

IRCEM



2018

ACTIVITY REPORT

Institutul pentru Cercetări în Economie Circulară și Mediu
“Ernest Lupan”

Institute for Research in Circular Economy
and Environment “Ernest Lupan” (IRCEM)



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President's message



Elena Simina Lakatos
IRCEM President

Dear Team and Stakeholders,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present the IRCEM Annual Report for the year 2018. This report encapsulates the remarkable achievements and impact that our dedicated team and collaborators have made in the field of circular economy and environmental management.

In 2018, IRCEM embarked on an ambitious journey of research and innovation. Our team delved into a multitude of projects that pushed the boundaries of knowledge and practical application. From groundbreaking studies on sustainable supply chains to comprehensive assessments of circular business models, we have contributed significantly to advancing the discourse on sustainability.

Our commitment to raising awareness about environmental issues extended beyond research. We actively engaged with communities, organizations, and policymakers to advocate for sustainable practices. Our events, workshops, and campaigns reached thousands, igniting conversations on the importance of environmental stewardship. Collaboration has been at the heart of our success. In 2018, we strengthened existing partnerships and forged new ones with academic institutions, industry leaders, and governmental bodies. These collaborations enriched our research, expanded our impact, and reinforced our commitment to sustainable development.

IRCEM's dedication to driving change resulted in the development of practical solutions. From advising businesses on circular economy strategies to assisting local communities in adopting sustainable practices, our initiatives translated research into tangible actions that have a positive impact on our environment.

As we delve into the details within this report, you will witness the fruits of our labor—a testament to our unwavering commitment to a sustainable future. I extend my deepest gratitude to each member of the IRCEM team, our dedicated volunteers, our invaluable partners, and our steadfast supporters. Your passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication have been the driving force behind our achievements.

The 2018 IRCEM Annual Report not only reflects our past endeavors but also serves as a compass guiding us toward a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of research, advocate for sustainable practices, and make a positive impact on our world.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another year of shared accomplishments and meaningful contributions to our shared vision of sustainability.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elena Simina Lakatos
IRCEM president

Who is IRCEM?

The Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” – IRCEM is an independent non-governmental association established in 2012 through an initiative of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca. IRCEM was first named Center for Initiation and Organizational Development – CIDO. In 2016, it became CIOS and starting in 2018, it became IRCEM. In 2017, IRCEM/CIOS became the official partner in the Circular Economy Platform of Stakeholders (ECESP) from the European Economic and Social Committee of the European Commission. More information about this subject can be found on IRCEM.RO or <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/dialogue>

IRCEM’s aim is to accomplish services and activities related to the facilitation, promotion and support of the increase of competitiveness of the associated members as much as the economic regional/national competitiveness, through the development of a cooperative framework based on the promotion of a circular economy and of the eco-efficient technological development, aiming to create and ensure a sustainable environment.

Our programs and projects are in the field of national, regional and local development, and the six activity areas are: Social development and community sustainability, Education – training, entrepreneurship and circular economy (circular business), Sustainable development and environmental protection with an international focus.

IRCEM’s VISION

IRCEM’s vision is to become one of the main organizations in Romania focused on capacity building oriented towards circular economy till 2030.

IRCEM’s MISSION

IRCEM’s mission is to mobilize individuals, organizations and institutions in the process of a transition towards a circular economy through the eco-systemic development of life on the planet, under the influence of the three pillars: social, economic and nature.

VALUES

Increased competitiveness: we develop solutions among the chains of fields and values offering new products, services and business models.

Institutional

Continuing our action plan when we became an official partner in the European Economic and Social Committee's Platform for Circulation Economics (ECESP), Directorate General for the Environment, Directorate B - Circular Economy and Green Growth, European Commission in the beginning of 2018, CIOS became IRCEM **Institutul pentru Cercetări în Economie Circulară și Mediu “Ernest Lupan”** - Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” (IRCEM).

We agreed, with the guidance of the EC and EESC, to develop a dedicated Workplan of activities that would support a meaningful transition to a new and circular economic model with concrete actions. The initial activities in Romania that we mapped are, 3 in total, are scheduled for 2018, classified according to the thematic structure used in the first CG meeting, with individual actions thus being clustered according to whether they contribute to:

- I. Exchange of good practices:
 - Mapping, linking sectors and completing evidence gaps

- Gather and promote good practices from existing databases
 - Impact on business, society and environment
- II. Fostering dialogue:
- Provide support for entrepreneurs with national hubs
 - Communicate effectively what info IRCEM should transmit nationally
- III. Sharing knowledge:
- Map existing knowledge and populate gap
 - Survey NGO and consumers on perception of CE
 - Upload existing content and expand its reach through CG, EESC and EC channels
 - Identifying indicators measuring circularity of businesses

I. Exchange of good practices

1. RE-MARKET

23-24 May 2018 - The Circular Economy Benefits Conference - Good Practices in Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Venue: Aula Domsa, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca

Focus of the conference:

RE-MARKET is a partner event of the Green Week at the EU initiative in May 2018, exploring ways in which the EU helps cities become better places to live and work. Under the auspices of #EUGREENWEEK, the RE-MARKET event proposes to contribute to product loop closure by recycling, re-using the removed product and at the same time reducing raw material by using state-of-the-art technologies, thus benefiting stakeholders and focusing on a sustainable environment geared to a circular economy. Taking this into account, we aimed to bring together important players to the business environment, academia, public authorities, civil society and citizens, to promote participatory approaches to sustainable urban development, network schemes and tools for sharing best practices related to closing the loop. We will do this by identifying solutions in response to various social challenges, focusing on:

1. The Benefits of the Circular Economy Conference - Good Practices in Transylvania, presented models of good practices in the region based on the "6R" principles (Responsible, Recycle, Reduce, Reuse, Refuse and Rot). The discussions have been based on concrete facts / results that contribute to addressing environmental, social and climate issues in urban areas.

2. The Workshop "Towards a Circular Economy Based on Facts: Animation of the Platform of the European Commission for Circular Economy of Interested Parties (ECESP)". It enables SMEs to self-assess their potential for circular economy, based on the Circle Assessment tools supported by the European Commission.

These events are of major importance given that the implementation of the EU's legislative package on the circular economy, a key element for the EU Council presidency of Romania in 2019, and through this will outline an action plan to come up with solutions to Romania's problems regarding circularity and at the same time responsibility for the environment. Important actors of the business environment, academia, public authorities, civil society, and citizens were present at these events.

