

IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE TERRITORIAL AGENDA 2030

Thinking Circular, Acting Local

*How Companies Drive Change
in Rural Regions*

Publication of the pilot action
Circular Rural Regions



Federal Ministry
for Housing, Urban Development
and Building

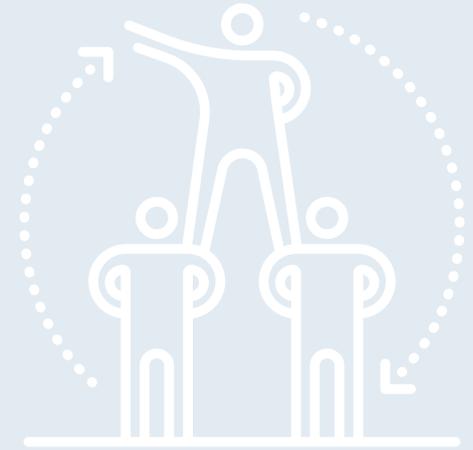


Circular
Rural Regions



#TA2030
PILOT ACTIONS

Thinking Circular, Acting Local *How Companies Drive Change in Rural Regions*



Businesses are key drivers of regional transformation. Support from public authorities and cooperation with research institutions, local administrations and networks are essential to overcome existing barriers and unlock the potential of the circular economy.

This online publication illustrates how companies in rural regions can drive the transition towards a circular economy. It marks the first part of a four-part publication series within the pilot action *Circular Rural Regions*, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB).

Drawing on examples from German and European model regions, it highlights how local enterprises implement circular business models, what opportunities arise for regional value creation and resilience, and which policy and governance frameworks can foster this transformation.

The findings show that the circular economy is not only an ecological necessity but also a strategic pathway towards sustainable and resilient regional development.

Contents

Lead

Circular Economy as a Regional Task.....4

Chapter 1

Circular Economy in Rural Regions: The Pilot Action *Circular Rural Regions*5

Chapter 2

Businesses as Drivers of the Circular Economy in Rural Regions7

Chapter 3

Challenges in Implementing Circular Business Models 11

Chapter 4

From Challenges to Opportunities: Embedding the Circular Economy
at the Regional Level 13

Chapter 5

Outlook..... 17

References 18

Imprint..... 19

Circular Economy as a Regional Task: Businesses as Drivers of Transformation

The circular economy holds enormous potential for rural regions—from sustainable innovation and regional value creation to resource-efficient business models. The pilot action “Circular Rural Regions” demonstrates how the circular economy can be put into practice: regions, businesses, public administrations and research institutions work together to create new economic opportunities, use resources efficiently and initiate transformation.

This publication shows how businesses, in particular, act as key drivers of this transformation, highlights practical examples proving that circular economy approaches can already be both profitable and locally effective, and outlines the challenges that must be overcome on the path towards a circular future. The circular economy is not an abstract concept, but a living process that begins locally—and one that every region can help to shape.



Circular Economy in Rural Regions: The Pilot Action Circular Rural Regions

The pilot action “Circular Rural Regions” explores how rural areas can be strengthened through circular approaches, using a range of practical examples. As part of the Territorial Agenda 2030 and contributing to the implementation of the National Circular Economy Strategy (NKWS), the project connects regions, businesses, public administrations and research institutions to jointly establish regional circular systems. Circular economy means making the best possible use of raw materials and resources—keeping them in use for as long as possible through sharing, re-use, repair, refurbishment and recycling. The aim of the initiative is to enable knowledge transfer, provide practical impulses and foster regional transformation.

The pilot action supports, accompanies and studies the model regions of Bergstraße, Chiemgau and Berchtesgadener Land, Goslar, Lüchow-Dannenberg and Mittelsachsen. Insights are also drawn from the European partner regions Fribourg (Switzerland), Međimurje (Croatia), North Karelia (Finland), Pärnu (Estonia) and Pillerseetal-Leukental-Leogang (short: regio³) (Austria), which already have experience in developing regional circular economies. The cooperation between German and European regions facilitates cross-regional learning processes and the exchange of proven methods.

