World Circular Economy Forum | Accelerator Session
(Featuring 6th OECD Roundtable on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions & EIB C3 Launch Session)

Cities & regions getting ahead with the circular transition

18 April 2024, 09:30-15:15 CEST
Brussels, online
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Opening session</strong> – The Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI): Moving forward together</td>
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<td>• <em>Working together for accelerating the circular transition: the CCRI</em> – Lucie Blondel</td>
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<td>• <em>Getting the finance right: launch of the continuation of the EIB’s Circular City Centre</em> – Desislava Kraleva, Jonas Byström, Maria Blanco Herbosa, Lieve Van Espen</td>
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<td>• <em>Getting the governance right: insights from OECD case studies</em> – Aziza Akhmouch, Meindert Stolk, Anne-Marie Jean, Anders Riise</td>
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<td>• <em>Moving ahead to best support cities and regions</em> – Lucie Blondel, Jesús Ángel Diez Vázquez</td>
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<td>11:05 – 11:30</td>
<td>Networking coffee break</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td><strong>Roundtable #1</strong> – Circular economy transition in EU: Where do cities and regions stand? <em>(Facilitated by the OECD)</em></td>
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<td>12:30 – 13:30</td>
<td>Networking lunch</td>
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<td>13:30 – 14:30</td>
<td><strong>Roundtable #2</strong> – How to demystify finance for circular economy projects? <em>(Facilitated by the EIB)</em></td>
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<td>14:30 – 15:15</td>
<td><strong>F2F matchmaking</strong> – Connecting cities/regions’ projects with potential partners and/or investors <em>(Facilitated by the CCRI Office)</em></td>
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<td>• *Elevator pitches</td>
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<td>• *Matchmaking session</td>
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The Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI): Moving forward together
Working together for accelerating the circular transition: the CCRI

Lucie Blondel, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
Why research & innovation (R&I) is needed

• The transition to circularity is underway, but complex. It requires novel materials and products with new design, new technologies and production processes, as well as new business and governance models. R&I can trigger those necessary changes!

• The European Commission has a central steering role to play in triggering research and innovation, strengthening investment, boosting skills and capacities, and supporting cases for a circular systemic transition.
About the policy framework

- Circularity is an R&I priority, anchored in the Green Deal and its related Action Plans, which were game changers for industry and consumers alike.

- Recent and upcoming circular economy policies focus on value chain integration, digitalisation and data management (e.g. digital product passport).

- The civil society, innovative use models and territorial solutions become more important in EU policy developments (e.g. Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, Waste Framework Directive).

- Horizon Europe (EU R&I Funding Programme) helps to fill in the knowledge gaps, notably to validate and support legislative proposals with evidence. Horizon Europe projects facilitate the experimentation of solutions at scale on the ground.
What the CCRI aims at

- Identifying drivers & barriers to territorial innovation
- Encouraging on-the-ground experimentation, supporting pilots and demonstrations
- Highlighting promising (replicable) solutions, suggesting practical steps forward, preparing for full-scale territorial deployment

►► Structuring and maturing cities’ circular projects to a stage where they become scalable, bankable and therefore, truly impactful
What the CCRI offers

• A **convening platform and community** within which innovation can flourish.

• Our **playground** where we can experiment together how local systemic solutions can work best.

• **Fair support for cities/regions** on their challenging CE journey.

• A **space for in-depth knowledge-sharing**, but also for reflection exercises.

• **Facilitated connections** with relevant circular economy partners (incl. support providers, investors, technology providers…).
About the CCRI partners

The CCRI has teamed up with strategic partners like the EIB, the OECD, and many others to diversify and consolidate its support offers, but also to amplify impact and reach.

➢ With the OECD – to support cities/regions in getting their circular governance right (10 cities and regions supported, thematic reports, interactive roundtables).

➢ With the EIB - to support them in getting their finance right (advisory support under Circular City Centre – C3).

To date, 115 European cities and regions and 278 organisations are involved in the initiative or related projects to advance their circular transition.
Future perspectives

- Consolidation of the CCRI “Support Menu”
- Further multi-stakeholder dialogues on R&I gaps and support needs (value-chain approach)
- Further support for facilitating collaborative project clusters to sustain the R&I knowledge created, even beyond their project duration
- Finetuning of the CCRI initiative as a whole
Getting the finance right: launch of the continuation of the EIB’s Circular City Centre
Getting the finance right: launch of the continuation of EIB’s Circular City Centre – C3

18 April 2024
Circular City Centre – C3
The pilot
The Circular City Centre - C3 is a **competence and resource centre** within the EIB, which supports EU cities in their **circular economy transition**

C3 was developed and tested in a **pilot phase** with support from the **European Investment Advisory Hub**, in cooperation with **Circle Economy**

**C3 will continue** under financing from the **European Commission (DG RTD)** for the 2024-27 period

C3 is an initiative within the framework of the Commission's **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative**

All C3 services are provided **free of charge** to **municipalities** and other public sector **promoters** acting on their behalf
<table>
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<th>The pilot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New documents and other resources</td>
<td>4 guidance documents developed and published</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge sharing and awareness raising</td>
<td>4 webinars delivered, Dedicated C3 webpage, Networking / Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circular City Advisory (CCA)</td>
<td>3 programmes developed, 7 CCA graduated cities</td>
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</table>
Circular economy is a relevant and pertinent topic for cities.

