



Project factsheet - Assessment grid

PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project Ref. No.	DRP0200388
Project title	Danube Region Programme
Acronym	CI-Hub
Priority axis	1. - A more competitive and smarter Danube Region
SO	1.1 - AdvancedTechnologies
Lead partner	Pomurje Technology Park
Lead partner country	Slovenija (SI)
Lead partner legal status	Private!
Project duration	30
Total Interreg Funds	1880805.39
Total Eligible Budget	2351006.74

Project Summary

COMMON CHALLENGE: Recent research indicated that the LACK OF CONSUMER AND USER ACCEPTANCE OF CIRCULAR OFFERINGS is one of the primary barriers for the transition to a circular economy. SMEs face great difficulty in reaching a stage of environmental excellence due to their limited resources to adopt circular practices together with Industry 4.0 technologies. Ineffective enforcement of relevant regulations, poor institutional support, lack of economic incentives, poor technical skills and low environmental awareness also affects the circular readiness in small firms. However, SMEs are vitally important to economy while they represent 99% of all enterprises in EU and generate two thirds off all employment. They account for 64% of industrial emissions in Europe and many analysis recognise that is highly challenging to achieve the complete implementation of circular principles by them and related supply chains due to the absence of modern technologies. Additional challenge facing partner regions is the lack of knowledge and competencies in the circular transition and provision of specialised services which gives the main answer on how to create a value with circular principles. As there is a strong trend of brain drain in all less developed partner regions, regional SMEs are facing the problem of competent knowledge and skills in order to be able to support circular transition of local SMEs. To this end, more developed regions have a well- developed support ecosystem, which helps these SMEs to develop new services, but unfortunately in most of the regions where partners come from, this support ecosystem is not well developed and is not providing appropriate digital & circular transition service support, while regional policy measures are very often focused only on infrastructure & equipment investment support and are not specialised to multi-disciplinary circular support services.

OBJECTIVE: The overall project objective is improving innovation potential in LESS INNOVATIVE REGIONS and to a significant extend non-urban INDUSTRIAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION with a low innovation performance and weak innovation infrastructure, in absolute terms or comparatively to neighbouring regions. They are characterised also by low RD expenditure, low % of ICT applications and low % of knowledge intensive SMEs.

INNOVATIVENESS OF OUTPUTS & RESULTS: The envisaged change we want to provide is established JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CIRCULAR TRANSITION ACCELERATOR SUPPORT SERVICES based on CIRCULAR USER EXPERIENCE MODEL combined with industry 4.0 novel technologies that supports circular transition in 2 most challenging circular supply chains: (1) plastic & metal processing sector and (2) construction sector, which are both RIS3 very important in less developed areas and where both will be tested by involved partners. That type of accelerator program doesn't exist yet in EU and will be the first focused program on transnational level.

PARTNERSHIP: The entire partnership of 23 institutions (13 PP +

10 ASP) thus constitutes the following quadruple helix structure: GOVERNMENT LEVEL: 7 representatives from HU, MO, CZ, BIH, SK, SI, AT INDUSTRY LEVEL: 9 representatives from SI, CZ, BG, RS, BIH, HR, MNE, DE ACADEMIA LEVEL: 6 representatives from RO, DE, SK, AT, HR, BG CIVIL SOCIETY: 1 representative from RS Regarding the INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT LEVEL partners are also divided for those who are coming from more and those from less innovative regions. INNOVATIVE REGIONS are represent DE and AT partners, INNOVATION TRANSITION REGIONS (SI, CZ, HU, SK) and LOW INNOVATION REGIONS (HR, BiH, RO, RS, BG, MO, MNE). In all regions both sectors represent high RIS3 strategy importance. APPROACH: Drawing from the circular business model literature we identify five types of CIRCULAR TRANSITION STRATEGIES which will be tested together with developed user acceptance model: (1) CIRCULAR SUPPLIES: business models centered on offering renewable, biodegradable and recyclable inputs;(2) RESOURCE RECOVERY: business models focused on transforming waste into value through recycling and up-cycling; (3) PRODUCT LIFE EXTENSION /REMANUFACTURING MODEL: business models aimed at extending the use period of products by maintaining, repairing, and remanufacturing; (4) SHARING PLATFORMS: business models centered around a platform to maximise the utilisation of products or services; (5) PRODUCT AS A SERVICE: business models where customers use a product by leasing or paying for use contracts. Project will provide real-life testing environment for innovative approaches with developed user-centered, open innovation system, integrating relevant quadruple helix stakeholders from partner ecosystems help to uptake circular technologies in less developed partner regions and accelerate cross-border marketability and technology uptake.

LIST OF PROJECT PARTNERS				
No.	Institution name	Country	Total Interreg funds	Total eligible budget
PTP	Pomurje Technology Park	Slovenija (SI)	231050.00	288812.50
IFKA	IFKA Public Benefit Nonprofit Ltd.	Magyarország (HU)	162350.99	202938.74
KARP	Business Development Agency of Karlovy Vary Region	#esko (CZ)	138184.00	172730.00
TUCN	Technical University of Cluj-Napoca	România (RO)	125485.60	156857.00
ICT Cluster	Foundation Cluster Information and Communication Technologies	Bulgaria (BG)	116787.20	145984.00
NTP #a#ak	Science Technology Park #a#ak	Serbia (RS)	99047.20	123809.00
ONEX	Digital Innovation Hub ONEX	Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	103292.00	129115.00
bwcon	bwcon research	Deutschland (DE)	215363.20	269204.00
TUKE	Technical University of Kosice	Slovensko (SK)	175364.00	219205.00
CUAS	Carinthia UAS - non-profit limited liability company	Österreich (AT)	206280.40	257850.50
HGK-VZ	Croatian Chamber of Economy – County Chamber Varaždin	Hrvatska (HR)	119308.00	149135.00
ODA	Organization for Entrepreneurship Development	Moldova (MD)	107854.40	134818.00
STPMNE	Science and technology park Montenegro	Crna Gora (ME)	80438.40	100548.00
TOTAL (EUR)			1880805.39	2351006.74

LIST OF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

No.	Institution name	Country
KARP	Karlovy Vary Region	#esko (CZ)
ONEX	Ministry of economic and eneterpreneuership	Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)
TUKE	Košice Self-governing Region	Slovensko (SK)
PTP	Municipality Murska Sobota	Slovenija (SI)
HGK-VZ	University of Zagreb Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering	Hrvatska (HR)
NTP ##ak	Association of Business Women "Nadežda Petrovi#", ##ak	Serbia (RS)
STPMNE	Chamber of Economy of Montenegro	Crna Gora (ME)
bwcon	Regional Economic Development Agency of Northern Black Forest	Deutschland (DE)
CUAS	Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund	Österreich (AT)
ICT Cluster	Technical University of Gabrovo	Bulgaria (BG)