

## AI-NURECC PLUS Conference

# EUSAIR TOWARDS THE GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### *Territorial Challenges and Regional Development*

24 May 2023 - 12:00-13:30h (CEST)

Venue: Congress Centre of Hotel Holiday Inn, Sarajevo

### *Draft Agenda*

The Covid-19 outbreak has radically changed the world's economy and has posed a new challenge into how sustainable development is to be understood, both socially and economically. In particular, the transition to a more circular economy has gained prominence in the international political debate and has been reaffirmed as a priority of the EU's sustainable growth agenda as embedded in the "Circular Economy Action Plan" one of the blocks of the new EU Green Deal.

The circular economy is based on the idea that economic growth can be allowed by optimising and regenerating the use of natural resources, minimising environmental pressures and transforming production systems, supply chain and consumption patterns so that they have long-term sustainability. It is crucial to help European civil society, businesses and consumers to make the transition to a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a more sustainable way.

Cross-sector collaboration is an essential factor in order to implement circular strategies or practices (to close loops). Facilitating cross-sector knowledge exchange and cooperation is a core element to take the transition to the Circular Economy, and with this regard the cooperation among the AI-NURECC Plus partners, representing regional and local authorities, universities and business sector, represent an added value.

The event will examine how successful circularity-based and innovative local development policies and policy instruments need to create interconnections between and within sectors, institutions and local actors. There will also be specific focuses on the bioeconomy and circular economy in tourism. Indeed, the bioeconomy aims to drive both sustainable development and circularity through reuse, repair and recycling, reducing the amount and total impact of waste. At the same time circular tourism is the application of circular economy approaches to the tourism sector in order to achieve sustainable tourism.

AI-NURECC Plus addresses the territorial challenges in specific Adriatic-Ionian territories (e.g. rural area, mountains, islands...). In this respect, the first results of a specific study on territorial challenges and development will be presented with the aim to what extent the EUSAIR and its future Action Plan contribute to tackle these territorial challenges by promoting sustainable development and growth.

**Moderator:** Ms. Anuska Stoka, Project Manager, AI-NURECC PLUS (on behalf of the coordinator CPMR)

**Welcome speeches:**

- **Mr. Joze Tomaš**, President of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (Forum AIC) - AI-NURECC PLUS Partner
- **Mr. Stavros Kalognomos**, Executive Secretary of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) - AI-NURECC PLUS Coordinator

**Keynote address:** Ms. Biljana Kulisic, Bioenergy team member, European Commission “*Transiting linear bioenergy into circular and sustainable bioeconomy in the Adriatic and Ionian Region*”

- **Ms. Elena Gentilini**, Expert in Circular Economy, Progetto Arcadia “*The importance of system thinking approaches to Circular innovation. How to improve circularity impact through networking and analysis at system level*” (Italy)
- **Mr. Bernard Massabo**, Secretary General of the Euromed Cities Network, “*Dialogue4LivingAreas project*” (Interreg EURO-MED)
- **Ms. Milena Rmuš**, Coordinator for Environment Protection and Energy Efficiency, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro – “*Case study – Roadmap Towards the Circular Economy in Montenegro*”
- **Mr. Marco Giuliani**, Professor at Marche Polytechnic University “*AMOCEAB - Adriion Master On Circular Economy And Bioeconomy*” (Interreg ADRION)
- **Mr. Marco A. Segovia Bifarini**, External expert AI-NURECC PLUS Circular Economy, *Preliminary results of the “Circular Economy - EUSAIR territorial challenges and development” Study*