

EU Danube Region Strategy

PA 8 LIGHTHOUSE

**GREEN TECH, CIRCULAR ECONOMY &
CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY**



CCRI Pilot Region Podravje

Slovenia

RDA Podravje Maribor and E Institute



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Interreg Programme
Danube Region



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Ministry of
Economy



Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Tourism

Basics

CCRI Podravje



Name: CCRI pilot region Podravje

Country: Slovenia

Scoring: 45/50

Contact Person:



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RDA Podravje Maribor



<https://www.ezavod.si/en/about-e-institute/circular-economy>

Key Project Data:



2022-2030



Funded by Horizon Europe

Project Coordinators:

Regional Development Agency (RDA) Podravje Maribor

E Institute



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About the project

The **Podravje region** became part of the **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative** (CCRI initiative) in 2022 and was selected as **one of the 12 CCRI Pilots**.

Goal of the region:

1. Preparation of circular bioeconomy strategy
2. Preparation of a system for circular bioeconomy implementation at regional scale

Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI):

- Part of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan
- Focus: implementation of circular economy across cities + regions of Europe
- Aims:
 - reduce pressure on natural resources,
 - create sustainable growth + jobs,
 - help meeting 2050 climate neutrality target,
 - increase synergies among projects + initiatives, disseminate relevant knowledge and give greater visibility to best practices



Support development of a **climate resilient** and **circular regional bioeconomy**

→ through the utilisation of endogenous regional bioeconomy potentials with circular system solutions (CSS), for example:

- Circular production of fertilizers
- Use of river sediments
- Use of purified wastewater in agriculture



Initiate the **formation of value chains**

→ derived from available bio-degradable materials

Methodology

The methodology was provided by CCRI and includes three phases:

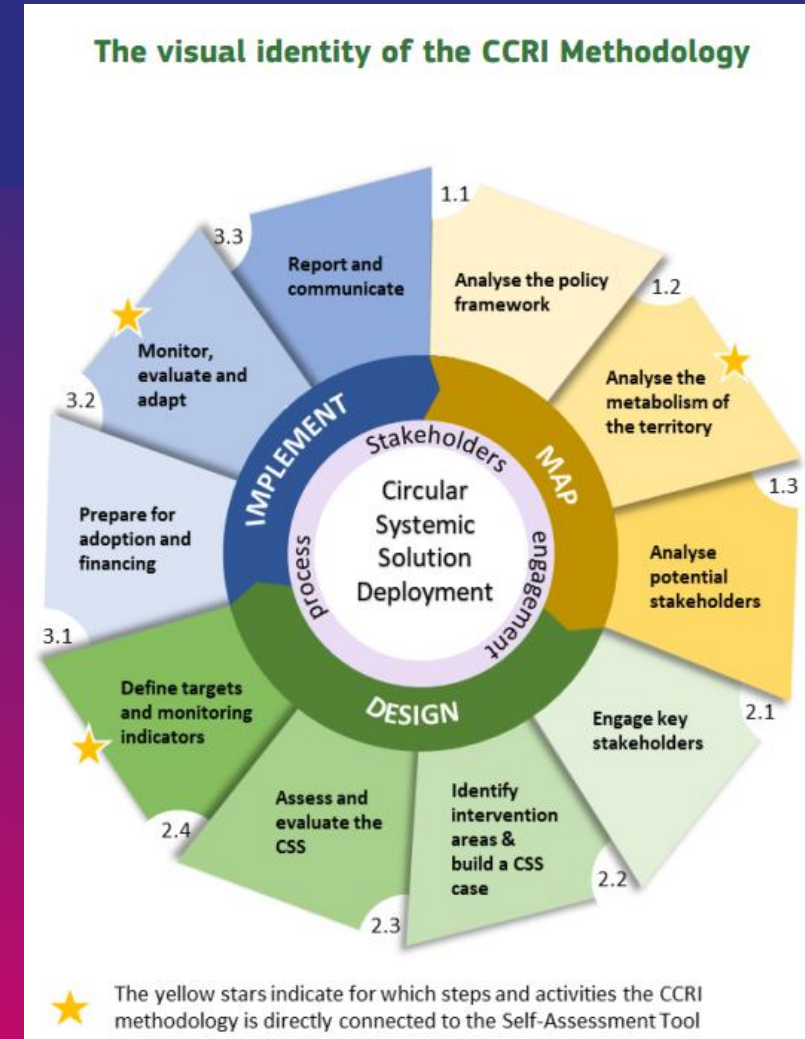
MAP → the territory and understand its potential

DESIGN → the circular systemic solution

IMPLEMENT → the circular systemic solution

The methodology addresses the **technological, scientific and governance components** of **Circular Systemic Solutions**, including environmental and societal aspects.

A detailed description of the methodology can be found [here](#).



Impact

Strategy for bioeconomy in Podravje chosen based on **regional data** → 70% of land dedicated for agriculture + large river in the region

- Develop solutions based on **available material** in the region → help stakeholders to deal with them + create new solutions that can involve other stakeholders
- Possible **upgrades** in **food production** → available land in Slovenia + no self-sufficient vegetable production

Outcome

- Pilot project for reuse of cleaned wastewater is ongoing within Horizon project CircSyst
- Program Green assist used for preparation of implementation of project for fertilizers
- Development of green house project for vegetables production with use of geothermal energy

Barriers

Data collection → part of legislation needs to be adjusted to enable use of some materials

Project preparation for financial instruments

Replication Tips

Methodology can be used for replication → needs to be adapted for each region, its starting points + materials available

