

Output Factsheet

Pilot Action 1: Food Sector, Romania

Output title: O 1.1 Transnational Circular Economy Pilots in the Areas of Food, Battery, Textile, Packaging and Smart City

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

Output 1.1 refers to the implementation of pilots that demonstrate and validate circular economy practices with the DECIDE toolbox in the areas of food, battery, textile, packaging and smart city (A1.4). These pilots serve as real-world experiments and practical demonstrations of CEBMs. The output showcases the feasibility and benefits of adopting circular economy approaches in diverse sectors, fostering innovation and sustainability, resource efficiency, and economic growth. It is scheduled for delivery in Period 4, and has a target value of five pilot actions.

The pilot actions were jointly developed through a structured transnational co-creation process ("Tandem Approach"). For each of the five pilot actions, and based on best practice cases (A2.1) and partner exchanges (meetings and calls), the DECIDE Steering Committee selected and approved one real-life pilot case from the DR. In line with the AF, they represent transnational pilots addressing circular economy approaches in the sectors of food, batteries, textiles, packaging, and smart cities, as presented in the table below.

		Food	Smart City	Batteries	Textile	Packaging
EU	Germany		Pilot			
	Croatia					
	Slovenia					
	Bulgaria					
	Hungary					
	Romania	Pilot				
	Austria				Pilot	
Non-EU	Moldova			Pilot		
	Serbia					
	BiH					Pilot

Further key characteristics of the jointly developed concept and implementation by the project partnership include the application of a common methodology with defined KPIs, supported by a

centralised data system (MS Teams) and standardised data collection. These ensure continuous monitoring and iterative review, enable cross-dimensional analysis, and provide a validated basis for transfer, replication, and future recommendations.

The implementation was supported by two onsite Train-the-Trainer sessions (May and July 2025), in which all project partners actively participated, contributed their expertise, and ensured knowledge exchange and consistent application across all pilot actions.

This factsheet presents the joint pilot action for the Romanian pilot case in the food sector. It was implemented by applying the jointly developed DECIDE Toolbox tools and methods (A1.2) to the real-life business model “Making Dehydrated Fruits and Veggies from Leftovers”. It delivers a structured documentation package, including a poster, presentation, BM20D description, DECIDE Service Catalogue entry, modelling outputs (BMC, BPMN, e3Value and System Dynamics), complemented by an impact assessment with KPI-based evaluation and qualitative expert inputs, providing a consistent basis for comparison, validation and transfer.

Contribution to the programme and project objectives, output and result indicator, as well as to the targets set for the Priority Area concerned (max. 2000 characters)

The pilot action for the pilot case “Making Dehydrated Fruits and Veggies from Leftovers” contributes significantly to Programme Output Indicator RCO84 “Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects” by fulfilling both key requirements of the indicator. It was jointly developed through a structured transnational co-creation process involving all project partners, including the collaborative identification and selection of pilot cases, the development of a common methodological framework, and the application of the tandem approach and Train-the-Trainer Sessions. The pilot was implemented within the project by applying the jointly developed DECIDE Toolbox tools and methods to a real-life case in Romania, ensuring full implementation within the project duration.

The pilot action contributes to the Result Indicator ISI “Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders”. Organisations beyond the project partnership strengthened their capacities by providing their business models for modelling within the project. This enabled them to gain practical experience with business model tools and methodologies, develop new insights, and deepen their understanding of circular economy. Through this process, their capacities to analyse and further develop circular business models were enhanced and transferred to their own organisational and regional contexts.

As a result, the pilot action supports innovation and technology transfer in the Danube Region by translating jointly developed tools and methodologies into practical applications. The integration of results into the DECIDE Service Catalogue and their dissemination through project meetings and public conferences further enhances their accessibility and uptake. Thus, the pilot action is linked to the result indicator RCR 104 “Solutions taken up or upscaled by organisations”. This contributes to strengthening a more competitive and smarter Danube Region by enabling organisations to adopt innovative, resource-efficient and sustainable business models.

How can the output be used and by whom (target group), what is the benefit and the impact for these target groups and the target area / Danube Region? (max. 1500 characters)

The output can be used by SMEs, start-ups, business support organisations, regional development agencies, policymakers, as well as actors from research and education across the

Danube Region. It provides a practical and transferable example of a circular economy business model, supported by structured tools and methodologies from the DECIDE Toolbox.

The output can be used by SMEs, start-ups, business support organisations, regional development agencies, policymakers as well as actors from research and education across the Danube Region. It provides a practical and user-friendly showcase of a circular economy business model, supported by structured tools and methodologies from the DECIDE Toolbox.

Target groups benefit from enhanced capacities to identify circular opportunities, analyse value chains and develop resource-efficient and sustainable business models. The pilot demonstrates how food waste can be transformed into value-added products and serves as a transferable example for similar applications. Business support organisations, policymakers as well as research and education institutions can use the results for advisory services, training formats, curricula and applied research.

The integration of the results into the DECIDE Service Catalogue and their dissemination through project meetings and public conferences ensure accessibility and uptake. This strengthens knowledge transfer, fosters innovation and supports the wider adoption of circular economy practices. As a result, competitiveness, resource efficiency and sustainability in the Danube Region are enhanced.

How can the sustainability of the output be ensured and where and to whom is it going to be transferred? (max. 1500 characters)

The sustainability of Q.1.1 is ensured through its integration into the DECIDE Service Catalogue, which provides long-term access to the developed tools, methodologies and pilot results. In addition, the Digital Learning Concept and training materials enable continued use and capacity building beyond the project duration.

O.1.1 will be transferred through PPs, who act as multipliers in their regions, including business support organisations, clusters, and regional development agencies. Furthermore, the results will be disseminated to SMEs, start-ups, policymakers, and actors from research and education through training activities, workshops, advisory services, study visits, and integration into curricula and applied research. To ensure the effective transfer, uptake and long-term use of outputs beyond the project duration, each partner has defined specific measures within dedicated implementation plans ("DECIDE Sustainability & Transferability Implementation Plan" attached).

The practical and modular structure of the DECIDE Toolbox enables its adaptation to different sectors and regional contexts, ensuring a high level of transferability and scalability across the DR. The results are further disseminated through project meetings, public conferences and networks, enhancing visibility, facilitating uptake and supporting the wider application of the outputs.

Overall, these measures contribute to long-term sustainability and ensure a lasting impact beyond the project duration.