

# Chambers for a Circular Economy

Actions to support SMEs'  
transition to a Circular Economy

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# Table of Content

1. Foreword by EUROCHAMBRES President Christoph Leidl	3
2. Executive Summary	4
3. Projects	
Bachelor’s degree on Sustainable Resource Management	6
Working group Mineral building rubble Tyrol	7
Brussels Green Network	8
Project 303030 - City climate challenge	9
Resilience Coaching	10
Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship	11
Croatian Waste Exchange (CWE)	12
Emissions Reduction Training for business 2020	13
ACTIF	14
Ecodesign Center	15
ORHI - Project on Circular Economy	16
REV 3	17
Chambers for Greentech	18
By-product Portal	19
Circuito	20
Life WEEE	21
Ri-Ecco	22
Circular Public Procurement	23
Ecobatterien	24
Ecotrel	25
Luxembourg Clean Tech Cluster	26
Super Drecks Kesch	27
Valorlux	28
Business Against Food Waste	29
LIFE Foster Project	30
Academy of Circular Economy	31
Foodwaste Novi Sad	32
Moveco	33
Bank of Ideas	34
Environmental Advising on Business Opportunities	34
Self-diagnosis guide	35
Salamanca Circular City	35
4. Contact details	36

## Foreword by Christoph Leidl, President of EUROCHAMBRES



The legislative term 2019-2024 will be a period of exciting developments for European businesses, citizens and society as a whole. A Green New Deal aims to revolutionize the way we produce, consume, and manage our resources. One of the key elements, the Circular Economy Action Plan, shall be designed to deliver a solid base for coherent and steady action to make our society more circular, while guaranteeing a profitable future for businesses. Together with them, this goal can be achieved.

Being the largest business representation in Europe, the activities of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the transition towards a more sustainable economy will be an essential asset, thanks to our extensive network that bridges the gap between national, regional and local authorities and the private sector. With this publication, Chambers prove not only that the Circular Economy is a priority and a subject of deep interest for them, but that we as EUROCHAMBRES combine the local expertise and knowledge with the necessary network at national and European level to transform theory into reality on both the micro and macro level.

SMEs represent 98% of the entire economic fabric of our continent. They are therefore the key of how change will materialize. Facilitating the incorporation of new business models, offering more funding, tailor-made guidance and opportunities to collaborate within and across borders and reducing red tape, will ensure that SMEs can reap the benefits of the Circular Economy and that no one is left behind in the transition.



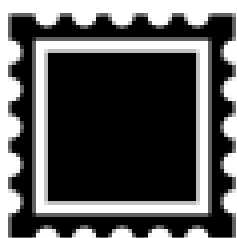
# Executive summary

In a society faced with deep systemic pressures, there is a need for positive change and initiatives that can tackle some of the biggest challenges, while building resilience for an unpredictable and increasingly unstable future ahead. With this in mind, and following the growing interest and involvement of EUROCHAMBRES on the Circular Economy, we are glad to present our new publication, focused on projects and initiatives undertaken by Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"Chambers for a Circular Economy" aims to offer a clear overview of the wide range of initiatives led or co-managed by Chambers in the field of the Circular Economy, with the intention of not only informing and sharing innovative actions, but to spur and motivate synergies, triggering collaborations and the creation of new business models. The aim of each and every of these projects is to enable businesses to evolve from a linear to a circular mode of production and consumption.

This publication presents a total of 32 projects initiated or co-led by Chambers in 13 countries, and categorized under 5 main topics: certification, circular skills, cooperation, reuse & recycle and waste prevention. Of the totality of the initiatives, a majority falls into the circular skills and reuse & recycle topics, showing Chambers' specialization in guiding, training, consulting, and not less importantly, in creating new platforms and opportunities for business collaborations and synergies. Each of the five topics received a symbol that was added to the project page. To identify the theme of the project, just follow the symbol below.

Certification



Circular Skills



Cooperation



Reuse and Recycle



Waste prevention





# Projects by countries

Country	Project title	Topic
Austria	Bachelor’s degree on Sustainable Resource Management	Circular skills
Austria	Working group Mineral building rubble Tyrol	Cooperation
Belgium	Brussels Green Network	Certification, circular skills
Belgium	Project 303030 - City climate challenge	Cooperation
Belgium	Resilience Coaching	Circular skills
Belgium	Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship	Certification
Croatia	Croatian Waste Exchange (CWE)	Cooperation, reuse & recycle and waste prevention
Finland	Emissions Reduction Training for business 2020	Certification, circular skills
France	ACTIF	Cooperation, reuse & recycle, waste prevention
France	Ecodesign Center	Circular skills, reuse & recycle, waste prevention
France + Spain	ORHI - Project on Circular Economy	Circular skills, cooperation
France	REV 3	Circular skills, cooperation, reuse & recycle, waste prevention
Germany	Chambers for Greentech	Circular skills, cooperation
Italy	By-product Portal	Cooperation, reuse & recycle, waste prevention
Italy + France	Circuito	Circular skills, cooperation
Italy + Spain	Life WEEE	Circular skills, cooperation
Italy	Ri-Ecco	Circular skills, cooperation
Latvia + Baltic sea Region	Circular Public Procurement	Circular skills, cooperation, waste prevention
Luxembourg	Ecobatterien	Circular skills, reuse & recycle
Luxembourg	Ecotrel	Circular skills, reuse & recycle
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Clean Tech Cluster	Cooperation, circular skills
Luxembourg	Super Drecks Kescht	Certification, circular skills, reuse & recycle
Luxembourg	Valorlux	Certification, circular skills, waste prevention
Malta	Business Against Food Waste	Circular skills, waste prevention
Malta	LIFE Foster Project	Circular skills, cooperation
Serbia	Academy of Circular Economy	Circular skills
Serbia	Foodwaste Novi Sad	Cooperation, waste prevention
Slovenia + Danube region	MOVECO	Circular skills, cooperation, reuse & recycle
Spain	Bank of Ideas	Circular skills, cooperation
Spain	Environmental Advising on Business Opportunities	Circular skills
Spain	Self-diagnosis guide	Circular Skills
Spain	Salamanca Circular City	Circular skills, reuse & recycle, waste prevention

Austria



# Project: Bachelor’s degree on Sustainable Resource Management

The Austrian Waste and Resource Management Association, part of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, was significantly involved in the process to create the Bachelor’s degree on Sustainable Resource Management.

The programme can be attended at FH Campus Wien, University of Applied Sciences. At the center of the educational programme are ecological, economic and social dimensions of sustainability. The student has to learn to implement these dimensions through the whole life cycle of a product.

