



SYMBI aims to support the transition towards a resource-efficient economy through the establishment of territorial synergies to manage waste and exchange energy and byproducts as secondary raw resources.

www.interregeurope.eu/symbi

An interregional cooperation project for improving resource-efficient economy policies

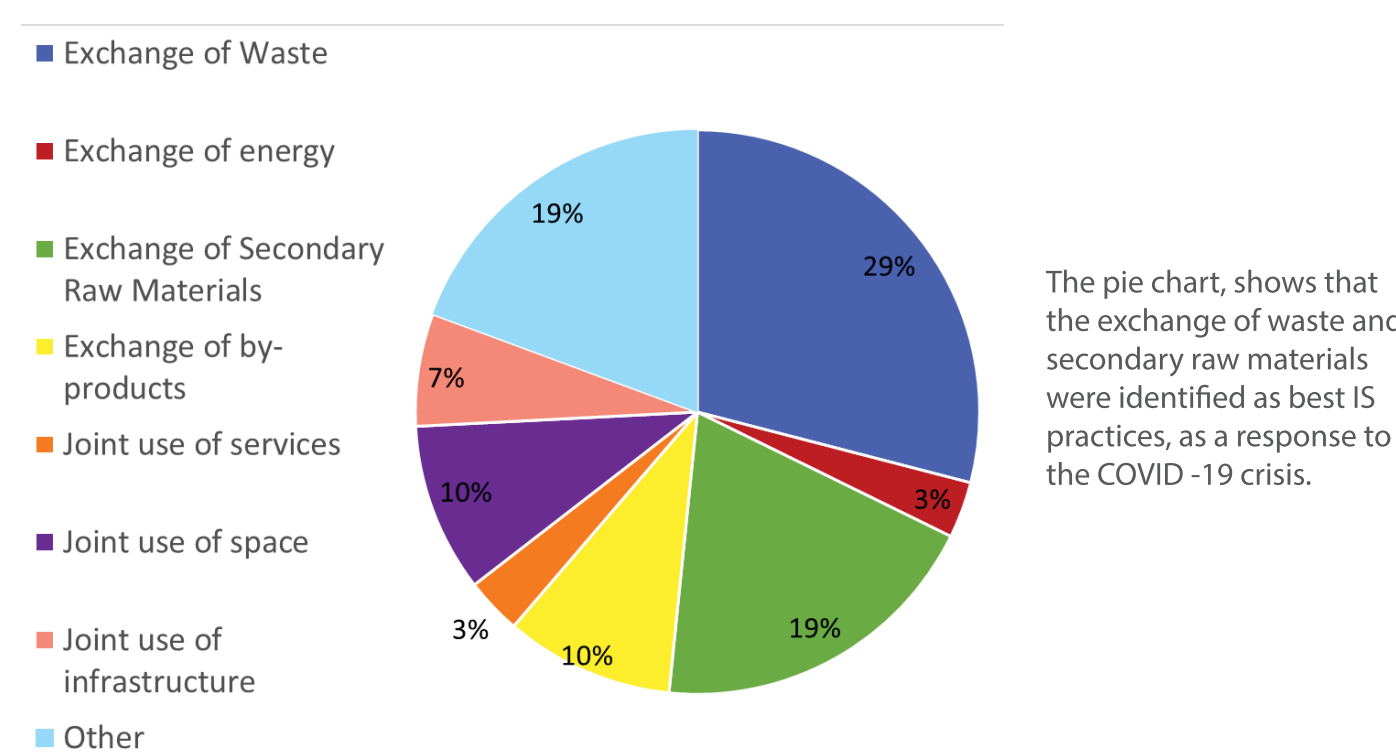
SYMBI I Joint study on Covid – 19 impact, challenges and new industrial Symbiosis opportunities "Summary Report" I April 2022

