



European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

Coordination Group Work Plan



2023

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Foreword

The world is progressively recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, marked by disrupted global supply chains that painfully pointed out our dependencies. Shortly afterwards, the war in Ukraine contributed to a steep increase in energy prices for the EU economy, and made us aware once again of our reliance on resources from outside Europe, as well as vulnerability to external shocks. Undeniably, there is a clear need for greater resource resilience and new alliances.

On the global stage, the economy still has a colossal circularity gap to bridge. We increasingly face the urgency of the triple threat of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, but action needs to follow faster. The European Union can lead the way in this direction, emphasising the role of the circular transition as a critical weapon in climate mitigation and biodiversity protection.

More than ever, Europe and the world need to adopt a circular economy.

Going circular means that we can almost halve those emissions, not at a cost but as a business model. The relationship with biodiversity is just as important: we must implement a circular economy with nature in mind, to halt and help reverse biodiversity loss. Delaying action is not an option. Climate financing and recovery funding can give us even more momentum to get our act together in the upcoming years. And indeed, the EU confirmed the Circular Economy as a strategic pillar in its recently adopted Long-term Competitiveness Strategy.

We cannot look to the EU in isolation. We have to reach out globally and share our hard-learned lessons. As we are all connected, making Europe a fully circular continent will require the change to extend beyond European boundaries. The spark of the ECESP and of Europe's circular capabilities should be heard more strongly at future events such as the UNFCCC, the CBD, the World Circular Economy Forum, World Resources Forum and CE Hotspot events and should support global actions on circular economy, notably through alliances including the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) and the implementation of the Global Strategy of the 10 Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable consumption and Production Patterns adopted in 2022.

Circular Diplomacy at the global level can become a feature of Europe's trademark that creates fertile soil for future business and a century of opportunity for EU and third-country circular Entrepreneurs.

The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform is the necessary catalyst for a circular Europe.

What is new in 2023? As the Coordination Group (CG) of the Platform, we express our desire to shift from discussions to implementation, from WHY to HOW. 2023 will be a year with a more structured dialogue between ECESP CG co-chairs and the European Commission (EC) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) through their ad-hoc participation to the Steering Group meetings. The ECESP Coordination Group will rely on its existing expertise and insights to disseminate and foster the EU's green transition.

This work plan will show fewer but more impactful topics contributing to support Circular Economy implementation, collaboration and scaling up.

Some market segments gained momentum, and in 2023 we will focus on the sectors of textiles, bioeconomy and construction.

The Group will collaborate more on transversal topics: we are a stakeholder platform, after all.

For 2023 we have identified economic steering instruments in general with a dedicated Leadership Group on circular procurement, cities and regions and citizen engagement & circular behaviour as transversal topics.

The Platform's co-chairs will lead the topic on Circular Diplomacy. Circular Diplomacy is the capability of bridging public and network governance and encouraging and empowering collaboration among stakeholders in different countries. The ECESP has knowledgeable and experienced representatives in EU countries that can effectively mobilise their networks and make circular change happen. The ECESP can be at the disposal of EU representatives to complement their activities and targets should they find it relevant and adequate. This could take the form of engagements in official visits, events, and bilateral meetings focused on the circular economy. That is how the EU can increase its reach across all society actors as a pioneer in green transformation. Linked to Circular Diplomacy, the concept of regional circular hubs, platform and network governance and funding for circular hubs will be further explored and fostered.

2023 will also be the year of more intense collaboration and alignment of priorities between the coordination group and its parent institutions, the EC and EESC, as the ECESP will have to step up from a start-up to a scale-up. We need the ECESP's bridge-building capabilities to take root and create resilience in every region of Europe. We need to make the circular economy a common cross-cutting language across policies and market segments, in formal and informal education and finance, and supported by commonly available tools for all.

All of us wish for a very successful and productive 2023. The power of networks can greatly multiply and strengthen the impact of one actor, to make the circular economy a reality for all.

We need your input more than ever!

The ECESP co-chairs
Ladeja Godina Košir - Freek van Eijk

ECESP Coordination Group

Members 2023 - 2025



Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+), Circular Change, Conseil Européen de Remanufacture, Copa-Cogeca, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), Ecopreneur, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), EIT Climate-KIC, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, EuRIC, EuroCommerce, Generation Climate Europe (GCE), Holland Circular Hotspot (HCH), ICLEI, Institut National de l'Économie Circulaire, INNOWO, Interreg Mediterranean Green Growth, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), OVAM, Rediscovery Centre, RREUSE, SITRA, SME United, Zero Waste Europe

ECESP COORDINATION GROUP



Coordination Group Renewed mandate

The European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee entrusted the current Coordination Group members with another 2,5-year mandate.

