## **1. Organization profile**

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| **Organisation:**  Aclima, marked Circular Economy as a strategic area in 2018. The Circular Economy concept is “a production model that is restorative by nature; ideally, this implies that resources which are used for production enter an infinite loop of reuse, remanufacturing and recycling. Resources that cannot be fully salvaged must be based on renewable sources” (Business Innovation Observatory, 2015a). It is strongly related to sustainable development, i.e. the ability to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Emas, 2015). Climate change, ecosystems’ degradation or energy and resource scarcity put pressure on ecological, economic and social processes. Social concerns and consumers’ demands are also shifting towards more consideration of these issues. As a consequence, these factors push for a transition towards a green(er) and (more) Circular Economy, posing new opportunities both for agents in the environmental sector and for companies in other economic sectors.  Aclima's objective is to communicate more conscientiously and constantly the advantages of this new economic model, especially in the industrial sector, since it is there where it can have the greatest impact.  Since 2018, Aclima has been working in several projects for the implementation of Circular Economy strategies in productive sectors  • **Circular Bilbao Bizkaia** (Provincial Council of Bizkaia). The Bilbao Bizkaia Circular project has identify new market niches with high potential for circularity In Bizkaia and Bilbao city metropolitan area, the circular economy model is key to creating opportunities for the region’s citizens to have a better quality of life, in a healthy and sustainable way, and help companies and innovators participate in new transforming projects (info.beaz.bizkaia.eus)  • **Alivalue** (Provincial Council of Bizkaia).  The objective is to identify innovative technologies and business models for the valorization and recovery of by-products and waste from the Basque food industry, specifically in the Bread and Milling sector.  • **Circular Economy in Energy sector** (Provincial Council of Bizkaia).  Analysis, diagnosis and definition of collaboration opportunities  between companies in the energy sector and the Basque eco-industry that promote the Circular Economy in the value chains of the energy segment,  increasing energy and material efficiency in the manufacture of products.  • **CIR ECO** (Erasmus+KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices 2017- 2019). The main aim of the CIR-ECO project is to qualify workers that will participate in the repairing, refurbishing and recycling of discarded equipment in Household Appliance Sector, through the definition of a New Professional Profile, the development of Training Curriculum and training modules and the creation of a Virtual Environment (cireco.ffeuskadi.net) **Context:** Nowadays, industrial value chains are increasingly being reconfigured as a result of cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship. As innovation is likely to occur at the borderlines between different industries, facilitation and acceleration of new combinations along and across value chains represent a source for potential innovation and growth for the enterprises involved. These interactions and linkages between value chains and industries may lead to the development of emerging industries. Emerging industries can be understood as “the establishment of an entirely new industrial value chain, or the radical reconfiguration of an existing one, driven by a disruptive idea (or convergence of ideas), leading to turning these ideas/opportunities into new products/services with higher added value” (Policy roadmap of the European Forum for Clusters in Emerging Industries (EFCEI), 2009).  The European Cluster Observatory’s “Emerging Industries” report identified the ten emerging industries, including Environmental industries. Environmental industries are the most cross-cutting of the ten emerging industries, containing parts from 21 of the 51 traded industry sectors. The main subsectors are electric power generation and transmission; material and energy efficiency; waste management; reuse, recycling and remanufacturing; environmental services; water; and environmental protection. Environmental industries include services, technologies and processes that can serve or create value for any industrial sector. For example, material and energy efficiency services can be applied in any manufacturing sector.  Circular Economy is one of the megatrends identified across emerging industries. Even if promotes longer product life cycles and may, therefore, reduce consumption, it will still open up new market opportunities, especially for solutions for adapting or mitigating the negative effects of environmental degradation and climate change (Business Innovation Observatory, 2015b; Fujitsu, 2015b; McKinsey, 2017a; UNIDO, 2013).  There is a wide margin to improve industrial processes through the Circular Economy, the application of ecodesign in products and processes, remanufacturing, reuse or systematic recycling. In this way, industries will become more environmentally friendly, in addition to saving costs by learning to make their processes more effective. It is expected that Circular economy would allow to generate a total benefit of EUR 0.6 trillion per year by 2030 to European economies, leading the GDP to increase by 7 percentage points (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2015). |

## **The role of Aclima in the Project:**

From Aclima we offer support to companies in enabling green technologies and design concepts to their industrial value chains in order to promote a Circular Economy.

Specific actions:

* Collaboration with other industrial Cluster for integration of sustainability strategies in local productive sectors, Support tools for integration of sustainability
* Thanks to the close relationship with the Public Administration, promotion of public-private collaboration to reinforce the favourable legal framework for Sustainable companies
* Due to his extensive experience in organizing events at different levels, create a favourable “open space” through events, to identify synergies and establishment of partnerships within and outside the cluster (public administration companies, knowledge agents) for Ecoinnovation a new sustainable businesses generation
* Coordinate and facilitate the validation of ideas for joint innovation projects, channelling of economic support measures
* Support innovation take-up, internationalisation and the scaling-up of SMEs in the digital and sustainable transformation

**What kind of partnerships are we looking for:**

# Our main objective is to find partners for an INNOSUP consortium for the INNOSUP-01 call, “Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains”.

We are looking for partnerships or organizations that are willing to incorporate environmental criteria by enabling green technologies and design concepts to their industrial value chains.