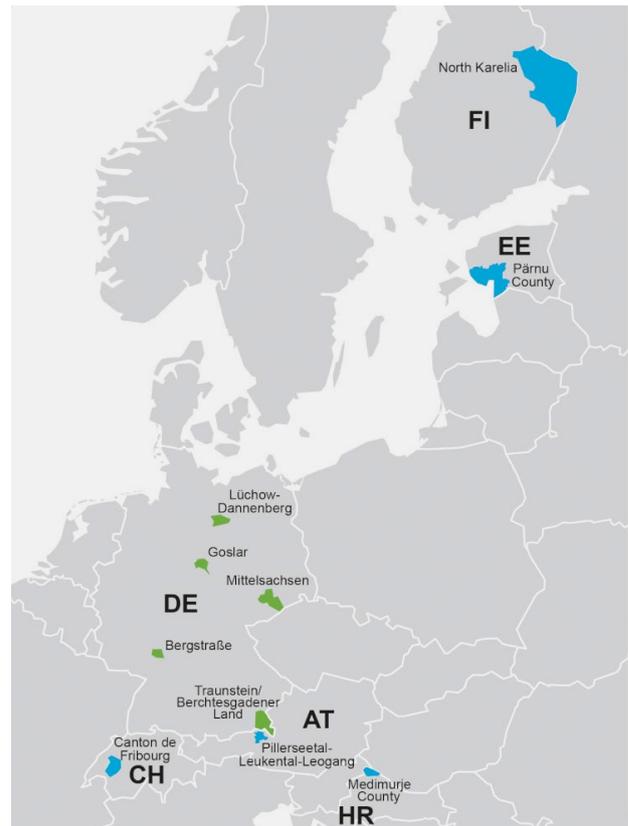


Figure 1: Map of the ten regions involved in the project; German regions shown in green, European regions in blue



INFO BOX

Pilot Action “Circular Rural Regions”

The project (duration: 2023–2027) is implemented by the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB) and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). It forms part of the implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2030¹ and is funded under the “Shaping Regions” programme.

Objectives

- Strengthen circular approaches in rural regions
- Establish circular economy as a regional field of action
- Promote cooperation and knowledge exchange among model regions in Germany and Europe
- Provide impulses for the regional implementation of the National Circular Economy Strategy

Target groups: Rural regions

- Actors in regional development: districts, municipal and regional administrations, business development agencies
- Private and municipal enterprises, business networks
- Citizens and civil society initiatives
- Education and research institutions

More information:

➤ [BBSR—Project page](#)

This publication marks the beginning of a new series: each edition focuses on one of the four key stakeholder groups involved in building and implementing a regional circular economy (see Figure 2).

The focus of this first issue is on the regional economy; subsequent editions will highlight the perspectives of civil society, public administration and policy, and research. The online publications offer practical examples, inspiration and impulses for action.

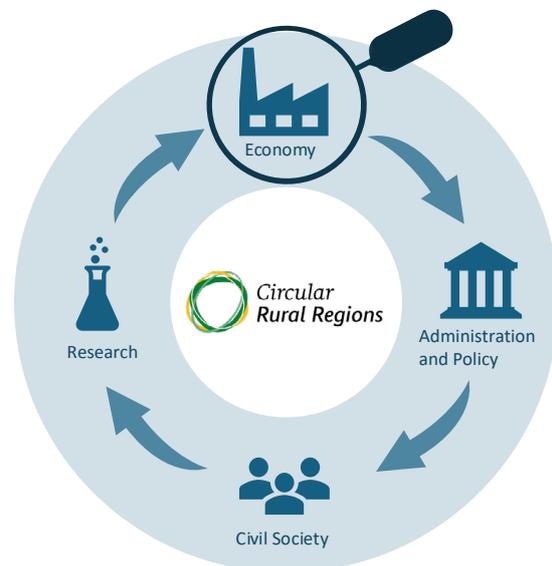


Figure 2: The four key stakeholder groups of the project—here with a focus on the economy

“The circular economy holds enormous potential for regional value creation. Districts and economic development agencies can unlock this potential by connecting stakeholders and treating circular economy as a regional task—a crucial step towards the sustainable transformation of rural economies and societies.”