The Group of 24 representatives, elected from civil society organisations, business and trade union representatives, think tanks, research centres and public bodies that have a stake in the circular economy, will bring to the attention of the policymakers the challenges and opportunities from the circular economy community on topics of high importance on the political agenda.

The renewed mandate represents an excellent opportunity for us to work further on topics identified in 2022.

Priorities 2023

With the European Commission identifying the circular economy as the 9th pillar of its strategy for the long-term competitiveness of the European Union, the concept has a firm anchor in the European Union's policy agenda. It is now important to ensure that the circular economy remains a priority in future

The circular economy serves different components of the European Green Deal like the climate, biodiversity and zero pollution goals. It will be critical in the context of the recent EU Green Deal Industrial Plan, aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and supporting the fast transition to climate neutrality. The circular economy should be paramount in European industries' capacity to manufacture clean technologies to meet Europe's ambitious green targets, and represents an opportunity for a win-win solution for the European Union.

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ECESP COORDINATION GROUP

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The ECESP Coordination Group started reflecting on the priorities for the new season right after the closing meeting in October 2022. This gathering was the perfect opportunity to reflect on the work done throughout the year, take stock of what we achieved and start reflecting on how to best contribute to the policy work of the European Commission and the EESC.

For 2023, the Group chose quality over quantity, and only selected topics that would support the implementation of the European policies and increase collaboration to foster and scale up the circular economy.

The Group intends to work less in silos, collaborate more and find synergies between the topics. Topics such as biodiversity and climate, or cities and regions, are deemed too essential for the Group not to join the list of priority topics for 2023. Compared to 2022, the Group developed a matrix representing key market segments and transversal themes to reduce the number of subjects.

The key market segments topics are:

- Bioeconomy
- Built environment
- Textiles
- Citizen engagement & Circular behaviour
- Critical Raw Materials in a Circular Economy

Transversal themes:

- Biodiversity and climate
- Cities and regions
- Economic Steering Instruments
- Circular procurement

The Leadership Groups are smaller configurations where the members can discuss these topics. The governance of these groups will be different during this season, breaking up the silos from the previous years and focusing more on collaboration and synergies between the Groups.

The events and activities organised by the market segments will take on board one or several aspects of the transversal themes. After the success of the youth rapporteurs during the annual conference, all the Leadership Groups will integrate a youth representative into their programmes.



Leadership Groups

Leadership Groups (LG) are smaller configurations to discuss identified topics. The Group composition includes other stakeholders and is led by a CG member. The Group engages in the key areas identified by the Coordination Group members. It breaks down these areas into specific topics and deepens the dialogue with other stakeholders and the broader circular economy community. The Group can consult the community as it sees fit but must organise at least one #EUCircularTalks. The groups will then produce a reflection paper summarising the event's outcome, enriched with feedback from the circular economy community gathered through the discussions.

There is no restriction to the profile or the number of members joining these groups. The leader can give the coordination of one specific aspect of the topic to a group member. The coordinator can organise the discussions around the subject, i.e., call meetings with other circular economy actors, organise #EUCircularTalks, etc. and produce a debate report to feed off the Leadership Group consolidated output document.

2023 Group descriptions

Citizen Engagement & Circular Behaviour

Changes in consumption behaviours and dominant lifestyles are increasingly recognised as critical levers for the transition to a circular economy, as the success of new circular business models and policy measures largely depend on a social engagement component (EEA, 2019).

However, the majority of studies and strategies on the circular economy are still framed from a production and business model perspective, while the level of public engagement is still relatively low, and the role of people in the process is largely overlooked (Selvefors, 2019; van den Berge et al., 2021). This overlooking is an issue, as users play an essential role in advancing circular solutions to close material loops – ultimately, the decision lies with consumers on whether they engage in circular behaviours (e.g., repair, reuse) or not (van den Berge et al., 2021).

In this context, the Leadership Group on Citizen Engagement & Circular Behaviour is about better understanding and fostering centres, spaces and expertise across Europe, both physical and digital, that effectively engage people with circular economy activities, e.g., repairing and sharing, leasing or reusing. The goal is to collect success factors of such initiatives and apply this knowledge to both (i) further develop existing centres and (ii) help create new ones towards achieving a meaningful and critical mass of citizens adopting sustainable lifestyles for a circular economy in Europe.

