



European Territorial Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta 2014-2020



INFO ITALIA MALTA

Info Italy-Malta, the monthly information service of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Cross-border Cooperation Programme is online.

On info-Italia Malta you will find information about the state of implementation of the Programme and on the results achieved by the funded Projects.

Each issue contains a thematic focus on the contribution of the Programme to the development of the territories and illustrates the benefits for the populations of the cross-border area.

The fourth issue of the Info-letter Italia Malta is dedicated to the theme of the circular economy.

The European Parliament has voted on the new action plan for the circular economy. On that occasion, Parliament also demanded for further measures to be proposed such as a carbon-neutral, environmentally sustainable, toxic-free and fully circular economy in order to achieve green goals by 2050.

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption that involves sharing, lending, reusing, repairing, reconditioning and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

This is a new approach to production and what changes is the life cycle of products with a view to making the best use of raw materials.

It's called circular economy precisely because the life of the raw material is potentially infinite and a material recovered instead of being thrown away, is reused in a new production cycle generating new value.



Origin of the picture: article dated 16|02|2021 published by Communication General Management of the European Parliament

There is a compelling need to transform the linear economy based on the "take-produce-dispose" formula into a truly circular economy.

That is, in an economy whose growth can be based on the reduction of the use of energy and resources while maintaining a positive trend.

An economy where any design must be thought of as zero waste, free of harmful and polluting substances and based on the maintenance in use and in closed circuits of products and materials.

An economy that cares about human health, the promotion of benefits for consumers and the regeneration of natural systems.



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According to data reported in the Communication COM(2020) 98 final of 11.03.2020 A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe, accelerating the progressive but irreversible transition to a regenerative growth model with the application of circular economy principles has the potential to increase EU GDP by an additional 0.5% by 2030 creating around 700 000 new jobs.

The Italia Malta programme actively contributes to this issue thanks to the contribution of an important project dedicated to the theme of the circular economy in the areas of the blue economy and quality of life.



The BYTHOS project addresses the issue of organic waste disposal by developing bioactive molecule products (BAMs) from fish waste and creating an economic value chain. These molecules can be extracted from different types of chemicals naturally produced by marine species and are of considerable interest to the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and nutraceutical industries for the treatment and/or prevention of various diseases.

The project developed a range of extraction protocols for bioactive molecules (such as marine collagen, chitosan and astaxanthin) and omega 3 and 6 oils.

The experimental academic work carried out, starting from the handling of raw materials to the purification phase, has made it possible to create extraction manuals that give precise instructions on how to extract these bioactive compounds.



A joint laboratory, inaugurated on June 29 at the island of Lipari - the island's first biotech laboratory - will make now possible the study and extraction of bioactive ingredients for human health and innovative feed from waste from the fish sector.

The project activities bring to the development of antibacterial / antimicrobial / antitumor products based on BAM from fish waste, in a zero-waste model.

On the nutraceuticals front, where Sicily has developed excellent knowledge in the extraction procedures of BAMs and Malta has a strong fish farming sector and the know-how necessary for the development and industrialization of eco-innovative feed for fish, the team of researchers and business experts is synergistically fielding skills, resources and knowledge to create innovative tailor-made products capable of satisfying the needs of companies and the market.

Thanks to BYTHOS also, in the areas of biotechnology for human health and blue growth is increasing the rate of investment in technological research, innovation and development of new products.

The project is coordinated by the Università degli Studi di Palermo - Dipartimento di Tecnologie e Scienze Biologiche, Chimiche e Farmaceutiche (University of Palermo - Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Technologies and Sciences) and developed in partnership with the Municipality of Lipari, the Pescaturismo e Cultura del Mare Tourist District, the University of Malta, Faculty of Science / Department of Geosciences, the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change and the company AquaBioTech Limited.

**The theme of the Circular Economy in
the 21/27 Programming period**

With its roadmap, the European Green Deal marks an epochal step that will change the policies and implementation of investments in the new European, national and regional financial programming.

The economy of the European member states is still closely linked to a linear waste disposal cycle that is a source of unsustainable emissions and environmental impacts both as regards the supply of resources and their end-of-life disposal.

The challenges related to innovation, the environment and social inclusion, pillars of the EU reform programmes, are all included among the priorities for developing and strengthening circular economy models in the Union.

The transformation, however, is proceeding too slowly and progress is neither widespread nor uniform. And this aspect becomes the object of shared projects and cross-border collaboration experiences financed through the instruments of Territorial Cohesion.

The new regulatory framework for the management of cohesion policy resources for the 2021-27 cycle places the issue of the circular economy within the scope of Policy Objective 2 (b) called "A greener Europe". Specific Objective b.6 identifies the need to promote the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy also through the management of commercial and industrial waste with measures for prevention, minimization, selection, reuse, recycling and the promotion of the use of recycled materials as raw materials

On this issue, the future Italy Malta 2021-2027 program will also invest a substantial part of its multi-year budget.

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