Sina Redlich, Project Manager, BBSR

1 The Territorial Agenda 2030 is the shared strategy of the European states and institutions for balanced and sustainable spatial development—focusing on urban–rural cooperation and place-based solutions.

Businesses as Drivers of the Circular Economy in Rural Regions

Regional businesses form the backbone of rural areas—economically, socially and culturally. Their importance is evident in many ways: they create local jobs, maintain value chains and help prevent migration to urban centres. According to the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Development (BMLEH), rural regions generate almost half of Germany’s gross value added, with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) playing a particularly vital role. This SME-based economic structure contributes to lower unemployment rates than in urban areas and provides strong regional resilience in times of crisis (cf. BMEL, 2024). Many of these enterprises are so-called “hidden champions”—internationally successful yet firmly rooted in their home regions. They therefore make a key contribution to the economic stability of rural areas and strengthen their competitiveness both nationally and internationally (cf. BBSR, 2019).

The role of businesses in rural regions extends far beyond economic indicators. They are driving forces of the energy transition: many rural companies are involved in community energy projects (cf. BBSR, 2019) and act as pioneers in converting to climate-neutral production and mobility (cf. DBU, 2025). Moreover, they advance innovation in sustainability, digitalisation and resource efficiency. In doing so, businesses play a central role in strengthening the resilience of rural regions against crises such as climate change, resource scarcity or

shortages of skilled labour (cf. BBSR, 2022; DIHK, 2022). Their innovative capacity is reflected not only in technological solutions but also in the adaptation of business models to changing conditions.

QUOTE FROM THE CIRCULAR RURAL REGION OF MITTELSACHSEN

“Our small and medium-sized enterprises are the heart of regional transformation. Without their innovative strength, the circular economy remains just an idea.”

Kerstin Kunze, Head of Economic Development and District Planning, District of Mittelsachsen

At the same time, all businesses are facing increasing pressure: global supply chains are fragile, the costs of raw materials and energy continue to rise, and competition for skilled labour is intensifying. To meet these challenges, new approaches to strengthening regional value creation are essential. The circular economy offers tangible solutions—both ecological and economic. Studies show that circular business models not only conserve resources but also open up new sources of revenue, reduce costs and enhance the resilience of enterprises in times of crisis (cf. Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences, 2021; European Environment Agency, 2022).

Direct exchanges with businesses, public administrations and research institutions within the pilot action “Circular Rural Regions” have confirmed these findings. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises possess the proximity to resources, networks and communities needed to successfully test circular models. Core principles such as reducing, reusing and recycling can be practically integrated into business models like product-service systems, combined repair services, sharing platforms or innovative approaches in the construction sector. Digital technologies can act as key drivers for developing and scaling circular business models (cf. acatech / Circular Economy Initiative Germany / SYSTEMIQ, 2021b).

Practical examples illustrate the potential of circular business models—the region of Mittelsachsen provides a clear demonstration of this: here, local companies have developed new business models using digital technologies (see info box “Model Region Mittelsachsen: Example—Vending Machines”) or adapted existing ones to use materials more efficiently and reduce transport distances (see info box “Model Region Mittelsachsen: Example—Wooden Toys and Wood Technology”).

In the Chiemgau/Berchtesgadener Land region, companies are being deliberately integrated into resource networks to keep materials circulating within the region. These initiatives show how cooperation between businesses, educational institutions and local initiatives can enable tangible circular models while simultaneously strengthening regional value creation.



MODEL REGION MITTELSACHSEN

Practical Example—Vending Machines

Brief Description

The company “NAF—New Age of Food” operates modern catering vending machines offering freshly prepared, sustainable meals. The machines are stocked with locally produced food and help to strengthen regional value creation while closing supply gaps, for example in schools, workplaces, or on the go.

Key Features

- Collaboration with local catering and food partners
- Focus on fresh, regional products rather than standardised vending machine fare
- AI-supported stocking and demand adjustment

Circular Economy & Sustainability

- Reduced transport distances
- Reusable tableware
- Minimisation of food waste through demand-driven stocking

More Information:

↗ vendinaf.com/en

“To succeed with new circular products or services, it is crucial to design them so that it is as easy and convenient as possible for consumers to use them.”