In those days, the topics debated were: the vision and work of the European Commission Platform for Circular Economy of Interested Parties (ECESP); the prospects for sustainable city development by reducing greenhouse gases, the impact of dangerous chemicals on sustainable urban development through the systemic approach of the circular economy, solutions for zero emissions in cities; models of good practices from the perspective of the circular economy existing in Transylvania: circularity in the automotive field by retreading of used tires, the contribution of the circular economy in the development process of a green city and how public authorities can play a catalytic role in the transition to a zero-carbon circular economy, business model that harnesses paper waste; concepts related to the circular economy, the need to implement the circular economy in SMEs in Romania, the need to move from a linear economy to a circular economy, the opportunities for financing the circular economy in Romania, the identification of efficient practices and measures of the circular economy, the ability to measure a firm circularity.



2. Good practice sanded for ECESP

- a) Practice: Food Waste Combat Cluj Association - Food waste combat

Food Waste Combat Cluj Association



Description

Food Waste Combat has been initiated for Cluj Napoca municipality to cater for people in need and to compensate for excess food available on the private market. Excess food and wastage has been confirmed by means of local research with a local supermarket.

It has been acknowledged that as an excess, food not only becomes waste but generates environmental impact by means of transport to transfer station and landfill and by processing it to degrade and decompose. However, understanding the risk and all associated cost to treat this as waste, private actors would become interested in addressing their contribution to circularity thus becoming social enablers. Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” (IRCEM) it is cofounder at Food Waste Combat Cluj Association.

Food bank as a structure is a facilitator between several key players: retail, agriculture/ Agri food processors, HORECA and social carers or humanity support NGOs that work with people in need. Model is very simple: excess food is available for collection in a specialised van for food transport.

Collected food can be:

- stored in a logistic centre
- dropped at local NGOs that would either transfer it directly to identified end users - people in need
- processed to offer daily meals in centres that are authorised as canteens

Key drivers to best practice:

- community need to social contribution which will act as a levy to decreasing public cost on social welfare
- greening municipality impact on environment
- circular economy incentivise private contribution to closing the loop and eliminating waste from the life cycle impact.

- b) Business model: SC KATTY FASHION SRL - Redesigning fashion industry to use hemp fibres as alternative to cotton and greening upstream agricultural practices

SC KATTY FASHION SRL



Description

KATTY FASHION SRL acts as a responsible business and is determined to respond to the needs of eco-friendly consumers that want to acquire sustainable and natural garments and textiles. In its desire to decrease environmental and human health burden from processing and consumption of textile and clothing sectors, KATTY FASHION SRL is a pioneer in promoting a sustainable, eco-friendly development of the Textile and Clothing Industry. They embrace Romanian North-East RDA strategic vision to fostering competitiveness, innovation and specialization of the regional T&C sector.

KATTY FASHION SRL has committed to offer their customers eco-friendly, sustainable garments thus being an active member of the Ethical Fashion Forum – the industry body for sustainable fashion, representing over 10,000 members in more than 100 countries. Their environmental focus spans within their supply chain thus influencing more than 50 mid- and high- fashion brands throughout EU. Since 2010, they are keen on:

- developing an own eco-friendly and ethical project - the Concept of Eco-Chic Ethical Ladies Wear and Home Textiles:
- Creating highly fashionable collections by using eco-innovative and recyclable materials thus combining social responsibility of protecting the local ecosystem,
- ensuring fair working conditions and supplying community support with offering beautiful and healthy clothing and beneficial home textiles.

KATTY FASHION SRL is a small factory with the objective to:

- continue to grow in a steady, sustainable manner integrating eco-friendly business practices from hemp and flax crops
- to create and maintain long term, mutually beneficial relationships.

Romania's North-East Region has a tradition in hemp cultivation and processing that was interrupted for many years now. It is therefore a need to intervene and revitalise this sector whilst aged specialists/craftsmen can still transfer their knowledge to younger generations, boosting industry and agriculture and instilling circular economy as a driver for regional growth.

Understanding the low environmental impact of hemp cultivation versus traditional cotton, this would positively create a truly sustainable way of consumption - taking into consideration all aspects involved: natural fiber, not contaminated with chemical harmful substances and a circular (closed loop) exploitation.

Initiative is strongly encouraged by Romanian agricultural policy focused on re-establishing hemp plantations and grants stimulating subsidies/ha for this type of culture.

Background information on hemp as a resource for developing sustainable textile and clothing value chains is one of the oldest cultures of fibres in the world; hemp plant can be processed almost entirely, in a large variety and flexible combination of products for a wide range of uses, also providing a sustainable and annually renewable source of energy and recyclable resources. Hemp fibres: natural; extremely durable; UV and mold resistant; woven or knitted fabrics for fashion industry; home textiles; protective clothing; handbags and shoes; ropes, cordage and canvas for painting or tires.

Main results

Working towards the need for greening textile sector upstream by shortening the production of raw materials and shifting to low impact fibres, the regional initiative for North Eastern Romania qualified as a replicable model and become members of Regiotex-European Textiles Platform.

Regional cooperation achieved underlines the following successful practices:

- association of stakeholders at regional scale
- public authority within the region changed land use cultivation to allow hemp crop
- EU level visibility of REGINNOVA NE initiative: an Innovation, TT, HR and Community Support Association aiming to invite all stakeholders in our NE Region to create a structured environment to boost the building of sustainable and competitive textile and clothing hemp fiber value chains, from fiber crops to finished products designed to fashion industry, medical or technical uses, in our region with cross - sectoral links at national and European level.

Envisaged structural change for the region:

- revival of local technological high-school to cultivate and process fibers
- increases interest for local cultivators in hemp crops as a consequence of agri-scheme subsidies

Indirect contribution to Sustainable development and Circular Economy

Environmental - reduction of pesticides used in natural fibers.

Social – sustainable approach for textiles industry for future generations

Economic innovation – hemp exploitation generates economic value throughout the value chain in close loop.

- c) Project: IRCEM - Creative use of waste for a circular economy



The project took place between 2nd - 11th November 2018 in Mihai Viteazu Commune, NW Region of Romania and it is co-financed by the European Union's Erasmus+ program.

With a little imagination, waste from household can make a park beautiful. This has been proved by 30 young persons from five countries involved in a European project (on Erasmus+) and accommodated for a few days in Turda, Cluj county. They learn to use new methods for treating waste from the circular economy principle, contributing in this way to the reduction of the negative impact of our actions towards the environment, through reuse, refurbishment and recycle." The Romanian National Television (TVR) mad an reportage about our project <https://www.facebook.com/tvrcluj/videos/256533901701423/>.

The intercultural exchange took place between groups of young people from the five partner countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Belgium) who met to participate in a non-formal learning curriculum.