Cities are at very different levels of progress with regard to circularity – some of them are just starting, while others have already accumulated experience in this area.

The capacities at local level are often limited – circularity is a transversal topic dealt with across departments. There is rarely a dedicated Circular economy responsible.

A market assessment was undertaken at the end of the pilot to better target C3’s services during its continuation.

On the basis of the market assessment and learnings from the pilot, a new, refocused and enhanced phase of C3 is now being launched.
Circular City Centre – C3
The continuation
The new Work stream 4 offering project focused advisory will increase the C3 ability to help cities advance projects towards financing and implementation.

More information about C3 can be found at the C3 webpage.
C3 - the continuation

**Workstream 1 - Circular economy awareness raising and mobilisation**

Developing **guidance documents** on topics of general interest and relevance

Preparing **e-learning tools, on-line courses**, etc. as complement to the guidance documents

Developing **new case studies** presenting good circular practices that can inspire action, etc.

**Workstream 2 - Circular economy knowledge sharing and dissemination**

Sharing and dissemination of **circular information and knowledge** through **webinars** to present new C3 guidance documents and other circular topics and themes.

Organising **C3 roundtables** for C3 CCA alumni and potentially other interested parties.
Workstream 3 – Circular City Advisory (CCA)

Bilateral advisory support organised in 3 programmes adapted to cities’ different levels of progress with regard to CE

Each programme comprises 4 workshops, with various tasks to be completed by cities between / in preparation for workshops

Each programme takes 4-6 months

Requires cities’ active involvement

The CCA programmes are not mutually exclusive – a city can benefit from more than 1 CCA
Workstream 4 – Circular Project Advisory (CPA)

Bespoke **project-focused advisory support** to CE projects to facilitate their access to financing

The support is **flexible** and is to be designed in line with projects’ individual needs

The format of support is **bilateral advisory assignments**. A **contract** is signed between EIB and the cities. As all C3 services, the support is **free of charge** for cities.

Preference for relatively **mature** and **sizeable** projects

The services are going to be delivered by **mixed teams** including EIB sector experts and external consultants

WS4 is conceptualised as **logical follow-up** of the most advanced programme under WS3, but standalone projects are welcome
C3 - the continuation

Learn more and get involved

The Circular City Advisory (CCA) and the Circular Project Advisory (CPA) programmes are provided free of charge to cities and other public sector promoters acting on their behalf. You can find out more about the CCA programme here and the CPA programme here.

How to apply for the CCA or CPA programmes?

If you want to participate in the CCA or CPA programmes, please fill in and submit these forms: CCA CPA. Following receipt of the forms, the C3 team will get in touch with you to discuss the programmes that are best suited to your needs.

For further information or assistance, please contact us.
Thank you for your attention!

For further information, visit the **C3 webpage**

or

contact us directly at **C3@eib.org**
City of Leuven

Lieve Van Espen, Project Coordinator
C3 & CIRCULAR CITY LEUVEN

Cities and regions getting ahead with the circular transition

WCEF2024 Brussels
Circular City Leuven

- 2019: CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY + quadruple helix stakeholder platform
- 2020: PILOT PROJECT INCUBATOR
- 2022: CIRCULAR HUB
- 2024+: CLIMATE CITY CONTRACT ‘impactful scaling up’
Circular City Leuven

- 2019  CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY
  + quadruple helix stakeholder platform

- 2020  PILOT PROJECT INCUBATOR

- 2022  CIRCULAR HUB

- 2024-  CLIMATE CITY
  ‘impactful scaling up’

![Diagram](image)
Circular City Leuven

C3 Circular City Centre

- ICLEI CCD signatory
- CCRI fellow city
- Circular City Advisory Programme (C3)
Circular City Leuven

C3 Circular City Advisory programme

- circular projects pipeline
  maturity, impact, critical factors
  city-wide scale

- project implementation
  screening / due diligence
  financing & advisory

- + flexibility - city’s needs
Circular City Leuven

C3 outcome

- financing needs
- network & opportunities
- EIB framework loan tbc 2024-2028
  - flexible credit line
  - CE higher on internal agenda
  - appraisal mission May / June
Circular City Leuven

mid & long term ambitions & C3 support

implementation of climate city contract projects:

- focus: built environment & urban mining, plastics
- financing
  scaling up materials bank
- advisory services
  CE company
  research park Leuven N
Circular City Leuven

next steps C3 CCA3

**Further development CE projects to access financing**

- deep-dive selected projects
- improve soundness - access financing
- screening process financing institutions
- lead-on to financing opportunities
Thank you!
Lieve Van Espen
Circular Economy Policy Advisor
City of Leuven (B)
leuvencirculair@leuven.be
Getting the governance right: insights from OECD case studies
Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)

Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Division
Read the case studies
Zuid Holland

Meindert Stolk, regional minister of the Province of South-Holland
This table is made from Amsterdam Canal Plastic.
Eurométropole de Strasbourg,

Anne-Marie Jean, Vice-Président
Møre and Romsdal

Anders Riise, County Mayor
Moving ahead to best support cities and regions
Introduction to the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative Offers

Lucie Blondel, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
What the CCRI is about?