: In addition to solid technical and scientific foundations, the methods of resource management and a sound economic education are taught in the programme.

: The programme is structured to be completed part-time and is carried out in a number of attendance blocks as well as e-learning units. This enables students from outside of Vienna to participate. The study duration is six semesters (180 ECTS).



**Sustainable Management of Resources**  
Bachelor, part-time

Foto: Cherngchay Donkhuntod/Shutterstock.com

More information at:  
<https://www.wko.at/branchen/information-consulting/entsorgungs-ressourcenmanagement/bachelorstudium-nachhaltiges-ressourcenmanagement.html>  
<https://www.fh-campuswien.ac.at/departments/applied-life-sciences/studiengaenge/detail/nachhaltiges-ressourcenmanagement.html>  
English Site:  
<https://www.fh-campuswien.ac.at/en/departments/applied-life-sciences/studiengaenge/detail/nachhaltiges-ressourcenmanagement.html>

**Austria**



## **Project: Working group mineral building rubble Tyrol**



The industrial division of the Tyrolean Economic Chamber (Wirtschaftskammer Tirol) organises a specific working group on building rubble. Overall the aim is to create a network and provide an exchange forum on how to properly handle construction waste.

The project includes regular network meetings, broad exchanges on recycling, recycled building materials or discussions on public tenders with all interested stakeholders and regional authorities involved.

Within the scope of the working group guidance and access to up-to-date practical, technical, and legal information related to waste, construction and landfill management is provided.

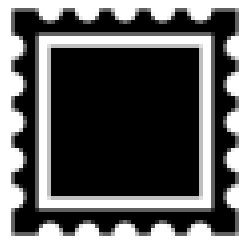
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More information at:

[https://www.wko.at/branchen/t/industrie/Arbeitsgruppe\\_mineralische\\_Baurestmassen\\_Tirol2.html](https://www.wko.at/branchen/t/industrie/Arbeitsgruppe_mineralische_Baurestmassen_Tirol2.html)



Belgium



## Project: Brussels Green Network



The Brussels Green Network is a public-private partnership between the Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry (BECI) and the Brussels Waste Network, which comprises local environmental authorities to create a network of actors. The main objective is to offer environmental guidance and management for companies in waste, energy, pollution, mobility, land and urban management.

Within the scope of the service, “Brussels Green Network” project offers consultations on:

- Local environmental legislation
- Waste audits
- Guidance to compile certification documents, such as for the Enterprise Ecodynamique label
- How to organise seminars and info sessions
- Environmental management training for companies
- Updates on environmental news and initiatives through different channels of the Chamber

Next to BECI the partners of the project are the Sense Brussels, 21 Solutions and the Brussels Environment.



More information at:  
<https://www.brusselsgreennetwork.be/index.php/fr/services/>

Belgium



## Project: 303030 – City Climate Challenge



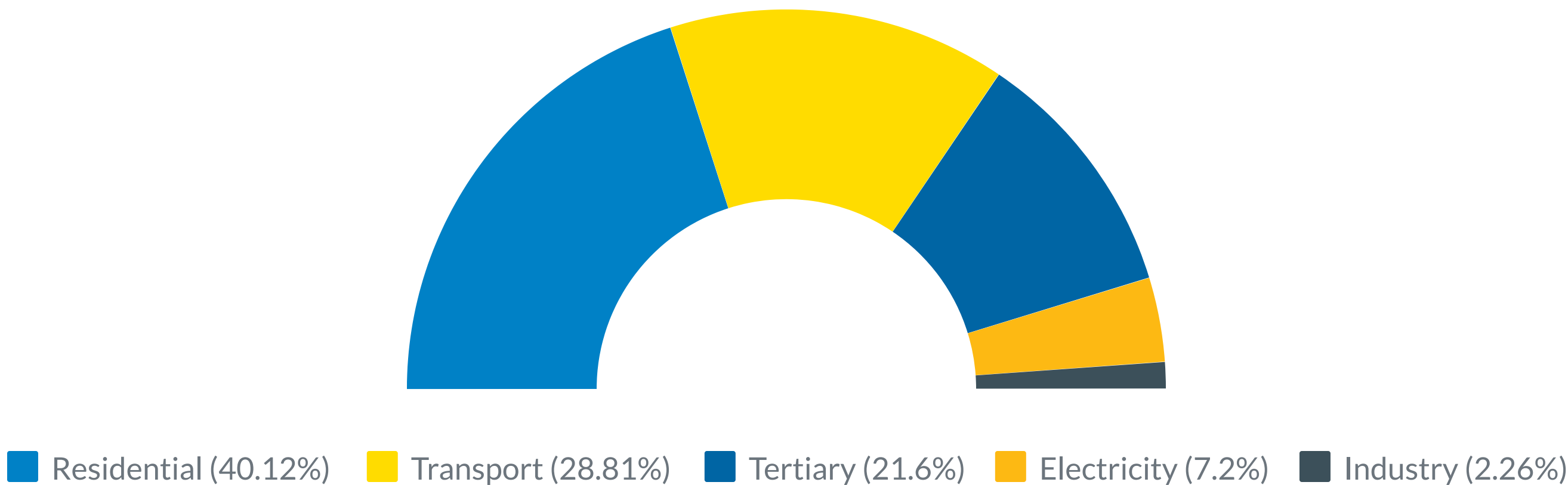
The Project 303030 – City Climate Challenge is an initiative that was launched by Brussels Entreprises Commerce and Industry (BECI) in October 2019. Together with Brussels enterprises, the project aims at reducing carbon emissions in the city by 30% by 2030 from the installation of 30 collaborative projects.

Together with external experts, BECI accompanies partners through expertise, communication and influencing regional decision-making process. The objective is to boost local economy, create jobs and strengthen competitiveness.

Any Brussels company can apply to the project by:

- Sending in an application for a new project. This project will only be taken into consideration if other partner companies express interest to back the project.
- Hopping on an existing project with other partner companies.

Emissions per sector in Brussels



More information at:  
<https://www.303030.eu/>



Belgium



## Project: Resilience COACHING



Resilience Coaching is a service that offers expertise of specialized coaches to guide companies in finding profitable opportunities, integrating the sustainability and circular aspect in their business models.

The service was developed in the framework of the Resilient WEB EU project, in partnership with the Brussels Environment administration and comprises dissemination of tools and trainings. The programme includes 4 days of training given in a 6-month period, and is fully offered by Brussels Environment.