The project wished to highlight the importance of circular economy and ecology in relation to a healthy planet, and how Erasmus+ program can be an aid to eco-responsible entrepreneurship education. The young people involved were interested in the recycling and creation of useful products from waste had the opportunity to participate in workshops and seminars. Through their activities they learned about eco-system management skills and the eco-entrepreneurship, as well as the responsibility.

The results of the project were the stylization of a playground through ecologic recycling for the children from Mihai Viteazu Commune, Cheia village and educating young people in the sense of circular economy, empowering them and at the same time cultivating their eco-entrepreneurial spirit. The conduct of these actions had a positive impact on the local community and aimed at achieving an immediate result, a new image of the children's playground, which benefited the entire community.

The purpose of the project was to empower young people to use new methods in the field of circular economy and to reduce the negative impact of our actions on the environment through recycling, reuse, reduction, refurbishment and environmental protection. Thus, we build a bridge between the local young people and the young people from the other partner countries in order to promote interculturality, multilingualism, equity and inclusion.

The specific aims and objectives of the project were: to promote education and entrepreneurial actions of circular economy, to support the initiatives of young people who want to bring to the market new goods and services based on the principles of the circular economy, to mobilize, in a joint dialogue platform, both the academic environment and representatives of the local public administration authorities, economic operators, citizens and students involved in the process of packaging management and waste reduction in packaging.

Project coordinator: Ligia Nan, Director al Departamentului de Antreprenoriat și Economie Circulară, e-mail: ligia.nan@ircem.ro

International partners: CESIE (Italy), Green Association (Bulgaria), Eco Logic (Macedonia), Ecopreneur (Belgium).

National partners: Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Mihai Viteazu City Hall, PRO MIHAI VITEAZU Association, Food bank CLUJ, SIGUREC- Green Group.

3. 6 July 2018, Workshop for launching the C-VOUCHER project organized by ADR NV

We are the promoters of the circular economy in Romania and the approach of the North-West Regional Development Agency is to enjoy, through the C-VOUCHER project, the launch of which I participated, which aims to contribute to the development of a framework for the "cultivation" of the component of circular economy among SMEs.

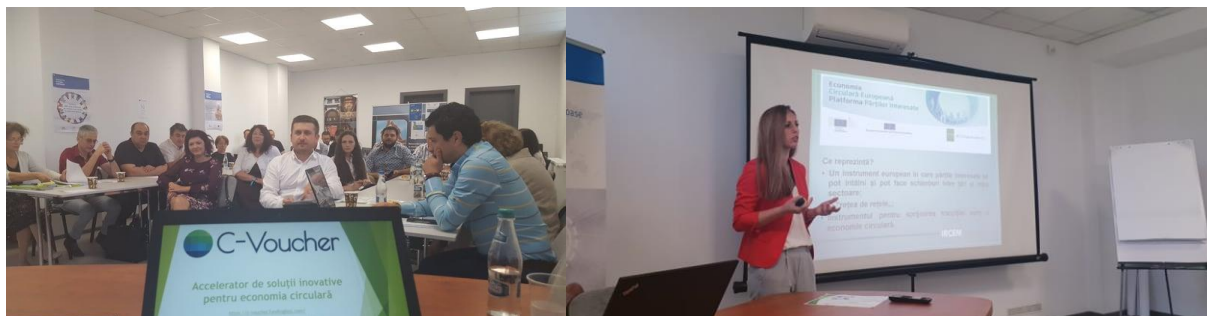
In the context of the importance of the circular economy, in terms of resource efficiency, recycling and reuse, Dr.ing.ec. Elena Simina Lakatos, president at IRCSEM, participated in the Northwest RDA on Friday, July 6, at a workshop aimed at identifying challenges and the barriers faced by the productive sectors in the region, in particular on manufacturing industry; the agro-food industry; textiles and clothing; water distribution, treatment and purification; health and medical equipment.

The event took place in the context of the North-West RDA's implementation of the C-Voucher project, which will provide non-reimbursable funds and support services to companies offering innovative solutions to the circular economy, as well as companies wishing to adopt these innovations own technologies. The funding calls with the innovative component that will be carried out within the C-Voucher project are mainly addressed to member firms in existing clusters in partner regions that are active in the areas concerned. In terms of detailed information on the typology and needs of cluster member firms, we will be able to identify and attract member firms that could apply or adopt solutions for the circular economy for funding calls to be launched in October as a facilitation service access to funding for members. At the event was presented the following stakeholders:

- Manufacturing: Transylvan Furniture Cluster, Cluster Holzbox, Cluster Admatech, Romanian New Materials Cluster
- Agro-food industry: AgroTransilvania Cluster, Transylvanian Taste Cluster
- Water field: CLEMS Cluster
- Health: Transylvania LifeStyle Cluster

The aim of the workshop was to highlight the challenges and barriers faced by the local business environment, so that the financing guide to be developed at the level of the European consortium would better meet the needs of the region as well as the potential solutions that could be put forward by to companies from the North-West / Romania region.

IRCSEM in the framework of the workshop presented good practice models according to ECESP as well as the directions approached by ECESP, but also pointed to several indicators referring to the circular economy.





II. Fostering dialogue

1. **18-19 July 2018 – Bologna, Italy, Workshop "A New Successful Economic, Industrial, Financial, Territorial Management Model - SDGs & Circular Economy"**, IRCEM represented Coordination Group ECESP from within the EC

The international workshop was dedicated to the circular economy and has been organized by the European Italian Movement and European partners for the environment together with Economic and Social Committee, Italian Alliance for sustainable development and many other stakeholders national and international ones, with the support of the Ministry for Emilia Romagna region and Bologna city authorities.

Discussions were based on the fact that circular economy can be capable to generate considerable economic benefits, as much as environment and social ones, as much as for the EU as for the entire world, contributing in the same time at the sustainable development. In order to attain these objectives and of a maximum efficiency of resources, jobs creation, prosperity with low carbon emissions, a healthy environment and responsible production and consumption, it is necessary to avoid partial solutions and to adopt a holistic approach that takes in consideration all aspects and stakeholders involved and to act in different political fields, as the final major conclusion of this event.



Under the patronage of





SDGs & Circular Economy A New Successful Economic, Industrial, Financial, Territorial Management Model.

<p>July 18th 14:30-19:15 Regione Emilia Romagna - Sala Guido Fanti Viale Aldo Moro n. 50 <i>(in English with translation in Italian)</i></p>	<p>July 19th 9:30-13:00 Regione Emilia Romagna - Sala Poggioli Viale Della Fiera n. 8 Italy: Industrial Policy and Integrated Strategy. <i>(in Italian)</i></p>
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2. Implication from the part of the civic society

20 August 2018, CLUJ-NAPOCA – Address towards the Minister of Environment, Water and Forests

IRCEM attracts attention on the negative modifications brought by the new Ordinance of Urgency of the Minister of Environment, Water and Forests, OUG 74/2018, a document was sent in this respect.



