

AI-NURECC PLUS

2nd HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE ADRIATIC IONIAN REGION

Monday, 11 April 2022

Online event, Registration [here](#)

[Link to conference](#)

Circular economy is an emerging model which encourages sustainable and responsible production and consumption through the extension of products life cycle and the reuse of materials, thereby inherently implying the reduction of waste and the creation of new value. In March 2020, the European Commission adopted a new [Action Plan on Circular Economy](#) aimed at making sustainable products the norm in the EU. With its comprehensive approach targeting the entire life cycle of products, the new plan is one of the most ambitious documents ever adopted. It in fact introduces legislative and non-legislative actions to reform plastic production and pollution, waste management, treatment and recycling, access and safety of critical raw materials, prevention and control of industrial emissions.

The 2nd High-Level Conference on Circular Economy will discuss the uptake of circular principles in the Adriatic Ionian region in the context of multi-actor and multi-level governance. Key stakeholders of the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion such as the OECD, national-level governing structures supporting the EUSAIR, the EUSBSR and the EUSDR will provide their inputs with regard to strategic policy approaches and specific actions in the fields of green recovery, water governance and Smart Specialisation (S3).

Based on the results of two [preparatory events](#), the opening session will put at the forefront representatives of Western Balkan youth organisations that, with their concrete actions, create awareness and facilitate community engagement in embracing circular economy principles and sustainability. The session will be aimed at highlighting youth as key to the successful implementation of the circular economy model in the region as well as at collecting their recommendations to policy-makers.

A round table will close the event and explore how circular economy works for Adriatic Ionian local and regional authorities, who will discuss how they have identified priorities, engaged stakeholders in a better stewardship and efficiency of resources while facilitating economic competitiveness by promoting industrial symbiosis, also as beneficiaries of EU funds. Case studies from the private sector will illustrate how waste or by-products of an industry or industrial process can become raw material for another.

The 2nd HL Conference on Circular Economy in the Adriatic Ionian region will bring together key stakeholders from cities, regions, chambers of commerce, universities, national governments, the private sector, civil society and youth organisations. Members of the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN) will also attend.

AGENDA

Working languages: Slovenian, Italian, English

09:30-10:45 **Welcome addresses and opening remarks**

Moderated by Francesco COCCO, AIE Secretary General

- **Mr. Aldrin DALIPI**, President of the Tirana Region, Deputy-President of the AIE (Albania)
- **Ms. Elisabetta BUCCI**, Embassy Councillor of the Republic of San Marino, EUSAIR National Coordinator
- **Ms. Jelena STJEPCEVIC**, Head of office for international cooperation and EU integration, Municipality of Kotor (Montenegro)
- **Mr. Stavros KALOGNOMOS**, Executive Secretary of the Balkan & Black Sea Commission of the CPMR, AI-NURECC PLUS Coordinator

Keynote speeches

- **Ms. Oriana ROMANO PhD**, Head of Unit, Water Governance and Circular Economy, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD
- **Ms. Marjana DERMEJ**, International Certified Future Strategist on Circular Economy, Government Office for Development and EU Cohesion Policy (Slovenia)

The voice of youth

- **Ms. Arrita VRENEZI**, Representative of C.E.C.D. RACIO (North Macedonia)
- **Mr. Rrahim JATA**, Project Coordinator at GreenLine (Albania)

10:45-11:30 **Stakeholder session. Macroregional cooperation as booster for the uptake of circular principles**

Moderated by Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, AIE EU Project Officer

- **Mr. Senad OPRAŠIĆ**, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Environmental Quality Coordinator (Bosnia Herzegovina)
- **Mr. Esa KOKKONEN**, EUSBSR Policy Area INNO Coordinator, Director of the Baltic Institute of Finland (Finland)
- **Ms. Andrea VRANOVSKÁ PhD**, EUSDR Priority Area 4 Water Quality Coordination Team, Head of Department of programmes and concepts Water Research Institute (Slovakia)



11:30-13:00

Round table. Adriatic Ionian regional and local authorities harnessing the circular potential of their territories

Moderated by Ms. Caterina PALOMBO, ETICAE Stewardship in Action

- **Mr. Yannis FALLAS**, Director of CluBE – Cluster of Bioeconomy and Environment of Western Macedonia (Greece)
- **Mr. Ivo BENZON**, Project Manager of CIRCE 2020 Interreg Central Europe project, RERA SD - Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County (Croatia)
- **Mr. Nebojša VRANEŠ**, International Waste Manager at Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

Case studies

- *Ekofungi: waste to taste*, **Ms. Ivanka MILENKOVIC**, EkoFungi Doo, CEO (Serbia)
- *RES-Recupero Etico Sostenibile*, **Mr. Antonio VALERIO**, Smaltimenti Sud, CEO (Italy)

13:00-13:15

Wrap up and conclusions

By Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, AIE EU Project Officer