The Group will focus on the following:

- Increase the level of understanding of the success factors of citizen engagement initiatives that manage to advance circular behaviours across Europe;
- Create a movement of circular economy citizen engagement initiatives, in which such initiatives can flourish further by learning from each other and new initiatives can be created to meet the needs of citizens at the local level;
- Support the DG ENV Communications Strategy 2030 and the European Green Deal, particularly by sharing learnings and insights from the Leadership Group work about effective ways to communicate with citizens to generate engagement with circular economy activities.

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Textiles

The ever-growing interest and action from stakeholders all along the value chain, policies at EU and national levels taking shape and growing public awareness: That was 2022, the year of the publication of the EU Textiles Strategy. The Textiles Leadership Group (LG) aims to open the EU Textiles Strategy to a discussion with a broad stakeholder audience and help bring it to life, which will continue in 2023. The group, coordinated by RREUSE, brings together around 20 member organisations from the textiles value chain. In the past years, it organised EU Circular Talks that reached hundreds of participants and proved how much appetite there is from European and international stakeholders to understand what it means to change the textiles industry and consumption truly.

While the group priorities of 2022 were to shed light on the upcoming textiles policy and secondly on circular business models, in 2023, the most pressing discussions are expected around Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles and the need for an economic transition beyond growth.

The overall aim and focus of the group will shift more to exchanges of information and intelligence among the group members, with the view of nurturing the contacts we have built over the past three years. This should be done by organising internal talks on specific topics, one in-person per year, and finally bringing our discussions to the public through an EU Circular Talk and the annual conference. As for enriching the group by creating additional connections with other experts, we would like to link to the ECOSYSTEM group, established in 2022 as a group of 17 EU-funded member projects focusing on textile sustainability. There is a potential to channel the knowledge created in EU-funded projects to the LG community and vice versa.

The group will focus on the following priorities:

- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Degrowth and Economic transition

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Bioeconomy

Circular bioeconomy and biobased value chains are crucial to the circular economy transformation, decarbonisation and the green transition.

Bioeconomy refers to production based on biotechnology and biomass to create various types of goods, services and energy. Society depends on the bioeconomy for food or ecosystem services and as a supplier of parts for consumer goods. Bioeconomy and food value chain systems are valuable sources of green raw material streams. They are currently a sector with huge development potential that is becoming a key factor in closing the loop in the circular economy.

Since 2020, the Leadership Group on Food waste, food systems, and the bioeconomy aims to highlight and raise awareness of the importance and complexity of the circular bioeconomy as a driver of the transition toward a circular economy in Europe.

This year, the LG led by INNOWO will focus on circular bioeconomy and bio-value chains based on four pillars: industrial symbiosis, green transition, climate change and biodiversity. The LG will touch on the business perspective - how to build a marketplace of bio-based products and implement new technologies for waste from agriculture, food processing and many other branches of industry to extend the chain of biomass products.

The group will focus on the following priorities:

- Creating effective urban food hubs to prevent food loss;
- Promoting regenerative agriculture and agri- ecosystems, safe biofertilisers;
- Close Biowaste cycle, industrial symbiosis implementation e.g., bio-plastics, packaging, construction materials, textiles.

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Biodiversity & Climate

The current unprecedented environmental crisis is threatening our existence or our well-being and lifestyle in the mildest case. This crisis drives biodiversity loss and climate change to the top of these environmental issues, and the solution can only come through drastic societal and systemic change.

The circular economy is one of these crucial tools to tackle a fundamental root cause of these issues: our current unsustainable linear economic system. The Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate, led by IUCN, aims to help maximise the circular economy contribution to achieving the biodiversity and climate targets. By connecting key actors in the circular economy and the nature conservation and climate debates, the group aims to help identify opportunities and ways to overcome potential challenges.

In the past year, the Leadership Group has focused on shining a light on and highlighting the importance of the circular economy-biodiversity-climate nexus. This has included a series of reports published by its members, with another still upcoming, and it has included bringing the discussion to several high-level fora, including COP27 and COP15. The last annual Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference dedicated an important segment of the event to this issue.

The Leadership Group is now able to build on this solid foundation and seize the opportunity to get more concrete on specific issues and examples to accelerate the transition to a circular economy that can help us meet our fast-approaching environmental targets.

