economy within their businesses.

The event discussed the SinCE-AFC project in general including past and future activities and results. Maura Toner, SinCE-AFC Project Executive at Local Enterprise Office, Donegal presented the project, its activities and results. Participants heard from Patrick Barrett of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine who discussed recommendations for Smart and Green Policy Changes to embed the agri-food sector in a circular, regenerative bioeconomy. Michael Tunney, who recently retired as Donegal Head of Enterprise, presented the SinCE-AFC action plan for the Donegal region with an analysis of the main actions.

Discussing the event, Maura Toner said: “By partnering with the SinCE-AFC project, our goal at the Donegal Local Enterprise Office is to encourage businesses around the county to adopt more Circular Economy practices within their business and support them in doing so. This event is a great way for business owners not just in Donegal but around Ireland to familiarise themselves with the Circular Economy and the SinCE-AFC project and find out how they can streamline their agri-food chain to become a more sustainable business.”

After a short break, attendees heard from keynote speaker Mike Higgins, the founder of Circularwise, the strategic advisers on the development of ‘Circularity’ based business models for product producers, reuse processing partners and inventive waste stream transformation ventures. For many years, Mike has championed the Circular Economy in terms of it enabling organisations to reduce





supply chain costs and gain market advantage whilst achieving the highest sustainability standards. Mike discussed the Circular Economy as an entrepreneurial challenge in the agri-food sector.

Participants also heard from Dr Geraldine Brennan, the Head of Circular Economy at Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR), an Enterprise Ireland and IDA supported technology centre. Within IMR's Sustainable Manufacturing Division, Geraldine is responsible for the Circular Economy Unit and oversees the delivery of CIRCULÉIRE – the National Platform for Circular Manufacturing, Ireland's first industry-led public-private partnership dedicated to accelerating the circular economy. Geraldine has spent over a decade exploring the barriers and enablers of industry adoption and implementation of circular and sustainable business models. Dr Geraldine Brennan holds a PhD in Strategic Management from Imperial College London and has lectured, authored, and edited a range of thought leadership articles on the topic of scaling circular innovation.


Cliona Costello from Meade Farm also discussed their experience of introducing the Circular Economy to their business at the event.

The event was recorded and can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvnJjFKIzA8>





The SinCE-AFC final project video is out!

The video is available on the project's  channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1gid2EJRfQ&t=18s>

During the video we give you an overview of the project; goal of the project, the main deliverables and last but not least the Regional Action Plans developed by the partners.

Enjoy!

