

Project

LIFE IP SMART WASTE

LIFE 16 IPE FR 005

Supporting regional
prevention and
and waste management

Developing a dynamic
within the framework of the circular economy



**Review of best practices
from voluntary building
and works companies**



The initiative to support voluntary contracting authorities in the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region, to integrate the circular economy into works contracts and operations, was carried out as part of the European LIFE INTEGRE IP SMART WASTE project (2018-2024), supported by the regional executive at the Circular Economy and Waste Department, from November 2019 to December 2024.

The first phase of the approach (2019-2022) supported 10 volunteer project owners, and with the support of an expert consultancy firm, at both technical and legal levels, to identify how to implement simple circular economy issues in their works operations in an operational and reproducible way (e.g. using recycled materials, or sorting and recovering waste, following traceability...).



This innovative approach is the first to be launched in France in 2019. In the Southern Region, this approach had several objectives:

- To test the potential for evolution, adaptation and motivation of project owners in this area,
- Create a “snowball effect” among other project owners,
- Identify needs, obstacles and levers to ensure the sustainability of best practices.



The project owners selected in November 2019 following a call for expressions of interest were:



Stage 1 - Individual interviews and audits (2019-2021)

Individual interviews with the teams of each of the project owners took place between July and September 2020, in view of the health crisis (face-to-face interviews were preferred for certain teams made up of a large number of people).

These interviews enabled us to carry out an in-depth audit of practices, needs and levers for initiating an approach specific to each team, in particular by analyzing contract documents and the monitoring of operations.

An interview report was drawn up by the expert consultancy selected by the Region, including an audit of practices and recommendations for “SMART” objectives to be followed in order to initiate changes as part of the support approach.

Stage 2 - Publication of the KIT to raise awareness of the Circular Economy in the construction industry (2019 and Update 2024)

Discussions with the teams from each of the project owners enabled us to identify and specify the main needs and obstacles encountered by project owners in integrating the Circular Economy into their operations.

This approach led to the design of a KIT made up of practical sheets, initially published in 2019, and which is the subject of a new publication, updated and enriched with several sheets (publication in December 2024).

The aim of this KIT is to raise awareness, by enabling players to ask themselves the right questions, and to learn the basics so that they can calmly embark on a change of practice: complying with regulations, aiming for financial savings, and working to protect the environment, in particular by combating illegal landfills.

It also means gaining an overview of circular economy issues, drawing inspiration from existing resources, and seizing opportunities to take action.

Simple, didactic, interlinked theme sheets, with a list of resources including links to “Go further” at the end of each sheet

Feedback sheets: project description, phasing and team; means implemented in terms of the Circular Economy, with extracts from contract clauses and public procurement choices; success factors and obstacles identified, elements of success to be replicated and financial balance sheet.

Stage 3 - Workshops for the project owners (2020-2021)

This stage had to be adapted to take account of the health crisis in 2020/2021, which meant that working and discussion sessions had to be held remotely.

During this stage, the project owner teams (various departments present) for the 10 project owners selected in Stage 1 were invited to work together in workshops to explore specific technical issues in greater depth.

The idea behind these workshops was not only to exchange experience and share knowledge, but also to respond to the needs of the participants, in particular by taking a closer look at specific technical and legal issues. The workshops provided an opportunity for participants to share and reflect, as well as to contribute their ideas and needs for the drafting of technical guides.

The 2h-3h workshops were followed by videoconference, and a number of technical experts took part.

Stage 4 - Publication of technical guides (2022)

The work carried out from 2019 to the end of 2021 as part of the first part of the approach has made it possible to identify needs, define tools, build and draw up guides.

These guides are intended for contracting authorities and other players in the act of building, in order to facilitate the implementation of the circular economy in construction and public works contracts and operations.

The main aims of this series of guides, which can be downloaded from the Internet, are as follows:

To provide a basic understanding of the circular economy, and offer the keys to identifying the circular economy issues at stake in your operation, and the levers for implementing a global circular economy strategy within your structure.

Propose an instruction manual and the technical keys to integrating the circular economy into contracts and operations carried out by the contracting authority, at every stage of an operation.

Enable you to control investment in studies upstream of the worksite, in order to comply with regulations, optimize costs and move towards circular and financial savings.

Think differently about your operation, and stop copying and pasting clauses into contract documents, and find the right wording to draft useful and coherent clauses between all contract documents...

To discover the 4 guides “**Circular economy and waste from the Building and Public Works sector**“ [click to download the guides](#) (publication February 2022).

Stage 5 – Support and monitoring of operational feedback (2021 - 2024)

A selection of 5 operations was carried out on all the operations proposed by the 10 project owners (Questionnaire completed by the project owners on their operation proposals), with a demonstrative aim for personalized support adapted to each of the operations between 2021 and 2024.

The objective was for the 5 volunteer project owners to implement the Awareness Kit and the process guides, as well as the principles discussed in the workshops. Specific monitoring aimed to put these operations on the circular economy track and to capitalize on feedback, with sharing with other project owners.

This support was carried out by the ALTEREO design office from 2020 to 2023, then by NEO ECO from 2023 to 2024; these consulting providers having been commissioned by the region to provide technical and legal expertise, and to help operations managers integrate the circular economy into project management teams.

These operations were the subject of “best practices” focus published on the web site.

Each focus includes a **description of the operation, the circular economy axes developed in the operation, in particular the specific requirements in the markets, the success factors and obstacles, the elements of success to be replicated**, the key information including the financial report, **links below**:

- [City of Toulon](#) (83): MARNATA Operation (Demolition / Construction of media library / Roads / Park), then from 2023 Development and construction operation of the Toulon Eco-Base.
- [City of Six-Fours-les-Plages](#) (83): Demolition / construction / rehabilitation of the Reynier school complex.
- [EPA Euroméditerranée](#) (13): MAZENOD Operation (Roads), then from 2023, Development of the Parc des Ayalades in Marseille.
- [Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur](#) (06): Lines 4 and 5 of the Nice tramway.
- [Aix Marseille Provence Métropole](#) (84): Pertuis business incubators (Demolition / Construction of buildings / Roads).

Progress on these 5 operations throughout the process was presented by the project owners during WG#5 and WG#6. Some monitored projects were not sufficiently advanced to be the subject of feedback (Aix-Marseille Provence Métropole) or not finalized (Euroméditerranée, Toulon), two other operations were the subject of 2 more “best practices focus”, **links below**:

- [City of Charleval](#) (13): Construction of the health center, constructive choice in earth
- [City of Septèmes-les-Vallons](#) (13): Rehabilitation of several housing units in the city center.