CLUJ-NAPOCA, 20 August 2018

Adresa Ministerul Ministerul Mediului, Apelor și Pădurilor,

INSTITUTUL PENTRU CERCETĂRI ÎN ECONOMIE CIRCULARĂ ȘI MEDIU „ERNEST LUPAN” - IRCEM, atrage atenția asupra modificărilor negative aduse de noua Ordonanță de Urgență a Ministerul Mediului, Apelor și Pădurilor, OUG 74/2018.

Ca urmare a modificărilor legislative aduse de Pachetul pentru Economia Circulară prin legea nr.150 din 14.06.2018/UE privind reciclarea deșeurilor municipale, depozitarea și colectarea separată a produselor textile și a deșeurilor periculoase, România, potrivit angajamentelor luate în fața Comisiei Europene, trebuie să întreprindă toate măsurile necesare implementării acestora.

În calitate de membri ai grupului de coordonare al ECESP din cadrul Comitetul Economic și Social European, Direcția generală pentru mediu, Direcția B - Economia circulară și creșterea verde, Comisia Europeană, IRCEM atrage atenția că măsurile luate în acest sens nu sunt cele mai inspirate cu precădere taxa privind "contribuția pentru economia circulară", în forma actuală nu se înțelege contextual și nici structura pe care această taxă se dorește să o constituie.

Considerăm, mult mai potrivit pentru a penaliza practicile necirculare, introducerea unei taxe pe liniaritate, nicidecum pe circularitate, dacă acesta este scopul taxei de față, altminteri se provoacă confuzie între gestiunea deșeurilor și conceptul de Economie Circulară.

Pe de altă parte, primul punct al Directivei 2008/98/EC privind deșeurile, susține același principiu valabil: POLUATORUL PLĂTEȘTE, iar pe baza acestui principiu UE impune un targhet de reducere a deșeurilor menajere cu 50 % până în 2020, iar cele din construcții de demolări cu 70% până în 2020, prin urmare dacă taxa privind "contribuția pentru economia circulară" se dorește a fi altceva este important să se explice acest aspect. Totodată modificarea Articolului 59 alineatul (1) punctul A, literele f) și g) ale Legii 211/2011: "f) asigură spațiile necesare pentru colectarea separată a deșeurilor, dotarea acestora cu containere specifice fiecărui tip de deșeu și dezvoltă în mod corespunzător centrele înființate potrivit prevederilor Ordonanței de urgență a Guvernului nr. 5/2015 pentru a oferi populației posibilitatea de a se debarasa, fără plată, de deșeuri de hârtie și carton, sticlă, metal, materiale plastice, lemn, textile, ambalaje, deșeuri de echipamente electrice și electronice, deșeuri de baterii și acumulatori și deșeuri voluminoase, inclusiv saltele și mobilă," descurajează principiul POLUATORUL PLĂTEȘTE, cel puțin pentru deșeurile voluminoase – saltele și mobilă, având în vedere că pentru acestea există prevăzute tarife în contractele de salubritate existente. În plus, OUG 5/2015 reglementează spații de colectare doar pentru deșeurile de echipamente electrice și electronice.

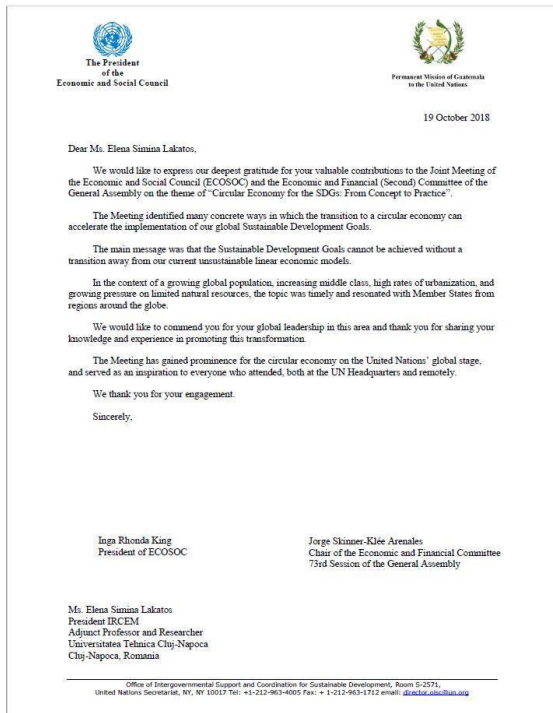
IRCEM aduce în atenția publicului neclaritățile pe care Ordonanța de Urgență 74/2018 pentru modificarea și completarea legii nr. 211/2011 privind regimul deșeurilor, a Legii nr. 249/2015 privind modalitatea de gestionare a ambalajelor și a deșeurilor de ambalaje și a Ordonanței de urgență a Guvernului nr. 196/2005 privind Fondul pentru mediu, atrăgând atenția asupra efectelor negative pe care le va avea asupra gestionării deșeurilor și atingerii țintelor de reciclare impuse de Comisia Europeană României. Prin urmare dorim claritate asupra termenului "taxă la groapă" deoarece, conform OUG Nr.196/2005 privind Fondul pentru mediu, cu modificările și completările ulterioare, art.9, alin. (1), lit. p, în momentul de față se plătește o "contribuție de 50 lei/tonă, această

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4. 19 October 2018 – Simina Lakatos took part as speaker at the General Assembly's Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). **CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE, UN General Assembly and ECOSOC Joint Meeting**

It was a great honor for IRCEM. Much has being debated in the General Assembly and ECOSOC Joint Meeting on “Circular Economy for the SDGs: From Concept to Practice” and it came out clear that the situation in the world is not an easy one, but the Joint Meeting has set a platform to start engaging in the matter and UN is playing a very significant role in the subject matter of Circular Economy.





A thank you letter was sent for appreciation of the contribution that you made at the UN in this respect.

5. 15 October 2018 - Workshop "Circular economy and opportunities for sustainable development of the organizations"

IRCEM in collaboration with Regional Development Agency North –West, organized the event of information on the theme of circular economy in the County Council hall.

During the workshop there have been discussions regarding the way in which organizations can contribute to the support of transition towards a circular economy together with opportunities for financing through different grants.

The event's aim was to establish an inter-sectorial dialogue with the purpose to identify main needs of the organizations, in order to consolidate actions of circular economy.





6. 18-19 October 2018, 2nd European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform Coordination Group meeting (CG),

The first meeting of the CG provided guidelines for the elaboration of the CG-CESE work plan and the CG-CESE joint planning framework and for the conference on 21 February 2018. At the conference in February, consultations were held on the circular economy.



