

Join the CCRI Mentoring Programme Second call for expression of interest

Background

Launched and funded by the EU as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) focuses on implementing the circular economy across Europe's cities and regions. One of the key objectives is to support the implementation of circular systemic solutions, addressing different sectors and value chains, involving various actors, and tackling a variety of circularity issues (e.g. business models, regulatory impacts), as well as exerting influence in multiple fields (social, economic, and environmental).

About the CCRI Knowledge Hub

In January 2024 the CCRI Knowledge Hub was launched to support the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative. It acts as a knowledge hub, consolidating and expanding the knowledge base already available to the CCRI community and providing additional advisory support. The CCRI Knowledge Hub offers a wide range of instruments, including **easily accessible resources**, a **customised mentoring program**, and **effective awareness-raising** initiatives to help cities and regions transition to more sustainable and circular practices. It targets any European cities and regions, especially those only starting their circularity transition.

Call for Cities and Regions

The CCRI is currently growing and as such, working towards deepening the support made available to its community. In this context, the CCRI Knowledge Hub is now launching the second round of its **Mentoring Programme** for cities and regions willing to advance their circular transition.

As part of the programme, selected cities and regions will benefit from tailored resources and expert guidance to help them navigate the complexities of transitioning to a circular economy.



Not sure if this programme is right for you? Join us for an **informative webinar** on **Wednesday 23rd July 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 CEST**, where we will introduce the CCRI Mentoring Programme, present its key features, and answer your questions.

Register here: [Webinar Registration Link](#)

The programme will start with a comprehensive diagnostic assessment of their current circular transition readiness. This assessment will be conducted using **CCRI Knowledge Hub's** own methodology, in line with the [CCRI methodology](#) as well as including some elements of the CCRI Self-Assessment Tool (developed by the CCRI Coordination and Support Office), where applicable. This preliminary assessment is therefore key for identifying specific needs, challenges, and opportunities unique to each city or region. Based on this assessment, the appointed “mentor” of the CCRI team will co-design, together with stakeholders from each city or region, highly-tailored support pathways so that the assistance provided well meets beneficiaries’ needs and takes into consideration the specificities of their local context.

Beneficiary cities and regions will have the opportunity to seek expert mentoring and support across four key thematic areas: (i) **public engagement**, (ii) **innovation and technology**, (iii) **business models and financial support**, and (iv) **impact evaluation**. External experts are also engaged to provide personalised support to concrete and sector specific topics.

In addition, they will be invited to a variety of **workshops, seminars, and events on circular economy**.

The first round

The first edition of the CCRI Mentoring Programme supported nine Cities and Regions from seven different countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway and Ukraine.

Who can participate in the CCRI Mentoring Programme (Second round)?

The **CCRI Knowledge Hub** welcomes applications from Cities and Regions belonging to any of the EU states or Horizon-associated countries. However, priority will be given to countries that are underrepresented in the CCRI-CSO services. For a full list of priority countries, please visit ANNEX I.



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Cities and regions already receiving support from the CCRI-CSO as [Pilots](#) are not eligible to participate in this call. The objective is to enlarge the CCRI community and welcome newcomers.

Why participate in the CCRI mentorship programme?

The CCRI mentoring programme is a great opportunity to grow your knowledge of the circular economy and get support tailored to your needs. You're encouraged to apply if you:

- Want to strengthen and move forward with your circular economy plans.
- Could use some guidance to better plan and put ideas into action.
- Are just getting started and would benefit from a clear structure.
- Are looking for expert advice in areas like public engagement, innovation and technology, business models and funding, or impact evaluation.

Please note: To take part, you should have the time and capacity to join up to 2 co-design sessions and around 12 mentoring sessions (2 hours each) over at least 6 months starting in November 2025.

How to express your interest?

To express your interest in receiving tailored support and mentorship, please send us your **Expression of Interest** through this [online form](#). We will need the contact information of your organisation and a Letter of Interest signed.

The CCRI Knowledge Hub team will reach out to inform you about the outcome of your application.

Deadline for submission: 30th September 2025



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Contacts:

Project coordination:

Mireia Ferri, Project Manager at Kveloce ccriknowledgehub@kveloce.com

Communication Manager:

Denise Venere, Fondazione ICONS denise.venere@icons.it

CCRI website: www.circular-cities-and-regions.ec.europa.eu

CCRI LinkedIn page: www.linkedin.com/company/circular-cities-and-regions-initiative/



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