The group will focus on the following priorities in 2023:

- **Getting concrete** would entail looking further into concrete examples, case studies, and best practices to better illustrate solutions that embrace the CE-biodiversity-climate nexus. These would help support businesses, industry, and other stakeholders on the ground better understand the kind of steps they could take.
- **Focusing on key sectors, especially the bioeconomy** would entail looking into the role of biomass and the limits of the economy and furthering the understanding and uptake of a circular bioeconomy. This would also entail looking into regenerative production and contextualising that in terms of regenerative v. renewable, which would be helpful in the context of standards and standardisation, where guidance on leveraging renewable resources to meet societal needs while regenerating ecosystems is lacking. (This would involve close coordination with the LG on food and bioeconomy, and other experts in the field.)
- **Further engaging the biodiversity and climate communities** would bring the CE discussion to NGOs/grassroots organisations working on environmental action, less familiar with the CE.
- **Engaging with the international dimension** would involve capitalising on recent developments, such as the new GBF, and engaging more closely with GACERE.
- **Promoting policy coherence** would entail a focus on CE policy, but it would also seek to align the LG work with crucial (upcoming) environmental policies, such as the Nature Restoration Law, as well as crucial sectoral policies linking to the bioeconomy, such as the RED, the Sustainable Food Systems Framework Initiative, and the current/future CAP (among others).

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Built Environment

Considering the significant environmental footprint of the sector, the EU's 2050 carbon neutrality goals will not be achievable without a sustainable and circular built environment. If we account for all direct and indirect emissions during both construction and usage phases, buildings alone cause +35% of EU emissions and +40% of its primary energy consumption. Additionally, 15% of building materials are currently wasted in construction, causing additional emissions. Environmental policies have traditionally aimed at enhancing energy efficiency and renewable energies in the use phase of buildings while neglecting material efficiency in construction. This focus, however, fails to tackle the considerable emissions associated with the materials and construction processes. Referred to as 'embodied carbon', the latter is indeed estimated to be responsible for a minimum of 10-20% of the construction-related emissions within the EU, representing a real challenge for decarbonisation in the built environment.

Circular Flanders will take over the lead in this LG from the 1st of July 2023, and a meeting with the members will be organised in that week to gather the ideas and suggestions for a circular talk and possible other outputs. As a preparation for this meeting, all members are asked to send recent publications and new relevant EU projects on this topic to build upon existing knowledge and insights. Starting from that overview, the recommendations given in those reports and projects will be connected to the priorities of this LG. The next step is to implement the most relevant recommendations or take the first steps to get there. One step might be that we need other/extra stakeholders to reach those goals.

Priorities:

- **Integrate circularity in existing or upcoming legislation.** Check opportunities to integrate circular aspects in the existing or upcoming legislation, i.e. EU Renovation Wave, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), EU's Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment, the revision of the Construction Products Regulation, the revisions of the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), the new Emission Trading System (ETS). The revision of the Waste Framework Directive is expected to impact EU recycling and reuse practices for construction waste. A concrete action could be to strive for more specific targets on building and demolition waste (e.g. different targets for stony and non-stony materials or stimulation of reused materials in public procurement...).
- **Standardisation of material and building passports all over the EU.** After the work on « Digital Building Logbooks », the next step is to create standards so the passports can be used in all countries and for all products. The environmental impact should be clear for all and throughout the whole lifecycle. The availability of accurate data is an important initial step for the circular transition. In this LG, we should also look at new opportunities like AI for reverse logistics challenges.
- In relation with the first priority, the **link between climate change and circular construction should become obvious.** By helping local, regional and national authorities integrate circular strategies in their climate action plans, we can upscale circular principles and stimulate the transition to a circular economy. Since the impact of the construction sector on climate change is so big, the strategies to reduce this impact will bring short-term and long-term effects on climate action goals.

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Circular procurement

The European Commission mentioned in the Circular Economy Action Plan *that public authorities' purchasing power represents 14% of the EU GDP, which can serve as a powerful driver of the demand for sustainable products. To tap into this potential, the Commission will propose minimum mandatory Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria and targets in sectoral legislation and phase in compulsory reporting to monitor the uptake of Green Public Procurement (GPP) without creating an unjustified administrative burden for public procurers. Furthermore, the Commission will continue supporting capacity building with guidance, training and disseminating good practices.* Not only public procurers have a significant impact, so this leadership group will not limit its initiatives to public authorities. Integrating circular procurement ambitions and strategies in public or private tenders are crucial to achieving the circular economy transition.

The impact can increase enormously by connecting national and European policymakers and business representatives and linking them with EU circular procurement projects coordinators. **New insights from both policies as business experiences will enable this group to recommend European policy frameworks**, such as, e.g. the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, the updated EU Consumer Rules and the Right to Repair, the new Waste Framework directive, etc., and specific initiatives on textiles or construction.

This leadership group aims to scale up the insights and results from all relevant EU projects and help implement the recommendations from those experiments. Only by building on the lessons learned can a large-scale transition be achieved.

