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CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVES IN THE MARCHE REGION: IMPLEMENTING OF INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS WITHIN THE MARLIC PROJECT AND MAPPING REGIONAL SKILLS AND GOVERNANCE

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Abstract

To reduce material use in production, we should embrace circular economy (CE) principles. Industrial symbiosis (IS) enables material, expertise, and service exchanges, though legislative and technical limits restrict local efforts. The MARLIC project was initiated in response to the necessity of establishing a central point of reference in the Marche region in Italy, to develop new materials and promoting circular use. This study aims to present the findings of two activities conducted by ENEA. The first activity involves the application of a methodology for the identification of roles and skills within the CE sector in the region, along with the collection of evidence useful for the proposal of an organisational framework at the regional level. In this regard, according to the evidence obtained, it can be supposed that the best organizational model for CE skills systematization can be achieved by creating a specific regional structure for CE and resource management. The second activity is a pilot IS application with local enterprises, following ENEA's methodology. In a workshop, 30 companies identified 85 matches and over 300 shared resources, including paper, leather, and plastic. The strong participation and positive feedback from organizations at the IS workshop show their commitment to enhancing process circularity and applying IS for improved environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the parallel activity of identifying a regional governance model for CE has provided a more concrete definition of the path towards transitioning from linear to circular production models.

Key words: circular economy, governance, industrial symbiosis, marches, resources circularity, skills on circular economy

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