



Regione
Lombardia

Lombardy Region

June 2022

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Part I - General information

Project: LCA4Regions - Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through use of Life Cycle Instruments for implementation of regional policies of the European Union

Partner organisation: Lombardy Region

Country: Italy

NUTS2 region: Lombardy

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Part II - Policy context

1. The Action Plan aims to impact:
 - Investment for Growth and Jobs programme**
 - European Territorial Cooperation programme
 - Other regional development policy instrument
2. Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:
 - ERDF RP 2021-2027

Part III - Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1 - LC for supporting circular economy

The background

Life cycle approach can be used to increase the sustainability of a value chain and to improve its environmental performances, also in a local perspective, stressing the environmental component in a different manner, depending on the local priorities and peculiarities. LC approach can also be used to emphasise the resource efficiency performance of a value chain.

Particular Inspiration from: the project gave us the opportunity to study that scheme more in depth and to understand both how it works and how it could be supported as a policy tool for sustainability. We had to study it and to involve SHs and speakers to propose it to the partners. This made us realise its potential role. Then, getting in touch with other good practices such as “Wines of Alentejo Sustainability programme - WASP”, “National Registry of Carbon Footprint (CF), CO2 compensation, and CO2 absorption projects” and our “Viticulture Impact Assessment on the Environment (VIVA)” (the latter was proposed by us, but we couldn’t have found it without the scouting activity done in the project) we understand that a life cycle approach can be applied to a value chain and can be supported and stimulate by the PA to make a product, an activity, an area more sustainable. LCA can highlight all the hotspots of a value chain and allow the identification of the resource efficiency hot spots as well, to drive circular economy actions on the value chain

Action

Designing a call for projects to support value chains in becoming more sustainable and resource efficient, through the made Green in Italy scheme.

The Lombardy's ERDF-ROP 2021-2027 supports the Specific objective "b.vi) Promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy". The resources available in this objective are 120 million Euros.

The Made green in Italy scheme, developed by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, is a PEF-Based scheme, which sets a pathway for a specific value chain to increase its sustainability, identifying different level of excellence and embedding a continuous environmental improvement approach.

Theoretically in the design of a value chain scheme the promoter can choose to emphasise specific environmental components. Therefore, resource efficiency and circularity issues can be prioritized.

Lombardy Region intends to support the creation of new (for new value chains) Made Green in Italy (MGI) schemes and/or the admission of new companies to existing schemes.

MGI is a voluntary national scheme for the assessment and communication of the environmental footprint of products, established by art. 21, paragraph 1 of law n° 221/2015. The scheme is managed by the Ministry of Ecological Transition and is based on the PEF - Product Environmental Footprint method, as defined by the European Commission in Recommendation 2013/179 / EU and subsequent technical documents. With the ministerial decree n. 56/2018, the regulation implementing the "Made Green in Italy" came into force, establishing the operating procedures.

MGI is applicable to all products (goods and services) which according to existing laws (EU regulation 952/2013) originate in Italy. This means that a product that is not 100% made in Italy and involves other countries in its processing can still adhere to the scheme, if the last substantial transformation, economically justified, takes place in Italy.

The first step to make the scheme effectively applicable to products on the market is the existence of Product Category Rules (PCR), i.e. documents containing methodological indications that define mandatory and optional rules and requirements necessary for conducting studies relating to the environmental footprint for a specific product category.

Therefore, the first step is the proposal and approval of PCR to the MITE. The scheme follows the PEF methodology, therefore, if there is a PEFCR - Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules at European level, it must be acknowledged and integrated in the PCR under development with the additional mandatory and optional requirements; otherwise, a new PCR is drawn up at national level.

The second step is the Application for membership: once the process and approval of a PCR for a specific sector has been completed, the manufacturing companies can adhere to the Scheme, complete a PEF study and, in the face of the required documentation, can obtain the "Made Green in Italy" for its product.

The scheme allows to start a pathway of improvement of the environmental performances of a value chain and foresees different levels of performance for the companies adhering to it.

The scheme is a tool to make value chains more sustainable.

This action is ambitious. The dialogue with the regional Units responsible for the Specific objective b-vi is still ongoing. Technical meetings with those Units will be held in May and June.

Players involved

Policy officers and executives, members of the project staff, will support the policy officers and executives responsible for the objectives in designing the call for projects.

Timeframe

Within June 2023.

Costs

All the costs are internal costs and partially staff costs of the partner.

ACTION 2 - More sustainable energy efficiency

The background

Increasing the sustainability of the renovation and refurbishment interventions for energy efficiency has been one of the most discussed topics during the project activities with our Stakeholders.

We held several internal meetings with colleagues responsible for these activities, several info days on specific topics (LEED protocol, Level(s), Research activities), spreading the knowledge of our stakeholders and we attended a dedicated course on the topic.

The issue is important, because the renovation and refurbishment interventions for energy efficiency purposes can lead to several impacts that are currently not fully taken into consideration by the approaches limiting the evaluation to primary energy demand and GHG emissions.