This leadership group will delve deeper into those topics and link them to the other leadership groups and European legislation.

- **Link social and circular economy principles in procurement, and not see them as competing.** The social and environmental impact of the European transition to a circular economy is often left behind in policymakers' discussions. As a LG, we want to look at the broader, global scale of impacts, benefits and risks, in link with the LG on international circular diplomacy.
- **Stimulate mandatory circular** (starting from GPP) criteria to support innovation in the market and to take away the risk of the individual procurer. We aim to support the work of the EC's GPP Helpdesk and initiate a discussion within member states and contracting organizations to create the will to implement the objectives of CEAP. Through cross-fertilization on examples, publications, upcoming events between the group and the GPP Helpdesk, optimal information sharing and alignment is obtained. Bottlenecks are brought to the surface and existing examples are used to guide policy makers and private procurers.
- **Link with other Leadership groups and initiatives** so criteria or strategies for circular procurement can be translated to specific sectors. The biggest challenge for a huge topic as the circular economy is breaking down silos and getting people interested in topics, they think are far from their domain. To make circular procurement mainstream, it has to be clear how to implement the strategies for each product group (textile, construction, electronics...). But also links with the LG on Climate, economic incentives, cities and regions could bring different stakeholders together via a shared circular talk or a combined communication initiative (article, social media post, ...)

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Cities & regions

Local and regional areas are key levels to launch and implement systemic changes that are needed for the transition to a circular economy. Being a level of governance that is close to citizens, city authorities have a strong potential to support and influence the development of circular economy business models on their territory. On the other hand, goods are mostly produced outside of cities, in regions where synergies and symbiosis can be created both for food and industries. Interaction and mutual influence of cities and regions is therefore key. The specific focus of this ECESP Leadership Group is the territorial approach to circular economy transition at local and regional level, therefore cities, villages and the interaction with regional areas. Participants to LG activities will meet with other participants, experts and various stakeholders to exchange knowledge and practices.

The main objective of these activities is to help the participants to develop and implement circular economy solutions within their territory and to learn from the experience. The Cities & Regions leadership group addresses macro themes which can be seen as enabling factors for circular transition in territories. The territorial approach of the LG will look at those themes highlighting cross-cutting entry points that will facilitate a solution-oriented mutual exchange, such as: governance, enabling the development of efficient strategies and facilitating the involvement of the various kinds of stakeholders; *indicators and monitoring frameworks* for the transition at territorial level, from resource and environment, economic and social perspectives; testing, replication and upscaling of circular practices at territorial level through legal and *economic instruments*.

Through these cross-cutting entry points, this LG will allow to exchange practices, ideas and experiences of cities and regions designing and implementing circular systemic solutions. It will particularly focus on:

- Local policies for sustainable and resilient food systems: addressing food, food losses and food waste in an attempt to make food systems fairer, healthier, and carbon-neutral. Food production, consumption, and waste and their connection with environmental challenges like soil, air and water quality, biodiversity loss, resources scarcity and climate change;
- Urban and regional circular systemic solutions on plastics and textiles: exchange of expertise and knowledge on local practices and strategies for which plastic and textile waste reduction was monitored and documented;
- Monitoring the impact of policy, legal and economic instruments on production and consumption, waste management, secondary raw materials, innovation. How cities follow up the implementation of policy instruments and which data they collect to assess results.

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Economic Steering Instrument

Economic incentives take different forms. They can be tax-based, market-based (EU Emissions Trading System) and a mix of both (Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes). They aim at levelling the playing field by rewarding the environmental benefits, be it in terms of resource efficiency, climate neutrality, energy savings, etc., that the circular activities bring. Unfortunately, economic incentives are not sufficiently used by policymakers.

Thus, it is essential to explain their importance in transitioning towards a circular & climate-neutral economy.

After completing the first paper on green taxation, the work focuses on EPR Schemes. In 2023 the Group will focus on the following:

- Green taxation: further raising awareness to factor in the environmental benefits of circular activities and level the playing field with linear ones;
- Paper on how EPR Schemes could, when needed, boost circularity
- Circular Talks on Economic Incentives with an angle to be defined.

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Critical Raw Materials in a Circular Economy

The main objective of this LG will be to facilitate relevant input from its members to different Commission Services (DG Grow, DG RTD, DG Env, JRC) to support efficient implementation of various European Initiatives linked to Critical Raw Materials (CRMs), for example, the Critical Raw Materials Act, EU Green Deal, Horizon Europe, etc.