• Identifying drivers & barriers to territorial innovation

• Encouraging on-the-ground experimentation, supporting pilots and demonstrations

• Highlighting promising (replicable) solutions, suggesting practical steps forward, preparing for full-scale territorial deployment

►► Structuring and maturing cities’ circular projects to a stage where they become scalable, bankable and therefore, truly impactful
What does the CCRI offer?

- The CCRI offers combine technical and operational support with financial advice on your circular journey.

… regardless what is your current level of implementation

►► It is about bringing your ambition to the implementation & financing stages

The yellow stars indicate for which steps and activities the CCRI methodology is directly connected to the Self-Assessment Tool.
What are the main CCRI community’s support needs?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Analysis of CE/the CSS policy context and territorial metabolism</th>
<th>Stakeholder analysis and engagement in CE/the CSS</th>
<th>Building a CSS case and defining targets and indicators</th>
<th>Creating a more systemic approach in CE/the CSS</th>
<th>Monitoring, measuring and quantifying the impacts of CE/the CSS</th>
<th>Unlocking financing options for CE/the CSS</th>
<th>Prioritising and mainstreaming CE in policies, strategies and plans</th>
<th>Showcasing CE benefits on the local and regional level</th>
<th>Consolidating connections and cooperations with other CE stakeholders or initiatives</th>
<th>Creating increased visibility of CE/CSS actions</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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Monitoring (indicators), financing, stakeholder engagement & collaboration have been reported as your top-3 needs.
About the (extended!) CCRI office
3 teams with complementary missions and services – all operating under the same umbrella initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCRI Coordination &amp; Support</th>
<th>CCRI Knowledge Hub</th>
<th>CCRI Communities of Practice</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main roles:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Supporting the overall management of the initiative (communication, helpdesk, capacity building…).</td>
<td>• Acting as a knowledge hub, consolidating and expanding the knowledge base already available for the CCRI community.</td>
<td>• Bringing together CCRI stakeholders in Communities of Practice and twinning programmes, to strengthen their capacity to work and learn creatively together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Providing support to selected cities and regions</td>
<td>• Enlarging the CCRI community by mentoring additional cities and regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Facilitating the cooperation with relevant EU-funded projects and other initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Key deliverables:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Support to 12 CCRI Pilots &amp; 25 Fellows</td>
<td><em>New!</em> Knowledge Hub and catalogue of technologies</td>
<td><em>New!</em> Twinning programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic Working Groups</td>
<td><em>New!</em> Mentoring programme</td>
<td><em>New!</em> Communities of Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCRI Methodology Guidebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Assessment Tool</td>
<td></td>
<td>Direct support to additional cities/regions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues</td>
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<td>Additional thematic Working (sub)Groups</td>
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CCRI large and diversified support offer

- **Tailored advisory support** → Targeting 1 specific city/region
- **Customised support** → Targeting specific issues or journey steps in small groups
- **Grouped support** → Targeting the whole CCRI community, open to all
• Tailored technical advisory support
  • In-kind support (CCRI Office, OECD, EIB, CCRI projects, Green Assist)
  • *New!* Additional on-demand technical and/or financial advisory services (CCRI Office, Green Assist, EIB C3)
  • *New!* Mentoring programme pairing up 1 city/region with a selected expert (CCRI Office)
  • *New!* Twinning programme pairing 1 city-region with another 1 (CCRI Office)

• Tailored financial advisory support (EIB C3, CCRI projects, Green Assist)

CALL FOR EXTERNAL EXPERTS

1-to-1
Tailored advisory support
→ Targeting 1 specific city/region

Circular Cities & Regions Initiative
European Commission
Focus on Project Development Assistance

- Objective: increase the maturity, viability and bankability of your local circular project
• Thematic Working Groups (CCRI Office)

• Roundtable Discussions on specific issues (CCRI Office, CCRI Projects and Associated Partners – incl. OECD and EIB)

• New! CCRI Communities of Practice, gathering small groups of cities to actively work on a specific theme (launch expected in end 2024) (CCRI Office)
Grouped support → Targeting the whole CCRI community, open to all

- Informative/capacity-building events (CCRI and all its related projects/partners)
- Networking/matchmaking events (CCRI and all its related projects/partners)

Key resources & tools

- CCRI Methodology (CCRI Office)
- New! CCRI Knowledge Hub & catalogue of technologies (CCRI Office, ALL!)
- New! CCRI Self-Assessment Tool (CCRI Office) and many other relevant support tools (CCRI Projects)
Thematic & cross-cutting focuses

- Circular Resource management
- Circular Bioeconomy
- Circular buildings
- Industrial symbiosis

Governance & Stakeholder engagement

Finance

Data monitoring, Indicators, Impact evaluation

- Circular textiles? Plastics and electronics?
- CE & climate action linkages? Urban planning & NBS?
- Technologies? Procurement? Behaviour change & sustainable lifestyles?
I have a circular project idea!

