

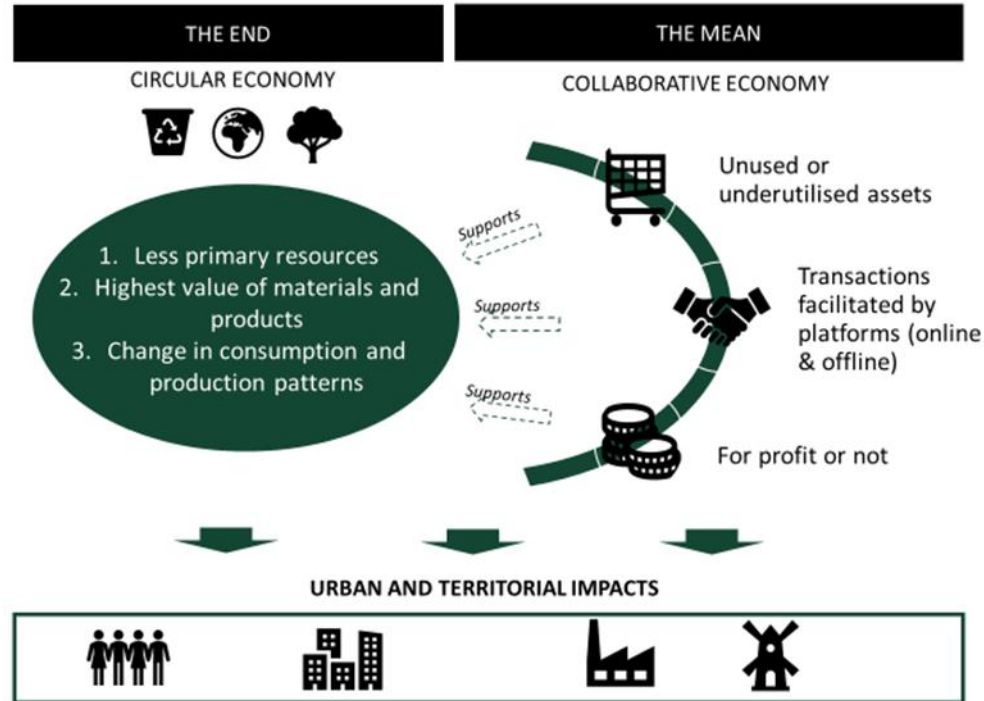


# **A Common Understanding of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives (ESPONSHARING)**

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*Brussels, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

# The topic – the Urban Circular Collaborative Economy



# The scope – six territories

## Stakeholders' territories

- Maribor (SI)
- Porto (PT)
- Prato (IT)
- The Hague (NL)
- Flanders (BE)
- Greece



# The focus – different policy needs and objectives

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- Territories have different problems/issues, leading to different priorities.
  - **Flanders:** "Making links between the Commons" – willingness to foster social connections and improve accessibility of different areas in a sustainable way.
  - **Greece:** Poverty reduction and transition towards green energy.
  - **Maribor:** Increase the city's circularity by promoting of "cooperative economy networks".
  - **Porto:** Promotion of circular and collaborative lifestyles in the city.
  - **Prato:** Regenerating urban spaces left behind with deindustrialisation, inclusion of population from cultural backgrounds.
  - **The Hague:** Poverty reduction and promotion of social entrepreneurship.

## Example of initiative – Made in Moerwijk (The Hague)



# Possible and realised impacts - Made in Moerwijk (The Hague)

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## Environmental

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- Resource savings: manufacturing from plastic waste;
- Fostering environmental awareness by creating green gardens;

## Economic

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- Job creation (20 jobs created over a year, whilst 100 envisaged);
- Fostering entrepreneurial approach among young people;

## Social

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- Hiring former unemployed and socially excluded people;
- Reinsertion of excluded people back to the labor market;
- Reduction of social poverty and exclusion in one of the poorest district of the Hague;
- Increased social cohesion, more exchanges between people.



## Example of initiative – Robin Food (Maribor)



# Possible and realised impacts - Robin Food

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## Environmental

- Resource savings: since the creation of the food cooperative in 2017, 1000 tones of food waste or 1 million products have been saved from being wasted

## Economic

- Employment creation: 3 full-time employees

## Social

- Savings for consumers (because of cheaper prices): estimated savings from shopping in Robin Food Maribor of around EUR 100 per person per month



## Example of initiative – Horta à Porta (Porto)



# Possible and realised impacts - Horta à Porta (Porto)

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## Environmental

- More green spaces: 54 gardens are available for cultivation in Porto (1800 plots of 25 m2 each)
- Increased awareness on environmental issues: citizens that use the initiative are more concerned about environmental quality and public health
- Sustainable gardening has environmental benefits related to groundwater quality, soil and air quality

