

FINAL REVIEW OF PILOT:

CITY OF VARAŽDIN

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**D.T3.4.2: Final review of pilot: City of Varaždin**

A.T3.1 Monitoring / Evaluation

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1. Introduction
   1. Project context

The CITYCIRCLE project aims to bring innovation and sustainable economic growth to peripheral regions within the European Union. This is thanks to the implementation of circular economy practices. The partners of this project are 11, coming from different European countries (Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Slovakia). The idea is to combine the efforts of the private sector and the public sector to generate a terrain suitable for the diffusion of circular economy practices. To achieve this it is necessary to involve stakeholders from different areas, in accordance with the principles of the quadruple helix, which plan to create collaborations between Public Authorities, Universities, companies and civil society. The aim of the project is therefore to create the best possible conditions for generating economic growth in the area, resulting from innovation and sustainable development.

In order to create, as mentioned, a favourable environment for sustainable development, the CITYCIRCLE project will focus on the following objectives:

1. **Implementation of pilot projects that will serve as an example for future initiatives**: This will happen thanks to the collaboration with the stakeholders and the identification of specific and promising projects.
2. **Promotion of the initiative and the concept of circular economy**: through events, web advertising campaigns, etc.
3. **Creation of a circular economy HUB in each of the regions identified by the project**: It will represent a facilitator office able to offer services to users and stakeholders in the transition to the circular economy.

The link between the hub and pilots strong – within the pilot actions, the collaboration of hub stakeholders is the cornerstone. The pilots therefore showcases the circular solutions being developed in joint regional manner and should activate the circular hubs in territories. The evaluation is therefore addressing the level of collaboration and how the hub fosters the innovation activities in the respective areas – both essential areas of the current circular pilot actions but also any similar initiatives to come.

* 1. Evaluation tool for Circular Economy Hubs

The evaluation methodology of the CITYCIRCLE hubs addresses two dimensions of the circular economy hubs being in the development phase. Firstly, looking at the hub as regional **multiple stakeholder collaboration** **process** among stakeholders in the field of circular economy, and secondly, taking the perspective of the hub as an instrument for setting up **environment fostering circular innovations**. The evaluation methodology should help hub managers to understand the level and trends in the **hub development** (maturity) and **its performance**, and in future could be used for planning and hub goals setting.

Based on the literature review and respecting the needs of CITYCIRCLE project scope, the analogy to the approaches of the *CREATORS* and *OECD Scoreboard on the Governance of the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions* (both introduced in previous chapters) will be developed, focusing on the knowledge (know-how) as innovation aspect, and the collaboration aspect. The main aim is to prepare the framework for measurement of the hub´s maturity, therefore what matters will not necessarily be a snapshot, but rather the trajectory created over time – in our case on annual basis.

1. Evaluation of Circular Economy Hubs - Knowledge and Innovation

First category of evaluation covers the level of knowledge and innovation capacity of the hubs activities and two perspectives will be adopted – the development level as the maturity perspective, and the supporting performance indicators presenting the more tangible outlook of activities and results delivered.

* + 1. Development level - methodology

Respecting the level of development / the maturity level, 4 levels are distinguished – from less advanced hub at Beginner, through Builder and Experimenter, to most advanced at Expert. The characeristics of the level of operations is described for each category.