In 2018, with the help of BECI 26 companies have boosted their activity thanks to Resilience Coaching, and in 2019, 40 local companies were given the possibility of free guidance.

The Coaching programme is the following:

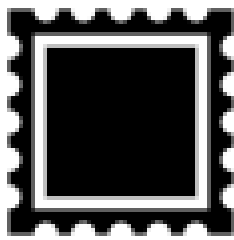
- A complete review of the activity
- Identification of sustainable opportunities for the company
- A search for concrete solutions to seize these opportunities
- A prioritization of actions in terms of feasibility, cost and time to be devoted to them
- An action plan of concrete and achievable measures to be developed
- An evaluation of the results within one year



More information at:  
<https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/transition-de-leconomie/resilience-coaching>  
<https://www.brusselsgreennetwork.be/index.php/fr/2019/02/26/resilience-coaching/>



Belgium



# Project: Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO)



The Voka (Flemish Chamber of Commerce) Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO) is an annual reward that certifies that the company took significant steps towards the realization of corporate sustainability. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute the universal framework in this regard. Voka is convinced that businesses can make an important contribution to achieving the SDGs and developed the VCDO based on these universal goals.

Any business or organisation can apply to participate, regardless of the size of the company, the number of employees or the nature of its activities. An evaluation committee examines the extent to which the action plan has been achieved. The committee is led by an independent chairperson and it is comprised of independent experts, representatives from government departments, organisations and the corporate sector.

Companies that have participated in the VCDO three times within a timeframe of five years can receive a United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) certificate from CIFAL Flanders. In order to obtain the certificate, companies must implement actions in each of the 17 United Nations SDGs.



The objective of CIFAL Flanders is to promote the declarations and principles of the United Nations, and in particular the Sustainable Development Goals. Being one of the 15 UNITAR training centres, it is part of an international network. It strives to help (local) authorities, institutions, organisations and the corporate sector to embed the Sustainable Development Goals in their company or organisation's strategy.

More information at:  
[www.voka.be/vcdo](http://www.voka.be/vcdo)  
[www.cifal-flanders.org](http://www.cifal-flanders.org)

Croatia



## Project: Croatian Waste Exchange (CWE)



The Croatian Waste Exchange (CWE), organised by the Croatian Economic Chamber (HGK) is the center of supply and demand for all waste streams, which can be used as secondary raw materials in production processes.

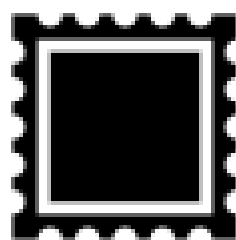
The aim of the Waste Exchange is to connect secondary raw material providers with the raw material seekers and create a transparent secondary raw materials market.

Through the CWE, businesses that are using secondary raw materials, can present technical criteria for waste in order to achieve high quality of separate collection and to enable better recycling. The technical criteria is published on the CWE website. The quality of the secondary raw materials market largely depends on defined technical criteria and their application.

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More information at:  
[www.hgk.hr/s-energetiku-i-zastitu-okolisa/burza-otpada-1](http://www.hgk.hr/s-energetiku-i-zastitu-okolisa/burza-otpada-1)

Finland



# Project: Emissions Reduction Training for Business 2020



The Emission Reduction Training for Business 2020 is an initiative led by the Finnish Chamber of Commerce launched in November 2019, which involves a series of training courses. The main objective is to guarantee carbon neutrality by 2035 or 2040, at the latest.

The success of the implementation is often based on increasing customer and employee engagement, marketing measures and conservation of resources. In addition, the reduction of material or heat loss, the reduction of energy and fuel consumption and the reduction of emissions are taken into account.

On top of that, the Finnish Chamber has set up a sustainability committee, which will supervise corporate plans to reduce CO2 emissions. In return, SMEs will be able to use the climate logo in their corporate marketing.

The project provides trainings, which include workshops on:

- Emissions' calculation
- Emission data reporting
- Reduction of emissions and carbon neutrality
- Offset of emissions
- Discussion on the results of work



More information at:  
[www.kauppakamari.fi/hankkeet/tapahtumat/paastovahennyskoulutukset/](http://www.kauppakamari.fi/hankkeet/tapahtumat/paastovahennyskoulutukset/)



France



## Project: ACTIF

ACTIF is a platform for industrial synergies between companies. The project is currently implemented by the French Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI), but it is open to be replicated in other countries.

The French local CCI Occitanie environmental advisors visit SMEs to collect their energy and raw material flows, feed in the data into the ACTIF database, and to identify inter-company mutualisation or substitution synergies. CCI Occitanie provides local public authorities with industrial flow studies based on ACTIF data.

Gradually, private consultants, and companies themselves, will also be able to feed data into the platform and use it in order to identify possible synergies. A study is under way to develop the business model of the platform with services that will be charged by the CCIs in order to finance the platform and this activity.

Economic and environmental gains can be found in four areas:

- Materials: reuse of production scrap, reduction of waste, waste recovery and development of new activities.
- Energy-water: optimization of energy consumption, heat recovery, reuse of water.
- Logistics and Equipment: shared transport, sharing of offices, space and equipment between companies, shared services (grouped purchasing, collective waste management, etc).
- Human resources: business synergies, complementary know-how, shared jobs, employee loans.

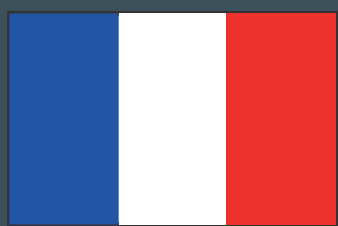
The platform’s model is a replicable tool, easily transplanted in other countries, and at relatively low start-up costs.

**Actif**

une innovation



France




# Project: Ecodesign Center (Pole Eco-Conception)



The "Pôle Eco-conception" is a national resources centre on eco-design, created originally by the CCI of Saint-Etienne (now the CCI Lyon Métropole) in 2009. The Pole Eco-conception develops tools and issues studies to facilitate the integration of eco-design and life cycle thinking in SMEs. The Pole is supported by the national French energy and environment Agency ADEME, and is a member of ENEC, the European Network of Ecodesign Centres.


French local CCI environmental advisors use the tools developed by the Pole Eco-conception, such as an eco-design pre-check, in order to visit SMEs to raise their awareness on the benefits of integrating eco-design and life cycle thinking in the development of their products and services, and help them define the right priorities in their approach. Studies done by the Pole show the clear benefits SMEs get in terms of improved competitiveness from implementing eco-design of their products and services.