While all raw materials are essential for the functioning of the European economy, some are more concerned than others regarding secure and sustainable supply. The list of critical raw materials (CRMs) for the EU and the underlying European Commission (EC) criticality assessment methodology are key instruments in the EU raw materials policy context. CRMs are both of high economic importance for the EU and have an increased risk of supply disruption. Examples of CRMs include rare earth elements, cobalt and niobium. Following the publication of the draft CRM Act, this leadership group will provide access to a network of experts concerning circular economy aspects, for example, the service-life extension of products and components containing CRMs, collection and recovery of such products to meet the proposed 15% recycling rate, circular design, consumption reduction, etc.

The group will focus on the following priorities:

- Circular Economy talks
- Small discussion forums between Commission Services and the CRMs LG
- Coordinating activities relevant to CRMs by stakeholder members

2023 GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Coordination Group activities in 2023

The Coordination Group members represent a large spectrum of organisations with a pan-European reach. Thanks to their activities and those of the respective organisations, the members show concretely how synergies can accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The group can rely on each other's expertise to enrich the debate and contribute to the priorities of their organisations.

ORGANISATIONS & PRIORITIES

The organisation started a strategic partnership with Energy Cities. In their role as CG member, it will focus on three priorities:

- **Sustainability of packaging and plastics:** understanding how local authorities can reach the new packaging waste directive target and how it will affect streams and the waste management in cities and regions.
- **Sustainable built environment** with a realistic focus on the reduction of new buildings' environmental impact. Working together with Energy Cities on circular districts to create circular value chains and their links with the urban economy.
- **Local priorities for sustainable and resilient food systems:** how cities and regions can work on food waste prevention and biowaste.

ACR+



The organisation will mainly focus on the Western Balkans Regions. The priorities are:

- **Circular diplomacy** with a focus on network governance initiatives and trade missions. For the WBR, Circular Change will focus on circular transmissions
- Consultancy and working on **roadmaps and strategies**
- **Education**
- **New narrative**



CIRCULAR
CHANGE

COPA-COGECA



Wishes to create a link between the European Commission's Food **Waste Platform** and the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.

Continue to promote the **Council conclusions on the bioeconomy** post Stockholm.

ORGANISATIONS & PRIORITIES

- On **Bioeconomy**, CSCP is working on **alternative proteins, sludges** and algae.
- **Biodiversity and climate**; how to support business to be **bio positive** and biodiverse. It also looks into digitalisation and how **artificial intelligence** supports the data digging in Biodiversity.
- **Circular procurement**, CSCP is helping five cities identify what circular procurement means for them.
- **Circular tourism**



CSCP

The European Agency will continue working on **textiles and plastics** but also on **food waste**.

EEA



Another priority is the **circularity metrics lab** where they look into new ways of measuring the transition to the circular economy in Europe. The lab is complementary to the Commission's CE monitoring framework with a focus on the inner circles

The last priority is an assessment on the **state and outlook of the circular economy in Europe**.

- Circularity hub for SMEs
- Tax shift
- Ambitious implementation of the European Green Deal
- The European elections



ECOPRENEUR

EIT



- EU policies
- Economic incentives

The main priority is to raise awareness about the importance of economic incentives, be them market-based or fiscal-based, in order to reward environmental benefits of sustainable activities, throughout the value chain and level the playing with linear activities, which economically are often more profitable as plenty of statistics prove (see for instance : <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20221213-1>)

There is also a strong commitment of EuRIC to keep working on textiles & critical raw materials.



EURIC

SMEUNITED



The focus is on the Green Deal legislation especially on Eco-design and all the connected processes and a focus on repair. Packaging and food waste from a sectoral perspective.

In the context of the European Year of Skills, the organisation will also look into green and circular skills.

ORGANISATIONS & PRIORITIES

A lot of focus on the implementation of the Green Deal. The first big area is the Sustainability of Packaging and Products namely Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation proposal, Packaging and packaging waste regulation, etc.

The organisation also focuses on sustainable food systems, implementation of the Food to Fork strategy and food waste issue and reduction targets as part of the revision of the Waste Framework Directive.

Lastly, reporting and sustainable finance is gaining momentum, so with the corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive EuroCommerce will look at its implementation and standards.

EUROCOMMERCE

GENERATION CLIMATE EUROPE

For Generation Climate Europe, the general priority is to focus on production and skills. The organisation wants to create more synergies between the Textile Strategy and the EU Year of Skills with a focus on the entrepreneurs' perspective to identify challenges and successes from entrepreneurs active in the textile sector.

Another priority is the critical raw materials where it wants to focus on the synergy with the right to repair.

