



Circular
Cities & Regions
Initiative

4th CCRI Coordination and Support Workshop

Welcome

Jan Maarten de Vet, CCRI-CSO Project Director

Housekeeping rules

In-person attendees

- **Questions/Support needed?** The CCRI-CSO members can help you – they are wearing a **RED lanyard**
- Raise your hand during the Q&A sessions – a conference assistant will give you the microphone

Online attendees

- Cameras and microphone are disabled for this event.
- Only plenary sessions will be streamed. The co-creation session will be in-person with an alternative for online attendees
- We want to hear from you! Write your comments and questions in the chat and we will pass them to our speakers in the room.



Agenda

10:05 - 10:15	Opening remarks by Lucie Blondel, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
10:15 - 10:35	Insights & highlights from Stakeholder Event by Thematic Working Group leads
10:35 - 11:20	What we've achieved together: Taking stock of CCRI Thematic Working Groups' work by Thematic Working Group leads
11:20 - 12:05	Co-creation session: Imagining the future of the CCRI peer learning activities
12:05 - 12:30	From potential to action: Policy recommendations for driving Europe's circular transition by Daniel Gehrt
12:30 - 12:50	Voices from the field: Feedback on the future of peer learning activities
12:50 - 13:00	Wrap-up and closing words by Astrid Ladefoged, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch



Opening remarks

Lucie Blondel, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation



Insights & highlights from Stakeholder Event

Thematic Working Group Leaders

Bas Verbeek, Circular Bioeconomy

Clara van den Berg, Circular Buildings and Construction

Tugce Tugran, Circular Resource Management

Anna Kronvall, Circular Industries and Industrial Symbiosis



What we've achieved together: Taking stock of CCRI Thematic Working Groups' work



Imagine it's 2022 again and you're just starting this journey. Knowing what you know now—what would you do differently to make it even better?

👉 Answer in just 3 words!



Co-creation session: Imagining the future of the CCRI peer learning activities



How does it work?

- Grab a coffee and join us in rooms 1 and 2
- 4 thematic zones (1 per TWG)
 - Mochila room: Circular Construction and Buildings & Bioeconomy
 - Blooming mercado: Industrial Symbiosis & Circular Resource Management
- Reflect, write and discuss around the **3 guiding questions:**
 - 1. What key topics should peer learning focus on next?**
 - 2. What methods or formats would enhance collaboration and exchange?**
 - 3. What support is needed to scale or replicate circular practices?**
- Post-its & pens will be available at each desk to collect your input!

Idea Garden

- Got bold new ideas or questions? Share them too!

Special Roles

1.  TWG Coordinators = our rooted flowers
2.  Bee Participants = floating idea-pollinators
 - Laura Blair (Zero Waste Scotland)
 - Kris van Looij (Flanders)
 - José Martín Soriano (HOOP)
 - Igor Kos (Podravje-Maribor)
 - Jonas Bystrom (EIB)



And for our online participants?

- Join us on Miro.com to also contribute!
- QR code or [link in the chat!](#)
- Plenary session will resume in 45 min!





From potential to action: Policy recommendations for driving Europe's circular transition

Daniel Gehrt, CCRI-CSO



Overview of analytical steps and process

Analysis of barriers and challenges (presented in various editions and thematic foci between Dec. 2021 and June 2024)

- Large literature review (academic literature, grey literature, reports of CCRI project)
- Open online consultation of stakeholders
- Series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and bilateral dialogues
- Interaction with thematic working groups
- Internal finetuning

Recommendations regarding future Horizon Europe Calls (presented in December 2024)

- Internal analysis based on overview of barriers and challenges
- Further desk research
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues with Regional Innovation Valleys
- Prioritisation exercise

General policy recommendations (presented today)

- Internal analysis based on overview of barriers and challenges
- Systematic review of project deliverables of CCRI projects
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues with OECD and others
- Further desk research
- Prioritisation exercise
- Finetuning with AI support



