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REPORT OF POLAND'S CURRENT SITUATION

2022-2-IT01-KA210-VET-000094268

European Circular
Farmers Network

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EUROPEAN NETWORK
CIRCULAR FARMERS

Start date 01-01-2023
End date 31-12-2024
Project Reference: 2022-2-IT01-KA210-VET-000094268
EU Grant: 60.000,00 €
Programme: Erasmus+
Action Type: Small-scale partnerships in vocational education and training
Countries covered: 3
WEBSITE: ***https://www.piattaformaprogetti.eu/european-circular-farmers-network/***

Objectives

The fundamental objective of the project is to create an open European network, formed by young aspiring farmers, for the promotion of circular agriculture, through cooperation with local institutions, media, associations and training centers; the will is also to keep this network active even after the end of the project activities, thanks to targeted fundraising campaigns and crowdsourcing platforms on the web.

Activities

The activities consist of 4 phases: 1) planning and preparation activities; 2) implementation of local activities and transnational mobility (within which there will be 3 mobility to be held in Lublin, Drama and Rome); 3) implementation of measures to ensure the management, effectiveness and quality of the project; 4) activities to evaluate and share the final results of the project.

Impact

The expected results are: A) a manual of good practices for aspiring circular farmers called "The Green Circle" to be made available as an open educational resource; B) creation of a motivational story video on the web to spread the principles of circular agriculture and encourage young people to undertake this profession, through a collection of short video tutorials, demonstrative of some sustainable agricultural practices, entitled "How to be a circular farmer".

THE GREEN CIRCLE

POLISH REPORT

"Green Elephant" Foundation

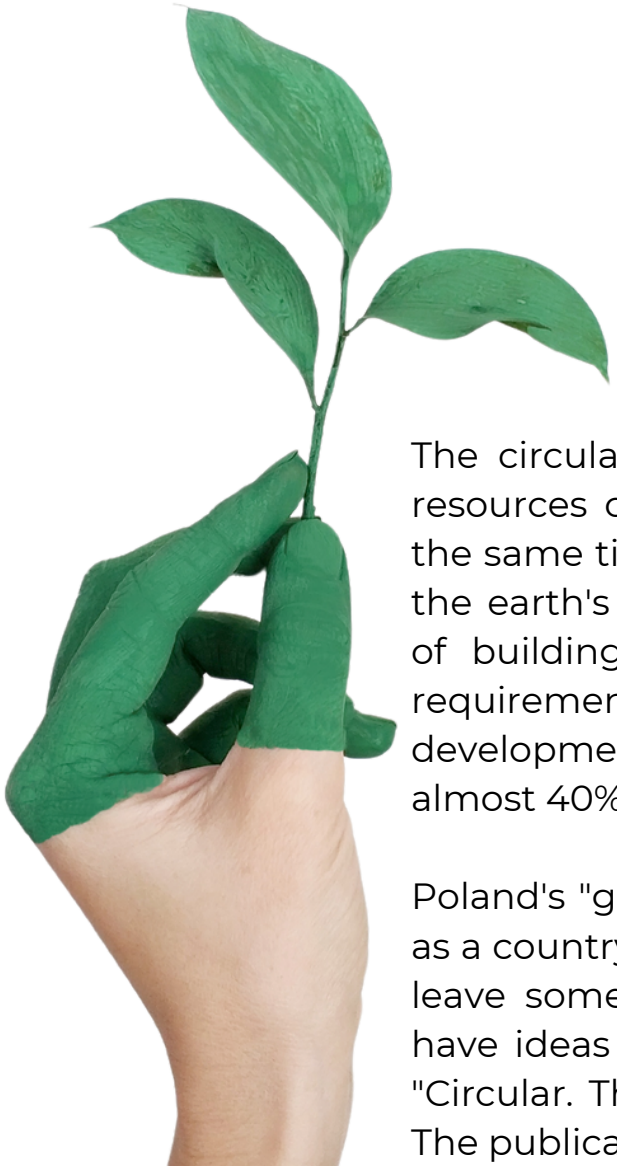
This report was made to deliver a few aspects of the circular farming and business in Poland.

02

SITUATION IN POLAND

Circular farming in Poland, as part of a broader push towards sustainable agriculture within the European Union, emphasizes creating a closed-loop system that minimizes waste and maximizes resource efficiency. The circular economy model, which Poland is integrating into its agricultural practices, seeks to reduce resource influx and waste generation, thereby mitigating the negative impacts produced by agricultural ecosystems and enhancing economic performance. This model is particularly relevant for small and medium-sized enterprises in Poland, which are being encouraged to adopt eco-digital transformations and practices that support green employee behavior and circular economy industries.

"Green Elephant" Foundation



03

The circularity gap, or the percentage of non-renewable resources outside the closed loop, is 92.8% worldwide. At the same time, we consume 1.6 times more resources than the earth's regenerative capacity allows. The vast majority of buildings in the European Union do not meet the requirements that fit into the principles of sustainable development, and are responsible for the consumption of almost 40% of total energy.

