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The background is a dark blue canvas featuring a stylized, colorful illustration of a sustainable business cycle. At the top, a purple truck with a smiling face and leaves on its side is shown. Below it, a person is depicted in a living room setting with a television and musical notes. To the right, a woman is shown next to a washing machine. The bottom section features a large recycling bin with a recycling symbol, wind turbines, and various industrial and technological icons like gears, a lightbulb, and a robotic arm. The entire scene is framed by a yellow circular path.

VELTHA



2021

ANNUAL  
REPORT

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# WHERE WE ARE NOW

*Despite the hard time we are living in, 2021 has been the best year in the history of Veltha. Congratulations to everyone!*

Thanks to the re-branding efforts, a new structure, a generational replacement and the different winning proposals submitted during 2020, this year Veltha has further developed its identity as a research centre, separated from the one of any specific precious individual involved or specific project. Achieving this stage also required narrowing our scope to designing and developing models and tools to exploit the circular economy in the fight against climate change.

We have been working in a team of 13 people, including the board members;

holding regular monthly meetings; our great interns; contributing to every aspect of our non for profit in a significant way; and a co-financed PhD student in partnership with our member university UNITUS. This year we have been involved in 5 EU projects: REPLACE (started in 2019), DIGIPRIME (started in 2020), FRONTSHIP, EXPLOWHEAT and INTEGRATE (which will also be coordinated by Veltha during the next 4 years).

*This should give an idea of how significant the growth that we are going through is. In the following pages we hope that you can feel inspired by an in-depth analysis of our yearly impact.*

*Wishing you a happy new year,*

*Silvia Giannisi - President of Veltha*

*Luca Polidori - Secretary General of Veltha*

*Aimee Forcada - Treasurer of Veltha*





Veltha was already involved in eco-innovation from the very beginning, but after the adoption by the European Commission of the “Manifesto for a resource-efficient Europe” and the first report of the Ellen Macarthur Foundation “Towards a circular economy”, in 2018, the Circular Economy became for Veltha the main target of research and commitment to enable the transition to this new vision.

Since the EU “Circular economy action plan” issued in 2015, Veltha has been researching different aspects of the circular economy by adopting a bottom-up approach, involving local authorities and stakeholders to identify value chains with potential and define a monitoring framework for assessing CE projects.

Our interest extended to more and more industries ranging from the textile, construction sectors to the automotive, plastics and bio-based ones. At that time, Veltha enlarged the research to further aspects like material flows and innovative technologies enabling new business models for SMEs. These activities anticipated the recommendations of the new CE action plan published in 2020 and paved the way for Veltha to be considered a frontrunner in the research devoted to a circular economy innovation system.

## ABOUT US

Everything started on the 10th of May 2010 - Veltha was set up in collaboration with Università della Tuscia of Viterbo (Italy) with the purpose of joining the European research family, active in areas related to the environment, sustainable development and eco-innovation. Since, the beginning Veltha has been active in eco innovation and with the time, our expertise focused in circular economy.

In this regard, Veltha has been involved in different European projects – Depbal, Zephir, SCREEN, Digiprime, REPLACE, FrontShlp.

**We've collaborated with more than 25 European regions and more than 900 stakeholders**

This trajectory has made Veltha develop strong skills in project management, communication and dissemination activities, and preparation of the implementation plans targeted at the research results, including the organisation of agreements for the IPR sharing and marketing actions.



# WHAT IS VELTHA NOW?

Veltha now specialises in performing research to design circular economy solutions to tackle climate change. By exploiting the lessons learnt so far and the project results achieved, Veltha will keep following the path we started.

We will share our advanced expertise in the following research areas: policy models, circular business models, digitalisation of the circular economy and sustainable materials.

Our specialisation in these categories will possibly give life to new European collaboration projects for a transition at macro level towards a circular economy system.





# OUR PURPOSE IS ACHIEVED THROUGH:

- Selecting, preparing and implementing research project proposals funded by the European Commission, World Bank and other local, national and international donors.
- Enhancing innovation by fostering the technology transfers from Research to Industry with particular emphasis to the circular economy and to environmental socio-economic and cultural sustainability.
- Providing seminars, conferences and formal consultation in matters of Research and Innovation and to participate in debates or decision-making processes that concern or involve it.
- Carry out works and studies, conduct actions or participate in projects that contribute to a better reciprocal knowledge between European and Third Countries subjects engaged in Circular economy and sustainable development, as well as to develop synergies and cooperative actions with them.