Overview of challenges and barriers

Dimension	Specific barriers/challenges
Regulation and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate regulatory frameworks • Bureaucratic and administrative hurdles • Spatial and urban planning constraints
Financial and economic aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (In)accessibility of capital • Unfavourable taxation • Immature circular markets • Lack of circular business models • High production costs
Technical aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of circular design • Lack of standardisation and common standards • Fragmented data collection methods and differing or lacking measuring systems
Stakeholder interaction and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited collaboration at policy level • Limited collaboration at stakeholder level
Awareness and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient knowledge, expertise, and awareness among stakeholders • Lack of public awareness



Overview of recommendations

A) Create a legislative environment conducive to the circular economy

1. Harmonise end-of-waste legislation across the EU

- Develop EU-wide, harmonized EoW criteria for key material streams
- Streamline cross-border movement of secondary raw materials

Key legislative frameworks:

- *Waste Framework Directive*
- *EU Circular Economy Act (expected 2026)*
- *Waste Shipment Regulation*

2. Accelerate Product-Specific Recycled Content Mandates

- Needs to go beyond plastic bottles
- Include the following materials:
 - Critical Raw Materials
 - Textiles
 - Construction Materials

Key legislative frameworks:

- *EU Public Procurement Directives*
- *Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation*
- *Circular Economy Act*

3. Further enhance and/or harmonise EPR schemes

- Harmonise & expand EPR (beyond packaging)
- Mandate eco-modulated fees
- Strengthen enforcement
- Progress towards full material ownership

Key legislative frameworks:

- *Waste Framework Directive*
- *Batteries Regulation*
- *Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation*
- *EU Circular Economy Act*



**Of those three recommendations,
which one is the most important to
you?**



Do you have more concrete/specific aspects that should be added?

B) Support the wider adoption of financial and economic incentives to foster circular economy solutions

4. Overhaul linear tax system, by encouraging MS to:

- Shift taxation from labour towards virgin resource use
- Eliminate harmful subsidies
- Apply reduced VAT rates to “R”-services
- Participate in EU coordination

Key legislative frameworks:

- *EU VAT Directive*
- *European Semester*
- *ETS*
- *State Aid rules*
- *EU Circular Economy Act*

5. Promote circular procurement

- Introduce duty to motivate (“buy circular or explain why not”)
- Invest in training for procurement staff
- Encourage early engagement with suppliers

Key legislative frameworks:

- *EU Public Procurement Directives*
- *Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation*
- *Construction Products Regulation*

6. Encourage more private investment

- Expand relevant programmes (e.g. InvestEU, EIB C3) to de-risk circular projects
- Enhance investor understanding
- Promote scalability through aggregation of smaller circular projects into investable portfolios

Key actors:

- *EIB*

7. Simplify public support schemes

- Reduce requirements and accelerate approval for smaller circular projects
- Shift towards upfront financing
- Create single funding portal (including national + regional programmes)
- Expand and coordinate advisory hubs
- Coordinate national and EU funding

Key actors:

- *“Owners” of various programmes*



Of those four recommendations, which one is the most important to you?



Do you have more concrete/specific aspects that should be added?

C) Empower cities and regions to promote the Circular Economy at local and regional level

8. Build Public Sector Capacity for Circular Economy in Cities and Regions

- Support Capacity Building & Training through:
 - Development and promotion of standardised training materials
 - Leverage ESF+ for skills development of officers
 - Expand EIB's C3 programme
- Enhance Targeted Knowledge Transfer:
 - Tailored awareness campaigns
 - Strengthen EU-level knowledge exchange platforms (e.g. CCRI)

9. Use EU funds as a lever to promote circular strategies at regional level

- Make access to relevant EU funds conditional on existence of robust CE strategies
- Ring-fence parts of EU Funds for CE- related activities

10. Leverage regulatory sandboxes for Circular Economy innovation

- Establish EU framework for regulatory sandboxes
- Provide guidance, financial support, and knowledge exchange platforms (e.g., CCRI)
- Ensure learnings from regulatory sandboxes directly inform future EU and national legislative development



**Of those three recommendations,
which one is the most important to
you?**



Do you have more concrete/specific aspects that should be added?



**Is there any significant
recommendation missing?**



Voices from the field: Feedback on the future of peer learning activities



Wrap-up and closing words

Astrid Ladefoged, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation

What's coming up

- **CCRI advisory workshop** (EIB Circular city centre and Green Assist) – 17 June from 10.00 to 11.30



Thank you!

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