Scope

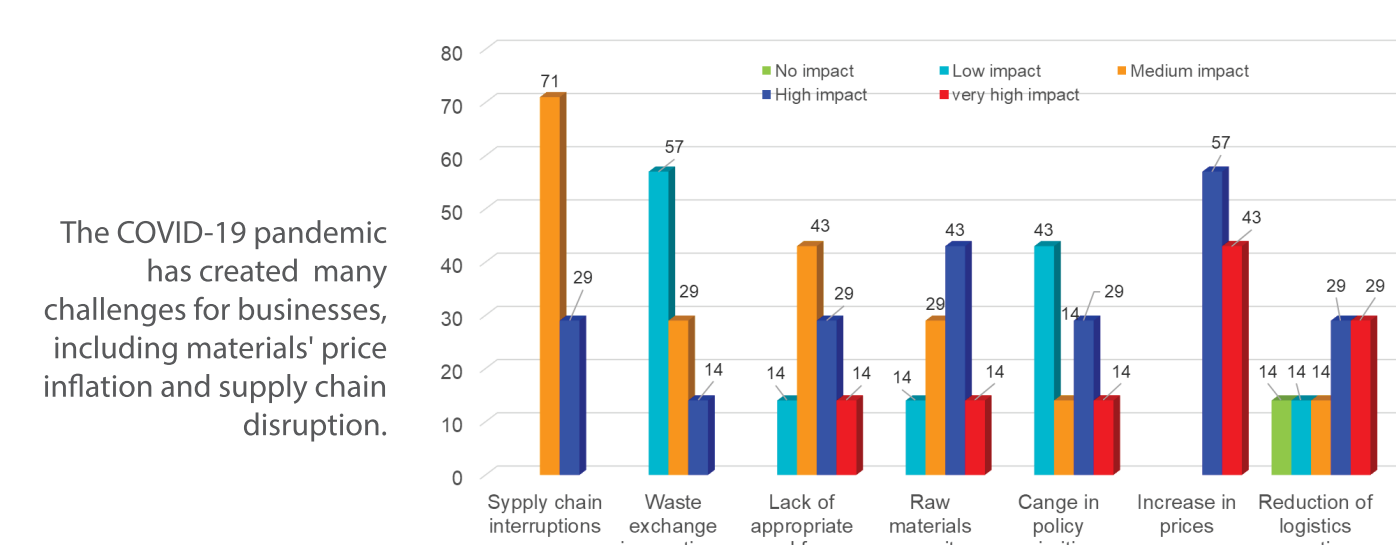
Identify COVID-19 impact on industrial symbiosis practices in the SYMBI regions and how industrial symbiosis practices assisted economic recovery and resilience of regional economies to external events.

Identify good/best industrial symbiosis practices during the pandemic, which could serve as examples and aid future policy making.

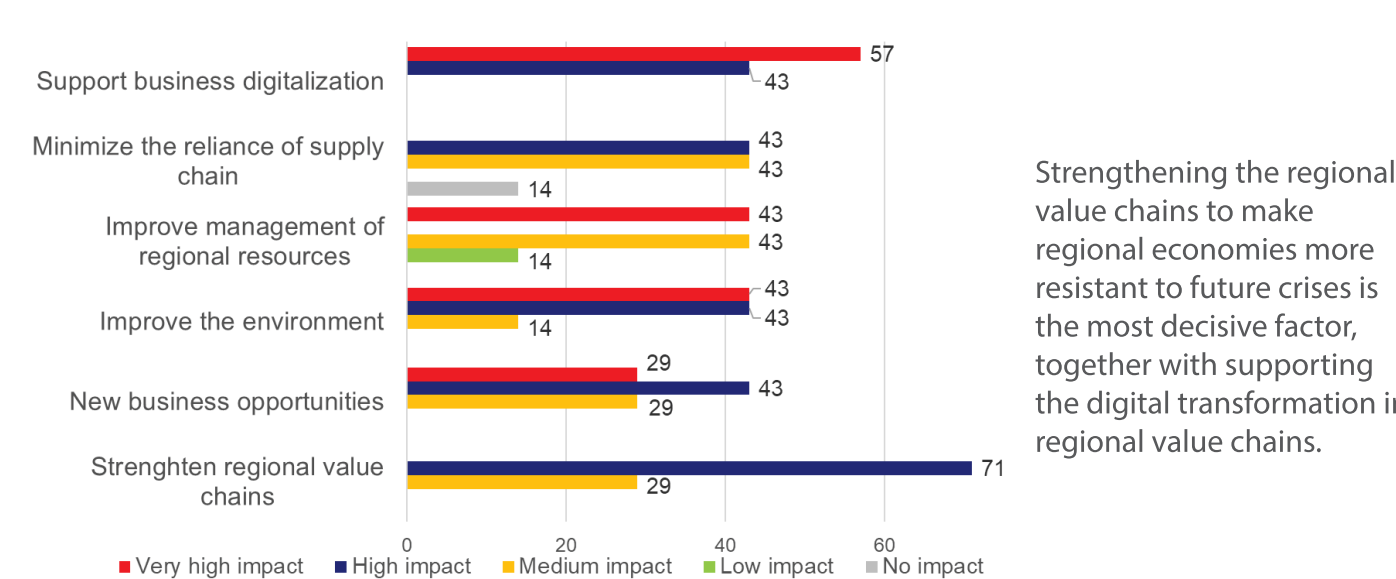
Make policy suggestions on how regional authorities can support industrial symbiosis practices and utilize them to promote economic recovery and resilience.



The pie chart, shows that the exchange of waste and secondary raw materials were identified as best IS practices, as a response to the COVID-19 crisis.



The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges for businesses, including materials' price inflation and supply chain disruption.



Strengthening the regional value chains to make regional economies more resistant to future crises is the most decisive factor, together with supporting the digital transformation in regional value chains.

Main conclusions

The sector most affected by COVID-19 crisis was tourism.

The impact of the pandemic was not severe on IS plans and activities.

The waste management circular activities were highly challenged by the increased volume of the waste generated (especially packaging and unsorted waste).