**We don't want  
to witness  
change. We  
want to drive  
change!**



# MEET THE TEAM:

## SILVIA GIANNISI

Co-founder and President

Project manager on behalf of the Association of the DIGIPRIME and REPLACE projects



## CARLO POLIDORI

Co-founder and Senior Project Manager

Civil engineer and expert evaluator of EC funded projects since 2000



## LUCA POLIDORI

Secretary General

Expert on EC funded projects and information & technology project manager



## AIMEE FORCADA

Treasurer

More than 10 years of experience in e-commerce and IT technologies

## SARA BERGAMIN

Program Manager

Management team of REPLACE project, Communication manager of REPLACE, 'Barrier Identification and Legislation Support' DigiPrime, Financial and accounting matters



## GABRIEL CARLIN

Project Manager

Responsible for management of Digiprime and the overseeing of EU projects and calls



**DANIELA  
BRUCOLI**

Communications Manager

Responsible for all the communication and dissemination activities

**LAUREN  
BETTI**

Project Assistant Intern

Fostering of policy and research and support with calls and projects

**THAMINA  
NAMI**

Research and PolicyLab Assistant Intern

Assistance on EU calls and organization of The Policy Lab

**EMANUEL  
FERREIRA**

Communications Assistant Intern

Development of the Culture and Democracy calls and overall communications assistance

**PAULA  
BALTAR**

Research and PolicyLab Assistant Intern

Identification and execution of EU projects and development of The Policy Lab.

**ROBERT  
BROUGHAN**

Communications Assistant Intern

Policy research and organization and development of Loops

**SARA  
ECHEVARRÍA**

Environmental Engineer Intern

EU research projects preparation and coordination support

**ANNA  
FERRARI**

Project Assistant Intern

Identification and assistance in the overall organization of EU projects and calls

Working together to foster research for sustainable development and social innovation.







**DIGIPRIME IS A DIGITAL MANUFACTURING  
PLATFORM FOR CONNECTED CIRCULAR  
SMART FACTORIES**

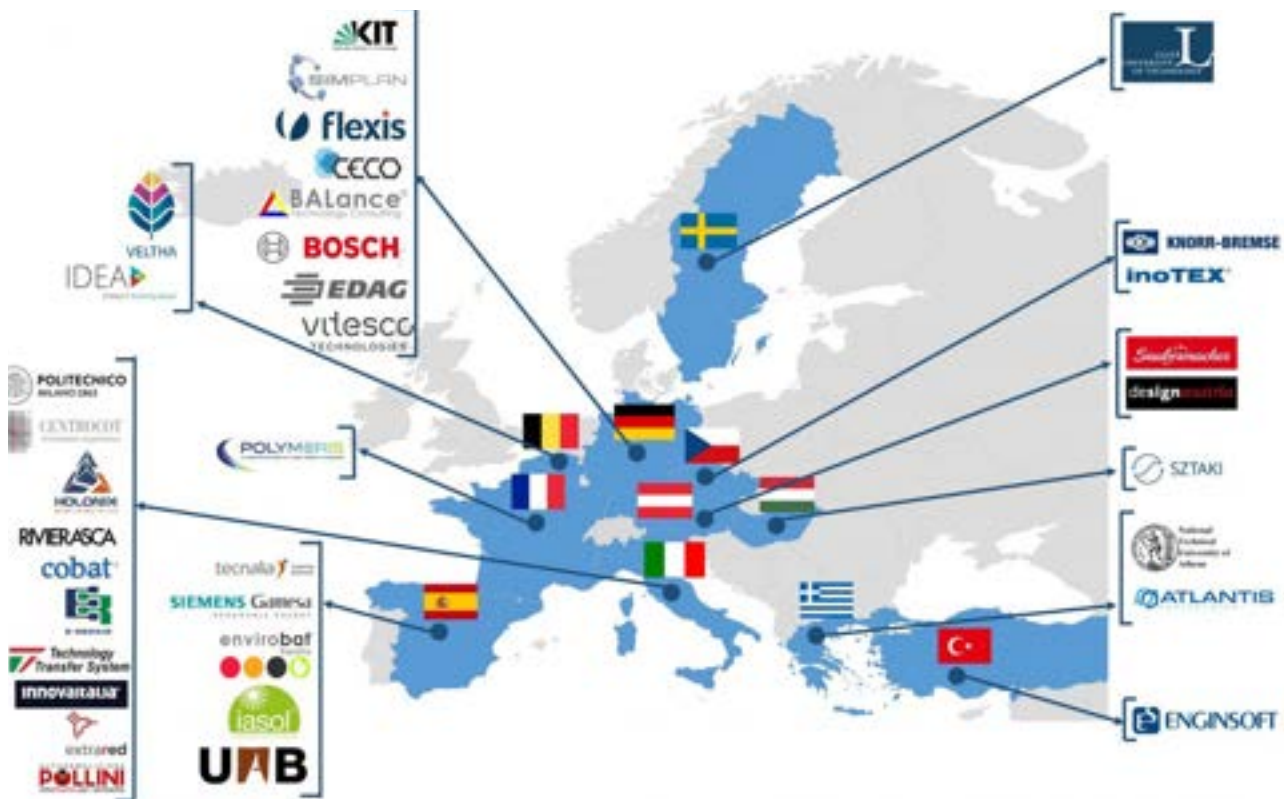


DigiPrime has been one of the main projects our team has been involved with!

