



ENCORE Conference 2016
*Regions taking action:
Alliances on Climate
Change and Green
Economy*

**Pörtschach, Carinthia,
23 September 2016**

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**Cooperation in the
field of green
economy: policy
framework and
financing opportunities
for European regions**

Summary

Overview of the EU policy framework and of the main EU Funded Programmes relevant for cooperation between European Regions in the field of green economy

Introduction: the role of regions in greening the economy

- European regions can play an important role in the area of green economy as some structural improvements of the economy could be done better at regional level than at national or EU level (e.g. Supporting SMEs to save costs and ensure jobs by reducing resource and energy use)
- For this reason European regions play an important role in the implementation of EU policies in the field of green economy
- Several financing opportunities are available at EU level and can help European regions to contribute to the implementation of these policies



An important step: Open Days 2015 Workshop 'Regions open for green business: environment legislation as the driving force'

6th meeting of the Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment – co-organised by EC, CoR and ENCORE

Main results:

- *how the current EU environmental policy promotes green growth at regional and local level*
- *success stories which clearly show the contribution of European regions to foster a greener economy*

Participants: EC, national, regional and local authorities, private sector

For info: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/platform_en.htm

The EU policy framework



7th Environment Action Programme (2013)

Objective: *Guiding European environment policy until 2020*

Content: *9 priority objectives with related measures and actions to be implemented also at regional level*

Regions: *Underlines the key role of the regions in the implementation of EU environmental policies and stresses the need to support the regions in this important function (in particular par. 15 and par. 57)*

For info: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/>



EU Circular Economy Action Plan (2015)

Objective: *Address the whole life-cycle from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials*

Content: *Actions with measures to be implemented also at regional level. Part of the circular economy package, which includes also the revised legislative proposals on waste*

Regions: *National, regional and local authorities and social partners also have an important role in developing targeted and coordinated support in the form of investment, infrastructure, technology and skills, in particular focusing on the needs of SMEs*

For info:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52015DC0614>



EU Bioeconomy Strategy (2012)

Objective: *Addresses the production of renewable biological resources and their conversion into vital products and bio-energy*

Content: *Actions and measures to be implemented also at regional level*

Regions:

- *support the development of regional and national bioeconomy strategies*
- *local and regional economy is the appropriate environment for the development of biotechnologies*

For info:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/index.cfm?pg=policy&lib=strategy>



Road Map to a Resource Efficient Europe (2011)

Objective: *Increase resource productivity and decouple economic growth from resource use and its environmental impact*

Content: *Part of the Resource Efficiency Flagship of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Set milestones and related actions to be implemented also at regional level*

Regions: *Under "governance and monitoring": Policy makers, at EU, Member State and regional level, need to engage in active discussion with business and civil society about the policy conditions necessary to overcome the barriers to resource efficiency*

For info:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/about/roadmap/index_en.htm



EU Eco-Innovation Action Plan (2011)

Objective: *Boosting innovation that results in or aims at reducing pressures on the environment and on bridging the gap between innovation and the market*

Content: *Targeted actions to be implemented also at regional level*

Regions: *Under "Governance and awareness": important role of regions concerning exchanges of information and good practices on eco-innovation policies and on raising awareness of eco-innovation benefits and opportunities*

For info: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/about-action-plan/objectives-methodology>



EU Funded Programmes

Common features

- *Regions can participate*
- *Transnational cooperation is possible and in several cases even required (example: requirement of consortium of minimum three partners coming from three different participating countries)*
- *Finance also projects on green economy*

EU Funded Programmes managed by the national/sub-national Authorities ("Shared management")



Territorial Cooperation Programmes 2014-2020

Main objective: *Strengthening cooperation between MSs and between MSs and candidate/neighbouring/EFTA countries*

How?

Cross – Border, Transnational, Interregional

With which funds?

ERDF, IPA and ENI depending on the participating country

Under which EU policies?

Cohesion, Enlargement, Neighbourhood

Green Economy: *Several of these Programmes foresee actions in the field of green economy*



Example: INTERREG Europe

(cohesion policy – interregional cooperation)

Description: *Covers all the EU MSs plus Norway and Switzerland and it is focused on networking activities*

Budget: *Around 397 million euros. Financing up to 85%*

Green economy: *Supports exchange of experiences and sharing of practices between actors of regional relevance with the specific aim to prepare the integration of the lessons learnt into regional policies and actions for innovation infrastructure and capacities, also in the fields of low-carbon economy and resource efficiency*

How?

- 1. Interregional Cooperation Projects (average budget: 1-2 million euros)*
- 2. Policy Learning Platforms (<http://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-learning-platform/>)*

For info: <http://www.interregeurope.eu/>



EU Funded Programmes directly managed by the European Commission and by the EU Executive Agencies

LIFE 2014-2020

Description: Programme for environment and climate action. Contributes to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy/legislation

Budget: 3.5 billion euros. The financing is max. 60% of eligible costs for all except priority species/habitats (75%) and capacity building (100% of eligible costs) until 2017

Cooperation: Transnationality is an added value

Green Economy: Includes the thematic priority "Resource Efficiency, including soil and forests, and green and circular economy"

For info: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>



Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

Description: EU Programme for Research and Innovation. Focused on innovation with a view towards exploitation by the market

Budget: 80 billion euros. For certain actions the financing can be up to the 100%

Cooperation: Supports networking activities

Green Economy: The Programme priorities include:

- Societal challenges: Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the Bioeconomy; Secure, clean and efficient energy; Smart, green and integrated transport; Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials;
- Industrial leadership/Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) actions: Access to Risk Finance, Innovation in SMEs, and Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology

For info: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>



COSME 2014-2020

Description: Programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Budget: 2.3 billion Euros. The financing is up to 60%

Cooperation: Supports the Enterprise Europe Network

Green Economy: The Programme concerns also green economy. For example Objective 1 "To strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs" has as long term target to increase the proportion of EU SMEs producing green products

For info: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme/>



EU Macro-Regional Strategies

- **Main objective:** *Better coordination and concentration through cooperation:*
 - ✓ *coordination of policies and funds,*
 - ✓ *concentration of available funds on actions/projects which are strategic for a certain macro-region*
- **Examples:** *Macro-regional projects co-financed by national/regional cohesion policy Operational Programmes and/or by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)*
- *Requested by the European Council, involve all the institutions and organizations acting in a certain macro-region including regional and local authorities*
- *4 Strategies: Baltic, Danube, Adriatic-Ionian, Alps*

For info: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/



Example: EU Strategy for the Alpine Region - EUSALP

- *Involves Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland and regions play a key role*
- *Has been adopted by the Council of the EU in November 2015 and it is at the beginning of its implementation phase*
- *Green economy is not a specific action but projects/initiatives in this field can be developed for example within Objective 1, focused on economic growth and innovation, and Objective 3, focused on environment and energy*
- *Alpine Convention: RSA 6 – Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region*

For info: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/alpine/

Conclusions

- *Because of their governance level and their competences regions play an important role in greening the economy and in the implementation of the relevant EU policies on the ground*
- *Several EU guiding documents and financing opportunities represent a solid basis for the joint development and implementation of projects by European regions in the field of green economy:*
 - *The important role of regions in the field of green economy is explicitly recognised in the relevant EU guiding documents*
 - *Several EU Funded programmes, both those managed by the EC/EU Agencies and those managed by national/sub-national Authorities, explicitly mention regions as target group*

Therefore...

Regions can make the difference and can count on a solid EU policy and financial framework for greening the economy, in particular as key actors of the circular economy



Thank you

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