

Wrocław Charter

We, the undersigned, partners of the CircE project - European regions toward circular economy, enriched through the experience of a jointly implemented project, hereby declare, during the conference summarizing the project in Wrocław, our continued commitment and support for the process of building circular economy in Europe.

The main goal of the CircE project was to establish cooperation between regions from different parts of the European continent to exchange experiences and share a common methodological approach to policy options in the area of current activities within circular economy. The project also instigated the deployment of the activities planned in the project Action Plans created by each of the partners and implemented in the second phase of the project, including the development, or updating the applicable strategic documents to allocate funds to projects supporting circular economy.

The results of the Action Plans and the discussions that followed enriched us with knowledge about the obstacles and opportunities that arises from implementing circular policies in our regions. We are convinced that the transition to a circular economy starts with awareness and capacity building and that this transition needs a cross sectoral and cross regional approach with regulations tailored according to regional and local socio – economic and regulatory conditions. We strongly believe that regional and city authorities should play a key role in achieving the goals set out in the Circular Economy Action Plan adopted by the European Commission in March 2020 and the implementation of the European Green Deal. For this purpose, we commit ourselves to carry out activities in the area of our jurisdiction to go beyond the current linear economic model, based on the principle "take - produce - use - dispose", in which waste is treated as the last stage of the product life cycle, and enable the transition to a circular economy.

Indeed, we want our actions to contribute to the creation of a circular economy in our regions and cities, i.e., we want waste - if it does arise – to be treated as a resource, textiles to be used for as long as possible, electronic products designed for repair and remanufacture, and packaging to be reduced or reused. In essence, we want products and materials to be kept in use as long as possible, which will help to regenerate the natural environment. This will contribute to tackling the climate emergency we are facing through

the reduction of consumption-based emissions. We believe that building a new economy based on less consumption of raw materials will not only allow the inhabitants of European cities and regions to live in a cleaner and healthier environment, but also it will increase the innovation of European enterprises and increase their efficiency, also reducing their dependency on imported commodities.

Actions may consist of mainstreaming circular economy in strategic documents and strengthening support for circular economy projects implemented by our institutions and external entities, financed from our own funds and (where relevant) from the European Regional Development Fund under the New Financial Perspective 2021-2027. We are committing ourselves to further cooperation, but also to carrying out individual activities in advocating at the national and European level to achieve goals leading to a resource-efficient economy.

We are open to further interregional cooperation in the field of circular economy, because the experience gathered during the project implementation shows that there are still large differences between European regions and cities in the advancement of implementation of circular solutions and in the adoption of related regulations. The new economic model and the need for a green recovery after the pandemic requires new capacities and thus, we are declaring our support for educational projects and initiatives on national, regional and local level leading to the promotion of the concept and practice of circular economy among citizens and also for capacity-building projects for workers and the unemployed.