In consortium with over 30 European organizations spanning 5 industrial sectors and over 11 EU countries, Veltha has been a key partner in the Horizon 2020 DigiPrime project. Bringing technological innovation and circular economy together, DigiPrime (Digital Platform for Circular Economy in Cross-sectorial Sustainable Value Networks) is developing the concept of a circular economy digital platform to create circular business models based on the data-enhanced recovery and reuse of functions and materials.

To contribute to the many services that DigiPrime as an all-encompassing tool intends to provide - from de- and remanufacturing services and the creation of circular innovation hubs to product condition prediction, a CE decision support system or demand and supply forecasting, among others - Veltha has been hard at work researching the technological scenarios in which the tool will be able to be applied, further developing its existing CE mapping tool which will be implemented in an upcoming pilot, and planning the open calls that will, in the near future, contribute to the further development of DigiPrime's functionalities.





## THE BIGGEST CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECT FUNDED BY H2020

By setting the grounds for the tool pilot that's starting in January 2022 and which will be one of the key tasks in the next year, Veltha has not only expanded its network, establishing new connections with EU regions, but also continued to develop its tools and methodologies for CE, designed within previous projects. This continuity with past projects is at the core of Veltha's growth in 2021.

Great progress has been made throughout this year in the development of the DigiPrime services, and the next year promises to be very fruitful, with the implementation of Veltha's mapping tool in 25 EU regions who will as a result be able to uncover new circular business models and continue their work towards closing the loops through cross-sectorial, cross-regional collaboration. Participation in DigiPrime has also been and will continue to be a great opportunity for networking and the creation of lasting partnerships upon which future collaborations will surely be built.

To learn more about this exciting project, check out the website:

<https://www.digiprime.eu/>







REPLACE is deploying the knowledge and tools produced by SCREEN in the 8 participating regions, aiming at enhancing the design, implementation and monitoring of policy instrument dealing with circular economy.

REPLACE aims at improving management, implementation and monitoring of regional policy instruments targeted at facilitating the transition towards a CE, while boosting sustainable development: the main operative target refers to the development and application of policies and actions focusing on identification, valorization, assessment and financing of circular value chains, resulting in new local and interregional projects.

REPLACE will develop a replicable framework for regional benchmark on circularity excellence level. This project wants to fulfil a synergic use of funding for CE, connected to RIS3, to enhance innovation and competitiveness, as well as economic and employment performances while increasing effectiveness of policy instruments. In fact, REPLACE has an innovative horizontal cross-cutting approach, not focusing on one or more specific aspects of CE, but dealing with the lack of an effective and shared strategy for CE at regional level.

REPLACE is an Interreg Europe project, funded under the IV call: it aims at ameliorating the regional policy instruments targeting circular economy through interregional cooperation and learning, as well as the exchange of experience and expertise.

REPLACE is a follow up of the previous H2020 SCREEN project, it is structured in four pillars:

- Local Analysis
- Cross-regional Synergies:
- Funding Instruments
- Assessment Criteria







# REPLACE

## Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

REPLACE wants to put in practice, test and tailor the replicable methodology created and developed with the H2020 SCREEN project. The latter saw the cooperation of 17 European Region that co-created a four-step approach to tackle circular economy transition.

The project started in August 2019 and will continue until July 2023. This exciting project has been put forward by 10 different partners, that come from different EU regions, public institutes and agencies. The budget for Replace is € 1,694,570.00.

Veltha carries the fundamental role of the advisory partner: we ensure the regional public authorities apply the developed tools and deploy effective policies instruments to promote the transition through the assessment of potentiality, support and financing of cross-regional value chains as well as assessment and impact evaluation of circular economy projects.

It has supported regions in identify circular economy focus sectors (linked to RIS3), mapping stakeholders and exploring interregional collaboration in synergic value chains, with the aim of studying and possibly testing the launch of new dedicated funding instruments tackling cross-regional circular economy initiatives.

We invite you to learn more about this project through our website:  
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/replace/>





FRONTSHIP aims at ensuring green and just transition of the Polish Lodzkie Region towards decarbonization and territorial regeneration through replicable circular systemic models and creating a territorial cluster of circular initiatives to accelerate the transition to a more green, resilient economy, able to provide sustainable responses.

Veltha will play an essential role in the design of a **Regional Systemic Circular Economy Approach**.

