

INTERREG EUROPE · CEI BOOST

NEWSLETTER 7

Highlights from Semester 7 · March – August 2026

From good practices to real policy change

Semester 7 was the semester of results. CEI BOOST partners met in Madeira for the sixth interregional event, and in their regions they monitored how the policy instruments have changed thanks to the project.

Six partner regions can now show concrete improvements: new funding rules, new calls and new projects that bring digitalisation and the circular economy together. Two pilot actions are testing what partners learned from each other.

In this issue you will find the highlights from Madeira, the policy changes region by region, the progress of the pilots and what comes next on the road to the final conference in Tarragona.

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1 MADEIRA HOSTS THE 6TH INTERREGIONAL MEETING

11–13 MAY 2026 • FUNCHAL, MADEIRA • BY PROJECT CEI BOOST



CEI BOOST partners in Funchal, Madeira, May 2026. Photo: CEI BOOST / IDE, IP-RAM

From 11 to 13 May 2026, the Business Development Institute of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (IDE, IP-RAM) welcomed the CEI BOOST partners to Funchal for the project's sixth interregional meeting, under the theme **“Digital Solutions and Emerging Technologies for Circular Economy in Island Regions”**. All partners attended in person.

After a welcome dinner on 11 May, the core programme took place on 12 May at the University of Madeira (Colégio dos Jesuítas). Regional authorities presented the policy framework: the Madeira 2030 programme, the Madeira Circular initiative and the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy. Local good practices showed emerging technologies at work for the circular economy – Bioreboot, which turns natural resources and waste streams into high-value products, the mobile game Waste Rush, and the water and waste management of Águas e Resíduos da Madeira.



Policy session at the University of Madeira



Study visit to the Madeira Beer Company (ECM)

Study visits took the partners to the Madeira Beer Company (ECM), with its sustainable production and consumption practices, and to the Galomar Hotel, the first energy self-sufficient hotel in the region.

On 13 May, the focus moved to implementation: an interregional workshop on turning good practices into policy improvement, cross-regional reflections on the policy instruments and pilot actions, and the Steering Committee meeting, which also planned the communication of the project's results.

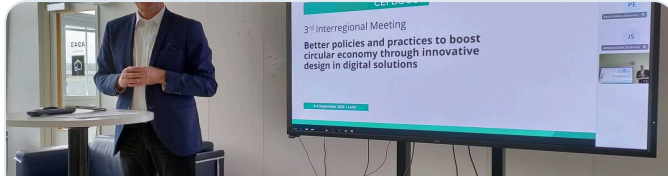
“Adapt good practices rather than copy them, involve stakeholders early and bring circular economy, digitalisation and innovation together in one support framework.” – lesson shared by the Madeira team

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POLICY CHANGES ACHIEVED WITH CEI BOOST

SEMESTER 7 • MONITORING OF POLICY INSTRUMENTS • BY PROJECT CEI BOOST

In Semester 7, partners monitored and documented how their policy instruments have changed thanks to the exchange of experience in CEI BOOST. Here are the results, region by region.



FINLAND • PÄIJÄT-HÄME • PP04 & PP10

MAKE – a new ERDF project for circular design

CEI BOOST inspired MAKE, coordinated by LAB University of Applied Sciences, which helps companies use circular design and digital tools so that products last longer and keep their value.

EUR 184,250 influenced



ROMANIA • WEST REGION • PP07

Innovation, digital and circular criteria for SME funding

West RDA rewrote its SME funding guide: the new call attracted 81 applications and 33 projects are now being implemented.

EUR 23.27 million

33 SME projects



FRANCE • LAVAL • PP12

Laval Agglomeration puts the circular economy into action

A new Circular Economy Plan, support for 15 local companies and a new Circular Economy Committee with Laval Mayenne Technopole as a full member.

EUR 400,000 from ADEME



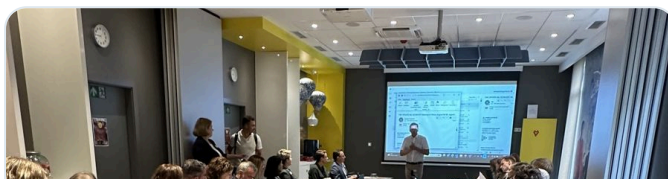
PORTUGAL • MADEIRA • PP09

Greener and more digital business support

Inovação 2030 now rewards eco-innovation and digitalisation; SIIDE 2030 gives extra aid to climate-friendly R&D.

EUR 36 → 46 million planned

+5 pp aid for R&D



LITHUANIA • PP02 & PP03

Green Experiment + Eco-innovation and the GreenTech Hub

A new scheme for eco-innovation in SMEs and a one-stop shop for eco-design, ecolabelling and efficiency audits.

Up to EUR 10 million



BULGARIA • PP05

Digital tools for the circular economy now eligible

Software and digital solutions became eligible costs for circular projects, and Industry 4.0 investments now include circular goals.

≈ EUR 4.3 million

33 companies funded

3 PILOT ACTIONS: LEARNING BY DOING

SEMESTER 7 • VÄSTERBOTTEN • TARRAGONA • WESTERN GREECE



Illustration: CEI BOOST

Circular Economy Accelerator – Tarragona

Tarragona Provincial Council (PP08) and Region Västerbotten (LP) are running a Circular Economy Accelerator for local companies, combining business training and individual mentoring on how digital technologies can boost circular business models. The accelerator will be closed with the selected companies at a stakeholder meeting in Tarragona on 15 December 2026.

DISOCAFS – Western Greece

The Industrial Systems Institute (PP11), with the support of Tarragona Provincial Council, is developing Digital Solutions for Circular Agri-Food Systems: a platform that helps farmers, food businesses and social initiatives track surplus food and redistribute it. The pilot has been extended until 30 November 2026 to complete testing with stakeholders.

4 WHAT COMES NEXT

SEMESTER 8 • SEPTEMBER 2026 – FEBRUARY 2027

Autumn 2026

Each partner publishes a **policy improvement brief** on the project website, and a campaign on social media shares the policy changes achieved.

Dec 2026 – Jan 2027

Partners hold their **RMSG meetings of Semester 8** with regional stakeholders, for example in Tarragona on 15 December 2026 and in Västerbotten on 26 January 2027.

24–25 Feb 2027

Final conference in Tarragona: the results of CEI BOOST, the pilot actions and a workshop on policy design for the 2028–2034 programmes.

#STAYTUNED

Watch the new video from Madeira and follow CEI BOOST to see how the twin transition becomes policy in nine European countries.

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