* + 1. Development level – self-assessment

**Q1 - Knowledge and Innovation – level of development / maturity**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level 1**  **Beginner** |  | **Level 2**  **Builder** |  | **Level 3**  **Experimenter** |  | **Level 4**  **Expert** |
| Please rate the current level of maturity | **1** | **1 ½** | **2** | **2 ½** | **3** | **3 ½** | **4** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Comments:** |
| During the last project period hub has engaged additional stakeholders and expanded its member base, having now in total 17 members. There were 7 core founding members and additional 10 members have joined with more in the process of joining.  Additional members:   1. Technology innovation centre Međimurje 2. Student centre Varaždin 3. Technology park Varaždin 4. Public Institution for the Regional Development of the Medjimurje county- REDEA, 5. Parkovi plc. 6. Lokvina ltd 7. Public Institution for the Regional Development of the Varazdin County –JURA 8. Croteh ltd. – private research organization in the field of sustainable development 9. Aveor tech – private technology provider 10. Crotechhub – digital inovation hub 11. Humana nova – social entrepreneur focused on textile recycling   This development represents an initial confirmation of Hub’s relevance in developing local CE ecosystem and a need for coordinated approach to circular economy. |
| Opportunitites for improvement: |
| HUB has developed and deployed a digital platform for CE with a collaboration area where members and others can exchange their solutions and post their needs for secondary materials and types of waste they need, resembling a rudimentary marketplace.  Further actions to improve the Hub’s reach would be to advance the digital platform and create a knowledge base with more real-life examples, industry solutions, and best practices for municipalities.  HUB would therefore need to evolve from virtual into physical form with dedicated resources. |
| Lessons learnt: |
| The main lesson from the project would be related to the need to achieve necessary relevance for the industries, entrepreneurs, and other major stakeholders. The CE ecosystem and related solutions and practices are developing fast, in multiple directions and areas. HUB needs to be able to track this progress and present relevant ideas and solutions to its regional stakeholders, particularly industry and municipalities which both struggles with lack of funding and resources needed for CE transition. |

* + 1. Performance indicators - methodology

Following table presents the set of indicators to be measured for the circular economy hub knowledge and innovation activities. Two types of indicators are indicated – qunatitative (where measurement units can be applied) and qualitative (where self-assessment will be adopted).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nr. | Performance Indicators – Knowledge and Innovation | Type |
| 1. | Variety and diversity of expertise available within the hub | Qualitative |
| 2. | Adoption and use of digital technology for hubs services | Qualitative |
| 3. | Number of links established by hub with experts during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 4. | Number of awareness raising campaigns implemented during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 5. | Number of persons reached by awareness raising campaigns implemented during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 6. | Number of trainings implemented during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 7. | Number of trained persons during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 8. | Number of consultations provided in the thematic fields of circular economy during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 9. | Number of consultations provided in the field of projects preparation and administration during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 10. | Number of ideation/co-design events organized or co-organized during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 11. | Number of mentoring relations conducted during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 12. | Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 1-2 - Basic research during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities | Quantitative |
| 13. | Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 3-4 - Lab Demonstration during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities | Quantitative |
| 14. | Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 5-6 - Field pilot during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities | Quantitative |
| 15. | Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 7-8 - Market introduction or TRL 9 – Scaling during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities | Quantitative |
| 16. | Number of businesses established based on achievements within the hub during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 17. | Number of public green or innovation policies (strategies and tools) influenced by the hub activities during the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 18. | Number of strategies, roadmaps, impact studies, scenarios, analytical studies, monitoring studies or data models developed by the hub members during the monitored period | Quantitative |

* + 1. Performance indicators – self-assessment

**Q1.1 Variety and diversity of expertise available within the hub**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  HUB has moderately expanded its expert base besides biochemistry. These experts are from areas of digital technologies, financing, and EU-funded projects. HUB currently doesn’t have employees, Development Agency North - DAN is providing resources to maintain its activity, and CROTECHHUB (Digital innovation hub) and CROTEH (bioeconomy research company) is providing expert support. | | | | | |

**Q1.2 Adoption and use of digital technology for hubs services**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  HUB has created its own digital platform with a basic marketplace for CE solutions and materials for the local and regional ecosystem:  http://growcircular.eu  Within this platform, local entrepreneurs, the industry sector, and other CE-related stakeholders can present their project examples, best practices, and needs for raw and secondary materials.  CE Maturity index has been translated to Croatian language and it will be available as a tool on local CE digital platform. SMEs would be able to easily assess their CE practice within this tool. | | | | | |

**Q1.3 Number of links established by hub with experts during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:  Two organizations with experience in CE practices have participated in projects activities:  Social Cooperative Humana Nova Čakovec and Euvita cluster.  They have experts with experience in bio-economy and managing textile waste.  With them, consultations were conducted about future project collaboration in the field of CE. | | | |