After these meetings, strategies, knowledge and good practices have already been accumulated, and the subsequent update of 18-19 October 2018 allows stakeholders to submit content directly. This update also introduced a section on voluntary commitments aligned with the Monitoring Framework for a circular economy.



7. 30 October 2018, Launch of the first food bank in the North Region and the second in Romania, CLUJ FOOD BANK “Food Waste Combat”

IRCEM supports the second food bank opened in Romania, as a founding member. The food bank supposes the redirection of the surplus food from donors to the people in need, and supposes an authorized deposit and a car able to transport the overload of food. More on this you can find on <http://www.ircem.ro/2018/11/05/banca-de-alimente-cluj/>

If we are told that Romania is the 9th in Europe in terms of food waste it may not help us to form a very clear idea about the hard reality that we all share. But when we hear that in Romania a person throws around 130kg of food per year, it seems like everything gets another form.

That's when we think of the 5 million Romanians on the brink of poverty, or better said to the 66% of the families living in rural areas and cannot provide their daily food.

It is impossible to remain impartial to such a reality, and no, there is no need for a waste of food law to enter into force, but it takes a handful of people who want to make a change.

Well, the Institutul pentru Cercetări în Economie Circulară și Mediu “Ernest Lupan” - IRCEM supports the second bank of food opened in Romania, being a founding member of this organization, the food bank in Cluj "Food Waste Combat" is an initiated project by JCI (Junior Chamber International).

IRCEM also supports the good practice of the proposed food bank as a good practice model for the European Commission through the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP). Functioning according to the model of European Union organizations in line with the principles of the European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA), it brings the Food Waste Combat project to a hopeful partner, LIDL, with whom we start together with the fight against food waste.

All this to support people in need, children with disabilities or at risk of school dropout, young people with disabilities, needy old women, mothers, mistreated women, single-parent or multiple families, disadvantaged families, immigrants, and victims, to raise awareness about food waste.

Because we do not just want information, we want to go to action to contribute to this project, we also invite agro-food manufacturers, hypermarkets, supermarkets, grocery stores, canteens, restaurants and hotels with food surpluses to be good practice model for combating food waste.

And because we relate everything to our mission, to mobilize individuals, organizations and institutions in the process of transition to a circular economy through the ecosystemal development of life on our planet under the influence of the three pillars: social, economic and natural, we recall a quote

from by Tristram Stuart "Cutting food waste is a delicious way of saving money, helping to feed the world and protect the planet."



8. 12 November 2018 - WASTE as a Resource - Focusing on the ROLE of Circular Economy in partnership with German Cultural Center Cluj

Every year, humanity produces more than 2 billion tons of waste and thereby endangers the environment and itself. How can this trend be stopped or at least slowed down? By creating less waste, designing longer lasting and less resource-consuming products, and by reusing waste materials... in short, by implementing what is called a circular economy. IRCEM and the German Cultural Center invited people to a conference about the role of social organizations for the implementation of a circular economy. The conference is a part of the Disruptive Innovation Festival 2018, a platform for innovative ideas for a more sustainable world organized annually by the Ellen MacArthur foundation and the Circular Economy Club.

In order to disseminate this we talk about this events "Waste as a Resource-Focusing on the Role of Circular Economy" at Radio Romania Cluj together with Ms. Doina Gecse Borgovan. German architect and waste materials expert Jan Körbes hold a workshop for high school students during the weekend preceding the conference. Together, the pupils were examined different waste materials and come up with new utilization possibilities for them.

The results were documented and also presented during the conference in form of a mini expo. We continued with Pecha Kucha Introduction of Cluj-based NGOs. As a preparation for the discussion, several organizations from Cluj as well as one from Germany was invited to present themselves. To ensure that we will stick to the timeframe, we use a variation of the Pecha Kucha method: every organization has exactly three minutes to present itself, its goal, and its operations supported by a short PowerPoint presentation of a maximum of three slides (please rather use pictures than text).



In this regard we discuss about the role of social organizations as key players in the implementation of a circular economy and examine different models in Romania and Germany. The general public is invited to take part in the discussion and share ideas. All events within the conference were held in English.

9. 15 and 18 November 2018, I participated in the Multi-Region Conference "EU RO Governance"

Between November 15 and 18, 2018, I participated in the EU RO Governance Multi-Region Conference, a conference organized in the framework of the project "Knowledge of Cohesion Policies, a factor for the consolidation of European identity" in Iasi, NE Region. Among the participants in the event were decision makers, representatives of civil society, the business sector, the formal educational system and the media from all 8 regions of Romania. Following this event, we have developed the knowledge about European funding opportunities through funds and programs specific to cohesion policy.



10. 21st of November 2018 –PROVED EVENT - Workshop: Bio-waste in the circular economy – Public consultation of Romanian stakeholders from the field of composting

Indifferent by the location or period in which an event occurs on a circular economy, we are trying to be present. On 21 November 2018 took place the workshop "Bio-wastes in the circular economy" within the PROVED project at the Technical University of Bucharest. As promoters of the concept of circular economy, we have the great pleasure of helping to outline some guidelines on the bio-economic and, in the present case, composting. The purpose of this event was to publicly consult the Romanian stakeholders in the field of composting and to form a position paper for the public authorities on the legislative solutions and financing schemes for composting.

The event was attended by representatives of the relevant ministries, local public authorities, professional associations as well as other relevant stakeholders in the sphere of Bio-economy.



11. 22nd of November 2018 – Smart Region Debate, organized by the Local Council for SMEs, Călărași County council and Concord Commutation (SW Region)

Smart Region Debate – Călărași 2018 is conceived for urban communities, sub-urban and rural communities of all dimensions with the aim to connect directly with trustworthy partners, in order to discover and explore new ideas, for identifying available resources and for learning from experts from the industry within the efforts of digital transformation which necessities regional collaborations and multi-disciplinary ones. The initiatives for intelligent regions help, engage the key-stakeholders and the community's members for accelerating the development of towns and regions.