Lastly, on bioeconomy, GCE wants to focus on waste food waste from a production perspective.

Holland Circular Hotspot put the co-chairmanship of the Platform as one of its top priorities. The organisation will contribute to circular diplomacy and CE internationalisation, combining its presence to international events to promote the role of ambassador of the Platform. They will also contribute to the CRM LG as part of their ongoing work on circular batteries.

It will give a particular focus to circular hubs.

HOLLAND CIRCULAR HOTSPOT

For ICLEI the priorities are:

- The EU City Loops project for which it will publish the results of pilots in seven cities.
- Two new EC projects focused on Product Development Assistance (PDA) where ICLEI will select circular economy projects and match them up with investors
- Pilot cities to foster industrial urban symbiosis transformation and turning cities into hubs for circularity.
- Stimulating demand through sustainable energy skills through circularity making the link between reskilling and circularity
- ICLEI is working on several circular procurement relevant projects. ICLEI will continue to collaborate with the ECESP Leadership Group on Circular Procurement to join the dots and find potential synergies between the relevant projects (CityLoops, Bus Go Circular, the European Commission's GPP helpdesk, the Procura+ Circular Procurement Interest Group, Organisation of workshops in the 27 Member States to develop a dialogue on the use of strategic public procurement (green, social and innovation) etc...).
- ICLEI manages the European Commission's GPP Helpdesk. Should ECESP members have good examples of circular public procurement practices (tenders with circular criteria), reports, projects or initiatives, ICLEI can disseminate these through the GPP news alert.

**ICLEI**

Wants to focus on one specific project, the LifeWaste2Build conducted by Toulouse Metropolis. The aim is to develop the circular economy in the construction sector on a local scale. On this project INEC has three priorities;

INEC

- Show the construction sector how to reduce the impact of construction on resources and waste production
- Implement more circular purchasing policies
- Support the development of the construction sector skills

FINNOWO's main priority is the organisation of the Circular Week. The organisation also will also focus a new international project on developing circularity in the building sector in Poland, Czechia and Slovenia using best practices from Germany.

Another priority is the Nymphaea project dedicated to the bioremediation of polluted environments where INNOWO will develop new effective bioremediation strategies.

**INNOWO**

The last project is Circular First Aid which consists of a series of webinars dedicated to deposit return systems where INNOWO wants to familiarise Polish decision makers on the best solutions for Poland.

IUCN

Through the LG on Biodiversity and Climate, IUCN aims to help strengthen the linkages between circular economy and biodiversity policy in the EU, in particular for key (upcoming) policies such as (inter alia) the Nature Restoration Law, Sustainable Food Systems Framework, and the next Common Agricultural Policy.

Furthermore, leaning on IUCN's network and engagement in global discussions on biodiversity and nature conservation, IUCN aims to better connect the EU and global discussions on the circular economy and biodiversity nexus.

Circular Flanders is a partnership of governments, companies, civil society, and the knowledge community that will take action together. To scale-up and mainstream the circular transition a priority was set on 6 strategic agendas, linked to the priorities that Europe puts forward in the Green Deal: circular construction, chemicals and plastics, water cycles, biobased economy, food chain, manufacturing (textiles, furniture, electronics, batteries, etc.). Each strategic agenda is a partnership in itself and is assigned a public and a private lead. They get support from 7 transversal working groups on following levers: financing, communication, research, jobs and skills, circular procurement, innovation and entrepreneurship and policy instruments.



**CIRCULAR
FLANDERS
(INITIATED BY THE
OVAM)**

Goal of this approach is to minimise the material footprint with 30% in 2030.

**REDISCOVERY
CENTRE**



One of Rediscovery Centre's priority is on Communication for Citizens Engagement and Behaviour change. It also has completed its strategic plan until 2026. Key goals focus around education, demonstration, advocacy and collaboration for the transition to a circular economy.

RREUSE's top priorities for this year are:

- EU year of skills, the organisation wants to engage with that. It kicks started the year with the publication of a study on skills in the circular economy. The study is based on 18 interviews with social enterprises active in the circular economy.
- Eu Textile Strategy with a special focus on EPR which is linked to RREUSE's last priority
- The revision of the Waste Framework Directive

**RREUSE****SITRA**

One of SITRA's priorities is the World Circular Economy Forum. The organisation will also focus on nature.