**Q1.4 Number of awareness raising campaigns implemented during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 4 |
| Comments:  Four campaigns where conducted:   * Email campaign for raising awareness within public utility companies in 3 regions. A follow-up call with several management representatives has been made about the goals and benefits of the CITYCIRCLE project * Awareness campaigns for municipalities have been conducted. Individual meetings were held with municipal management to introduce the CITYCIRCLE project. * Local event on 23th of March 2022 – Final conference of Citycircle project * Local event Green day on the City market – 26th of March, 2022 | | | |

**Q1.5 Number of persons reached by awareness raising campaigns implemented during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 100 |
| Comments:   1. 6 municipalities have been visited with a goal to present CE and the aims of the CITYCIRCLE project    1. Međimurje county    2. City of Čakovec    3. City of Ludbreg    4. City of Novi Marof    5. City of Duga Resa    6. Krapinsko-zagorska County 2. 15 utilites companies where reached and briefd about the citycircle project.    1. Zelenjak d.o.o. Klanjec    2. Krakom d.o.o. Krapina    3. Komunalno Zabok    4. Komunalac Konjščina d.o.o.    5. Humkom d.o.o.    6. Dravakom d.o.o.    7. Komunalac d.o.o. Koprivnica    8. Komunalne usluge Đurđevac d.o.o.    9. Komunalno poduzeće križevci    10. Čakom Čakovec    11. GKP PRE-KOM d.o.o. Prelog    12. MURS-EKOM d.o.o Mursko Središće    13. Ivkom Ivanec    14. Novokom Novi Marof    15. Lukom Ludbreg    16. Local event Final conferece of Citycircle project – 40 people is expected    17. Local event Green day on the City market – 26th of March, 2022 - all visitors of the Citymarket – open public event. | | | |

**Q1.6 Number of trainings implemented during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 4 |
| Comments:  Four mentoring training sessions where implemented:   * 29.11.2021. Industrial symbiosis * 6.12.2021. Green Public Procurement * 30.11.2021. Fostering SMEs Circular transiton * 07.2.2022. CE in construction sector | | | |

**Q1.7 Number of trained persons during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:  Two persons from DAN agency and 3 external epxerts as a HUB members were trained in the area of circular economy hub management. | | | |

**Q1.8 Number of consultations provided in the thematic fields of circular economy during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 5 |
| Comments:  Five consultations with municipalities and utility companies were held.   * City of Ludbreg * Međimurska County * City of Novi Marof * Križevci – utility company * Krapinsko zagorska county – development agency | | | |

**Q1.9 Number of consultations provided in the field of projects preparation and administration during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:  Consultations were conducted on 2 projects:  Plastika Šantek (private company) on the topic of green industry innovation and Blue growth for EEA and Norway grants  KB d.o.o. (private company) on the topic of the green and digital industry | | | |

**Q1.10 Number of ideation/co-design events organized or co-organized during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:  Two events were held:   * Local event on 23th of March 2022 – Final conferece of Citycircle project * Local event Green day on the City market – 26th of March, 2022 | | | |

**Q1.11 Number of mentoring relations conducted during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:  HUB has established a mentoring relationship with CroTechHub, which is a digital innovation hub doing research and innovation development in the area of sustainable development. Mentoring has been provided to their members about the opportunities in the digitalization of the CE ecosystem.  HUB has contributed to the creation of a concept of European digital innovation hub focused on applying digital technologies in circular economy and for sustainable development. | | | |

**Q1.12 Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 1-2 - Basic research during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 1 |
| Comments:  Within the pilot, basic principles and basic technology of circular economy are being tested in the field of waste treatment and product reuse. It represents an efficient way of reusing treated organic waste as manure digestate for hazelnut farming. The efficiency of the process is yet to be evaluated with further monitoring of the hazelnut growth. | | | |

**Q1.13 Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 3-4 - Lab Demonstration during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 0 |
| Comments:  No activities of this type were supported | | | |

**Q1.14 Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 5-6 - Field pilot during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 0 |
| Comments:  No activities of this type were supported | | | |

**Q1.15 Number of technological and non-technological innovative solutions/services/products that reached TRL 7-8 - Market introduction or TRL 9 – Scaling during the monitored period that were supported by the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 0 |
| Comments:  No activities of this type were supported | | | |

**Q1.16 Number of businesses established based on achievements within the hub during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 0 |
| Comments:  No new businesses were established based on Hub’s activities | | | |

