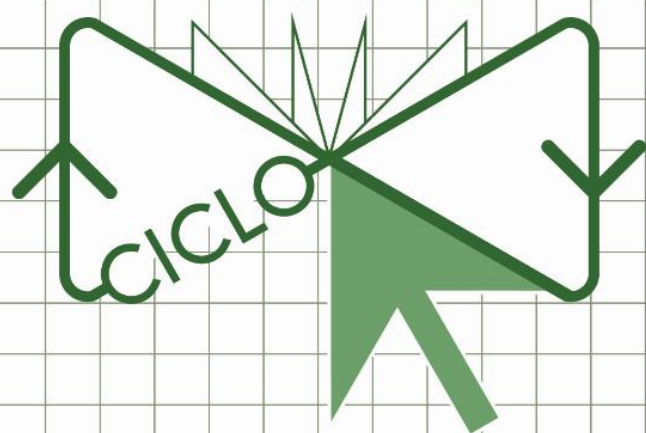
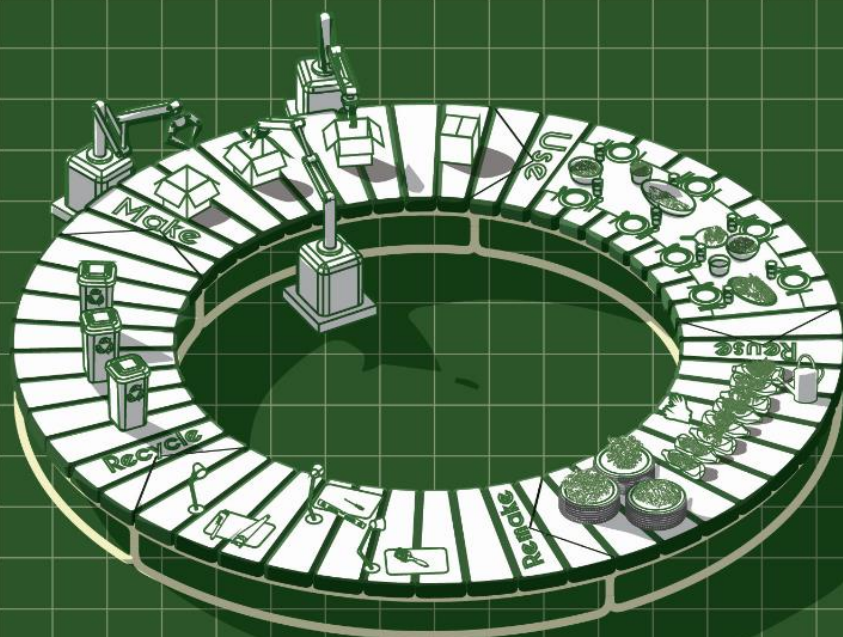




Boosting the Circular eEconomy skills of the EU services Labor fOrce



April 2020

Newsletter 1

The project

The idea of the project derives from the fact that valuable materials are leaking from our economies. In a world where demand and competition for finite and sometimes scarce resources will continue to increase, and pressure on resources is causing greater environmental degradation and fragility, Europe can benefit economically and environmentally from making better use of those resources.

Moving towards a more circular economy is essential to deliver the resource efficiency agenda established under the EU2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Circular economy offers an opportunity to reinvent our economy, making it more sustainable and competitive. With this new plan to make Europe's economy cleaner and more competitive, the European Commission is promoting ambitious measures to cut resource use, reduce waste, and boost recycling.

Higher and sustained improvements of resource efficiency performance are within reach and can bring major economic benefits. Successful implementation can create more than 180,000 direct jobs in the EU by 2030, in addition to the estimated 400,000 jobs that will be created by the implementation of the waste legislation in force. It will lead to satisfying between 10 and 40% of the raw material demand in the EU, while contributing to achieving the 2030 EU target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40%.

Objectives

CICLO envisions the development of an interactive, needs-oriented online circular economy labour market ecosystem and skills mapping, providing a training package for employed and unemployed persons in order to equip them with basic circular economy jobs skills related to recycling management, reuse and remanufacturing opportunities, and servitisation (services instead of products) development.

Start Date: 01 October 2019

End Date: 31 October 2021

The consortium consists of 8 partner entities:

- CEKOV - Centrum Kontinuálneho Vzdelávania, Slovakia
- CSI - Center for Social Innovation, Cyprus
- MAGENTA Consultoria Projects SL, Spain
- STIMMULI for Social Change, Greece
- FPMCI - Fondo Provinciale Milanese per la Cooperazione Internazionale, Italy
- IPS - Instituto Politecnico de Santarem, Portugal
- PRISM - Promozione Internazionale Sicilia- Mondo, Italy
- MEATH Community Rural and Social Development Partnership, Ireland

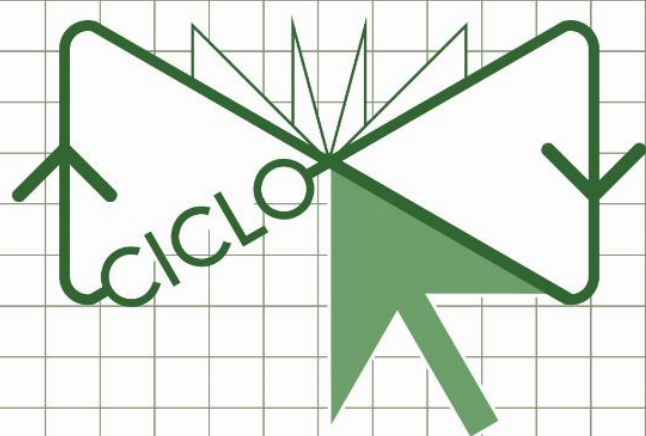
First Transnational Partner Meeting

On January 20th and 21st, partners travelled from Slovakia, Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland to Cyprus, for the first meeting of the project "CICLO - boosting the Circular eEconomy skills of the EU services Labor fOrce Project."