I'd need help to get my governance right

Contact the CCRI Office

What type of support do you need?

I'd need help to get my finance right

Check out the OECD materials

Submit your project investment idea for PDA service

Up to €20M

From €20M

Contact EIB and check out the C3 opportunities

Apply to one of our upcoming calls (mentoring or twinning programmes)

Join one of our upcoming capacity-building, networking or matchmaking events

Join our Thematic Working Groups and/or our Communities of Practice

I'd need help to further develop my knowledge and build my capacities

Where are you on your circular journey?

Newcomer Or.. in progress Or.. advanced

Check out CCRI Knowledge Hub

I'd need help to get supported by one of our CE experts?

Would you like to connect to peers?

Would you like to get supported by one of our CE experts?

What type of support do you need?

How big is your project investment?

Navigation support

Join our Thematic Working Groups and/or our Communities of Practice
Join our matchmaking session & meet some of our CCRI Support Providers

*Participating partners:*

- CCRI Office (Coordination & Support, Knowledge Hub)
- CCRI Projects (SYSCHEMIC, Definite-CCRI & Circular Invest, HOOP, Frontsh1p, Agro2Circular, TREASoURcE, RECONSTRUCT, BioBoost, RESOURCE)
- CCRI Associated Partners (EIB Circular City Centre, OECD, Cariplo Foundation, Green Assist)
- CCRI Cities & Regions (Helsinki Uusimaa Region, Strasbourg Metropole)
Showcasing the benefits offered by the CCRI community

Jesús Ángel Díez Vázquez, Region of Castilla y León, CCRI Pilot and Green Assist beneficiary
Moving ahead to best support cities and regions

Jesús Ángel Díez Vázquez
Region of Castilla y León,
CCRI Pilot and Green Assist beneficiary
How the CCRI support helped our region to accelerate CE? (I)

- Greater understanding of own CE **needs** and/or **challenges**

- Adoption of a more **systemic approach** of local/regional CE actions

  - multi-actor
  - multi-impact
  - multi-sector
How the CCRI support helped our region to accelerate CE? (II)

Further and/or faster progress in identifying a Circular Systemic Solution (CSS)

➢ Access to the CCRI Methodology
➢ Access The CCRI Monitoring Tool
How the CCRI support helped our region to accelerate CE? (III)

- Increased **visibility** of the city/region/cluster on CE topics

- Increased **connections and cooperations** with other CE stakeholders or initiatives

- Increased **political support** for CE
Other expected inputs from CCRI support

- Unlocked **funding** and/or **financing resources** for CE activities

  Green Assist support expected to remove technical knowledge and business-case gaps

- **Business plan** for the CSS
What CCRI support offer(s) have contributed the most to the above-mentioned results?

- Tailored (one-to-one) support (e.g. CCRI Pilot-CCRI-CSO Pilot Companion)

- Support tools and method (e.g. CCRI-Methodology) (https://circular-cities-andregions.ec.europa.eu/support-materials/papers-and-reports/methodology-implementation-circulareconomylocal-and-regional)

- Matchmaking at thematic working groups
How would the implementation of your CSS have progressed without the support provided by the CCRI?

Castilla y León pilot CSS would have progressed less or slower than with CCRI support

jesus.diez@patrimonionatural.org
Roundtable #1 – Circular economy transition in EU: Where do cities and regions stand?

Facilitated by the OECD
ROUNDTABLE #1 – CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION IN EU: WHERE DO CITIES AND REGIONS STAND?

18 April 2024
Brussels

Ander Eizaguirre, Policy Analyst
Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE)

www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local  www.oecd.org/cfe
The OECD Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions

Measuring

OECD Scoreboard on the Governance of the Circular Economy

Networking

OECD Roundtable on the Circular Economy in Cities and regions:
- 1st Roundtable (2019)
- 2nd Roundtable (2020)
- 3rd Roundtable (2021)
- 4th Roundtable (2022)
- 5th Roundtable (2023)
- 6th Roundtable (2024)

Learning

- Groningen, Netherlands (2020)
- Umeå, Sweden (2020)
- Valladolid, Spain (2020)
- Granada, Spain (2021)
- Glasgow, UK (2021)
- Ireland (2022)
- Montreal, Canada (2022)
- Tallinn, Estonia (2023)
- Italy (May 2024)
- LAC (May 2024)

The OECD and CCRI collaboration

Circular Cities & Regions Initiative - Pilots and Fellows Map

Key
- City
- Region
- Territorial Cluster

Pilots
- Aalst (BE)
- Copenhagen (DK)
- Castelló (ES)
- Cittadella (IT)
- Gothenburg (SE)
- Cosenza (IT)
- Heide (BE)
- Murcia (ES)
- Malmö (SE)
- Padova (IT)
- Strasbourg (FR)
- Szeged (HU)
- Thessaloniki (GR)
- Tampere (FI)
- Sofia (BG)
- Trieste (IT)
- Zagreb (HR)

