

## International Workshop "Towards a Circular Economy with Zero Waste. From theory to practice. Sharing best practices" – Syracuse, April 8, 2016.

In line with the international debate on the possible transition from a linear to a circular economy, SVI.MED. Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Sustainable Development, following the success of the 2014 edition of "Towards a Circular Economy with Zero Waste", which was attended by numerous experts from all over Italy, has organized the II edition 2016 of the workshop, in collaboration with the Union of Municipalities of Valley of Iblei. The Workshop, the main event in Italy of CENSE project, was aimed to bring in Sicily concrete proposals and best practices which are in line with the European Commission Communication "EU action Plan for the circular economy"(COM(2015)614).

The workshop "*Towards a Circular Economy. From theory to practice. Sharing best practices*", took place in Syracuse, on April 8, 2016, focuses on a first part about the comparison between European and national strategy on the application of circular economy, and a second round of parallel workshops to stimulate an open and constructive discussion on existing practices and case studies in the national context.

2 parallel sessions of sharing labs was held for tackling different themes linked to Circular Economy: the food value chain and the new circular economy opportunities, that are part of two projects where Svimed and the Union of Municipalities of the Valley of Iblei are partners.

Sharing labs were:

**-LAB1** titled "Circular Economy in the food value chain" was around the main goals to be reached with the ECOGDO project ([www.nowastenet.eu/website/ecogdo/](http://www.nowastenet.eu/website/ecogdo/)), funded by the Italian Environmental Ministry and coordinated by Svimed; the project aims to test and validate a model of waste reduction applying for large-scale distribution (GDO) in synergy with public bodies, at national level.

**-LAB2** titled "CENSE : new circular economy opportunities: eco-design, reuse, repair and sharing initiatives" was around the main goals to be reached with CENSE project "Circular Economy from North to South Europe: new pathways of citizenship decision processes " ([www.svimed.eu/cense](http://www.svimed.eu/cense)) funded by the program "Europe for Citizens - Network of Towns", composed by a partnership with Malta, Sicily, Croatia, Sweden, Netherlands, Greece and Romania; the project aims to promote the exchange of best practices and networking between experts and cities in transition from a *linear* economic model, towards a *circular* model.

Experts of national and international level and associations at local/national and international level (e.g ACR+) were attended the event for tackling the European Commission Communication Action Plan for the Circular Economy" (COM (2015) 614), that establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of actions, with measures covering the whole product cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.

**On 9<sup>th</sup> April** Svimed and the Network of Municipalities of Valle of Iblei have organized two technical visits to the town of Palazzolo Acreide and Ferla in the Province of Syracuse, with the aim to show to all partnership the collecting and reuse center (in Palazzolo Acreide Municipality) and the *home composting centre* and the "*ecostation*" (in Ferla Municipality), in which citizens can bring specific types of waste (e.g. WEEE, ) in order to strengthen the waste collection. Ecostation in Ferla is also an info point about waste collection for citizens; in addition in the ecostation has been installed a *water distributor*, for water supply of the citizens, with the aim to limit the purchase of plastic bottles.



Photo 1. "Towards a Circular Economy. From theory to practice. Sharing best practices" –Syracuse, 8<sup>th</sup> April



Photo 2 "Towards a Circular Economy. From theory to practice. Sharing best practices" –Syracuse, 8<sup>th</sup> April



Photo 3. Technical visit in Ferla Municipality for visiting the home composting centre

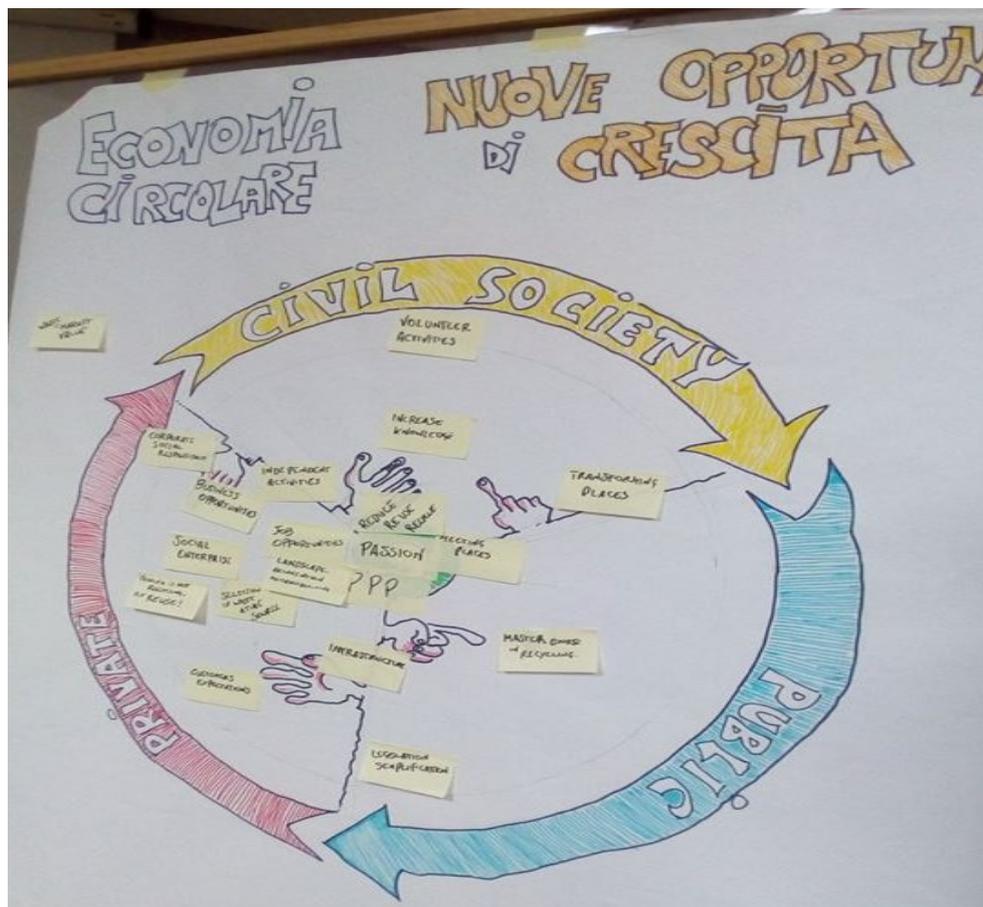


Photo 4. LAB2 "CENSE : new circular economy opportunities"