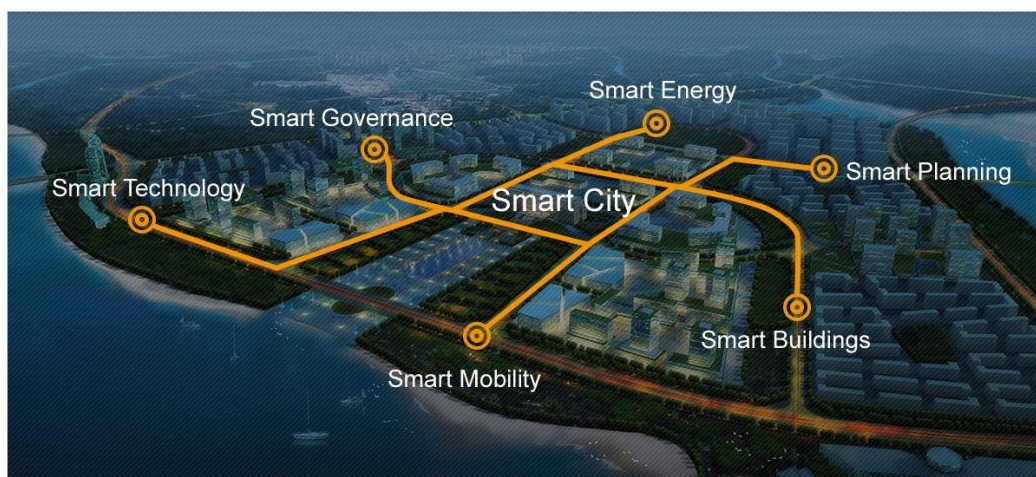
Thus, IRCHEM has talked about the sustainable development of urban areas because we have to lean towards what Smart Cities implies, closing the loop through industrial synergies, an approach that the circular economy can play in building the cities of the future. This has also been achieved in Calarasi in the Smart Region Debate from SW through the presence of Mrs. Eng. Econ. Elena Simina Lakatos, IRCHEM President.



DEZBATERE SMART REGION – CALARASI 2018

22 Noiembrie 2018, 10:00 – 16:00

Resort D'all Class, Strada București, Nr 354, Călărași



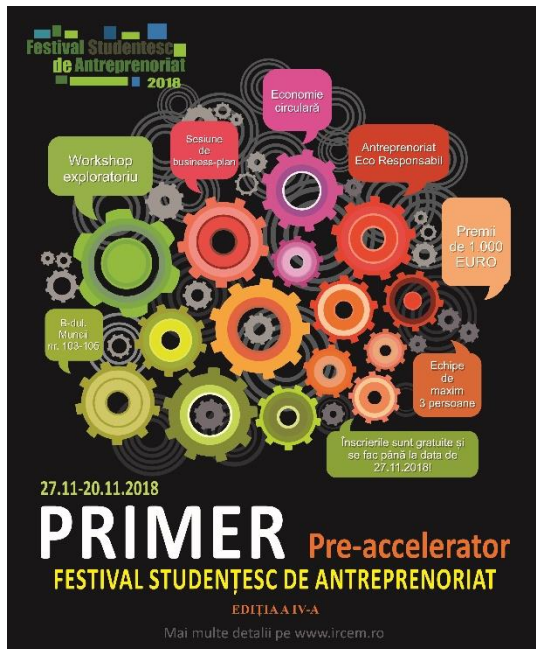
12. 27.11-20.12.2018 Student Entrepreneurship Festival 2018

In the period Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” will organize the 4th edition of the 2018 Entrepreneurship Student Festival, in collaboration with Primer By InnoEnergy and ClujHUB, an eco-innovative Entrepreneurship Competition of young people in Romania.

The aim of the project is to promote eco-innovative entrepreneurial culture and thinking among young people through the development of initiation and management skills based on substitution, reduction, reuse and recycling of waste and provide support for entrepreneurs with national hubs.

During the aforementioned period there will be 2-3 meetings a week (for 4 weeks). Throughout each workshop, topics relevant to building a sustainable business will be discussed. The program ends on December 20 with a DemoDay, a day of pitching, giving a business idea awards of 1000 EUR.

Plus, the program's value lies not only in the content offered, but also in access to the Innoenergy network. The pre-acceleration program is only a first step in InnoEnergy's programs, including business competitions (where prizes are 30-35,000 euros) or access to investment (up to 150,000 euros).



13. 6th of December, Bucharest - Virtuous Circles Mission to Romania

The Commission adopted on 24th September a series of “early warning” reports relating to 14 Member States, and prepared in cooperation with the ministries of those MS (including Romania). These are based on up-to-date information from Member States’ own implementation reports, and on a 2018 “Study to identify Member States at Risk of non-compliance”. All Member States have now adopted Waste Management and Waste Reduction Plans providing a roadmap to achieving their obligations.

The recent adoption of the Review of the Waste Directives means that all Member States are very aware of the level of the challenges they face, and of the “early warning” process designed to help those that are not on the right trajectory. The concern is that in such “Member States at Risk of non-compliance” there is little understanding of the opportunities of circular economy approaches (particularly outside the capitals). Better waste management is seen as a legal compliance issue and the responsibility/problem of the environment ministries. For this reason we are organizing the high-level “Virtuous Circle” missions to deliver a positive message and inform other ministries and stakeholders about the circular economy opportunities.

Commissioner Vella will meet with ministers from various ministries (not only environment), for round table discussions with experts, these will be followed by wider stakeholder events, bringing in businesses, municipalities and regions to share examples with those who have dealt with similar challenges in other parts of Europe.

III. Sharing knowledge

1. 25-26 July 2018, International Conference ICPR-AEM & QIEM 2018, took place at Grand Hotel Italia, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

We had the pleasure to present the researches made in two projects, the following papers materialized:

1. Lakatos E.S., Bacali, L., Ciomos, A.O., Rosca, M.G., Mateiciuc, C. The behavior of new generations consumers related to the circular economy, International Conference ICPR-AEM & QIEM 2018-fifth edition, 25-26 July 2018
2. Lakatos E.S., Bacali, L., Nan, L.M, Danciu, A.M., Greenley, M. The development of the production processes in an active circular economy system, a view of recirculation. International Conference ICPR-AEM & QIEM 2018-fifth edition, 25-26 July 2018
3. Bacali, L.A., Botos, A., Lakatos, S.E., Bacali, L. The importance of ambiance in Romanian university educational spaces, International Conference ICPR-AEM & QIEM 2018-fifth edition, 25-26 July 2018



2. 20-25 August 2018 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING – accessing European Funds.

About 17 persons have been trained to write and implement projects. From these 17, 2 came from IRCCEM, on the principle “long life learning”.

Presentation of a SIGUREC value receipt was the necessary condition to be fulfilled for registration, so our actions aimed at supporting those contributing to the reduction of environmental pollution, and the actions undertaken by SIGUREC only strengthen the our position.

The course is addressed to young people working in the NGO environment and they want to implement projects with non-reimbursable financing in the field of circular economy; young people working in project management; young people wishing to implement projects at work with the objective of circular economy; as well as young people who want to start a career in writing and managing projects.

After the final exam, the participants received a graduation diploma from the Institutul pentru Cercetări în Economie Circulară și Mediu “Ernest Lupan”.