Particular Inspiration from: three good practices, by Kaunas “Environmental Impact on the climate change from 12% and 48%. Assessment of Renovated Multi-apartment Building Using LCA”, Satakunta “LCA for evaluation of construction works” and Łódzkie “Environmental Product Declaration as an example of LCA application in construction”.

Action

Also this action is quite ambitious and can be developed aiming at objectives of different level or ambition.

There is a certain degree of uncertainty with respect to the success of all the different objectives, but we think it is interesting to keep them in the action, because trying to work in the direction envisaged, considering that we are at the beginning of the programming period 2021-2027, can be important and can help to identify pathways to be followed in the implementation of the new ERDF programme.

The general objective of this action is to increase the sustainability of the renovation and refurbishment interventions for energy efficiency through the insertion in call for tenders of criteria related to the use of LC methodologies and, where possible, the identification of a simplified way to use LC approach to support more sustainable projects.

In the Lombardy Region’s ERDF-ROP 2021-27 we have “Specific objective b.i) Promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions”, with a more specific action: “Action b.i.1. Support for renovation and refurbishment interventions for the energy efficiency of public structures and systems”. In the wording describing the ERDF-ROP action we have the following passage: “the use of construction techniques and materials

or components that, in their life cycle, ensure the minimization of environmental impacts and CO2 emissions.”

We intend to find a way to make this happen.

Our Action can be both to identify a method to be used in the call for projects and the design of a call for projects.

Therefore, the action could consist of two first parts: a first one focused on a more mature use of LC methodologies (rewarding projects proposing the use of product with LC-based certifications and/or with better environmental performance than requested by applicable regulations and standards – e.g. CAM – minimum environmental criteria), and a second one proposing simplified methods of applying LC approach (on some components, for some typologies of buildings, recalling existing methods or protocols, etc.).

Moreover, the action could also aim at a further significant objective. Lombardy's ERDF-ROP 2021-2027 supports the Specific objective “b.vi) Promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy” and into this there is the following more specific action: “Action b.vi.2. Support for actions of industrial symbiosis, prevention of waste production, recycling and reuse for closing the cycle”, which states: “The reduction of environmental impacts, from a production territorial system perspective, is supported with action aimed at overcoming operational, system and supply chain barriers for the implementation of the circular economy in businesses and local authorities.” Then the action specifies some possible implementation, among which: “the design and management of integrated supply chains and public-private partnerships that facilitate adherence to sustainable production and service processes, according to the "Life Cycle Thinking" approach”.

Action 2.6.2 can therefore support – using funding available on this action 2.6.2 itself – a sort of "accompaniment" to local authorities and businesses aimed at spreading the LC approach and stimulate its application. Calls for projects can be designed to support the application of life cycle thinking for specific sectors, among which the construction sector and in particular the energy efficiency in construction. For instance, the call for projects can support municipalities to apply life cycle thinking to steer (to understand how to do) their project of building renovation. Once identified the way of intervention, the project can be funded by call for projects through action b.i.1”.

This part of the action is particularly sound and advanced because it works with a cross-cutting approach and because this would be extremely consistent with the application of the DNSH principle related, for example, to the energy efficiency of buildings.

Players involved

Policy officers and executives, who work in the Unit Air quality and Climate, stakeholders, company responsible for the drawing up of the Environment and Climate Regional programme.

Timeframe

Within June 2023.

Costs

All the costs are internal costs and partially staff costs of the partner.

ACTION 3 - LC approach for sustainable innovation in SME

The background

Lombardy Region, in order to implement the ERDF-ROP 2021-2027, Specific objective a.i) Developing and strengthening research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, Action a.i.1. Support for investments in research, development and innovation, is preparing a call for projects framework for supporting sustainable innovation in SME along the whole 2021-2027 programming period. The framework (and all its calls for projects set up along the period) will be specifically focused on a set of industrial sectors in coherence with the regional S3 (aero-space, eco-industry, creative/cultural industries, health, advanced manufacturing, sustainable mobility).

In this context, LC approach could be adopted to define requirements for access to the call for tenders and for the evaluation of proposals in terms of:

- expected LC impacts;
- inclusion in workplan of a detailed LC assessment at the end of the R&D path to evaluate environmental (LCA), social (S-LCA) and economic (LCC) benefits linked to the innovation achieved.

Particular Inspiration from: all the good practices collected can play a role in this action, to inspire different ways of making innovation, including but not limited to: Kaunas “Substitution of Hazardous substances in Process industry using results of Life-Cycle Assessment”, Slovenia “Life cycle assessment of different types of graveyard candles”, Slovenia “Comparative life cycle assessment of alternative packaging materials for beverage”, Navarra “AgroPaper, a sustainable and biodegradable solution for the agricultural mulching technique”.

Action

Designing the framework and the first call for tenders to support SMEs in sustainable innovation projects with access/evaluation/reward criteria related to the use of LC approaches.

Players involved

Policy officers and executives, members of the project staff. Policy officers and executives responsible for the different Actions.

Timeframe

Within spring 2023

Costs

All the costs are internal costs and partially staff costs of the partner.

Date: 2022, June 22

Name of the organisation: Lombardy Region

Signatures of the relevant organisation:

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