Objective:

The ecodesign pre-diagnostic is a tool to educate project teams to integrate the environment in the process of product development by measuring the level of control of the company towards ecodesign and proposing an environmental strategy applicable to the product. The tool is adapted to the following products:

- Food
- Product manufacturing (including chemical and mechanical)
- And service

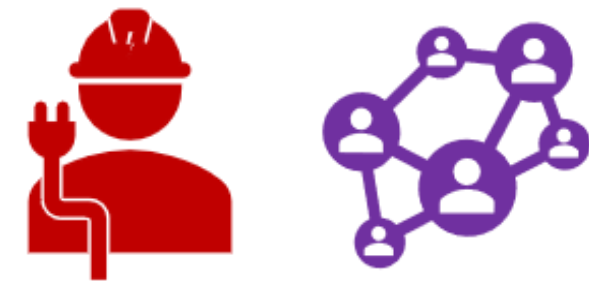


The preliminary diagnosis tool is in the form of a web platform including a resource center for eco-conception to the downtown relay method and tool.



The preliminary diagnosis is distributed to resource centers to businesses whose purpose is the economic development of a region or a sector. It is a tool in the format of checklist based on the Pareto principle; it identifies eco-conception criteria that the company has not taken into account, has the potential for easiest improvement and probable first steps.

More information at:  
[www.eco-conception.fr](http://www.eco-conception.fr)  
[www.ecodesign-centres.org](http://www.ecodesign-centres.org)



# Project: ORHI- Project on Circular Economy



The ORHI project aims to contribute to the evolution of the food sector within POCTEFA (Spain, France, Andorra) territory towards a Circular Economy by promoting inter-company synergies, identifying innovative solutions, and supporting their development in the territory.

ORHI focuses on contributing to generate better effective and efficient scenarios in the use of organic matter and plastic in the activities of the agro-food value chain of the territory (Basque Country, Navarra, La Rioja, Atlantic Pyrenees, High Pyrenees, Haute-Garonne, Ariège and Eastern Pyrenees). In the European Union, every year between 31% and 39% of these plastics will go to incineration and landfill, and only 6% of the demand for plastic comes from recycled plastic.

The project is co-financed at 65% by the European Regional Development Fund and is a consortium of 9 stakeholders from 5 different regions, one of which is the CCI of Bayonne.

The project offers the following possibilities to companies belonging to the food sector and located in the ORHI partners' territories:

- Access to workshops based upon an innovative method of exchange of resources to foster collaborations between participating companies.
- Discover circular economy solutions (technologies and business models) generating economic, social and environmental value through a more efficient use of organic and plastic material flows.
- The possibility of being supported and accompanied by the ORHI team.



France



## Project: REV3

Rev3 is a common initiative by the CCI and the Regional Council of the Hauts-de-France Region launched in 2012. It aims at implementing in the Hauts-de-France Region the principles of the Third Industrial Revolution, based on energy transition and digital technologies, as defined by Jeremy Rifkin.

Rev3 also aims at changing behaviors and transforming the economy and making it circular. The two key priorities of the project are: 1) to boost local economy (supporting innovation and the creation of jobs), 2) aim for zero carbon emissions by 2050 for Hauts de France.

Since Rev3 was launched in 2012, it has allowed the development of 10 large-scale structuring projects, and of 800 smaller-scale energy transition and/or circular economy projects.

Rev3 represents a total of annual public and private investments of 500 million €. More than 14 million € have been deposited by regional citizens on the Rev3 dedicated savings account, which contributes to funding Rev3 small-scale projects, and a 50 million € investment fund has been created to fund projects.



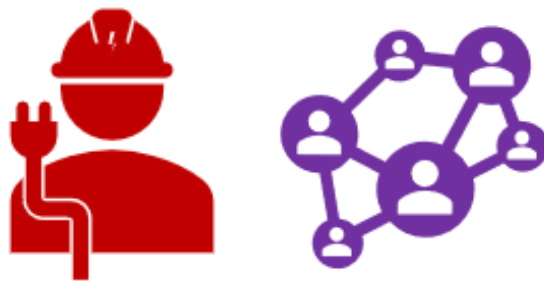
REV3 adress all of these items



More information at:  
[www.rev3.fr](http://www.rev3.fr)



Germany



## Project: Chambers for GreenTech



The ‘Export Initiative for Environmental Technologies’ was launched in 2016 by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The aim of this initiative is to establish environmental standards in the relevant target countries by exporting innovative technologies and applications which help to protect the environment and climate ("green technologies").

Circular economy, sustainable mobility and sustainable water management are the focus areas of the initiative. The rising demand for green technologies all over the world creates excellent opportunities for German companies to establish themselves on a global scale.

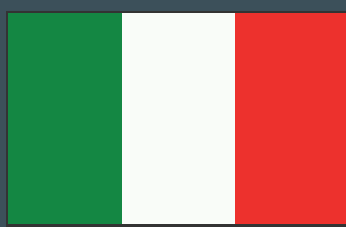
Currently, the German foreign Chambers in Croatia, Chile, Indonesia, Portugal, Romania, Russia and Ukraine are involved in circular economy projects. These projects include the promotion of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme in Chile, the improvement of municipal waste management systems in Russia as well as legal support for the National Waste Management Strategy in Ukraine.

Via the extensive network of 140 offices in 92 countries around the world, the German chambers establish themselves as reliable partners whilst expanding their network. Furthermore, they contribute to climate protection and help creating new sustainable markets.

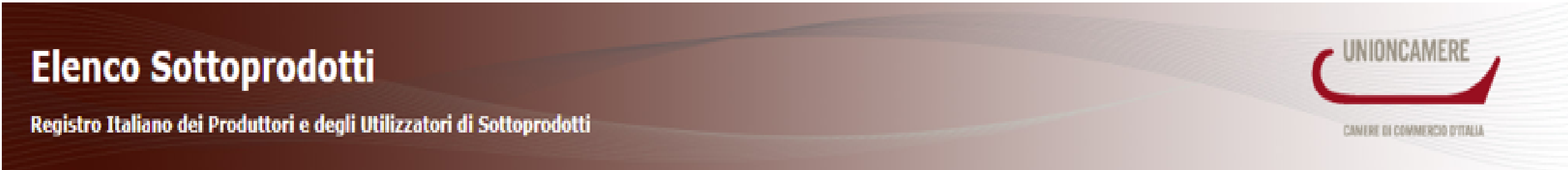




Italy



# Project: By-product portal (Elenco Sottoprodotti)



The By-product portal is a platform organised by the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Unioncamere) to match producers and users of by-products. Residues are by-products and not waste when the producer demonstrates that, since they have not been produced voluntarily and as a primary objective of the production cycle, they are intended to be used in the same or a subsequent process, either by the producer himself or by a third party.

