

Circular Economy

Implementation in Greece

LIFE-IP CEI-GREECE



LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013

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Project Partners

 Central Government	1
Ministry of Environment and Energy (Coordinating beneficiary)	
 National Administration Bodies	4
Hellenic Recycling Agency	
Green Fund	
National Environment & Climate Change Agency	
National Quality Infrastructure System – Hellenic Organization for Standardization	
 Local Administration & Institutions	11
Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki, Municipality of Alonissos, Municipality of Paros, Municipality of Antiparos, Municipality of Tinos, Municipality of Thira, Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni, Municipality of Nafpaktia, Network of Sustainable Greek Islands DAFNI, Waste Management of Western Macedonia DIADYMA S.A.	
 Academic Institutions	1
Harokopio University of Athens	
 Non-Governmental Organisations	1
Ecological Recycling Society	
 Private Companies	1
Terra Nova Ltd Environmental Engineering Consultancy	

The Project

LIFE-IP CEI-GREECE «Circular Economy Implementation in Greece»

The project aims to contribute to the implementation of the [National Waste Management Plan](#), the [National Strategic Waste Prevention Plan](#) and the [National Circular Economy Strategy](#). A new concept for waste management emerges within this project, based on circular economy principles, promoting behavioral changes and supporting actions to increase product life cycle, convert waste into valuable resources and successfully implement the legislative framework for waste management.

Project's Objectives

LIFE-IP CEI-GREECE «Circular Economy Implementation in Greece»

- The development of pilot actions in 9 municipalities and 1 region to promote the practical implementation of waste hierarchy:
 - integrated waste management based on circular economy principles (5 insular and 1 mountainous municipality)
 - preparation for reuse and separate waste collection (2 urban municipalities)
 - hazardous household waste management (1 urban municipality and 1 region)
 - implementation of financial tools (1 urban municipality)
- Implement actions to promote food waste prevention and development of local/regional alliances for Agro-Food Waste Management in the context of circular economy
- Enhance the use of economic instruments, as well as developing secondary materials standards to support the implementation of circular economy

Duration of the project:

8 years (01/11/2019-31/10/2027)

- ✓ **Budget:**
€15.934.810
(EU contribution: 60%)
- ✓ The project is co-financed by the European Union, the Green Fund and the partners' own contribution.
- ✓ The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and is implemented with the collaboration of 18 strategic partners.

- Build-up a knowledge base to support monitoring of circular economy, particularly in the field of waste management
- Improve awareness of key stakeholders, authorities and the general public with respect to the concept of circular economy and its implication in waste management
- Mobilize complementary funding resources to support the effective implementation of the National Waste Management Plan
- Disseminate the project results and ensure their implementation and replication in other areas



Construction and Operation of Enhanced Green Centres

This action entails all necessary procedures and activities for the construction and operation of three Enhanced Green Centres (EGCs) – one in the Municipality of Thessaloniki and two in the Municipality of Athens. The ultimate goal of this action is to evolve the Green Centres, so that they not only places dedicated to the collection of waste, but also to the re-direction of objects and items (such as furniture, waste electrical and electronic equipment, clothes and textiles,

books, toys etc.) for reuse or the preparation for reuse. The Athens EGC will also function as a collection point for hazardous household waste.

Implementation of the new legislative framework for waste in selected insular and mountainous areas

The action includes the development of an integrated waste management system in four islands and one mountainous region (Alonissos, Paros-Antiparos, Thira, Tinos and the Municipality of Nafpaktia), applying in practice the waste hierarchy and the

new legislative framework for waste based on the principles of circular economy. Following the initial design of the systems, the action will be implemented in three consecutive stages: installation of the necessary infrastructure and collection networks, licensing of infrastructure operation and the operation of systems in pilot areas, including continuous monitoring for their optimal performance.

Full scale implementation and management of hazardous household waste collection networks

Within this action, the full development of hazardous household waste management applications is envisaged (for collection, sorting and further management) in Western Macedonia Region and the Municipality of Athens. The action also includes raising public awareness on hazardous household waste related issues such as their types, collection and management methods.

Actions on food waste prevention

The actions focus in the establishment of an effective system for monitoring and prevent-

ing food waste throughout the food supply chain from production to consumption (primary production, processing and manufacturing, retail and other food distribution, restaurants and catering services, households), in accordance with the guidelines of the National Circular Economy Strategy and European Directive (EU) 2018/851. In particular, the development of a methodology for measuring food waste levels in Greece, mapping the current situation with an annual report, and ultimately assessing the progress of implementing policies, actions

and practices of food waste prevention. In addition, it includes the development of a specialized platform to operate as a hub for monitoring and managing food waste production prevention. At the same time, an Office for food surplus management and food waste prevention will be organized to function in a pilot area that will be selected during the project.

Development of local/regional alliances for agro-food waste management

The aim of the action is to implement agro-food waste management solutions through

Main Actions

local and/or regional alliances, developing appropriate methodology to support decision-making. This action is based on the “system-thinking” approach, an important aspect of the circular economy business model. Systemic thinking is about understanding the parts of a whole system, which are in interdependency with each other, as well as with other systems, avoiding isolation.

