

Synergies for Green Growth

A Horizontal Approach to Cooperation on **Circular Economy and Green Growth in the Mediterranean**

#5

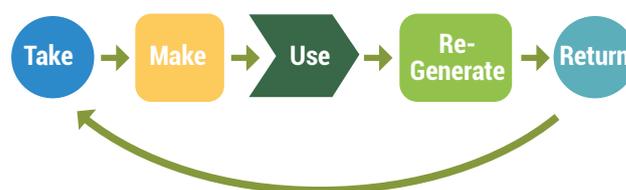
Interreg 
Mediterranean

 GREEN GROWTH

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

A circular economy is ‘where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimised’.

European Commission 2015



The **Circular Economy White Papers** present the contributions of the Interreg MED Green Growth community and their efforts in transitioning towards a circular economy in the Mediterranean, in the areas of :

Resource Efficiency
Green and Smart Public Services
Waste Prevention and Management
Competitiveness and Innovation

The **Interreg MED Green Growth** community has created four Thematic Working Groups as a tool for collaboration and communication within its 14 modular projects to aid in the quality, efficiency, scalability and replicability of the project results.



Setting Up Cooperation in the Mediterranean with relation to Green Growth and Circular Economy

The **Circular Economy Model** is often referred to as an umbrella concept that incorporates key sustainability strategies related to economic growth. In order for the full realisation of a circular economic model, processes supporting Green Growth—those that consist of increasing resource efficiency and decreasing negative environmental impacts—must be implemented.

The specific objectives of the Interreg MED Green Growth community are:

- The creation of a solid community that acts as a hub to collect project results, disseminate and capitalise them.
- Upgrading Green Growth community networks
- Capitalisation and transfer activities to outreach the project results and potential replication of projects to other countries.

To achieve the objectives of the MED Green Growth programme a horizontal approach undertaken by the SYNGGI project was devised to address issues within the Green Growth concept in a cross-cutting manner. Within the Med Green Growth Community, four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) were established with the purpose of facilitating systematic technical cooperation, synergies and joint work within the community. The themes were established in alignment with the EU Circular Economy Action Plan's indicator framework for monitoring the progress towards a Circular Economy. Interreg MED's SYNGGI project <https://green-growth.interreg-med.eu> has created the Thematic Working Groups as a tool for collaboration and communication amongst all project partners and stakeholders to aid in the quality, efficiency, scalability and replicability of the modular projects.

The 14 Modular Projects of the MED Green Growth community were organised into the four themes of

- TWG 1: Resource Efficiency
- TWG 2: Green and Smart Public Services
- TWG 3: Waste Management
- TWG 4: Competitiveness and Innovation.

SUCCESS FACTORS

Quadruple Helix: The horizontal project included a vast community of partners that combined a very specific combination of expertise of technical and communication backgrounds coupled with extensive experience in working towards innovation.

Regional Goals: The approach has been successful in addressing specific needs within the Mediterranean region relative to Green Growth, including MED area target strategies, EU policies, Green Growth priorities, and environmental policies.

Partnership Structure and Expertise: The management structure of a Steering Committee, Communication team and Green Growth Excellence team, was seen as a highly successful governance structure to coordinate Green Growth initiatives.

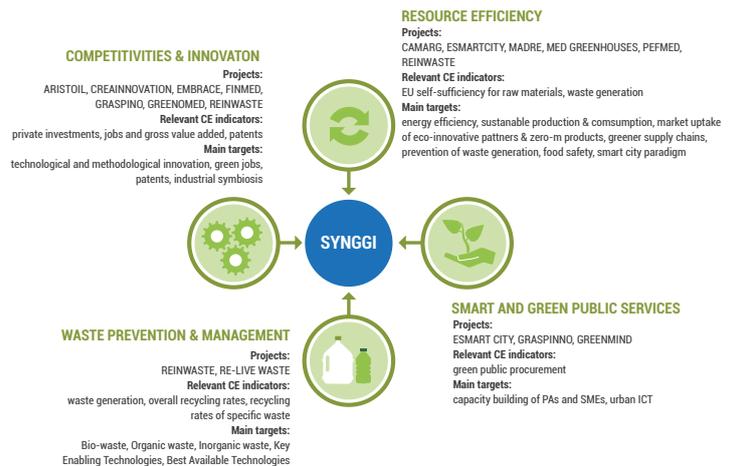
CALL TO ACTION

The Interreg MED Green Growth community's SYNGGI project has exemplified the benefits of applying an interdisciplinary and horizontal structure to Green Growth initiatives. As a result, the community is urging that the project be used as a model and a motivation for future cooperative efforts towards achieving Green Growth and implementing a Circular Economy, not just within Med region but also on a global scale.

The European Commission and EU Member States

- To promote multifaceted and horizontal approaches in forthcoming initiatives as a key to achieve circularity systems in Green Growth projects.
- To support quadruple helix approaches within transversal projects in order to address multi-stakeholder levels.

THE FOUR THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS



Regional and local authorities in the Mediterranean

- To develop action plans and programmes that incentivize the uptake of demand-driven solutions from modular projects in the area of Circular Economy and Green Growth.
- To adopt and promote the circularity paradigm shift.

SMEs

- To engage in innovation networks and clusters and share knowledge and experiences on best practices and solutions to adopt circular approaches.
- To participate in transversal and multidisciplinary projects to support public authorities and academia in their efforts towards a green and circular economy at local and regional levels.

European Commission (2015). *Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy*
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015DC0614>

European Commission (2018). *Monitoring framework for the circular economy.*
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&uri=COM:2018:29:FIN>

European Commission (2018). *European Innovation Scoreboard 2018 – Executive summary.*
<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/30201>

European Commission (n.d). *Eco-innovation - the key to Europe's future competitiveness.*
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/factsheets/ecoinnovation/en.pdf>

Interreg MED Green Growth Community
/ SYNGGI project:

Website: <https://green-growth.interreg-med.eu>
Contact: medgreengrowth@uvic.cat