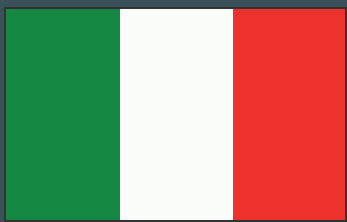
At each stage of the waste management, it is necessary to demonstrate that a number of conditions are met, including certainty of use and the absence of further treatment other than normal industrial practice.

- The locally competent Chambers of Commerce shall establish a special list in which producers and users of by-products are registered, without any charge, which is made public and can be consulted on a dedicated section of the Chamber of Commerce's website or on a website indicated by it.
- The list does not introduce an enabling requirement for producers and users of by-products but has a cognitive and trade facilitation purpose..





Italy



France



# Project: Circuito - Competitivita Imprese Innovazione



Interreg  
ALCOTRA

Fonds européen de développement régional  
Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale



Circuito is an Italian and French partnership, co-funded by Interreg Alcotra (France and Italy), which enhances innovation creation and knowledge sharing across the region, focusing on sustainability.

Together with the Chamber of Enterprises and Professions of the Aosta Valley and Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Rhone-Alpes, the following actors are involved: Liguria region, Piemonte region, Aosta Valley region, University of Genova, University of Turin, Provence-Alpes-Cote d’Azur (PACA) region and Nice Metropolitan City.

The project was launched on October 2018 and is expected to be completed on April 2021, with a total budget of 1.78 million € invested until there.

More specifically, the project aims at structuring shared cross-border programming to support the innovative capacity of companies in the field of cooperation. This shared programming is achieved through a series of activities that are logically linked to each other

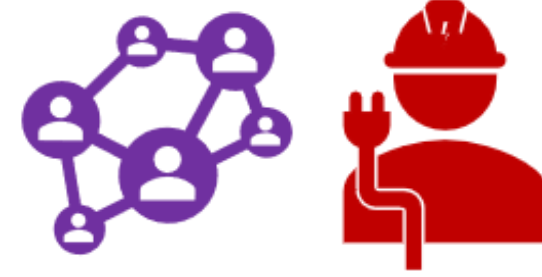
The activities are the following:

- Definition of guidelines for the development of a common action plan to support innovation, obstacles to cross-border cooperation and potential in terms of circularity and industrial symbiosis.
- Facilitate creative workspaces where research and business actors can meet, strengthening the capacity of SMEs to network and develop innovation.
- Development of a cross-border plan for innovation in the production system, in comparison with other European experiences in the field of macro-regions and the feasibility study on joint planning of regional policy instruments for the future programming of the structural funds.

Italy



Spain



## Project: LIFE WEEE - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment: treasures to recover



LIFE WEEE is an EU-funded project which aims at encouraging citizens and companies to more carefully manage the collection of electrical and electronic waste (WEEE), to improve the model of regional governance and to encourage the collaboration and sharing of information between the institutions.

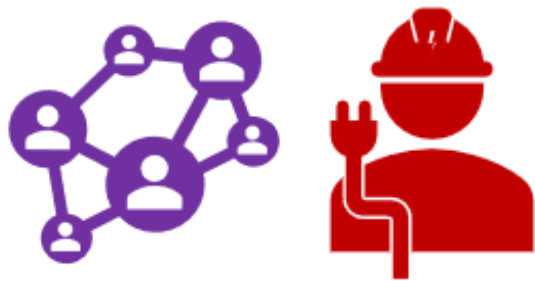
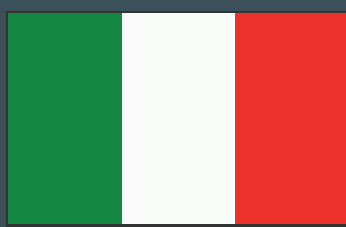
How does the project works? Together with their project partners, the Chambers of Commerce of Florence and Seville offer the following:

- Support local administrations with training and information actions for institutional actors in order to improve services to citizens.
- Develop a system of services and incentives for SMEs, with the creation of a green network of SMEs as capillary collection point.
- Develop IT tools for businesses and citizens: a software and guidelines for the simplification of administrative and bureaucratic activities that businesses must undertake to allow the collection of WEEE on their premises and an App that will allow users to easily identify the nearest sites collection.
- Create awareness campaign to raise public awareness on the topic and provide adequate information to citizens and businesses.
- Test the replicability and transferability of the project results through the implementation of actions in Andalusia.

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More information at:  
[https://www.lifeweee.eu/lifeWeee\\_en/](https://www.lifeweee.eu/lifeWeee_en/)

Italy



# Project: RI-ECCO - Recycling, Innovation: Circular Economy as an opportunity



RI-ECCO is a free service that offers to SMEs technical-scientific guidance and support for the transition to the Circular Economy. The service is made available by the Chamber of Commerce of Milano Monza Brianza Lodi, in collaboration with the Management Institute *Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna* of Pisa.

The project is about providing a strategic support path to maximize circular economy and is divided into three steps.

**STEP 1: Business involvement and training path**  
Involvement of the reference territory and route informative and educational on the theme of the Circular Economy.

**STEP 2: Work tables**  
Identification of sectorial actions. The target is 30 companies, divided in 3 “working tables” for the maximization of circularity. The tables are facilitated by a researcher from the Management Institute and participation is expected to be of 3-4 meetings per table, for a duration of 4 hours each.

**STEP 3: Individual support (Check-up)**  
Individual support with check-up for 15 pilot companies aimed at identifying tailored strategies for maximization of circularity. The “check-up” also includes a one-day focused visit and evaluation at the premises of each company.





**Latvia**  **Baltic sea Region**



## Project: Circular Public Procurement



The Circular Public Procurement is a 3 year project supported by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

The aim is to address the societal challenge of resource efficiency, by considering innovation from a multidimensional perspective – including involving products, processes and new business models and by exploiting the synergies between public authorities, research institutions, SMEs and non-profit organizations in this field.

The main goal of this project is to develop an adequate framework for circular procurement in the countries belonging to the Baltic Sea Region. In order to achieve the goals of the project, four main steps have to be followed:

1. Analyses of existing situation in the Baltic Sea Region.
2. Build capacity on circular procurement, pilot circular calls for tenders (eg.: training, guidance, future recommendations).
3. Disseminate information among European public procurers and SMEs.

The Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) based on participation in the project, has increased know-how about the Circular Economy, which increases capacity both for member support about circular business models and policy making in business environment level. The project also provided the Chamber with valuable contacts and new ideas for future international projects.

# Luxembourg



## Project: Ecobatterien

ECOBATTERIEN ASBL is a non-profit association founded in October 2009 with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Trades via ECOTREL, the Confederation of Commerce, the Federation of artisans and the Federation of Industry.

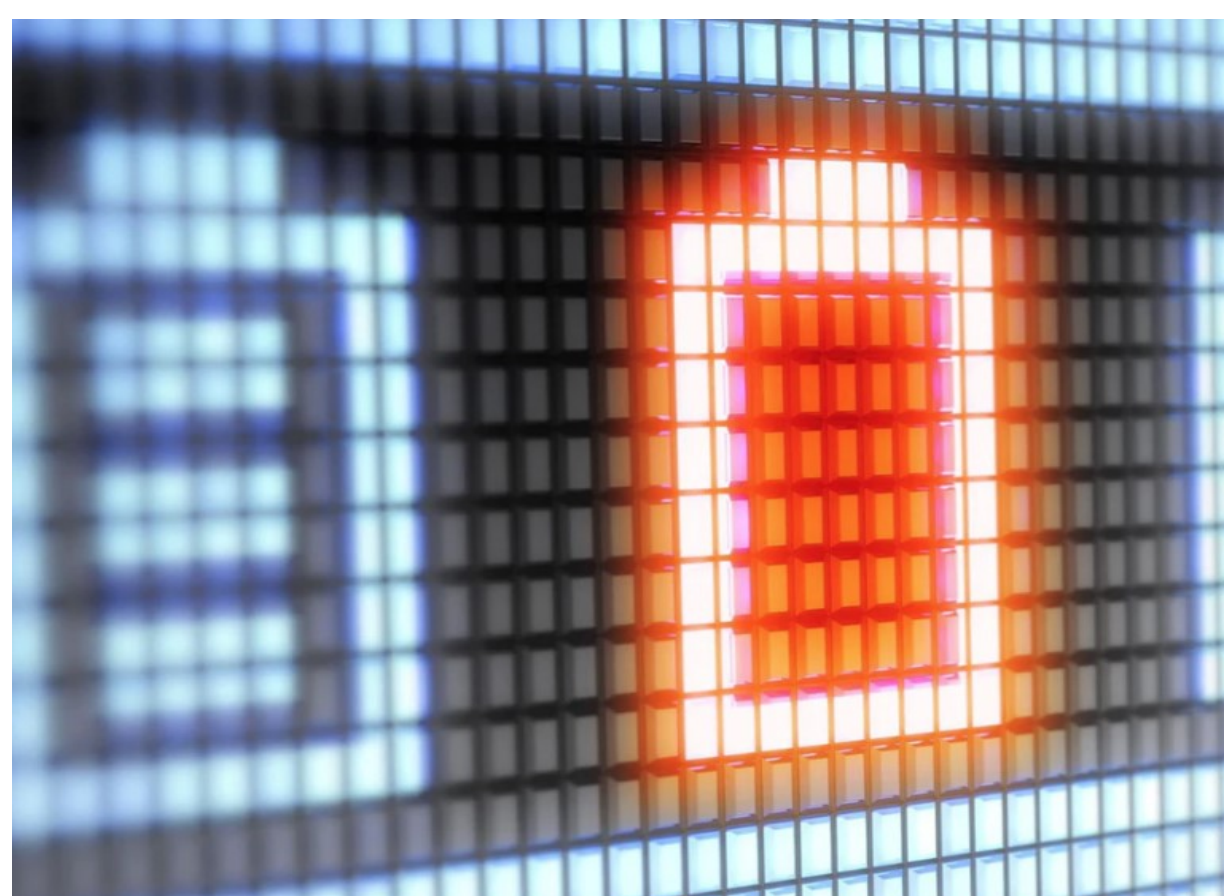
The association's mission is to take over the obligations of producers or importers, concerning all types of the waste batteries and accumulators including portable, industrial and automotive sold separately or included in appliances or vehicles.

Producers and importers are helped on their registration to the authorities, on the financing of the take-back and treatment of waste batteries and accumulators.

The association has more than 750 members and represents more than 95 % of the market shares in Luxembourg. In 2018, the association collected 69,26 % of portable batteries. It is the best realistic collection rate of Europe.

Producers and importers pay a recycling fee when they put batteries and accumulators on the Luxembourgian market. The recycling fee represents the administrative, collection, treatment and communication costs of ECOBATTERIEN. The fee is calculated in €/unit per defined subcategories of batteries and accumulators.

For the automotive sector, ECOBATTERIEN only takes over the administrative obligations of producers and importers through an administrative fee. The take-back obligation is directly fulfilled by the garages.





# Luxembourg



## Project: ECOTREL



ECOTREL ASBL is an organisation approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development and founded in February 2004 by 43 companies with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Trades of Luxembourg. The companies import and produce electrical and electronic equipment following the publication of European directives which were subsequently transposed into national law.

The main objective is to endorse the obligations borne by producers and importers of electrical and electronic equipment. The association manage and finance the removal and treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which ends up in the collection structures set up by the municipalities and the State.

In addition, Ecotrel guarantees on behalf of its members the future recycling of the electrical and electronic equipment that they put on the market today.

- ECOTREL has for mission to take over the obligations of producers or importers by:
- Registering them to the authorities.
  - Financing the take-back and treatment of WEEE.
  - Providing a guarantee for the take-back and treatment of future WEEE issued from appliances placed on the market after August 2005.

As a result of the activities of ECOTREL, more than 10 kg of household WEEE/inhabitant have been collected on behalf of ECOTREL in 2018. With an average collection rate of 50,84 % and a specific collection rate of 64,49 % for cooling appliances, ECOTREL is among the best students of the European class.





**Luxembourg**

## Project: Luxembourg CleanTech Cluster



**LUXEMBOURG**  
**CLEANTECH**  
**CLUSTER**

The Luxembourg CleanTech Cluster supports its members in the generation of new processes, products and services with an ultimate goal of turning the concept of the circular economy into a reality in Luxembourg.

The project is managed by Luxinnovation and fosters innovation, business development and cross-sector cooperation by focusing on an exciting area for potential growth – sustainable living and clean technologies.