We'll develop a **circular economy monitoring system** through the provision of methodologies and toolkits to support the regional transition. Define strategies for the creation of **new circular business models and regional enhancements**, alongside generating and assessing impact through citizens and stakeholders' engagement for CSSs deployment.

We'll then explore replication strategies to broaden the regional approach and enhance the reiteration potential to extend the systemic solution to other fellow regions.

FRONTSHIP is the pilot that during the next four years will steer the Łódzkie region, Campania, Sterea Ellada, Norte, Friesland, and hopefully many others, towards a **more circular and sustainable future**.

**FRONTrunner  
approacTransition to a  
circular & resilient future:**

**Deployment of systemic solutions with  
the support of local clusters and the  
development of regional community-  
based innovation schemes.**







The kick-off meeting for Frontship happened last December and it showed the excitement of all the partners involved. The consortium is formed by 34 partners from 9 European countries. We are comprising public regional authorities, both large and small and medium enterprises, research institutions and technology centres, NGOs, and European associations.

In the next 4 years, FRONTSHIP will contribute to further the green and just transition of the Łódzkie region away from its current linear economic foundation, towards the region's decarbonisation and territorial regeneration. It will do so by demonstrating four Circular Systemic Solutions. Each circular systemic solution targets an economic sector that is aiming towards decarbonisation: Wood Packaging, Food & Feed, Water & Nutrients, and Plastic & Rubber Waste. Each developed circular systemic solution will furthermore be highly replicable. A feat that will be proven during the project by their implementation in other European regions. FRONTSHIP will create Circular Regional Clusters that involve a wide range of local, regional, and national stakeholders, both from the public and private spheres, guaranteeing that no one will be left behind.

The project has received an EU grant of € 16 112 118,01 for the full project duration: 1 November 2021 – 31 October 2025.

To learn more about this project, go to its website: [frontshlp.eu](https://frontshlp.eu)





# POLICY LAB

The "Policy Lab" was developed in 2016 as part of the H2020 SCREEN project, in which Veltha and 17 European Regions collaborated to co-create a repeatable systemic approach to a transition to the Circular Economy in EU regions as part of their Smart Specialization Strategy. Due to the far-reaching outcomes obtained, which exceeded initial expectations, the Policy Lab was extended beyond the project's conclusion as an informal collaboration network between European regions, available to all regions and stakeholders dealing with the circular economy, willing to improve on their innovation skills regardless of their starting point.

## Policy Lab 2.0

Veltha decided to build the Policy Lab 2.0 "Policy Lab for a Europe Made by Circular Regions (SCREEN-Lab)" after the EU adopted the new Circular Economy Action Plan "For a cleaner and more competitive Europe" in March 2020. The Policy Lab 2.0 is a think-tank functioning on a free platform available to all regional stakeholders willing to co-create and implement policies allowing EU industry, SMEs, and the public at large to adopt a circular sustainable approach.

The Policy Lab 2.0 operated in three-month cycles during which Veltha posed a central research question to the participating Regions based on their requirements and needs. Each month, a sub-question is offered, followed by a dedicated workshop. Following each meeting, Veltha synthesized the inputs gathered from the Regions' internal debates, its own research, and the three workshops. This dual nature ensured a multidisciplinary approach to the discussed issues and enabled Veltha to issue a periodical publication at the end of each period to be submitted to the Members of EU Committees dealing with CE.





## Policy Lab 3.0

### The new incubator for EU project proposals

From a research-based perspective, Veltha moves further and takes a leap into action.

The third structure of the Policy Lab has been officially introduced last December 2021: based on the exploration of the regions' challenges in the implementation of circular strategies by relying on the support of EU's funding instruments, the new Policy Lab intends to become a space for synergy identification and solution co-creation. Through challenge-specific brainstorming and collaboration sessions, it will serve as a hub for the development of potential EU projects capable of enhancing the circular economy in EU regions and supporting entrepreneurs and SMEs' competitiveness in their circular transition.

Veltha's experience in a series of events over the past two years has served to pinpoint a series of obstacles which many regions across the EU face in their transition towards circularity. These are not barriers, but rather hurdles to be overcome with the right tools and cooperation structures. Spanning from capacity building, CE definition and awareness to the analysis of the role of the private sector in this scenario - they encompass different needs, mostly related to the importance of CE experts and coordinating figures, the lack of general knowledge on CE, missing incentives for stakeholder involvement, and demand for circular products.

In light of all the inputs and feedback collected, Veltha is officially declaring that it is time to put these essential steps into practice, and has hit the ground running, starting a long-term joined effort to speed up the circular transition.



# OUR OUTCOMES:

Veltha has published two Policy Lab's results up until now, both of which are based on research questions, debates, and research analysis, and have been submitted to the relevant EU bodies.