The recovery and resilience of regional economy and businesses was enhanced by industrial symbiosis and circular economy practices, along with the innovation of the related businesses.

Policy authorities should encourage such practices and contribute to the expansion of regional businesses networks and innovation pathways.

SYMBI I Industrial Symbiosis for Regional Sustainable Growth and a Resource Efficient Circular Economy

The pandemic has caused major disruptions in SYMBI partners' efforts to transition towards a circular economy model, and has exacerbated the ineffectiveness of linear territorial economic models in times of crisis, raising concerns for recovery and future resilience. Considering that industrial waste, energy demand and CO₂ emissions skyrocket after major crises, there is a pressing need to resume and further advance the circular transformation in the 7 participating SYMBI territories, in light of policy gaps uncovered by COVID-19.

The 5th call activities aim to further extend this effort, while studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Extension's activities focus on how the partners can improve and urge the circular transformation in the situation created by the pandemic.

During the 1st and 2nd semester, partners discussed the COVID-19 impact on industrial symbiosis (IS), the challenges and new IS opportunities. Partners conducted online meetings with regional stakeholders on territorial needs and they ensued workshops, presenting IS digitalisation good practices and measures to be transferred in own territories and explored good practices of funding instruments.

SYMBI I "Digital tools and pathways workshop" I Online, 2nd March 2022

On Wednesday, March 2nd 2022, a virtual workshop »Digital tools & pathways workshop« was hosted by the Slovenian partners. The participants learned about digital tools and solutions that can be used to support and stimulate the processes of industrial symbiosis or circular transformation. Among the fifteen examples, three Slovenian examples were exposed: Green Star, CAS 2.0 and E-symbiosis. In addition, we also presented the the most successful tool of its type - Synergie 4.0 tool. First five selected examples will also be available on the website of the Interreg Europe program, in the category of good practices.

CASES	SUM
CYRKL platform (PL)	13.9
SYNERIGie 4.0 (SI)	13.7
Materiaalitori (FI)	13.2
Syner (ES)	12.5
Biomass Atlas (FI)	12.4
Clean Way (HU)	12
Symbiosis platform (IT)	11.8
CAS 2.0 (SI)	11.5
Oil & Fats digital platform (GR)	11.2
Sfridoo (IT)	11
Symbiex.es (ES)	10
Zero Waste Map (PL)	9.8
DIADYMA reuse centre (GR)	9.8
Green star (SI)	9.7
E - Symbioza (SI)	8.8

SYMBI I "Circular economy good practices and funding workshop" I Online, 8th June 2022

SYMBI Workshop on Circular economy good practices and funding was hosted online by the Finnish SYMBI partners Häme University of Applied Sciences and Regional council of Häme on 8th June, 2022. The workshop focused on different good practices and funding instruments among circular economy and industrial symbiosis of partner countries and regions, and was built around the thematic areas of EU Green Deal and Circular economy Action Plan. Good practices from SYMBI partner countries and regions were presented during the workshop. First five selected examples will be available on the Interreg Europe platform.

Deep Demonstration of a circular, regenerative and low - carbon economy project I Slovenia

The Deep Demonstration of a Circular, Regenerative and Low-Carbon Economy Slovenia project held in Slovenia in 2025, is expected to produce critical insights as the European Union embraces the Green Deal, and set an example with regards to aligning and synergizing policy instruments and legislation. Slovenia is partnering the EIT Climate-KIC to enable a process for decarbonizing Slovenia's socio-economic system. The project aims to build partnerships to create a deep demonstration of rapid change to a circular, regenerative and low-carbon economy and society. An integrated platform linked to a contact database and website will enable dissemination of results and the capture of high-quality data. The main beneficiaries of this work will be Slovenian local communities, and companies and stakeholders from across different sectors and value chains. Train-the-trainer workshops will be held locally to train Slovenian experts, and expertise will remain in the country after the completion of the deep demonstration.

The programme is focused on three pillars:

Smart and circular communities (circular schools, circular learning and resources, circular synergies),

Circular development (circular discovery, circular performance, SME circular innovation support),

Circular policy design and science (pioneering circular higher education transition policy lab, circular procurement).

SYMBI I "IS reporting and certification systems workshop" I Molise, 29th September 2022

On 29th September 2022, Chamber of Commerce of Molise will organize an on site workshop on IS reporting and Certification Systems. The objectives of the workshop will be to discuss and work together on how to integrate industrial symbiosis (IS) reporting and certification systems in territorial policy planning, to enhance value chain resilience and to identify ways to promote IS reporting and certification systems' further adoption by relevant businesses, focusing on the European Commission's industry-led reporting and certification system, as envisioned by the updated Circular Economy Action Plan.

PARTNERSHIP

Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura (ES)
 The Malopolska Region (PL)
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 Pannon Novum West - Transdubian Regional Innovation Non - profit Ltd. (HU)
 Regional Council of Häme (FI)
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European Regional
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