The main objectives are the following:

- Diversify the activities of the companies thus allowing them to gain and to develop new capabilities in the clean technologies field.
- Contribute to develop new environmental solutions in the field of eco-technologies and sustainable construction.
- Raise the public awareness for “green technologies”.
- Build public-private partnerships for new collaborative projects.
- Encourage the networking between public and private actors on the national and the international level.

The set of specialised support services provide access to practical and technical information related to clean technologies, advice on national and European fundings, value-added information on emerging technologies and markets.

The Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce is a founding member and main private stakeholder in Luxinnovation. It particularly collaborates with the CleanTech Cluster initiative when it comes to promotion campaigns and internationalisation activities, in order to commonly strengthen activities.

Luxembourg



Project: Super Drecks Kesch (SDK) Project



The SuperDrecksKesch® is a trademark developed in the frame of the waste management missions of the Luxembourg state. It's orientation is based on the EU strategy giving priority to prevention before preparation of recycling any other processing (i.e. energy production) before waste disposal.

The main objective is to use and apply the most recent information to implement a sustainable and high-quality management of resources. Besides, it aims at dissemination of ecologic restructuring, providing impulses in the economy for ecologic behavior and efficient use of resources. The main partners are the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development and the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Crafts.

The activities of the trademark are acknowledged by the EU and have been awarded with the label “best practice” for resource management and climate protection.

- The activities of SuperDrecksKesch® are based on the 6 following pillars:
- 1. Animation, information, sensitization, training and further education.
  - 2. Ecological waste management in the company certified according to DIN EN ISO 14024.
  - 3. Clever shopping, intelligent and sustainable consumption.
  - 4. The SuperDrecksKesch® and its business and association partners.
  - 5. The SuperDrecksKesch® and its partners in local and social authorities.
  - 6. Ecological waste management is equal to climate and resource protection.

A recent initiative launched to reduce the use of packages was the ECOBOX and cutlery. A return and refill system to take away food and leftovers for multiple purposes (canteen, restaurant, take-away) developed in Luxembourg for transporting meals.





Luxembourg



# Project: Valorlux

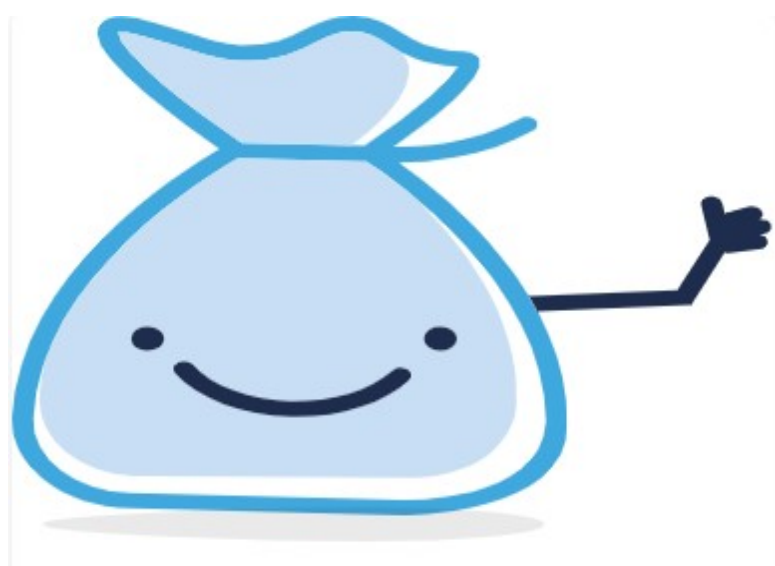


Founded in 1995, Valorlux is a non-profit organization, which has the objective of promoting and coordinating selected waste collection for household waste packaging and such in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Valorlux is authorized by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development and exceeds 1100 member companies at present. The Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, along with the Chamber of Crafts and other private sector representatives define and accompany the Valorlux strategy in their capacity of active board members.

Valorlux ensures compliance with the legal obligations in force relative to waste recycling and recovery of packaging waste of his member companies, called “Responsible for packaging”, according to the law of 21st of mars 2017 relative to packaging and packaging waste.

## Examples of best practices:

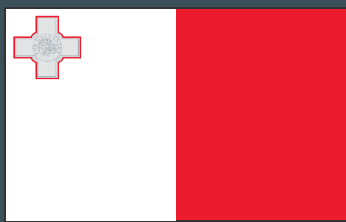
- Eco-bag: since the beginning of the project, the use of approximately 922 million single-use bags has been avoided, saving 6,287 tons of plastic or 13,982,072 liters of oil.
- Superbag: The Superbag is a reusable produce bag, launched on the 25th of June 2019.
- Bottle-to-bottle recycling: every year Valorlux, together with Plastipak converts 60 million PET drinks bottles into so-called recycled from which preforms/bottles can again be manufactured.



More information at:  
<https://www.valorlux.lu/en>



Malta



## Project: Business Against Food Waste

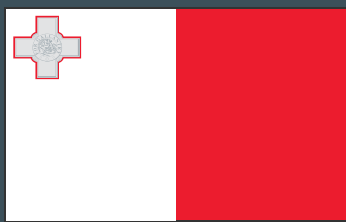


Business Against Food Waste is a national awareness-raising campaign led by the Malta Chamber through its EU advisory and projects arm (the MBB), which will bring together local strategic partners such as the Malta Tourism Authority, Wasteserv (the national waste management authority), the Institute of Tourism Studies and HSBC Malta CSR Institute.

While a substantial amount of food waste is generated by businesses, most is generated by consumers themselves. This necessitates a cultural and behavioral shift on the side of customers. This concern has also been reiterated to the MBB by local hospitality establishments. The campaign will feature 3 main actions: a zero-food waste competition; awareness raising seminars; and demonstrations by professional chefs (food waste cafes).

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, through the Malta Business Bureau (its EU projects and advisory arm), acts as a key coordinator between different stakeholders in the food waste challenge - businesses, experts, policymakers and the general public. Through the Business Against Food Waste campaign, we are bringing together all these different actors and facilitating dialogue and solutions to reduce food waste in Malta, and beyond.

Malta



# Project: LIFE Foster Project



LIFE17 GIE/IT/000579

Co-financed by the EU Commission LIFE Programme and led by the Italian network for VET, ENAIP NET, the LIFE FOSTER project aims at reducing waste in the restaurant industry. The project focuses on four main fields: training, education, prevention and communication.

The LIFE FOSTER project will implement a bottom-up approach involving the education of trainee chefs, kitchen staff and front-of-house restaurant personnel. This will be coupled with promotion of the project’s findings through seminars and workshops targeting restaurant staff and owners, networking with other LIFE projects dealing with food waste, and through the engagement of policy stakeholders.