Implementation of economic tools and instruments in support of «Circular Economy»

The financial tool “Pay As You Throw” will be implemented in full scale in the Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni, disseminating in practice an effective charging system that will promote the reduction of waste production and the enhancement of recycling. With the ultimate goal of supporting and disseminating circular economy, the project also provides for the development of technical specifications for circular economy in financial instruments, as well as the integration of indicators of circular economy, and the adoption of technical specifications related to waste management. Standards/technical specifications for secondary raw materials will also be adopted or developed in order

to support their re-introduction into the economy as new raw materials.

Establishing a Circular Economy observatory

The project plans to develop national circular economy indicators that will reflect the main elements of the country’s CE level, based on the monitoring framework established by the European Union. In addition, a circular economy Observatory will be established, to monitor on a continuous basis through national indicators the progress of the implementation of policies in Greece related to the transition from the dominant linear model of production and consumption to circular economy.

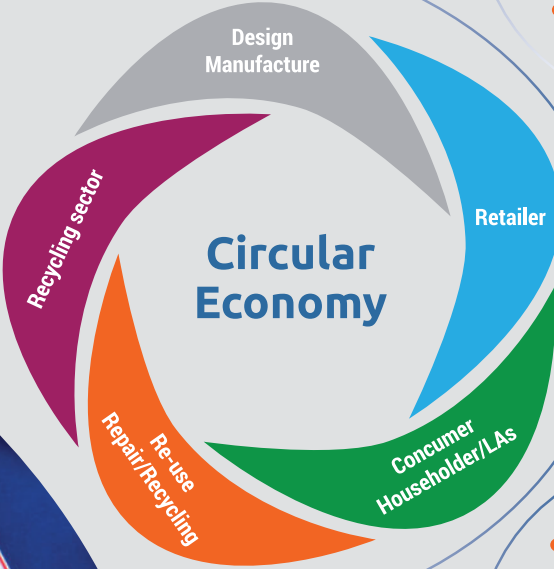
Capacity building actions

Capacity building actions focus on the development of a high-quality circular economy dissemination mechanism that will facilitate the development of synergies with other EU policies and integrate the project objectives into them. The

actions addressed to stakeholders during and after the end of the project, are expected to transfer knowledge and skills, develop and exploit communication channels and explore further funding. In particular, there will be: a) seminars on specific topics, adapted to the needs of all stakeholders b) a Food Waste Prevention Forum, with the ultimate goal to establish a National Voluntary Agreement c) distance training of stakeholders and d) electronic national repository for circular economy.

Demonstration Actions

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PILOT AREAS

- **Urban municipalities**
(Athens, Thessaloniki, Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni)
- **Islands**
(Alonissos, Tinos, Thira, Paros, Antiparos)
- **Mountainous municipality**
(Nafpaktia)
- **Region**
(Western Macedonia)

WASTE STREAMS

- Materials with high cyclic potential
- Waste with targets set by law
- Hazardous household waste
- Food waste
- Agro-food waste

IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUMENTS

- Integrated waste management systems in the context of circular economy
- Preparation infrastructure for reuse & separate collection
- Financial tools (Pay-As-You-Throw, PAYT)
- Local/regional alliances
- Voluntary agreements
- Information, awareness & training



Expected Results



Enhanced Green Centres

Operation of (three) 3 Enhanced Green Centers (EGCs) (1 in the Municipality of Thessaloniki and 2 in the Municipality of Athens) to support Reuse activities, apart from the separate collection of waste



Full Scale Waste Management

Development and operation of five (5) integrated waste management systems implementing the waste hierarchy and the new legislative framework on waste based on the principles of circular economy (4 in isular areas: Municipalities of Tinos, Alonissos, Thira, Paros & Antiparos and 1 in a mountainous area: Municipality of Nafpaktia)



Hazardous Household Waste

Development and operation of (two) 2 integrated hazardous household waste collection and management systems (in the Municipality of Athens and in the Region of Western Macedonia)



Pay As You Throw

Full implementation of a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system in the Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni



Data Collection

Recording and monitoring of foodwaste production in Greece



Monitoring

Development of a Platform and a Forum for monitoring and managing food waste prevention



Experiential Park

Development and operation of a Recycling, Repair and Reuse (RRR) Experiential Park in the Municipality of Thessaloniki



National Indicators

Development of national Circular Economy (CE) indicators and establishment of the Circular Economy Observatory



Repository

Development of a Web-based National Circular Economy Repository



Standards

Development of up to ten (10) new standards for secondary raw materials



Info Days

Organization of thirteen (13) regional awareness-raising events (info days)

Expected Impact

- Change the citizen's culture towards "waste management":
 - Prevention
 - Reuse
 - Preparation for reuse
 - Separate collection
 - Involvement
- Improvement of waste management services provided by municipalities
- Promoting food waste prevention
- Improvement of the environmental performance of industries of the agro-food sector
- Capacity building, instruments and synergies to enhance the Circular Economy potential
- Inclusion of Circular Economy in funding criteria
- Raising awareness of stakeholders for the development of Circular Economy



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