Odette Lamkhizni, CEO, NAF New Age of Food UG



MODEL REGION MITTELSACHSEN

Practical Example—Wooden Toys and Wood Technology

Brief Description

Rülke GmbH is a family-run company from the Erzgebirge region, producing wooden toys, home accessories, and technical wooden components since 1887. The company is committed to combining traditional craftsmanship with modern technology and sustainable practices. Its wooden products are distinguished by their high durability and long lifespan.

Circular Economy & Sustainability

- Use of wood from sustainable forestry
- Focus on longevity, reparability, and high material quality
- Optimisation of material and process efficiency, as well as reduction of offcuts through modern manufacturing technologies

More Information (German):

➔ [ruelke-gmbh.de](https://www.ruelke-gmbh.de)

“Circular economy is nothing new, and the basic concept has long been applied in business; it is only today—due to climate change and resource scarcity—that it is being reimagined.”

Björn Rülke, Managing Director, Rülke GmbH

A key outcome of the exchange with companies is this: the motivation for change must come from within the businesses themselves. However, it should be supported by short decision-making processes, stable networks, and targeted funding programmes. Family-run companies and strong regional ties provide favourable conditions for transformation — they possess specific innovation strategies that are based on trust and participation (cf. Fraunhofer CeRRI, 2023) and often have long-term planning horizons.

This makes it clear: regional companies are the driving force behind the circular economy in rural areas. They combine economic opportunities with sustainable solutions, contribute to the region’s innovative capacity, and demonstrate how transformation can be successfully achieved at the local level. By combining practical implementation, local knowledge, and strategic support, they can provide key momentum for a more circular and resilient regional economy.

For companies looking to enter circular business models, there are numerous publications and tools available. In the info box “Practical Tools and Guides for SMEs”, we present some of these options. This selection is based on applicability, content quality, and the relevance of the supporting institutions, and does not claim to be exhaustive.



Figure 3: Wooden toy manufacturer Rülke in action—Partner meeting in Freiberg, Mittelsachsen.



INFO BOX

Getting Started with Circular Business Models

Practical tools help small and medium-sized enterprises to assess their current situation, plan concrete measures, and structure their entry into the circular economy in an organised way:

Strategy Game “Make it Circular!” acatech/WWF

An industry-independent strategy game designed to introduce medium-sized enterprises to circular business models in a playful way. The game helps uncover the potential of the circular economy for one’s own business practice, while the accompanying workshop concept enables participants to develop their own workshops on business model innovation.

➤ wwf.de

“Circular Economy Compass” Circular Economy Forum Austria, Ressourcen Forum Austria, TU Wien

An online self-assessment for the circular maturity of SMEs (focus sector: manufacturing) based on a comprehensive questionnaire. It walks users step by step through the key areas of the circular economy and provides concrete business recommendations for action – tailored to the improvement potentials identified by the questionnaire.

➤ kompasskreislaufwirtschaft.at

More comprehensive publications allow for a deeper exploration of circular business models, barriers, and selected best practices:

Report “Circular Business Models” acatech / Circular Economy Initiative Germany / SYSTEMIQ

The comprehensive report describes, among other things, 22 actor-specific circular business models (pp. 22–38; overview on p. 35) and identifies six business management levers that companies can use to implement circular business practices (pp. 108–109). In addition, the appendix includes business model patterns for various sectors, products, and services that can serve as sources of inspiration (pp. 115–137).

➤ acatech.de

Strategy Guide – Circular Economy WWF & UN Global Compact Network

The guide sets out key approaches to circularity within companies and explains, step by step, how an impact-oriented circular economy strategy can be developed in an organisation. It also presents numerous methods and tools, along with practical examples.