**Q1.17 Number of public green or innovation policies (strategies and tools) influenced by the hub activities during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 1 |
| Comments:  CE Maturity index has been translated to Croatian language and will be available as a tool on the local CE digital platform. | | | |

**Q1.18 Number of strategies, roadmaps, impact studies, scenarios, analytical studies, monitoring studies or data models developed by the hub members during the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:   1. Creation of an Action plan for a circular economy for City of Varaždin based on the Strategy for the circular economy of the City of Varaždin. 2. The City of Varaždin and the Development Agency North - DAN d.o.o. have applied for a project together with 6 other international partners called "Blueprints for Local Green Deal in Small and Medium Municipalities", which was approved for co-financing through the Single Market Program (SMP COSME) under the Call for Proposals Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient (SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE). 3. The aim of the project is to harmonize existing local policies with the European Green Plan through the development and implementation of a new Local Green Plan (LGD) format for small and medium-sized local governments and to create a more resilient and sustainable future through cooperation between public administration, entrepreneurs and civil society actors. | | | |

* 1. Collaboration

Second category of evaluation covers the level of collaboration organized and obtained by the hubs and, again, two perspectives will be adopted – the development level as the maturity perspective, and the supporting performance indicators presenting the more tangible outlook of activities and results delivered.

* + 1. Development level

Respecting the level of development / the maturity level, 4 levels are distinguished – from less advanced hub at Beginner, through Builder and Experimenter, to most advanced at Expert. The characeristics of the level of operations is described for each category.

* + 1. Development level – self-assessment

**Q2 - Collaboration – level of development / maturity**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level 1**  **Beginner** |  | **Level 2**  **Builder** |  | **Level 3**  **Experimenter** |  | **Level 4**  **Expert** |
| Please rate the current level of maturity | **1** | **1 ½** | **2** | **2 ½** | **3** | **3 ½** | **4** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Comments:** |
| Through Citycircle project HUB has been able to reach other stakeholders and has gained visibility throughout Croatia. It now represents the first center with expertise in regional CE development. |
| Opportunitites for improvement: |
| To further develop the collaboration network, several activities and a larger campaign need to be conducted, since the majority of municipalities and industries do not have developed strategies or plans for the circular economy. |
| Lessons learnt: |
| There are still many disconnected initiatives that tackle the area of sustainability and various areas around the circular economy. This, although beneficial overall, is hindering the growth of Hub’s network.  Another related issue is that the area of CE is not well understood. Stakeholders tend to think its implementation is beyond their financial reach and capacity, which in most situations is true but it is not the main obstacle. We have observed that there are organizational challenges and a lack of tools and frameworks for CE:  • Quadruple helix collaboration is not mature enough  • Circular bioeconomy innovation model/framework needs to be established.  • Education and engaging stakeholders are crucial.  • Monitoring and separate waste collection system need to be implemented at the national level and wider regional level. |

* + 1. Performance indicators

Following table presents the set of indicators to be measured for the circular economy hub networking and connecting activities. Two types of indicators are indicated – qunatitative (where measurement units can be applied) and qualitative (where self-assessment will be adopted).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nr. | Performance Indicators – Networking and connecting | Type |
| 1. | Variety of stakeholders in the hub from the quadrupple helix perspective | Qualitative |
| 2. | Level of involvement and variety of civil society organizations and citizens in the hub activities | Qualitative |
| 3. | Level of involvement and variety of research and innovation organizations in the hub activities | Qualitative |
| 4. | Level of involvement and variety of public authorities in the hub activities | Qualitative |
| 5. | Level of involvement and variety of private sector in the hub activities | Qualitative |
| 6. | Importance/impact level of the hub members | Qualitative |
| 7. | Quality level of hub networking services | Qualitative |
| 8. | Quality level of internal communication and management structure | Qualitative |
| 9. | Level of adoption of digital technology for external communication and networking services of the hub | Qualitative |
| 10. | Number of civil society organizations and citizens being hub members in total | Quantitative |
| 11. | Number of research and innovation organizations being hub members in total | Quantitative |
| 12. | Number of public authorities being hub members in total | Quantitative |
| 13. | Number of private sector organizations being hub members in total | Quantitative |
| 14. | Number of new hub members that joined in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 15. | Number of projects/initiatives jointly proposed in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 16. | Number of projects/initiatives being jointly implemented in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 17. | Amount of budget requested by hub members in joint activities (in €) in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 18. | Amount of budget attracted by hub members in joint activities (in €) in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 19. | Amount of budget requested by hub members in joint activities per hub member (in €) in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 20. | Amount of budget attracted by hub members in joint activities per hub member (in €) in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 21. | Number of partners being presented within hub´s networking services in total | Quantitative |
| 23. | Number of requests received for match-making in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 24. | Number of communication channels in use in the monitored period | Quantitative |
| 25. | Number of website and social media accounts visits in the monitored period | Quantitative |