Fellows
- Bergman
- Berlin
- Köster (Dentalk)
- Győr (HU)
- Konstanz (DE)
- Lomma (SE)
- Málaga (ES)
- Nantes (FR)
- Novara (IT)
- Örebro (SE)
- Plzen (CZ)
- Palermo (IT)
- Škofja Loka (SI)
- Vercelli (IT)
- Västerås (SE)
- Xi’an (CN)

10 case studies
- Zuid-Holland (NL)
- Eurometropole Strasbourg (FR)
- Møre and Romsdal (NO)
- Berlin (DE)
- Matosinhos (PT)
- Comunitat Valenciana (ES)
- Central Macedonia (EL)
- Jyväskylä (FI)
- Sofia (BG)
- Ireland-West (IE)

Flagship report on the Circular Economy in EU Cities and Regions
Objectives of the Flagship report on the Circular Economy in EU Cities and Regions

Provide a one stop shop on the state of the art of the circular economy in EU cities and regions.

Raise the profile and potential of cities and regions in implementing EU policies and action plans on the circular economy.

Generate data, analysis, policy recommendations and strategic guidance.

Provide an overview of the transition to a circular economy in EU cities and regions and inform how the European Commission can advance the implementation of circular economy objectives at local and regional level.
The OECD Survey: The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions in the European Union

- **Target**: government officials from cities and regions in the EU
- Distributed across 100+ EU cities and regions
- Received responses from 19 cities and 6 regions from the EU

- First round of the survey: February 2024
- End of the second round: April 2025
- Preliminary messages: June 2024
- Flagship report: April 2025

OECD Survey
State of Play
Timeline of the EU initiatives on the circular economy at different levels

Initiatives targeting EU Member States
- Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)
- Circular Economy Monitoring Framework
- European strategy for plastics
- European Green Deal
- New Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)
- Package of measures proposed in the Circular Economy Action Plan
- Revision of the Circular Economy Monitoring Framework

Initiatives targeting cities and regions
- Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)
- Cities and Regions in the CEAP
- Intelligent Cities Challenge Initiative
- Circular City Centre of the EIB
- Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)
Circular material use rate changes in the EU-27

Circular material use rate in the EU-27 2004-2022 (%)

Note: Circular material use rate: share of used material resources which come from recycled waste materials.
The pace of progress towards a circular material use rate varies across EU Member States

Circular material use rate in the EU-27, 2022 (%)

Note: Circular material use rate: share of used material resources which come from recycled waste materials.
Distance to travel for cities and regions in SDG 12 for “Responsible consumption”

Three main preliminary findings from the Survey
The economy in the EU is not circular, but there has been progress
#1 The economy in the EU is not circular, but there has been progress

**Level of advancement**
- Advanced: 32%
- In progress: 52%
- Emerging: 8%

**Budget for circular economy activities**
- Yes: 36%
- No: 4%
- Expected soon: 12%

**Circular economy initiative**
- Yes: 52%
- No: 8%
- Under development: 12%

**Pilots and experimentations**
- Yes: 60%
- No: 4%
- Under development: 32%

**Advanced**
- Yes: 39%
- Not in place: 10%
- Expected soon: 12%

**In progress**
- Yes: 37%
- Not in place: 20%
- Expected soon: 51%

**Emerging**
- Yes: 12%
- Not in place: 29%
- Expected soon: 41%

**Not in place**
- Yes: 8%
- Not yet, but expected: 88%
- No, and not planned: 4%
# 2 Cities and regions follow the EU guidance

84% of cities/regions consider the 2020 CEAP as a frame of reference for its own circular economy strategy.

Cities and regions benefit from programmes that support circular innovation and experimentation.

- **EU programmes**: 52% benefit from programmes that support circular innovation and experimentation.
- **National programmes**: 44% benefit from national programmes that support circular innovation and experimentation.

**Source:** 25 responses to the questions: “Does your city/region benefit from EU programmes that support circular innovation and experimentation?” and “Does your city/region benefit from national programmes that support circular innovation and experimentation?”
# 3 Mind the governance gap

Main obstacles hindering the transition towards a circular economy in surveyed cities and regions

- Insufficient financial resources
- Insufficient human resources
- Inadequate regulatory framework
- Lack of critical scale
- Financial risk: market failures
- Lack of awareness of circular economy
- Cultural barriers
- Lack of political will
- Financial risk: investment barriers
- Incoherent regulation
- Lack of holistic vision
- Lack of private sector engagement
- Inadequate information
- Lack of technological solutions

Main challenges and obstacles to accessing EU funds

- Complex and lengthy application
- Insufficient capacity
- Competition for funds
- Lack of information
- Lack of technical expertise
- Eligibility criteria
- Regulatory barriers

Source: 25 responses to the question: Which of the following obstacles are hindering or are likely to hinder the transition towards a circular economy in your city/region? (answered with very important) obstacle

Source: 25 responses to the question: Which of the following obstacles are hindering or are likely to hinder the transition towards a circular economy in your city/region? (answered with very important) obstacle
Ways forward
Ways forward