➤ globalcompact.de

Challenges in Implementing Circular Business Models

The introduction of circular business models in rural regions is a complex process that offers numerous opportunities but also presents companies with specific challenges. Findings from studies show:

The implementation of circular business models confronts companies with a variety of business-related challenges. From a technological perspective, many products are not designed for reuse or recycling. Materials are often difficult to separate, and new, sustainable materials tend to be either expensive or not yet technically mature. Integrating take-back and repair processes also requires new logistics systems and digital solutions.

From an economic standpoint, the transition involves considerable investment, for instance in new machinery, training, or IT systems. At the same time, the financial benefits of circular models are difficult to calculate, as many markets are still immature and secondary raw materials are often no cheaper than conventional alternatives. Moreover, awareness of circular solutions among customers and business partners is often limited, which further hampers the introduction of new business models (cf. sanu, 2024). These uncertainties discourage many companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

Another obstacle is the lack of expertise and skilled professionals. Many executives are only superficially familiar with the principles of the circular economy, and experts in sustainable design or circular logistics are scarce. Without

targeted training, implementation often remains fragmented. In addition, there are organisational barriers: departments frequently operate in silos, which impedes the necessary collaboration. Circular approaches, however, require integrated teams and a cultural shift – away from linear thinking and towards consideration of the entire product life cycle. Implementing circular business models means adapting existing processes and structures and involving employees. Such a transformation demands time, expertise, and often substantial investment – risks that small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular, must carefully weigh (cf. Deloitte/BDI Study, 2021).

A further challenge is the lack of cooperation with external partners. Circular business models do not function in isolation but depend on close collaboration with suppliers, recycling companies, and service providers. There is a shortage of digital platforms and standards for tracking and ensuring the quality of secondary raw materials, as well as cross-industry networks for exchange (cf. acatech / Circular Economy Initiative Germany / SYSTEMIQ (eds.), 2021a).

Finally, the political and regulatory framework conditions are still insufficiently adapted. Many laws remain oriented towards the linear model, such as those relating to product liability or tax law. Conflicts of objectives between environmental regulations and product safety further complicate implementation. The Federation of German Industries (BDI) also criticises that support instruments are not yet adequately tailored to the needs of

Chapter 3

small and medium-sized enterprises (cf. Deloitte/ BDI, 2021; Fraunhofer IPK, 2023; acatech / Circular Economy Initiative Germany / SYSTEMIQ (eds.), 2021b).

Experience reports from the model regions of “Circular Rural Regions”, gathered during workshops and partner meetings, confirm this picture. For example, small enterprises in Mittelsachsen reported difficulties in financing upcycling initiatives and a lack of experience with material flow systems.

The experienced European partner regions also report similar initial challenges: in North Karelia, Finland, although there are strong educational and research institutions, the direct involvement of companies in circular processes has so far remained limited.

Financial uncertainty is likewise one of the main reasons for companies’ hesitation to adopt circular business models in the partner region of Međimurje, Croatia. Since businesses often find it difficult to calculate the expected return on investment for new business models, they tend to shy away from the required investments in new machinery or technologies needed for circular processes or products. Moreover, many smaller companies lack knowledge about available funding opportunities through national or European support programmes.

Although implementing circular business models comes with several challenges, it also offers significant potential benefits for companies. They can strengthen their resilience, reduce material costs, open up new markets, and position themselves as pioneers of a sustainable economy.

Figure 4: Kick-off event on 26 September 2024



From Challenges to Opportunities: Embedding the Circular Economy at the Regional Level

To successfully establish circular business models, it is essential to overcome technological, economic, and organisational barriers in order to create tangible opportunities for innovation and competitive advantage. Local stakeholders, such as economic development agencies, district authorities, and other administrative bodies, play a crucial role by encouraging companies to consider circular approaches and by actively supporting business-led initiatives.

Experiences from the model and partner regions demonstrate concrete measures that provide targeted support to companies in implementing circular business models. The following approaches and practical examples illustrate how networks, educational programmes, and funding measures contribute to embedding the circular economy at the regional level.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer

Regional Innovation Centres, University Collaborations, and Targeted Training Programmes, regional innovation centres, partnerships with universities, and targeted training programmes on circular economy, circular design, and life cycle analysis help close knowledge gaps and enable employees to implement circular strategies in practice (see info box “Model Region Goslar: Practical Example—Recycling Cluster in the Harz area”).