3. 20-22 September, 2018, International Conference “RMEE2018 – Performance Management or Management Performance?”, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

We were pleased to present the research carried out in two projects, materialized in the following papers:

1. BACALI, L.A., NAN, L.M., LAKATOS, E.S. current approaches to the orientation towards requirements in the development of educational spaces and environment. Site usage requirements, RMEE2018 - Performance Management or Management Performance? Conference Proceedings, 20-22 September 2018
2. BERCEA O.B., BACALI, L., LAKATOS E.S., BACALI, L.A., POTRA, R.L. Application for certification as a social enterprise in Romania: assessment of the administrative process, RMEE2018 - Performance Management or Management Performance? Conference Proceedings, 20-22 September 2018



4. 2nd - 11th November 2018, 3REUSE - Creative use of waste for a circular economy – an Erasmus+ project – Moldovenesti Commune, Cluj District, Romania

The project took place between November 2nd - 11th 2018 in Mihai Viteazu commune and is co-financed by the European Union's Erasmus+ program.

With a little imagination, waste from household can make a park beautiful. This has been proved by 30 young persons from five countries involved in a European project (on Erasmus+) and accommodated for a few days in Turda, Cluj county. They learn to use new methods for treating waste from the circular economy principle, contributing in this way to the reduction of the negative impact of our actions towards the environment, through reuse, refurbishment and recycle.” The Romanian National Television (TVR) mad an reportage about our project <https://www.facebook.com/tvrcluj/videos/256533901701423/>.

The intercultural exchange took place between groups of young people from the five partner countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Belgium) who met to participate in a non-formal learning curriculum.

The project wished to highlight the importance of circular economy and ecology in relation to a healthy planet, and how Erasmus+ program can be an aid to eco-responsible entrepreneurship education. The young people involved were interested in the recycling and creation of useful products from waste had the opportunity to participate in workshops and seminars. Through their activities they learned about eco-system management skills and the eco-entrepreneurship, as well as the responsibility.

The results of the project were the stylization of a playground through ecologic recycling for the children from Mihai Viteazu Commune, Cheia village and educating young people in the sense of circular economy, empowering them and at the same time cultivating their eco-entrepreneurial spirit. The conduct of these actions had a positive impact on the local community and aimed at achieving an immediate result, a new image of the children's playground, which benefited the entire community.

The purpose of the project was to empower young people to use new methods in the field of circular economy and to reduce the negative impact of our actions on the environment through recycling, reuse, reduction, refurbishment and environmental protection. Thus, we build a bridge between the local young people and the young people from the other partner countries in order to promote interculturality, multilingualism, equity and inclusion.

The specific aims and objectives of the project were: to promote education and entrepreneurial actions of circular economy, to support the initiatives of young people who want to bring to the market new goods and services based on the principles of the circular economy, to mobilize, in a joint dialogue platform, both the academic environment and representatives of the local public administration authorities, economic operators, citizens and students involved in the process of packaging management and waste reduction in packaging.

The program covered both theoretical and introductory, technical and specific aspects on material recycling. On the workshop days there were practical things to do, showed by experts in the field and qualified persons. There were workshops on recyclable wood products, textiles, plastic products and a workshop called ART where they had the freedom to improvise and use their imagination to create something from recyclable materials collected from the locals.

5. October-November 2018, Study regarding the impact of green brands on the sustainable development objectives in Romania

IRCEM realizes “**Study regarding the impact of green brands on the sustainable development objectives in Romania**” – measuring the consumers’ attitude regarding:



- green brands and their level of loyalty
- green lifestyle, purchase of ecologic products, products made of recyclable materials, reuse and repair of products.

The survey comprises a questionnaire that lasts 15 minutes to be filled in.

The aim of the research is to assess consumers' attitudes to green brands and their impact on sustainable development objectives in Romania and if we can speak about circular brands. Through this study we find out respondents' awareness on green brands and what level of customer loyalty and fidelity to green brands. We want to find consumers' attitudes about green lifestyles, purchasing environmentally friendly products, products made from recyclable materials, reuse and repair of products with impact on sustainable development objectives in Romania.

6. October-November 2018, Study regarding the degree of circularity of the social organizations in Romania towards the adoption of the circular economy principle



IRCEM realizes the research “**Study regarding the degree of circularity of the social organizations in Romania towards the adoption of the circular economy principle**”

The study aims are:

- to inventory the difficulties experienced by the social organizations when talking about circular economy.
- to identify the social circular organizations in Romania.
- to analyze the importance of the circular economy from social organizations.
- to measure the degree of circularity of the social organizations in Romania.

The questionnaire is anonymous and takes about 10 minutes to be completed.

7. October-November 2018, Study social entrepreneurship and social enterprises

The purpose of the research “**Study social entrepreneurship and social enterprises**” is to analyze the interest of entrepreneurs in the development of new social and circular business.

In this respect, the Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” is conducting a study evaluating the interest of those potentially interested in applying with a business plan to obtain financing for the establishment of an insertion social enterprise where at least 30% of employees are vulnerable groups with focus on circular economy.



Starting from this premise, we want to identify on the Romanian market the position of future entrepreneurs towards social and circular affairs, which is why we want to analyze the intention of entrepreneurs and how these social businesses can contribute to closing the loop.

8. 4-7 December 2018, We give life to the earth through music!

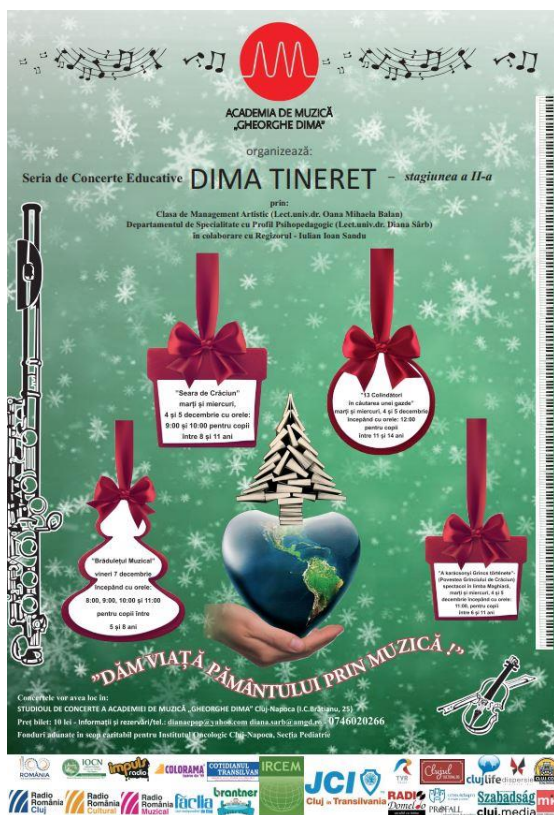
The "Dima Tineret" Educational Concert Season will run its second edition from, at the "Gheorghe Dima" Music Academy Headquarters in Cluj-Napoca.