A Checklist for Action

- Promoters
  - Policy coherence
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Appropriate scale
- Facilitators
  - Coordination
- Enablers
  - Data and assessment
  - Financing
  - Innovation
  - Capacity building

Priorities for a more effective, efficient and inclusive circular economy

1. Improve environmental quality and resource efficiency
2. Improve market conditions for circular economy business
3. Improve citizens and business acceptance and awareness on circular economy
4. Create new jobs and business opportunities
5. Improve policies and regulation supporting circular economy
6. Improve technology and innovation supporting circular economy

Source: 25 responses to the question: Which of the following obstacles are hindering or are likely to hinder the transition towards a circular economy in your city/region? (answered with very important) obstacle)
Timeline of the Flagship report

- Presentation of preliminary findings: April 2024
- Deadline for second round of responses: June 2024
- Publication of the Flagship Report at the 7th Roundtable in Paris: April 2025
Are you a government official in the EU?

Take the Survey on behalf of your city/region by 30 June 2024!

oe.cd/5vj
THANK YOU
Questions for discussion:

• What is the experience of your city/region in implementing the transition towards a circular economy?

• What challenges your city/region is facing?

• How can the European Commission help?
Roundtable #2 – How to demystify finance for circular economy projects?

Facilitated by the EIB
EIB - THE EU CLIMATE BANK
SUPPORTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY

All figures in this presentation are unaudited and provisional.
EIB GROUP AT A GLANCE

The bank of the European Union
• Owned and governed by the 27 EU member states
• AAA rated
• Headquartered in Luxembourg + 60 external offices: ≈ 4 273 staff (finance professionals, engineers, economists and E&S experts)

World largest multilateral institution and leader in green finance
• €49.8bn raised in 2023 including €14.6bn green bonds (CABs & SABs)
• The EU Climate Bank

Over €1.5 trillion invested since 1958
• More than 14 000 projects in over 160 countries.
• Crowding-in bank: €4.9 trillion overall investment supported.

European Investment Bank
• €75.14bn lent in 2023, including €8.44bn outside EU
• €44bn supporting Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability (CA&ES)

European Investment Fund
• Specialist provider of risk finance to SMEs
• EUR €14.91bn financing provided in 2023
Circular Economy - a diversified landscape

Circular Economy promoters and projects are different

- **business model**: traditional “closing loop models” or new product as a service, leasing/sharing models
- **promoter/project size & maturity**: from R&D & start-ups to large corporates, from public to private sector
- **risk profile**: technical, market/value chain, regulatory, client risks etc.

Different types of financing needed

To **secure/increase access to CE financing**, project/promoter variations and particularities must be well understood by both fund seekers and fund providers
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
DIVERSE BUSINESS MODELS

**Traditional CE projects**

- Support investments **closing loops & increasing recycling quantity/quality**
- May involve **new waste/material streams, new technologies**, and uncertainty on **feedstock supply/output demand** & related risks
- Need for **thorough assessments** of contracts, markets, competition, regulation etc.
- Potential need to **mitigate residual risks** (risk sharing/guarantees, promoter/stakeholder equity involvement, adjusted minimum credit metric levels)

**New circular business models**

- **Sharing/leasing/PaaS models**: focus on **cash flow, earnings and contracts**, with longer **financial relations**, balance sheet extension and increased capital demand
- **Contracts and client credit worthiness** important in regard to e.g. asset security, maintenance and product recovery
- New dimensions of **residual value** – and challenges with asset evaluation/tracking
- Focus on **supply chain and working capital financing**, and increased need for **pre-commerce/start-up financing**

**Investment loans**

- Venture debt Guarantees & MBILs

**Framework loans**

- Equity funds

**European Investment Bank**
CIRCULAR CITIES TOOLBOX

Public sector
- Waste & Water management / recycling
- Buildings
  - Brownfields
  - Material banks
  - Circular design
- Mobility
  - Shared and clean transport

Private sector
- Circular industrial clusters
- Digital tools
- Repair shops, sharing centres
- Incubators

Coordination
- Circular public procurement

Financial support
- Coordination Ecosystem

Direct | Indirect
financing
Advisory
The EIBG’s financial toolkit

The EIB has an extensive range of instruments to mobilise public and private sector investors and fund projects at different risk levels.

- **EIB lending instrument**
  - For Investment Grade operations

- **EIB/EIF higher risk instruments**
  - For Sub Investment Grade operations

**Loans and Equity-type** (direct & indirect)

**Risk Sharing/Blending**

**Projects**

**Banks**

**Direct Public Sector Financing**

**Corporate Lending**

**Intermediated Loans**

**Project Finance with direct project risk**

**Other donors**
EIB VALUE PROPOSITION

**Attractive pricing**
- Pricing reflects EIB’s advantageous funding conditions and not-for-profit profile

**Long tenors**
- Financing terms in line with the economic life of the project

**Flexible financing**
- Open contracts with the possibility to select fixed/floating rates and the currency at disbursement