MODEL REGION GOSLAR

Practical Example—Recycling Cluster in the Harz area

The REWIMET network, comprising metal-processing companies, universities, and municipalities, recycles around 5 million tonnes of waste annually. As a regional consortium, the cluster is committed to promoting greater circular value creation.

Knowledge Transfer & Collaboration

In strategic collaboration with **TU Clausthal**, innovative metal recycling approaches are developed through workshops, transfer formats, and joint research projects. Since 2024, **Hochschule Harz** has also been a member of the network, expanding its work through research on recycling processes and the development of a Circular Region.

Goal Orientation & Impact

- Promotion of a “Circular Region Southeast Lower Saxony” through transdisciplinary approaches and coordinated value chains
- Joint development of technologies, strategies, and educational programmes for circular transformation

More Information:

About the Network (German): ↗ www.rewimet.de

About the Resource Management Symposium (German):

↗ igmr.tu-clausthal.de

“If we want to move away from linear economic practices, we need a great deal of innovation. No path is too far for us to achieve a true circular economy.”

Dr. Dirk Schöps, Cluster Manager REWIMET until 2024,
in an interview with “recovery” magazine (06/2021))

Building Networks and Knowledge Exchange

Regional networks, clusters, and networking formats facilitate the adoption of circular processes. Trust among participants is crucial for successful cooperation and innovative business models. In North Karelia, Finland, the ↗ [CIRCWASTE](#) network supports companies through consulting, workshops, and practical examples. In Fribourg, Switzerland, the start-up ↗ [lacto+](#) connects companies with universities to develop new whey protein-based products and bring them to market collaboratively. For example, dairy by-products can be efficiently used for sports nutrition or new fibre materials. The digital platform ↗ [„FriSource“](#) in the same region lists building components available for reuse, thereby facilitating their distribution and use. The platform allows universities, engineers, architects, and local companies to network, identify synergies, and leverage them. “FriSource” is a joint initiative of the Freiburg Master Builders Association, the umbrella organisation for the construction and planning industry in the canton of Fribourg “**Bauen Freiburg**”, and the University of Applied Sciences of Technology and Architecture.

Education and Awareness

Workshops, training sessions, and informational offerings increase knowledge about the circular economy and strengthen acceptance among companies, partners, and customers. In the Lüchow-Dannenberg model region, schools and local initiatives collaborate with small businesses to advance educational projects and upcycling activities.

In Pärnu County, Estonia, projects such as ↗ [BioBoosters](#) connect companies with universities and start-ups to develop new business models and use resources efficiently. The project is coordinated by the Pärnu County Development Centre and acts as a regional driver for sustainable innovation in western Estonia. It supports companies in bringing



MODEL REGION CHIEMGAU/ BERCHTESGADENER LAND

Practical Example—Circular Talks

Brief Description

The economic development agency of the model region offers facilitated exchange formats between companies, administration, and research on practical approaches to the circular economy.

Circular Economy Aspects & Sustainability

Companies collaboratively develop concrete ideas — ranging from material savings to the regional reuse of by-products.

Goal Orientation & Impact

- Reducing barriers to entry
- Strengthening regional networks and promoting joint pilot projects

More Information (German):

↗ [Circular Talks im Chiemgau/Berchtesgadener Land](#)

“The Circular Talks show that the first step into the circular economy often begins with conversation — when entrepreneurs share their experiences and learn from one another.”

Rosanna Haider, Project Manager, Model Region Chiemgau



Figure 5: Circular economy simulation at the Rundlingsmuseum, Lüchow-Dannenberg model region.

Chapter 4

bio-based solutions to market more quickly, thereby strengthening the regional circular economy.

Coordination and Support

Local contact points, economic development agencies, and municipal coordinators facilitate access to funding, consulting, and pilot projects.

In the regio3 model region in Austria, wood-processing and insulation material companies, with the support of regional authorities, develop take-back systems and recycling solutions. Such structures make the implementation of circular business models more predictable and less risky.