- 01** Industrial transition to a green European economy: focuses on three primary challenges related to the development of a common set of circularity criteria for CE projects, the need for circular economy specialists in each area, and the importance of persuading businesses to include circularity in their plans.
- 02** The needs of European regions for a smooth transition to circular economy, focused on the following aspects of knowledge exchange, data collection, capacity building, the private sector and its engagement with local governments, all of them being persistent problems surrounding the advancement of the circular economy in each area and nation.

We recently shifted its focus from research to practice as a result of our involvement in the EU Week of Regions and Cities, COP26, and previously conducted policy labs. The new strategy has the ability to turn research findings into action, accelerating the transition to a circular economy and supporting interregional innovation projects in conjunction with European regions via a variety of EU funding initiatives namely Interreg Europe, Interreg Central Europe, and Interregional Innovation Investment I3.

SCREEN





# LOOPS

## Let's talk circular!

Our webinar series in which we talk with H2020-project coordinators to explore the state-of-the-art technology and foster knowledge exchange in the CE and innovation field.

This initiative originates from the existing awareness that cutting-edge technological knowledge is often solely confined to the research environment, thus preventing business from being up to date with the latest advanced discoveries. Loops is born to provide remedy to it, by fostering education and knowledge transfer from research actors to industrial stakeholders and business leaders, by showcasing the groundbreaking outcomes produced at the research level.

The webinar series is a bi-weekly event, and each episode consists of a live conversation with leaders of two Horizon2020-funded projects sharing similar or complementary features. During the event, each project leader presents and showcases the main insights of their work, and discuss any questions and curiosities arising from us and the participants.



## Season 1

## Season 2

## Episodes



## EPISODE 1

Participants:  
**WOOL2LOOP** - Anne Kaiser  
**HOUSEFUL** - Sergio Martinez.

WOOL2LOOP project provides innovative smart demolition and sorting technologies for mineral wool waste, as well as a revolutionary analysis approach for segregating the material based on its alkali-activation compatibility.  
 HOUSEFUL aim is develop novel interventions for effective material, waste, water, and energy management throughout the housing value chain.



## EPISODE 2

Participants:  
**CLAIM** - George Triantaphyllidis and George Triantafyllou  
**PlastiCircle** - César Aliaga.

The CLAIM project's aim is to develop five cutting-edge technologies to prevent litter from entering the water and to track plastic garbage.  
 PlastiCircle project is creating innovations in waste collection, transport, sorting, and recycling, and aims to transform plastic packaging waste into valuable products.



## EPISODE 3

Participants:  
**REACT** - Daniele Piga  
**NEW COTTON** - Kirsi Niinimäki.

REACT aim is to manage the waste acrylic textiles from outdoor awnings and furniture.  
 NEW COTTON's aim is to use cutting-edge chemical recycling technology to pilot and scale circular fashion in the garment manufacturing industry.



## EPISODE 4

Participants:  
**DACOMAT** - Jens Kjær Jørgensen  
**FIBEREUSE** - Marcello Colledani

DACOMAT's aim is to create low-cost composite materials that are more damage resistant and damage predictable.  
 The aim of FIBEREUSE is to integrate multiple innovation efforts into a holistic approach to improve composite recycling and reuse profitability in value-added products.



## EPISODE 5

Participants:  
**CYBELE** - Steven Davy  
**WATER2RETURN** - Pilar Zapata

The aim of CYBELE is to generate innovation and value in the agri-food domains by implementing Precision Agriculture (PA) and Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) methods.  
 The WATER2RETURN project uses a circular economy approach to turn wastewater treatment facilities in slaughterhouses into "bio-refineries".



## EPISODE 6

Participants:  
**CarE-Service** - Giacomo Copani  
**Si-Drive** - Kevin Ryan

CarE-Service is a project aimed at producing circular economy services based on H&HEV component reuse and remanufacturing.  
 Si-Drive is a project that aims to develop the next generation of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles.



## EPISODE 7

Participants:  
**HYDROUSA** - Simos Malamis  
**PROJECT O** - Alessandra Bianco Prevot

The HYDROUSA project is aimed at revolutionising the water value chain through circularity.  
 The PROJECT O aims to demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of innovative circular water systems in four demonstration sites across Europe.