**Up to 50% of project cost**
- Financing covers up to 50% of a project’s total costs, typically start at EUR 25m

**Project support**
- Expertise in the financial and technical aspects of preparing a project

**Blended finance**
- Financing compatible with EU funds and can be blended with additional sources of financing

**Signalling effect**
- EIB’s financing is often seen as a quality stamp, helping to attract other investors

**Palette of financing**
- Direct and intermediated financing, design of policy driven financial instruments
CIRCULAR ECONOMY OPERATIONS

Public sector:
• Mainly waste & water management projects but potential also in other sectors such as buildings and mobility
• Key Product: Framework loans

Corporates:
• RDI & innovative production facilities
• Various circularity elements: Circular design and production, Circular use, Circular value recovery, Circular support
• Wide range of sectors: new recycling technologies, low carbon raw material (plastics), reduction of use of resources (water/food), 3-D printing
• Key Product: Senior corporate loans, venture debt, intermediated lending, equity

New business models:
• Leasing & refurbishing of used assets; circular services
• Intermediated lending/guarantees, venture debt, equity

More information on EIB operations:
EIB circular economy webpage
Circular economy Overview 2024
EIB circular economy guide
MAIN SECTORS FINANCED BY THE EIB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total EURm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industry and services</td>
<td>1598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agri-forestry and bio-economy</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste management</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water management</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban development, buildings</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisector / SMEs</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EIB CIRCULAR ECONOMY LENDING
BY SECTOR 2019-2023

TOTAL LENDING €3.83 billion

132 CE operations
PESCARA CLIMATE ACTION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY (ITALY)

EIB Financing: EUR 35m
EIB Product: Framework Loan
Total project cost: EUR 56m
Borrower/Promoter: Municipality of Pescara

What is it about:
➢ CE – EE - RE components
➢ Cohesion region
➢ CE component: Financing Pescara’s 2021-2025 investments in CE/waste mgmt to achieve EU objectives & strengthen the recycling performance of Abruzzo region

CE Components financed:
➢ Anaerobic digestion plant processing bio-waste (60k t/y)
➢ Upgrading of sorting station (8k t/y) & revamping of recycling platform
➢ Acquisition of collection equipment

Objectives of EIB loan:
➢ Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability (80%)
➢ Waste collection (58%)
BELFIUS SMART CITIES, CLIMATE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY (BELGIUM)

EIB Financing: EUR 200m
EIB Product: Framework Loan
Total project cost: EUR 400m
Borrower: Belfius Banque; Promoters: Local & regional authorities, municipal & regional enterprises & private promoters

What is it about:
• Multi-scheme operation including urban development and renewal, urban infrastructure, energy (RE & EE), sustainable mobility, water and solid waste schemes over the period 2016-2021.
• "Smart Cities" covers integrated projects combining several dimensions at the same time

Objectives of EIB loan:
➢ Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability (25%)
➢ Cohesion (25%)
➢ Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Efficiency (17%)

Belfius Smart Cities and sustainable development (youtube.com)
DE LAGE LANDEN CIRCULARITY L4SME-MIDCAPS (NL & BE)

**EIB Financing:** EUR 225m  
**EIB Product:** 2 MBILs  
**Total project cost:** EUR 630m  
**Borrower/Promoter:** De Lage Landen International BV (DLL)

**What is it about:**
- Providing customers with access to equipment finance at various stages of an asset’s life cycle
- Facilitating the remanufacturing or refurbishment of used assets through DLL’s Life Cycle Asset Management programme.
- Encouraging SMEs and Mid-Caps to lease, rather than purchase, assets and helps suppliers to transition from selling assets to selling services in more sustainable circular business models.

**Objectives of EIB loan:**
- Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Efficiency (30%)
- SMEs/Mid-Caps (70%)
WWW.CIRCULARCITYFUNDINGGUIDE.EU

Developed as an EIB led action under the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy

Prepared by EGEN& Innovation Engineering under EIAH funding

Join #CircularCityFundingGuide group
THANK YOU

HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/ROBERTORANDO
F2F matchmaking – Connecting cities/regions’ projects with potential partners and/or investors
Elevator pitches | Get to know who is who
Circular Cities and Regions Initiative Knowledge Hub (K-CCRI)

Coordination and support action (CSA)

Mireia Ferri
About the CCRI Knowledge Hub

**Title:** Knowledge hub to leverage existing initiatives and projects to foster the adoption of Circular economy in Cities and Regions In Europe

**Duration:** 36 Months (January 2024 – December 2026)

**Type:** EU-funded project under Horizon Europe (Coordination and Support Action)

**Objective:** to increase the impact of the existing CCRI by enlarging the network of involved stakeholders, bringing together the knowledge and critical mass already developed around Circular Economy implementation and building upon the CE stakeholder platform.

**Partners:** 11 EU-wide partners
What the CCRI Knowledge Hub brings to regions and cities?

**KNOWLEDGE HUB**

**Marketplace for enabling technologies** (catalogue)

**Additional resources** (reports, tools, methods, good practices...) some of them elaborated within K-CCRI and other coming from a mapping exercise -> all responding to Relevance and usefulness criteria

**Customised support:**
1. Diagnostic tool of the city/region reediness level
2. Personalised support: mentoring and capacity building activities

**Policy recommendations and sustainability**
How? Our method

PHASE 1
Identifying and systematising knowledge

PHASE 2
Expanding/spreading customised knowledge

PHASE 3
Bringing knowledge to policy makers and society
K-CCRI’s formula
(basis of the capacity building formula)
Thank you!

