EASME
Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

SME SUPPORT

ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT

MARITIME
The role of EU Research and Innovation in the promotion of the circular economy action plan
Content

• A few words about EASME
• The CE Action Plan
• The Role of Research and Innovation
• Future Opportunities
• Concluding remarks
A few words about EASME

The CE Action Plan

The Role of Research and Innovation

Future Opportunities

Concluding remarks
EASME
Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

The EASME manages programmes on behalf of the European Commission, turning EU policies into action.
EASME's role within the European Commission

- Managing EU programmes
  - Evaluation of Proposals
  - Grant Agreement Preparation
  - Scientific/Technical and Financial monitoring of projects
- Feeding into the policy-making process with project outcome & success stories
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Policy Context

EU Response: comprehensive Circular Economy policy

- Circular Economy Action Plan
- Waste legislation revision
Circular Economy Action Plan

Looking at the whole 'Circle'

4 Key areas of action

5 Priority sectors

- Plastics
- Biomass-Biobased Products
- Food Waste
- Construction & Demolition
- Critical Raw Materials

Executive Agency for SMEs
Actions in 2016

✓ **key measures** taken in areas such as waste, eco-design, food waste, organic fertilisers, guarantees for consumer goods, and innovation and investment.

✓ The **European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform** (March 2017)

Actions in 2017

• Plastics Strategy
• Interface between product and chemicals policy
• Circular Economy Monitoring Framework
• Water reuse legislation
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The Role of Research and Innovation

*Innovation and investments*

- **Synergies** among different initiatives and programmes (Horizon 2020, Life, Cohesion Policy - Structural Funds)
- **Regulatory** Innovation – **Innovation Deals**
- **Financial** Innovation
Circular Economy

Innovation & Investment

Creating the *conditions* for the circular economy to *flourish* and *mobilise* resources

*Synergies* among different initiatives and programmes
Horizon 2020 programme - a snapshot

- The biggest EU Research and Innovation Programme ever
- Investing in science & innovation to make economy grow
- Three main pillars

Nearly €80 billion in 2014-2020
Horizon 2020

Funding opportunities

- **LEIT**

- **Societal Challenge n. 2**
  (Food security, sustainable agriculture & forestry, marine maritime & inland water research & the Bioeconomy)

- **Societal Challenge n. 5**
  (Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency, and Raw Materials)

- **650 MEUR** for a dedicated H2020 focus area "Industry 2020 in the circular economy" in 2016-2017

- **SME Instrument**
  **40 MEUR** for innovation actions
LIFE Programme – a snapshot

• EU programme for the Environment and Climate Action, with an exclusive focus on those areas

• Since 1992 to improve the state of the environment

• Budget 2014-2020: €3,456.7 million

• One of the key objectives: contributing towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy; protecting and improving the environment
LIFE Programme

- LIFE as **one-stop-shop** for businesses from innovation, demonstration, upscaling up to commercialisation
- Special emphasis on **environmental and/or climate impact** -> LIFE promotes take-up of circular economy business models

Under the new LIFE programme 2014-2020, **100 MEUR** so far invested into over 80 projects
Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

- SMEs: E.g. promoting resource efficiency, EUR 33.2 billion
- Low-carbon economy: E.g. stimulating energy efficiency, EUR 39.7 billion
- Environment & resource efficiency: E.g. boosting green growth, EUR 35 billion
- Waste management: EUR 5.5 billion
- Research & innovation: E.g. developing innovative approaches, EUR 41.1 billion

Circular Economy

Photos by Becker, Bavarian State Library
Innovation Deals

1. **Sustainable wastewater treatment using innovative anaerobic membrane bioreactors technology** (7 April 2017)

2. **From E-mobility to recycling: the virtuous loop of electric vehicle** (to be signed)
Financial tools/products

✓ Circular Economy Finance Support Platform
  • Call for applications for the selection of members of the "Support to Circular Economy Financing Expert Group" (close 9 June 2017)

✓ InnovFin – EU finance for innovators
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Future Opportunities

Horizon 2020 WP 2018/20
Connecting economic and environmental gains – the Circular Economy (€900M)

Information Day
8-9 November 2017
https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/2017-information-day

LIFE Call 2017 launched
Nearly 260 MEUR available for environment and climate

Deadlines
September 2017
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Concluding remarks

✓ 'Linearity' of business models and products will soon add to operational risks
✓ Investments are crucial to make a real shift from the linear model
✓ Research and innovation play a key role
✓ EU funding programs, such as Horizon 2020 and LIFE, have been and will be supporting innovative projects
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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