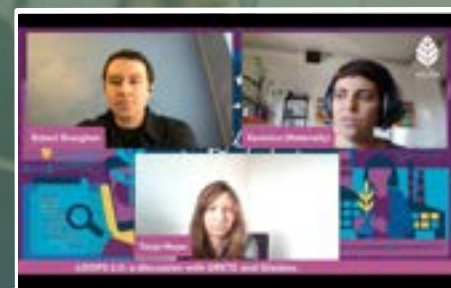
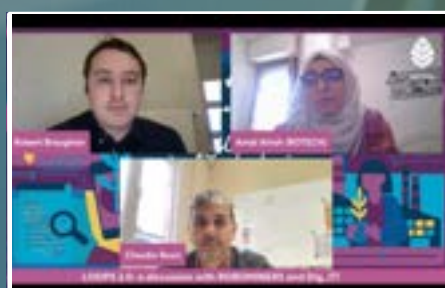
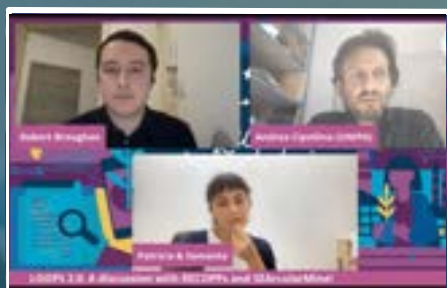






## Episodes

### Season 1 Season 2



#### EPISODE 1

Participants:  
**RECOOPs** - Patricia Córdoba Sola  
**SEArcularMINE** - Andrea Cipollina

RECOOPs project's aim is to work towards recovering critical raw materials from the waste generated during the primary production of Copper.  
 SEArcularMINE aim is to take the brine from wastewater, develop it being using three innovative technologies within a circular procedure that will target magnesium, lithium, and other trace elements.

#### EPISODE 2

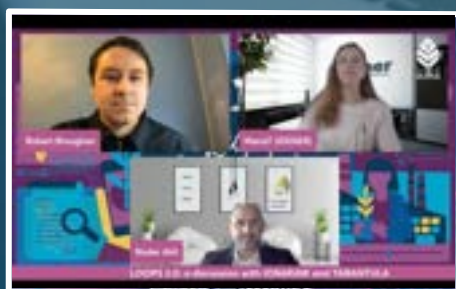
Participants:  
**ROBOMINERS** - Claudio Rossi  
**Dig\_IT** - Amal A'irish

ROBOMINERS aims is facilitating EU access to mineral raw materials by using resilient bio-inspired modular robotic miners.  
 Dig\_IT project aim is to create a human-centered internet of things platform for the sustainable future of mining

#### EPISODE 3

Participants:  
**GRETE** - Veronica Sarbach  
**Glaukos** - Tanja Meyer

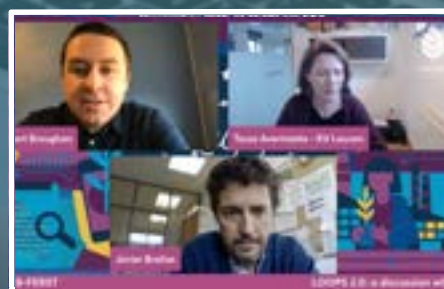
GRETE projects aim is to improve the existing wood-to-textile value chains by developing breakthrough technologies that can open up the identified bottlenecks and enable increased production of man-made cellulose fibres in Europe.  
 Glaukos aims to use circular solutions when developing biobased textile fibres and textile coating



#### EPISODE 4

Participants:  
**ION4RAW** - Maria Tripijana  
**TARANTULA** - Nader Akil

ION4RAW project's aim is project is to propose new energy, material, and cost-efficient mineral processing technology to recover by-products from primary sources.  
 TARANTULA project's aim is to develop a toolkit of novel, efficient, and flexible metallurgical technologies with high selectivity and recovery rates.



#### EPISODE 5

Participants:  
**B-FERST** - Javier Brañas Lasala  
**RUSTICA** - Tessa Avermaete

B-FERST project's aim is to integrate the valorisation of bio-waste in agriculture management plans by creating new circular and bio-based chains starting from bio-waste.  
 RUSTICA project's aim is to provide a technical solution to convert organic residues from the fruit and vegetable sector into novel bio-based fertiliser products.







# 19<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

*Together for Recovery* #EURegionsWeek

In 2021, Veltha had the great pleasure to participate in different international events.

We would like to highlight our participation during the **19<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities** (11th - 14th October). For this week, Veltha held four events that covered different areas of our work in the green transition as well as presented crucial issues that connect circular economy with local and regional policies.

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## LAUNCHING THE CIRCULAR BENCHMARK TOOL - BY REGIONAL POLICY ACTION FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

This was our first event. Organised in partnership with the Interreg Europe REPLACE project, the event saw different REPLACE project partners present their findings around the development of the tool for benchmarking circular practices at a regional level.

This Circular Benchmark Tool offers monitoring of the Circular Economy progress and fosters knowledge exchange between regions, while offering an easy to use approach and the possibility of self-assessment. This tool is built on different indicators and results on a score. For more in-depth information, a panel discussion with three speakers from different EU regions was provided, presenting good practices taking into account the indicators of circular procurement, good governance and access to funding. A second panel was introduced by three speakers who shared their experiences about their practices and scores evaluated through the CBT.