* + 1. Performance indicators – self-assessment

**Q2.1 Variety of stakeholders in the hub from the quadrupple helix perspective**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The HUB has gained additional stakeholders, mainly public organizations, and a few SMEs. This represents progress although more municipalities and entrepreneurs are needed for the HUB to gain momentum. | | | | | |

**Q2.2 Level of involvement and variety of civil society organizations and citizens in the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The level of involvement of civil society organizations is moderate but this is not due to the lack of interest or commitment. Local CE strategy for CE needs an overall action plan (only an action plan for bio-economy is created through the project) and there is a need for corresponding projects funded by local government and EU programs. This would increase the involvement of civil society organizations. | | | | | |

**Q2.3 Level of involvement and variety of research and innovation organizations in the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  RTO (research and technology organization) involvement is relatively low as the activities of the HUB are mainly oriented towards increasing awareness and developing the ecosystem and collaboration network, and less to research and solutions development. After the end of the project, and when the analysis of the pilot is done there will be much more opportunities for the RTO to be involved in further work around the pilot's processes, its efficiency, and outputs. | | | | | |

**Q2.4 Level of involvement and variety of public authorities in the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The city of Varaždin is the main supporter of the project and its involvement is very high. The other municipalities have not yet reached the same level of involvement as they lack a strategy and plans for implementing CE. This overall sets the involvement level of the region to medium level. | | | | | |

**Q2.5 Level of involvement and variety of private sector in the hub activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  Besides project partners, the involvement of other private sector members is moderate. At the end of the CITYCIRCLE project HUB will have the necessary tools to engage more members from the private sector (digital platform for local CE ecosystem, CE maturity index, best practices from the KB, and the results of the pilot analysis).  Currently three private sector organizations are involved in the HUB:  • Lokvina ltd– eco-food producer  • Aveor tech ltd– technology provider (digital and electronics)  • Croteh ltd– private research organization and technology provider in sustainability | | | | | |

**Q2.6 Importance/impact level of the hub members**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The HUB consists of highly relevant quadruple helix regional actors.  The impact of the Hub’s activities is at the medium level as it lacks the necessary resources for frequent engagement with the ecosystem. The importance of current members is high as they serve as an example of Hub’s value. Their impact is currently limited to the creation of the ecosystem and enrichment of the KB with more relevant best practices and project examples. | | | | | |

**Q2.7 Quality level of hub networking services**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The Hub’s networking services are at the medium to a high level. It has the diversified types of experts and continuous engagement with the ecosystem. | | | | | |

**Q2.8 Quality level of internal communication and management structure**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The quality of the internal communication and management structure is high. HUB has a small team and only one level within the management structure which contributes to its agility. | | | | | |

**Q2.9 Level of adoption of digital technology for external communication and networking services of the hub**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Low** |  | **Medium 2** |  | **High** |
| Please rate the level | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comments:  The level is medium to high as the HUB has implemented its own digital platform with a basic marketplace for the local/regional CE ecosystem so they are able to collaborate. | | | | | |

**Q2.10 Number of civil society organizations and citizens being hub members in total**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 4 |
| Comments:   1. Humana nova – social cooperative focused on recycling textiles 2. LAG Sjeverozapad – LAG – Local action group of the northwest region of Croatia 3. Gredica – NGO for promotion of sustainable living 4. EUVITA klaster – cluster for rural development and sustainable agriculture | | | |

