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Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020



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D.T.1.1.1 CEWG WORKSHOPS Mapping Report

Programme priority	2. Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin
Programme priority specific objective	2.2 Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions to reduce river and marine litter
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Aim

This report demonstrates the conclusions of the CEWG meetings in the region of Varna, Bulgaria where the LB is situated.

The meetings' participants represented:

National / Regional / Local Authorities and regional agencies:

Infrastructure and public service providers:

Interest groups including NGO's:

Higher education and Research, Training Centers:

Business Support Organisations, SMEs, enterprises:

The presentations were focused on

- Priorities of the European Union on Circular Economy and on the Bulgarian National Action Plan for Circular Economy
- The Green Deal on Climate Change
- The VFU main activities 1.2 “Regional Study” and 2.1 “Online Education” and the prepared by VFU team “Regional study in Bulgaria, Varna region: processes, effects and challenges.
- Projects and programs at the local level
- Good practices & challenges of Devnya Municipality
- Waste recycling
- Regulatory framework and governance at local, regional and national level
- Conclusions on the conducted interviews with stakeholders in connection of a regional study in the field of waste management and the circular economy.

The main findings were:

- Moving up the waste hierarchy by focusing on preventing waste and improving recycling
 - Supporting circular entrepreneurship by promoting “industrial symbiosis” and business clusters
 - Supporting circular consumption patterns of re-using, re-storing and re-pairing rather than buying new products, especially for electrical and electronic devices
 - The focus shall be on the regulatory framework and governance at local, regional and national level, main authorities involved, and research and development activities carried out in each partner territory, main features of waste management, pollution/litter assessment, the role of entrepreneurship and the behavioral patterns of people. The challenge is inform and motivate anyone in the area on waste prevention, waste re-use, the everyone's responsibility against the environment and future generations and familiarize them with the model of Circular Economy and its benefits.

The round table discussion OR *The questions and answers* referred mainly to topics such as:

- Enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships across industry, academia, and civil society



- Monitoring progress towards a circular economic model through SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) indicators.

The key speaker(s) Mr. George Kremlis, Mr. Alkis Stavridis, Assoc. Prof. Ralitsa Zhekova, PhD., Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Tankova, PhD., Mr. Todor Kolev, Mr. Svilen Shitov, Mr. Emil Dichev and Mrs. Marya Zlateva stressed out the importance of taking action in the following:

- To help businesses, whatever their industry, in public and private actors and stakeholders, to understand the importance of the circular economy and the digitalisation of their business processes, strengthening their international competitiveness
- The priorities of the European Union and the Bulgarian National Action Plan for the Circular Economy
- Managing the planet's resources and energy and adopting a functional and sustainable economic model

The conclusions of the meetings are:

- The transition to a circular economy and waste management is a valuable resource and a huge opportunity to create competitive advantages on a sustainable basis for Bulgarian companies, especially National, Regional, Public Authorities, infrastructure-public service providers and NGOs representing public and consumers.
- The workshop concerned the information on the adoption of the model of the circular economy. Circular economy can strengthen the EU's industrial base and promote entrepreneurship.

- The venues were accessible to persons with disabilities.
- All events' supplies were from RECYCLED ONLY materials.
- All attendants were aware that the European Union is financing the event.