To rewatch: <https://vimeo.com/636700741>



# 19<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

**Together for Recovery** #EURegionsWeek

## REGIONAL POLICY ACTION FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION

This session was also based on different conclusions reached through the Replace project. Therefore, different participants introduced the evolution of Replace and its methodology. Teresa Jorge, the regional officer from the Central Region of Portugal presented in more detail the framework and strategic planning of the project and how it has been designed within the Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) for each region while identifying crucial issues for each regional context. Finally, different activities of the Circular Economy Agenda were highlighted as well as the next steps for Replace.

To rewatch: <https://vimeo.com/636576745>

## A FOUR-STEP APPROACH TO BUILDING A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION

This session was also based on the Replace project, but it presented conclusions from the previous Screen project on which Replace is grounded. The methodology of both projects was explained as well as more insights presented in the Memorandum of Understanding to support regions in their CE application. Other aspects were also discussed, like the financing of different activities through various funds and the legislative context in which they are placed.

To rewatch: <https://vimeo.com/637179995>

## DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A TOOL FOR REGIONAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

The main focus of this event was on the input of DigiPrime for regional policy. DigiPrime is quite a complex project that offers services to businesses, but sets itself as a great tool for public administration stakeholders. Carlo Polidori reflected on these main 4 services:

- Identification of value chain through a mapping tool and capacity to identify possible synergies in the region
- Circular innovation hubs integration: list and in-depth assessment of synergies and provide advice for regional officers
- Material flow monitoring and aggregated system-oriented KPIs
- Barrier identification and legislation support to overcome potential hurdles hampering the implementation of new circular business cases

More insights about DigiPrime are shared in this session as well as financial aspects.

To rewatch: <https://vimeo.com/636687291>



## COP 26 SIDE EVENT

### BETWEEN ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION: THE ROLE OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



The COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference, took place on the 31 of October until the 12th of November 2021. Veltha participated in the event under the EU initiative 'EU Pavillion - European Union Side Event COP26', and teamed up with the DigiPrime project and REPLACE project for our presentation 'Between Adaptation and Mitigation: The Role of Circular Economy in tackling Climate Change.

The event highlighted the role of circular economy in tackling climate change, by showcasing its potential of a viable solution to boost the transition and overcome the substantial effect economic activities and consumption patterns pose on the environment and ecosystems.

Our presentation demonstrated current actions being deployed to support a systemic transition:

- REPLACE project: Orienting the Policy Instruments and the regional budget toward a circular transition.
- Policy Lab: Offering a workshop for the larger public of Policymakers and stakeholders.
- DigiPrime project: Supporting the industrial transition through a Digital Manufacturing Platform for Connected Circular Smart Factories.





# EU LET'S COOPERATE!

## BRAINSTORMING: POSSIBLE INTERREGIONAL COLLABORATIONS ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY - SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION IN RIS3 SECTORS



This brainstorming workshop was held within the **EU Let's Cooperate!** event, organized by InterregEurope: a two-day event dedicated to cross-regional cooperation, that took place on November 24, 2021.

It was conceived as an opportunity to discuss with regional representatives which regional sectors or value chains show the biggest potential for the transition towards a circular economy in EU Regions, with an additional focus on the sectors identified in the frame of RIS3, and those showing high-polluting performance, in need of support for the transition toward a more sustainable path.

This also assisted participants in finding possible areas for collaboration, aiming at exploring emerging synergies and ideas to develop a shared path for the circular transition in sectors of shared interest, as well as linking more advanced regions willing to support the sectoral transition and less advanced ones willing to learn and gain experience on how to facilitate the transition at a sectoral level.



# EDUCATION

## Internship Programmes

Since the very early stages of its development, Veltha has been committed to offering competitive internship programmes for qualified and motivated students willing to gain real-world experiences that could help them excel in their careers. With the willingness to provide meaningful work experiences, Veltha's team members have always welcomed international undergraduates and post-graduates with diverse background that continuously contribute to the multiculturalism and heterogeneity of our environment, by bringing in fresh perspectives and ideas that renew and enrich our corporate culture and identity.

During the past 2021, 9 new interns have joined our team, giving a huge and otherwise not equally possible contribution to the fast development of our reality and scope. The interns have acquired many skills through the extensive open span of work Veltha has offered.