Supporting INNOWO within the Bioeconomy Leadership Group activities and priorities regarding knowledge and projects working on preventing and monitoring food loss, expertise on regenerative agriculture and bio-fertilisers, and facilitation industrial symbiosis through governance. We are also interested in the development of transversal communication material through Podcasts and/or a series of TedTalks jointly with other coordination group' organisations. We would also prioritise creating synergies among groups, projects, initiatives, institutions... within the Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy (ISE) mission governance project (2023-2029). This mission works to boost a just transition towards a more innovative economy for a smarter and greener Mediterranean and therefore, it is key to facilitate alliances between Northern Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries. The mission's governance relies on the know-how and field implementation of the Thematic Community project along with the policy and advocacy knowledge and alignment of the Institutional Dialogue project. The mission will focus on promoting cross-border cooperation and knowledge sharing between different stakeholders and with the support of the Union for the Mediterranean through different activities such as mapping of potential target groups; ISE Community Hub; Transformative Policy Labs; MED innovation events; contribution to Interreg Euro-MED Academy; and joint advocacy material. These actions will rely on a 7 years of consolidated methodology and long-term committed impact.



**INTERREG EURO-
MED
INNOVATIVE
SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMY (BETA
TECHNOLOGICAL
CENTER)**

Some members called for more synergies in the organisation of their events. These initiatives will see the collaboration of one or several Coordination Group members to foster the debate, act as ambassadors and promote interaction among stakeholders:

Organisation	Foster the debate	Act as ambassador	Promote interaction among stakeholders
<i>Copa-Cogeca</i>	Seminar to promote the Council Conclusions on Bioeconomy		Food waste platform
<i>INNOWO</i>	Circular Week		
<i>Circular Change/HCH</i>		Circular Diplomacy	
<i>INEC</i>	Life2Waste		
<i>SITRA/IUCN/EEA</i>	Green week		Green week
<i>SITRA</i>	WCEF		WCEF

Timeline

Event	Timeline	Lead organisation
#EUCircularTalks on Food packaging	21 April 2023	Circular Change
#EUCircularTalks on the right to repair	27 April 2023	EIT Raw Materials
Consumer Electronics Retail - facilitating the green and digital transition	27 April 2023	EuroCommerce
HOOP/DECISIO workshop on Financing local CE initiatives	10 May 2023	ACR+
WCEF online side event on the difficult-to-recycle products within municipal waste	11 May 2023	EEA
ACR+ General Assembly	31 May - 01 June 2023	ACR+
Internal discussion about the European Commission's Proposal on Food Waste	June 2023	Copa-Cogeca
#EUCircularTalks on Urban Food Hubs	June 2023	INNOWO (LG)
Launch EEA publication on circular economy means for biodiversity	Q2/2023	EEA
Swedish Presidency - Council Conclusions on Bioeconomy Seminar	Q2/2023	Copa-Cogeca
Event on Green Skills at EU Green Week 2023	5 June 2023	EuroCommerce
#EUCircularTalks on Biodiversity and Climate (WCEF side event)	June 2023	EEA/IUCN (LG)
#EUCircularTalks on Regenerative Agriculture – best practice	September 2023	INNOWO (LG)

#EUCircularTalks on sustainable packaging and plastics	Q3/2023	ACR+ (LG)
#EUCircularTalks on Circular procurement	Q3/2023	Circular Flanders/OVAM
Side event at the World Food Forum	October 2023	Generation Climate Europe
Circular Week	23-27 October 2023	INNOWO
Bioeconomy Forum	24 October	INNOWO
Retail and Wholesale conference with award ceremony and exhibition	27-28 November 2023	EuroCommerce
Updated report on Deposit Refund Systems in the EU	Q4/2023	ACR+
#EUCircularTalks on Sustainable built environment (with OVAM)	Q4/2023 - TBC	ACR+ (LG)
#EUCircularTalks on sustainable and resilient food systems (with INNOWO)	Q4/2023 - TBC	ACR+ (LG)
Three #EUCircularTalks on CRMs topics	TBD	EIT Raw Materials (LG)
Two discussion forums with EC	TBD	EIT Raw Materials (LG)
#EUCircularTalks on Textile	TBD	RREUSE (LG)
#EUCircularTalks on citizen engagement & circular behaviour	TBD	CSCP & Rediscovery Centre (LG)
Collection of success factors of citizen engagement initiative	TBD	CSCP & Rediscovery Centre (LG)
A map of centres, spaces and expertise across Europe engaging people with the circular Economy	TBD	CSCP & Rediscovery Centre (LG)

Prototype of a European network to engage people with the circular economy	TBD	CSCP & Rediscovery Centre (LG)
#EUCircularTalks on economic incentives	TBD	EuRIC
Capacity building programme on the circular economy for authorities in the Western Balkan countries	Early 2024	EEA