Apart from the educational aspect, LIFE FOSTER is also targeting established professionals working in the hospitality industry through activities such as training, seminars and fairs. This promises to compliment the long-term benefits of the project in terms of education, which immediate benefits being provided to businesses.

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, through the Malta Business Bureau (its EU projects and advisory arm), is in a position to reach out to these businesses and get them actively involved in the project. Furthermore, the MBB is handling the policy dimension of the project at a local level, through working groups and policy dialogues with policymakers and stakeholders..

Serbia



# Project: Academy of Circular Economy



The Academy of Circular Economics is a joint project organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia-Center for Circular Economy. The project was launched on September 2018 in cooperation with CirEkon and with the support of the EIT-Climate-KIC initiative.

The goal of the Academy of circular economy is to empower companies to initiate positive changes in business, discover new opportunities to create additional lines of revenue and achieve the benefits of resource efficiency.

Furthermore, it teaches participants how to analyze and assess the effectiveness of their companies' business processes and use of materials, as well as to implement systemic changes to switch to a circular business model.

Students of the Academy have the opportunity to get acquainted with current trends and to prepare for the upcoming changes that are expected in the international business systems in the form of new standards, regulations, laws, market requirements and available technologies.

The Academy is intended for representatives of the production-oriented companies.

Thirty participants were accepted for the first pilot round and got an average grade 4.76 (out of max 5), which was unseen before on the Serbian market, especially in the SME sector where traditional business rules still prevail. A small community has since been formed with the intention to scale up the academy and spread the word.



**Serbia**

## Project: Food Waste Novi Sad



FoodWaste Novi Sad is a one-year project and part of the collaboration portfolio with EIT Climate-KIC. The project started in January 2020 and has no link or website yet.

The main role of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS) is to connect different project partners, administration of funds and to coordinate activities.

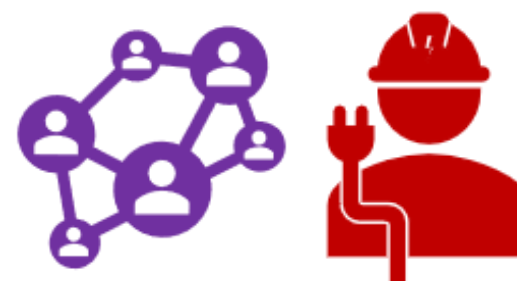
Through this project, the CCIS puts together different stakeholder of the food waste value chain in Novi Sad, Serbia. The main goal is to test different solutions in a closed environment and to disseminate project results through CCIS associations, after finalizing the pilot project.

All EIT Climate-KIC projects include co-founding. In the case of Food Waste Novi Sad, the main co-founder is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the CCIS offers supports through in-kind co-founding.

The EIT Climate-KIC is a knowledge innovation community established and funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2010. Their purpose is to tackle climate change through innovation. Serbia joined the EIT in 2016.

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More information at:  
<https://www.climate-kic.org/countries/serbia/>  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/303.html>

**Slovenia****+ Danube  
region**

## Project: MOVECO



Launched in 2017, the MOVECO project aims at improving the framework conditions and policy instruments for eco innovation and transition to a circular economy, fostering smart and sustainable growth and reducing disparities among the regions in the Danube.

The project has 12 project partners and 4 associated partners (including the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia) from ten Danube region countries including Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. MOVECO is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) of the European Union.

The MOVECO project is now involved in creating numerous toolkits to foster circular economy activities in the Danube region. The activities are the following:

- Transnational strategy: includes the identification of possible materials stream for the Danube region and roadmap for the strategy's implementation.
- Roadmap and action plan: three cross country roadmaps developed, together with derived action plans.
- Circular Economy toolbox: for SMEs, including financial technical and information tools.
- Online platform: to support cooperation between business and research.
- Virtual marketplace: to promote reuse and stimulate industrial symbiosis.
- Mobile exhibition: showcasing best practices in the region.



Spain



## Project: Bank of Ideas

The Ideas Bank for Environmentally Sustainable Businesses provides guidance for self-employed professionals, business people and entrepreneurs who are looking for new business opportunities involving a wide range of activities in the environmental field. ; from water management and clean energy to the organic-agriculture sector, waste management and sustainable construction and tourism.

Since its creation this initiative has been managed by the Council of Tenerife’s Office for the Environment, and all the business opportunities it proposes have one element in common: sustainability.



## Project: Environmental Advising

The Environmental Advising on Business Opportunities is an initiative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Santa Cruz Tenerife and the Council of Tenerife with the goal of advising and guiding entrepreneurs on green and blue employment trends, especially regarding the demand for the product or service they want to offer and what competition they will encounter.

The project complements the Chamber's guidance services for entrepreneurs. Consultations and guidance cover the following topics:

- Environmental obligations and procedures to be fulfilled by a company.
- Proper management of business waste.
- Implementation of an environmental management system.
- Incorporation of good environmental practices.
- Courses related to the environment.
- Self-employment and employment opportunities in the environmental field.



Spain



Project: Self-diagnosis Guide



The Self-diagnosis Guide to the circular economy in the Navarre Industry is a project that aims at bringing the concept of circular economy to companies.

The guide facilitates the realization of self-diagnoses of circularity in companies, and helps them to reflect on those aspects on which they can work to introduce changes. As a result, companies are able to find the way of designing and producing economically and environmentally sustainable goods and services.

It is an initiative developed by Sustainn and Navarre Chamber of Commerce, and cofinanced by the Caja Navarra Foundation.

The phases for the development of self-diagnosis are the following:  
Phase 1 - analysis of material, resource and waste flows.  
Phase 2 - life cycle cost analysis.  
Phase 3 - definition of circularity indicators and sustainability.  
Phase 4 - identification of circular opportunities.

Project: Salamanca Circular City



The project "Salamanca, Circular City" was launched in December 2019 and urges business, people and entrepreneurs to change the way they produce, consume and manage resources.

The main objective is to turn companies into more sustainable and more competitive organisations and to stimulate new design models so that the value of products, resources and materials is maintained as long as possible in the production cycle.

The project would follow the model of the 7 Rs of R's of sustainability: rethink, redesign, reuse, repair, remanufacture, recycle and recuperate, in order to propose new and innovative ways to make the city of Salamanca from a linear to a circular city.

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EUROCHAMBRES

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 98% of which are SMEs – through 45 members and a European network of 1700 regional and local Chambers.

EUROCHAMBRES

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