Poland's "gap" in the economy is 89.8%, which means that as a country we are 10.2% circular. - We have one earth, let's leave something for those after us - especially since we have ideas on how to do it, say the authors of the report "Circular. The Circular Economy in Cities and Real Estate." The publication is the result of ThinkCo's collaboration with the report's partners: Skanska, JW+A, Revive, System 3E, Siren Real Estate and Torus. We currently produce and consume goods in a linear fashion: we extract materials from the Earth, create goods that are then sold and used, and eventually most of them are thrown away. The goal of a closed-loop economy, also known as a circular economy, is to preserve the value of products, components and materials for as long as possible and to reduce waste and pollution.

"Green Elephant" Foundation

KEY PRACTICES

Key practices of circular agriculture include promoting closed nutrient loops, where nutrients are reused and recycled within the system, thus conserving biodiversity and mitigating climate change through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration. These practices aim to make food production and consumption more sustainable by minimizing food loss and waste, enhancing local and seasonal food production, and promoting healthier diets. Additionally, circular agriculture contributes to economic growth by creating job opportunities and fostering the development of a circular bio-economy through the valorization of agricultural leftovers and by-products

05 BENEFITS

Benefits of adopting circular agricultural practices include reduced waste and pollution, improved soil health, increased biodiversity, enhanced resilience to climate change, and improved food security. These practices provide economic benefits for farmers by enhancing resource efficiency, lowering input costs, and accessing specialized markets. Examples of circular agriculture practices include agroforestry, crop rotation, composting, organic farming, and regenerative agriculture, each contributing to a more sustainable and resilient agricultural system.

> *The economy is an enormously complex organism, full of uncertainty, constantly evolving processes and sensitive to external conditions. Shifting it to circular tracks is an extremely complex and long-term process. Therefore, circular economy strategies should be ambitious, comprehensive and as flexible as possible in order to fully realize the potential of a city or community. Survey results show that 86 percent of Polish residents are willing to reduce their purchase of material goods in order to conserve natural resources and reduce waste. This social determination has not gone unnoticed by Polish companies, which we support in developing ESG strategies and taxonomy analyses. Business in Poland recognizes the need for change and transition. Together we are contributing to the transformation.*
>
> *Przemyslaw Chimczak-Bratkowski of ThinkCo.*

CHALLENGES

06

Challenges such as resistance to change, and insufficient infrastructure and funding can hinder the widespread adoption of circular agriculture practices. Overcoming these barriers requires collaborative efforts to increase awareness, provide education and training, and develop supportive policies and financial mechanisms.

"Green Elephant" Foundation

EDUCATION IS A KEY

07

As the "Circular Restart!" report shows, in Poland one of the main barriers is still **too little awareness** of the importance of the circular economy and its main principles. Therefore, education is needed, both of decision-makers, business, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and the public. However, as INNOWO Institute president Agnieszka Sznyk points out, among Polish consumers this pro-environmental awareness is getting higher every year anyway. Last year's report "Closed loop economy - what does the consumer think about it?", prepared by INNOWO, Ikea, ING Bank Slaski and Polish Circular Hotspot, among others, showed that 45 percent of Poles declare attitudes in line with the circular economy concept, and only 30 percent say they want to use goods carelessly without any restrictions.

“*Consumers in Poland are becoming more aware, and a growing need for solutions precisely in the area of circular economy can be seen. Surveys show, for example, that they would be happy to repair various items, but unfortunately they do not have sufficient infrastructure to do so. On the other hand, one can also see, for example, a change in food habits. We are eating less and less meat, and more and more vegan and vegetarian restaurants are appearing in Poland. This is also the direction of closing the loop, you can see this willingness and readiness in society*" **says Agnieszka Sznyk.**

“*Poland has a huge potential for applying the principles of the closed-loop economy. If it takes the initiative and takes advantage of this new market, where people are aware and ask about where a product comes from and how it is produced, if it becomes a producer that respects the principles of sustainability, associated with quality rather than quantity of products reaching the European market, and implements the principles of the closed-loop economy, it will be able to take advantage of a huge business opportunity conducive to even faster development of the whole country. I think the potential for this is incredible*" **adds Natural State's Einar Kleppe Holthe.**

"Green Elephant" Foundation

LELY PRACTICE

innovators in agriculture

A sustainable farm requires proper fertilization of the soil and crops for optimal growth and development, and improved closed mineral circulation systems. Lely Sphere is a circular manure treatment system for separating and reusing mineral flows on dairy farms. Minor changes to the design of the grate floor will effectively separate solid manure from liquid manure. This will reduce the level of ammonia in the barn. Gases occurring under and directly above the barn floor are absorbed. A special filter will convert the ammonia into nitrogen fertilizer. In this way, 70% of the nitrogen lost due to emissions can be recovered and used for fertilizer.

The system separates the three main mineral compounds that can be used for precision fertilization. By using your own valuable manure, you can optimally fertilize your crops, which improves the quality of later harvests. Also, the barn floor is clean and the air is fresh, as the amount of gases and excrement has been kept to a minimum. It is even possible to maintain natural ventilation and pasture exits.

READ more about IT

WATCH more about IT

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European Circular Farmers Network

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