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE  
INTERESTED IN YOUR  
NETWORK? BE A BRIDGE  
AND LET THEM CONTACT:**

**[gabriel.carlin@veltha.eu](mailto:gabriel.carlin@veltha.eu)**



## Technical skills:

- research skills,
- stakeholder engagement and partnership networking,
- event planning,
- circular economy and policy knowledge,
- communication and marketing skills

## Soft skills:

- team work,
- public speaking,
- problem solving,
- adaptability,
- multi-tasking and time management, and
- brainstorming skills and creativity



**EMANUEL  
FERREIRA**

*Being part of Veltha is a great opportunity to develop project management and communication skills. I believe that gaining an opportunity with such a well-regarded organisation contributed to my confidence to thrive in the world of EU policy and projects.*



**LAUREN  
BETTI**

*Being an intern at Veltha allows you to develop various skills while at the same time start your career in the field and navigate the complexity of EU projects with a great team.*



**ROBERT  
BROUGHNAN**

*My internship with Veltha helped me develop skills that will stick with me for the rest of my career, I'm very grateful for this experience.*





# EDUCATION

## OUR ARTICLES

In 2021 we have expanded our role as a research entity. We have produced **over 30 articles** with the aim of educating and foster scientific research in the fields of circular economy and sustainable development.

Our research articles have covered circular policies and business models in various sectors, contributing to the exchange of knowledge on climate reform facing the current anthropocene system.

By addressing the world's climate challenges, our research and education helps individuals, communities, and stakeholders understand the positive potential of circular economy.

Check our aticles in the following link:

**[veltha.eu/blog](https://veltha.eu/blog)**



# OUR IMPACT

## Social Media

**+25**

Twitter requests for  
networking meetings and  
exchange of knowledge  
towards the transition to  
Circular Economy

**+700**

Increase of followers on  
social media

In the past year our online presence grew exponentially. This offers a great opportunity to present our work towards sustainability development and to foster and educate the outside world to the benefits of a circular economy in our current climate system.



# OUR IMPACT

## Loops



1171

Viewers saw the two seasons of Loops.

Loops continues to be a window to showcase the cutting-edge opportunities available to our communities.



+120.00

Minutes watched of Loops episodes

Because of this we have expanded our outreach, since these events were attended by EU policy officers, business representatives, consultants, IT and sectoral experts.

## EURW & COP26



+200

Views and interactions at our sessions in these two acclaimed events.

This was a great opportunity to put our projects under the spotlight, respectively, DigiPrime and REPLACE and expand their outreach.





# OUR IMPACT

## The Policy Lab

**+50**  
Regional  
Officers

from **+25**  
regions and  
**17** countries



Coming from countries all over Europe, regional policy-makers and key stakeholders proposed, analysed and discussed new and existing Circular Economy policy instruments.

This proves as a valuable insight into the interregional funding instruments that would make it possible to turn ideas into actions, promoting exchange of knowledge and best practices among the European Regions,



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Veltha now is a research centre that specialises in designing circular solutions to tackle climate change.

Our advanced expertise will be dedicated to the following research areas:

## POLICY MODEL



## BUSINESS MODEL



## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



## SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS





# WHAT'S NEXT?

*Veltha's research scope does not want to be confined to the areas in which Veltha has gained a leading position over the past ten years and is ready to strive on its expertise to ambitiously expand its research objectives, thus embracing new areas in need of sustainable development.*

*Veltha is ready to be in the frontline to dismantle the industrial implications around the concept of "revolution" to charge it with a new meaning that makes it circular and sustainable.*





DigiPrime



BOSCH

inoTEX®



KNORR-BREMSE



SZTAKI



ATLANTIS



BALANCE



CECO



CENTROCOT



cobat



designaustria



ENGINSOFT



envirobat



E-REPAIR



extrared



flexis



HOLONIX



IASOL



IDEA



indra



innovaItalia



KIT

LULEÅ  
TEKNISKA  
UNIVERSITET

dss-lab



Prastipolis

POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863

RIVIERASCA



Sautermeister



SIEMENS Gamesa



SIMPLAN

Technology  
Transfer System

tecnalia



UNB



VELTHA

REPLACE  
Interreg EuropeEuropean Union  
European Regional  
Development FundΠεριφέρεια Κρήτης  
Region of Crete

ccdr



Dziś i jutro



Nexa



VELTHA

provinsje fryslân  
provincie fryslânREGIONE  
LAZIO

ADRO



NORD-EST

FRONTSHIP

PROMIX  
Solutions

KPMG



NOVAMONT



CCDRN

CIRCULAIR  
FRIESLAND

CSIC

centrum  
OPUS

LNEG



LEDA POLYMER



CIRKUS



wzrost i rozwój



Dziś i jutro

HORIZON  
2020

unibz



Irpini



BURKHARDT



eurada



CERTH



provinsje fryslân



propiast



AP



CENTRO



CARTIF



Politecnica Lodzka



VELTHA



INCL



WASTE 4ME



BIRMAX



STAM

UNIVERSYTET  
ŁÓDŹKI

INCL



WASTE 4ME



WASTE 4ME



WASTE 4ME



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