## Economic

- Savings for the Municipality: the costs of waste processing are reduced

## Social

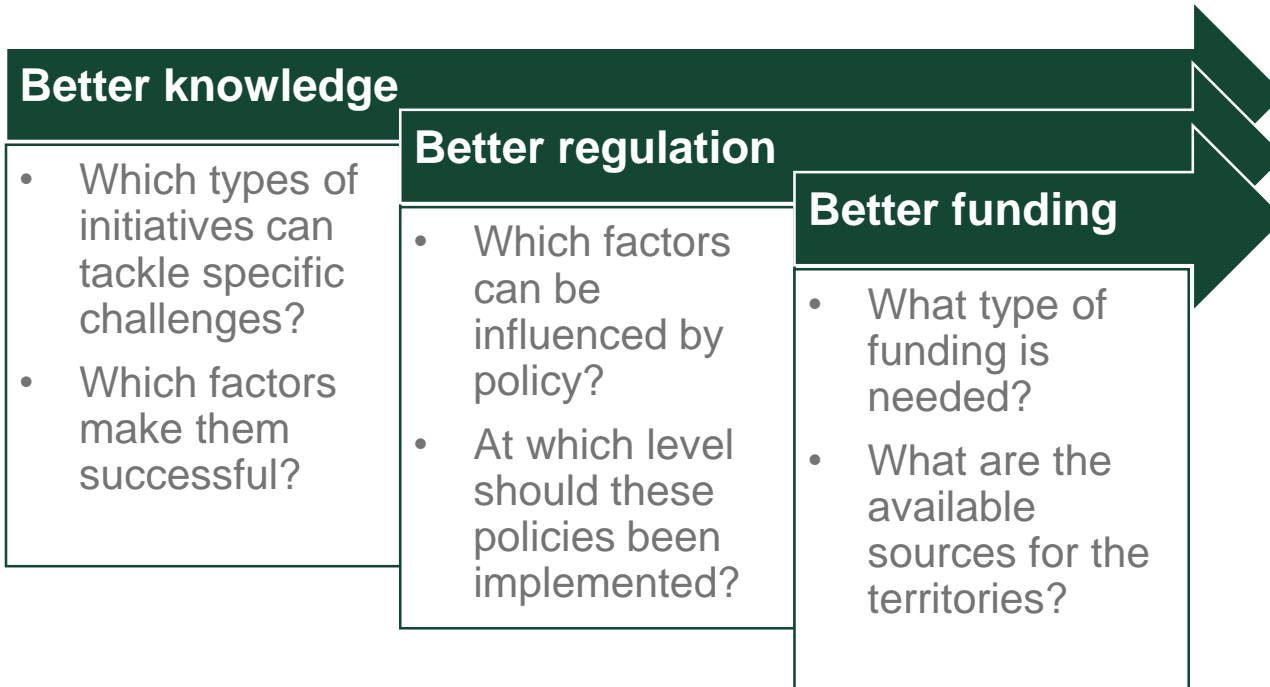
- Quality of life: horticulture can induce significant behavioural changes driven by more physical activity, less smoking, etc.
- Savings for users: self-production of vegetables implies a reduction of grocery expenses, which amounts to 200€ of savings per year

# Some concrete examples – Sifnos energy community (Greece)



# Recommendations I

- What can the territories do to foster positive impacts of these initiatives?



# Recommendations II – Better Knowledge

<b>Local level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formulate clearly the policy objectives to guide circular and collaborative economy initiatives in their efforts</li><li>• Develop better knowledge on present/potential initiatives, their potential impacts, and policy needs to achieve those impacts</li><li>• Foster peer learning by bringing initiatives into contact so they can learn from each other</li><li>• Provide information and guidance on administrative procedures to new initiatives</li><li>• Set up a monitoring and data collection system focused on the achievement of the stated objectives</li><li>• Cooperation with social entrepreneurs and innovators at the local level</li></ul>
<b>National level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote national circular and collaborative economy networks and associations to support peer learning</li><li>• Share successful examples of policy making among regions and local authorities</li></ul>
<b>European level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve the exchange of knowledge and good practices across Member States (currently done through ad-hoc some EU events but could be made more systematic)</li><li>• Strengthen impact research on the collaborative economy</li></ul>



# Recommendations III – Better Regulations

<b>Local level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the best suited actors and types of initiatives to support the policy objectives stated</li><li>• Review application procedures and adjust to the needs of the relevant actors (public private partnerships?)</li><li>• Provision of guidance and active support on administrative procedures to the initiatives</li><li>• Use of experimentation and more flexible approach to address the main existing regulatory bottlenecks</li><li>• Dedicated interdepartmental body at a local level</li></ul>
<b>National level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment of regulatory frameworks for non-for-profit organisations (more common in the collaborative economy)</li><li>• Clarity on the regulations that apply to different types of services (e.g. employment and taxation)</li><li>• Dedicated body overseeing the regulation of the circular and collaborative economy activity (reuniting various representatives)</li><li>• Stimulation of the resource demand via tax system and green public procurement</li></ul>
<b>European level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up and monitor the implementation of collaborative economy regulations (Collaborative Economy Scoreboard 2020?)</li></ul>

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# Recommendations II – Better Funding

<b>Local level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarify the time limits of funding needs and put long-term funding schemes into place if needed</li><li>• Provide other types of resources to initiatives (e.g. not only grants, but also assistance for applying to funding, provision of accommodation for initiatives, etc.)</li><li>• Better use of existing networks and bodies (Universities, existing municipality departments, chambers of commerce)</li><li>• Funding as an incentive for cooperation between various individual initiatives</li></ul>
<b>National level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research funding to provide a better understanding of impacts</li><li>• National support programmes for specific collaborative economy initiatives</li><li>• Incentives provided to the private institution to encourage funding of circular and collaborative economy incentives</li></ul>
<b>European level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus existing funding opportunities (e.g. COSME, Horizon 2020) on specific circular and collaborative dimensions</li><li>• Analyse and implement potential after-project funding schemes for successful initiatives with limited self-funding opportunities</li></ul>



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# Thank you!

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