Check out the CCRI website for more information: https://circular-cities-and-regions.ec.europa.eu/
Helsinki-Uusima Circular Valley

CCRI Pilot

*Simo Karetie*
Case Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley

Simo Karetie, Project Manager
Helsinki – Uusimaa Circular Valley
What is the Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley?

**A regional initiative** promoting system-level change towards the circular economy.

**Information point** searching, developing and sharing knowledge, knowhow, data, ideas, resources and networks.

**An ecosystem** bringing together projects, local ecosystems, companies, researchers, developers, and municipalities for co-development.

**A platform and accelerator** promoting and supporting new businesses, creating networks, test beds, and pilot areas – aiming at 120 new pilots.

**Connector and advisor** supporting land use planning.

**Five focus areas:** construction, plastics, textiles, electronic waste, food and biomaterials.
Discover circular economy innovations in Finland

The handbook *Local Solutions Are Born Here* is a publication produced by the Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley, showcasing best practices in the circular economy in Finland to the rest of the world.

The featured cases serve as exemplary models of circular economy, with a particular focus on regional collaboration and public-private partnerships.

The articles concentrate on themes related to construction, textiles, and industrial symbiosis.

Find out more about circular economy innovations:
Helsinki Circular Economy Cluster Program

- Helsinki Circular Economy Cluster Program promotes circular economy innovations and business in construction by launching pilots, developing tools and providing trainings
Kilpilahti business area in Helsinki-Uusimaa

• The Kilpilahti business area in Porvoo develops the circular economy and saves natural resources by turning industrial waste and secondary streams into valuable raw materials.
Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley
Local solutions are born here!
HOOP Project

Project Development Assistance (PDA)

Serena Lisai
Vision for a Urban Circular Bioeconomy

HOOP supports 8 lighthouse cities and regions in developing large-scale urban circular bioeconomy initiatives that will focus on making bio-based products from urban biowaste and wastewater.

The HOOP network of cities will create an online platform to foster knowledge exchange and replication in cities across Europe.
The HOOP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 101000836.

Welcome to the HOOP Urban Circular Bioeconomy Hub!

The Bioeconomy Hub provides resources and tools to improve the valorisation of biowaste and wastewater by cities and regions.

https://hoop-hub.eu/
DEFINITE-CCRI & CircularInvest

Project Development Assistance (PDA)

Alina Mures
Project development assistance

Support project promoters in accessing the resources they need to develop impactful circular economy investment projects.

Foster cross-fertilisation, peer-to-peer support, knowledge transfer and networking activities with a variety of stakeholders and investors.

To close the gap between circular economy projects in cities and regions and investors and finance partners.

To improve the investment viability of innovative, high-impact circularity projects by mitigating risk and increasing their investment readiness.
SERVICES

- Circularity Assessment & Optimisation
- Business plan development & due diligence
- Project Appraisal & Fundraising
WHY TO PARTICIPATE

Have access to **free**, specialised and **tailor-made project development services** based on your specific needs

Benefit from **knowledge transfer and cross-fertilisation** with other circular economy initiatives

Network with investors, have your project evaluated and secure financing
3rd call for CircularInvest is now open!

The 3rd Call is open now and will close on 13 September 2024

https://www.circularinvest.eu/
Community of Practice towards investment ready circular projects
TREASoURcE

CCRI demo project

Anna Tenhunen-Lunkka
TREASoURcE

World Circular Economy Forum
Accelerator Session: Cities and regions getting ahead with the circular transition
18.4.2024

Anna Tenhunen-Lunika
anna.tenhunen-lunika@vtt.fi
TREASoURcE Project Coordinator
Senior Scientist, Project Manager
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd
TREASoURcE in a nutshell

- **TREASoURcE** aims to initiate systemic change by developing technologies and systemic circular economy solutions in cities and regions for currently underutilised or unused plastic waste, end-of-life electric vehicle batteries and bio-based waste and side streams.
- We are implementing these solutions together with companies, societies (including citizens, consumers, communities and regional actors) and experts in the field.

| TREASoURcE |  
|---|---
| Start | 01.06.2022 |
| Duration | 4 years |
| Total budget | 9.9 M€ |
| Partners | 16 partners + 1 AE (VTT coordinator) |

Special about TREASoURcE: CCRI project

[Image of map with various locations and symbols indicating partners and project areas]
Replication handbook: Compilation of all replicable public outputs

TREASoURcE WP1-8

Open access

Open data

Results, Methodologies & Guidance

REPLICATION HANDBOOK

The Replication Handbook will be published soon at the TREASoURcE Mid-Term Results Webinar on 29.5.2024!
Thank you!

www.treasource.eu
info@treasource.eu

Twitter | TREASoURcE_eu
LinkedIn | TREASoURcE
Facebook | Treasource Project

Subscribe to our newsletter
Thank you

https://circular-cities-and-Regions.eu/