



# AGILITE

Developing the digital and entrepreneurial competences  
of VET trainers to support agile entrepreneurship training

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Co-funded by the  
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# AGILITE

- Alentejo Circular TOC "1-2" h z u
- Alentejo's region
- The project lasted between November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, and November 1<sup>st</sup> 2018
- Develop circular economy in Alentejo's agricultural and agroindustrial sectors.

Alentejo  
Circular

## The initiative

The main goal of the "Alentejo Circular" project was to raise awareness and mobilize Alentejo's agri-food sectors to adopt the circular economy model, aiming to create value for enterprises, and consequently for the region, by transferring knowledge on the best practices and technologies on efficient resource use and waste valorisation. The project was developed on the wine, olive oil and pig farming sectors, due to their current and growing importance for the regional economic and environmental sustainability. But also the social relations were positively impacted by this project, in the way that agriculture workers can connect to share goods, ideas and influence each other with the circular economy ideals. So "Alentejo Circular" has the potential to create a neighbourhood of sustainable principles and initiatives.

## Time frame

The project started on November 1<sup>st</sup> with a two year deadline and involved seven key actions. It started with an analysis of the state of the art in the wine, olive oil and pig farming sectors followed by the benchmarking of circular economy best practices and identification of opportunities to implement circular economy in the referred sectors. The next action combined several public sessions to inform and enable the stakeholders to the circular economy subject, including networking activities between companies and the scientific community. Near the end of the project it was developed a web 2.0 based platform to promote the adoption of circular economy with a focal point in the industrial symbiosis. The last two actions were the project communication and dissemination, and management and evaluation, respectively.

## Areas of Focus

The focus of the project was to mobilise the economical agents for the transition to a circular economy model, for which was necessary to assess the current status in regard to the economic model in use, identify best practices, analyse opportunities and barriers, inform and listen the stakeholders and promote communication and knowledge sharing among all the involved parts. To stimulate the transition from the most used linear economic model to a more sustainable circular model were emphasized practices such as the efficient use of raw materials, water and energy, waste recovery solutions, and by-product potential.



**ALENTEJO  
CIRCULAR**



## People Behind the Case Study

The Alentejo Circular project was promoted by ISQ in a partnership with Évora University.

# THE JOURNEY

## Finance

The Alentejo Circular project has received funding from Alentejo 2020 program.

The EU funding through FEDER covered 85% of the total eligible cost of about 346.000€.

## Outcomes to date

Through technical site visits and bibliographic research, a current diagnosis of circularity in the addressed regional industries was carried out, as well the assessment of circular economy best practices, at national and international level. The resources and wastes were characterized and quantified improving the knowledge of recovery cycles with a list of best practices being gathered as priority for actions to be taken by the regional stakeholders, in order to support the transition towards a circular model.

By means of several public sessions across the territory and a web 2.0 based platform, the interaction between stakeholders, including companies, public authorities, and the scientific community increased, resulting in shared experience and knowledge on alternative use of resources, thus settling the conditions for the development of future synergies.

## Origins

In a world of increased lack of resources, it is imperative to promote the transition to a more circular economy, seen as an alternative business model to promote competitiveness, reducing simultaneously the consumption and dependency of raw materials and energy.

## Why it's relevant to AGILITE

This project is a great example of the impact in sectors that might lack sustainable alternatives. This also spreads the circular economy principle in a region that might lack that sensibilization or knowledge. Also a small region that quickly spread information about what's new and quickly shows support. Regarding the Think in Systems, this supports initiatives that think in Sustainability in all angles, this project is exactly a example for that. Not only focuses in the various sectors that are the most lucrative of that region but also focuses on the social aspect, of creating new relations of mutual help between people that practice the same activities or different

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION POINTS

As a result of this study, it was possible to conclude that the best available practices in these sectors, such as, smart farming and the use of renewable energy are already in use across the region, however these practices are only implemented by a limited number of the regional companies. These best practices were disseminated to the stakeholders by public sessions, technical articles, network sessions and internet.

Different industrial symbiosis practices were identified through the benchmarking analysis. As an example it was identified the case of two companies from different sectors in the same industrial park sharing human resources, facilities and knowhow or, in another case, the valorisation of by-products of a pig farming industry through its use as fertilizer to crops.

The 2.0 based collaborative platform had little or none activity by the stakeholders.

In some cases it was noticed that circular economy actions were not adopted due to lack of top management interest and/or lack of information. Some companies were too closed on their everyday work to be able to find other companies complementarity. Several barriers were identified through the stakeholders contact across the project and suggestions were given to surpass and transform the barriers into circular economy opportunities.

### MORE INFORMATION

Website: <http://alentejocircular.uevora.pt/>

2.0 collaborative platform: <https://plataforma.alentejocircular.uevora.pt/login>



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