**Q2.11 Number of research and innovation organizations being hub members in total**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 3 |
| Comments:   1. CROTEH – private research organization in the field of sustainable development 2. CROTECHHUB – digital and technology innovation hub 3. Tehnološki park Varaždin - Technology park Varaždin | | | |

**Q2.12 Number of public authorities being hub members in total**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 9 |
| Comments:   1. Technology innovation centre of Međimurje 2. Student centre Varaždin 3. Technology Park Varaždin ltd 4. Public Institution for the Regional Development of the Medjimurje County - REDEA, 5. Parkovi d.d. – public company 6. Public Institution for the Regional Development of the Varaždin County –JURA 7. City market public organization 8. RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA SJEVER – DAN – Development Agency north 9. Regional energy development agency North | | | |

**Q2.13 Number of private sector organizations being hub members in total**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 3 |
| Comments:  Three private sector organizations are Hub’s members:   * Aveor tech * Lokvina * OPG Vrček | | | |

**Q2.14 Number of new hub members that joined in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 11 |
| Comments:  11 new members joined. | | | |

**Q2.15 Number of projects/initiatives jointly proposed in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 1 |
| Comments:  One project was jointly proposed:  The City of Varaždin and the Development Agency North - DAN d.o.o. have applied for a project together with 6 other international partners called "Blueprints for Local Green Deal in Small and Medium Municipalities", which was approved for co-financing through the Single Market Program (SMP COSME) under the Call for Proposals Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient (SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE).  The aim of the project is to harmonize existing local policies with the European Green Plan through the development and implementation of a new Local Green Plan (LGD) format for small and medium-sized local governments and to create a more resilient and sustainable future through cooperation between public administration, entrepreneurs and civil society actors. | | | |

**Q2.16** **Number of projects/initiatives being jointly implemented in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 2 |
| Comments:  Two project where jointly implemented:  - Construction and equipping of a plant for sorting separately collected waste paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, and other materials – SORTING PLANT – City of Varaždin and other municipalities in the County  - Establishment of recycling yard – City of Varaždin. | | | |

**Q2.17 Amount of budget requested by hub members in joint activities (in €) in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 31.835,60 |
| Comments:  The total value of the project Blue Samm is 222.054,31. Hub members: City of Varaždin and Development Agency North have requested 31.835,6 EUR for activities in Varaždin. | | | |

**Q2.18 Amount of budget attracted by hub members in joint activities (in €) in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 31.835,60 |
| Comments:  Blue Samm project is granted by SMP Cosme 2021 RESILIENCE program. Hub members, City of Varaždin, and Development Agency North have attracted 31.835,6 EUR for activities in the City of Varaždin. | | | |

**Q2.19 Amount of budget requested by hub members in joint activities per hub member (in €) in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 15.917,80 |
| Comments:  15.917,8 EUR is requested per member. | | | |

**Q2.20 Amount of budget attracted by hub members in joint activities per hub member (in €) in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 15.917,80 |
| Comments:  15.917,8 EUR **is** attracted per member. | | | |

**Q2.21 Number of partners being presented within hub´s networking services in total**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 3 |
| Comments:  The services of three partners were presented within individual consultations. | | | |

**Q2.22 Number of requests received for match-making in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 3 |
| Comments:  3 requests were received by companies Aveor tech, Zelene tehnologije, and Crotech d.o.o. Matchmaking requests were made during the events held. | | | |

**Q2.23 Number of communication channels in use in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 5 |
| Comments:  Communications channels in use were email campaigns and individual meetings with municipalities:   * CITYCIRCLE webpage, * Dan webpage, * CITYCIRCLE Facebook account, * Hub’s web page, * An email campaign and follow-up were made for local utility and waste management companies.   9 municipalities were visited, and CE was discussed with them. | | | |

**Q2.24 Number of website and social media accounts visits in the monitored period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Answer (number)** |
| Please count and answer | | | 7473 |
| Comments:  In the reporting period hub’s web page was in the preparation phase, that’s the reason all promotion of CE is done through the CITYCIRCLE web page and FB account. The total number of webpage visits in the monitored period is 3866 and 3607 on the CITYCIRCLE FB account. In total: 7473 visits. | | | |