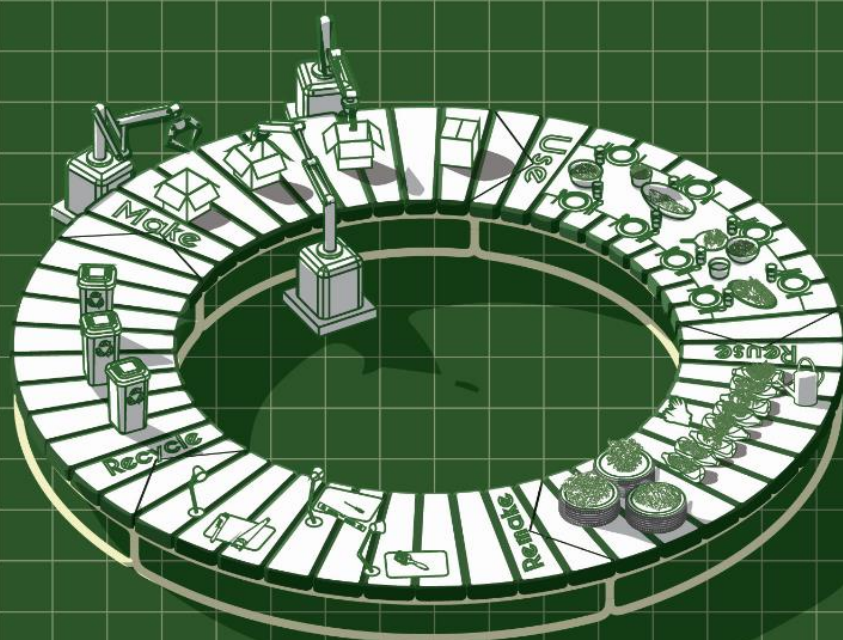
The aim was to set the framework, which the consortium will follow in the next period so that it can achieve the goals of the project. More specifically, the partners discussed the project, its objectives, and outcomes, as well as their roles and obligations.

By the end of the meeting, the partners had a clear and concrete plan based on which they will be working for the next two years. The first goal is the completion of the first Intellectual Output "Development of the Circular Economy Skills Ecosystem and Methodological Framework."





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Circular Economy Skills Ecosystem and Methodological Framework - eBook

During the last months, the partners worked on the research phase of the project, which led to the production of the first intellectual output: "Circular Economy Skills Ecosystem and Methodological Framework- e Book." The manual is based on a transnational study in which all partners present the current and prospect shapes of the circular economy ecosystem in their countries. They also presented the importance of the development or upgrade of the labour force skills in the field of circular economy through ICT tools.

The research consists of a compilation of findings from desk research, focus groups, interviews, and online surveys conducted in each partner country, the result of which were resumed and compiled in a book which will be transformed into an e-book at the next stage of the project.

IPS - INSTITUTO POLITECNICO DE SANTAREM, Portugal

Portugal is one of the EU members states that have advanced strategies, roadmaps, and action plans for circular economy, in line with the European Commission's ambitions (in LEADING THE TRANSITION: Action Plan for the Circular Economy – PAEC).

IPS conducted the required research through the use of questionnaires. Students from higher education were asked various questions in order to comprehend whether they are aware of the concept of circular economy, what impact this has on their daily lives and if the measures implemented in Portugal are being reflected.



PRISM, Italy

In Italy, despite the challenging time that the country is facing, participants showed significant interest in the project's topic. Around 30 people, among them stakeholders and target group members took part in the completion of the research phase. The main channels of communication were established through online questionnaires and focus groups. Most of the individuals involved in the surveys claimed to practice circular economy through many means, among which the most popular relate to recycling, waste management, and emission reduction.

Moreover, some of them also claimed to practice circular economy through their work experiences or also through campaigns to spread awareness among people. Apart from that, other activities that can be mentioned are the ones related to product repairing or purchasing unpackaged products. The conclusion shows that circular economy can be as well a profitable mean of development for the Italian economic system and that the issue of its lacking development is more related to governmental policies and concerns than to a logistical matter.



CSI- Cyprus

The CSI research team conducted the required research phase through desk research, as well qualitative and quantitative questionnaires.

As evidenced by the research, Cyprus' case regarding circular economy is unusual as it is one of the Member States which have not yet implemented the concept of circular economy. At the moment, Cyprus is facing the challenge of developing and implementing the national strategy for circular economy. This strategy should include legislation, infrastructure, and funding to support this ambitious project.