The project is coordinated by the Artistic Management Class and the Department of Specialty with Psycho Pedagogical Profile, in collaboration with director Iulian Sandu, and was initiated with the aim of educating the young generation in the spirit of art as well as the negative effects that our actions have on

the environment , proposing to make them accountable for environmental protection, so this project brings as a novelty the introduction of the concept of sustainability in the small language.

Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan”, in partnership with the "Gheorghe Dima" Music Academy Cluj-Napoca and Junior Chambers International Cluj, Romania (JCI Cluj), intends to introduce information in concerts tells children the messages that the failure to pay attention to the environment has repercussions on each of us, and sustainable behavior can contribute to the development of a harmonious life on our planet.

In the spirit of joy and emotion we want to share, the "Gheorghe Dima" Academy of Music from Cluj-Napoca and the Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” decided that the money collected on tickets during this charity event to be donated to the Oncology Institute Cluj-Napoca, the Pediatric Section.



9. Ongoing, Analyzing good practices from Romania in order to mapping them till end of December

- a) Green WEEE, Buzau, Romania (SE Region); Green Fiber, Urziceni (SE Region); Green International, Campia Turzii (NW Region); SIGUREC all Romania





GREEN INTERNATIONAL





SIGUREC station



b) ECOTIC, WEEE collecting in Romania

SOLUȚII PENTRU UN MEDIU CURAT



ORAȘE CURATE

31 campanii
320 000 de persoane
50 de tone DEEE corect colectate



ȘCOALA ECOTERRIENILOR

297 de școli
115 000 de elevi
62 de tone DEEE corect reciclate



STAȚIA DE RECICLARE

8 județe
230 000 de persoane
120 de tone DEEE corect reciclate



ȘI CEI MICI FAC FAPTE MARI

186 grădinițe
1,85 tone DBA colectate
24 168 preșcolari

c) BIOTREM -edible plates from bran, the future of recycling in Romania



- d) The Bank for Food Collection and Distribution, the first food bank in the food waste combat area from Bucharest (SE Region)
<https://bancapentrualimente.ro/>

Balance Sheet for 2018

Indicatori din BILANT	lei
A. Active imobilizate - total	-
B. Active circulante - total	34613
C. Cheltuieli in avans	-
D. Datorii ce trebuie platite intr-o perioada de pana la un an	7315
E. Active circulante nete, respectiv datorii curente nete	27298
F. Total active minus datorii curente	27298
G. Datorii ce trebuie platite intr-o perioada mai mare de un an	-
H. Provizioane	-
I. Venituri in avans	-
J. Capitaluri proprii - total	27298
Fonduri privind activitatile fara scop patrimonial	0
Capitaluri Total	27298
Indicatori din CONTUL REZULTATULUI EXERCITIULUI	lei
Venituri din activitatile fara scop patrimonial - prevederi anuale	-
Venituri din activitatile fara scop patrimonial - la 31.12.2018	88727
Cheltuieli privind activitatile fara scop patrimonial - prevederi anuale	-
Cheltuieli privind activitatile fara scop patrimonial - la 31.12.2018	75447
Excedent din activitatile fara scop patrimonial - prevederi anuale	0
Excedent din activitatile fara scop patrimonial - la 31.12.2018	13280
Deficit din activitatile fara scop patrimonial - prevederi anuale	0
Deficit din activitatile fara scop patrimonial - la 31.12.2018	0
Venituri din activitatile cu destinatie speciala - prevederi anuale	-
Venituri din activitatile cu destinatie speciala - la 31.12.2018	-
Cheltuieli privind activitatile cu destinatie speciala - prevederi anuale	-
Cheltuieli privind activitatile cu destinatie speciala - la 31.12.2018	-
Excedent din activitatile cu destinatie speciala - prevederi anuale	0
Excedent din activitatile cu destinatie speciala - la 31.12.2018	0
Deficit din activitatile cu destinatie speciala - prevederi anuale	0
Deficit din activitatile cu destinatie speciala - la 31.12.2018	0
Venituri din activitatile economice - prevederi anuale	0
Venituri din activitatile economice - la 31.12.2018	5020
Cheltuieli privind activitatile economice - prevederi anuale	0
Cheltuieli privind activitatile economice - la 31.12.2018	0
Profit din activitatile economice - prevederi anuale	0
Profit din activitatile economice - la 31.12.2018	5020
Pierdere din activitatile economice - prevederi anuale	0
Pierdere din activitatile economice - la 31.12.2018	0
Venituri totale - prevederi anuale	0
Venituri totale - la 31.12.2018	93747
Cheltuieli totale - prevederi anuale	0
Cheltuieli totale - la 31.12.2018	75447
Excedent/Profit - prevederi anuale	0
Excedent/Profit - la 31.12.2018	18300
Deficit/Pierdere - la 31.12.2022	101239
ALTE INFORMATII	
CAEN privind activitatile fara scop patrimonial	Alte forme de invatamant n.c.a.
Efectivul de personal privind activitatea fara scop patrimonial	12
CAEN privind activitatile economice sau financiare	Cercetare- dezvoltare in alte stiinte naturale si inginerie
Efectivul de personal privind activitatile economice sau financiare	3

IRCEM team

Welcome to the world of IRCEM, where a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers is at the forefront of pioneering sustainable solutions in the realms of circular economy and environmental management. Our team members come from diverse backgrounds, bringing a wealth of expertise in areas such as environmental management, circular economy practices, sustainability, and project management.

With a passion for research and innovation, our team continually explores cutting-edge concepts and seeks practical applications that drive sustainability forward. We have skilled coordinators and leaders who ensure that our initiatives are seamlessly executed and strategically aligned with our mission.

Our communication experts ensure that our research findings and initiatives are effectively shared with a wide audience, promoting awareness and understanding of critical sustainability issues.

IRCEM is fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who bring fresh perspectives, energy, and support to our projects, contributing to our overall success. Collaboration is at our core. We collaborate with academic and industry partners to enhance our research capabilities and foster real-world impact.

The IRCEM team is united by a shared mission: to advance sustainable practices, support environmental stewardship, and promote the principles of the circular economy. We strive to make a meaningful impact on the global sustainability landscape through our research, initiatives, and partnerships. The IRCEM team is a dynamic force for change, committed to shaping a more sustainable future. We continuously leverage our collective knowledge, skills, and passion to drive positive environmental and societal impact. Together, we are leading the way in sustainable solutions.

Contact information

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