In Međimurje, Croatia, the regional development agency ↗ [REDEA](#) supports companies in identifying suitable funding opportunities. A first step involves raising awareness about the numerous existing EU funding programmes – knowledge that many companies currently lack.

Funding Programmes and Strategies

Accessible and practice-oriented funding programmes act as door openers. Pilot projects and visible successes increase motivation and demonstrate the economic benefits of circular business models. Strategic integration into regional development plans also ensures commitment and long-term perspectives.

One example is the EU ↗ [LIFE](#) programme, which specifically supports projects on resource efficiency and the circular economy. In North Karelia, LIFE funds were used within the project ↗ [CIRCWASTE—Towards Circular Economy](#) to assist companies with waste prevention and the development of circular business models. In Međimurje, since 2024, the regional development agency ↗ [REDEA](#) has been supporting the local wood industry as one of eight partner institutions in the ↗ [Interreg-Projekt FBI4EU](#). Through European knowledge exchange and the development of

tailored measures, REDEA helps regional companies to become future-proof. For instance, local wood industry companies receive financial support for machinery that converts production residues into wood pellets, which can either be used for their own energy supply or sold as a marketable product. In Germany, EU structural funds (↗ [ERFD](#)) also play an important role: they enable municipalities and small businesses to implement circular economy pilot projects and secure investments in new technologies. Such funding instruments not only provide financial support but also give projects political visibility and planning reliability.

Monitoring and Learning Spaces

Real-world laboratories, pilot projects, and simple monitoring tools enable learning through practice and make progress visible. Companies can test innovations with reduced risk and gather experience for wider implementation.



Figure 6: Visit to the SAMSax real-world laboratory in Freiberg, Mittelsachsen

A vivid example of this is the ↗ [SAMSax](#) real-world laboratory (Sustainable Additive Manufacturing in Saxony). Here, companies and researchers jointly explore how manufacturing by-products and residual materials can be used as feedstock for 3D printing processes – a learning space where technical feasibility, material qualities, and logistical workflows are directly tested and adapted. Such practical environments generate the data and experience that companies and regions need to gradually scale circular solutions.

Conclusions

This online publication on “Companies in the Loop” marks the start of a series of publications within the pilot initiative “Circular Rural Regions”. The focus is on regional economies and the role of companies as drivers of the transition to a circular economy (CE) in rural areas.

Regional companies – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – form the backbone of rural regions. They secure jobs, strengthen regional value creation, and generate nearly half of Germany’s gross value added. Their innovative capacity is evident not only in technological developments but also in the adaptation of business models to new requirements and regulatory conditions.

Circular business models leverage this potential: they enable resource-efficient economic practices, open up new revenue streams, and increase resilience against raw material shortages or skilled labour scarcity. Practical examples of circular approaches include companies like NAF in Mittelsachsen, which provides regional meals through modern vending machines while relying on reusable tableware and AI-supported waste reduction.

Implementing the circular economy presents a range of challenges for companies in rural regions. In addition to high investment costs for new machinery, IT systems, or training measures, the economic benefits are often difficult to calculate – not least because markets for secondary raw materials are still underdeveloped in many areas. There are also technological barriers, such as products that are difficult to separate, as well as a lack of skilled personnel and know-how in circular design. Furthermore, the introduction of circular business models requires close collaboration with external partners from waste management, logistics, research, and administration. Appropriate networks and cooperation structures are often lacking.

To turn these challenges into opportunities, targeted support from local actors such as economic development agencies and district authorities is essential. Concrete measures include capacity building through collaborations with universities, as demonstrated by the REWIMET network in Goslar. Networks and facilitated exchange formats, such as the Circular Talks in Chiemgau/Berchtesgadener Land, help lower barriers and promote joint pilot projects. Coordination also facilitates access to funding, helping to offset the high investment needs of companies. Finally, real-world laboratories like SAMSax in Mittelsachsen enable risk-reduced testing of innovations, such as using residual materials for 3D printing processes.

Outlook

The transformation towards a circular economy in rural regions is a long-term process – yet experiences from the model and partner regions show that initial steps are already yielding success.

This publication has focused on the role of the regional economy. In upcoming editions of the *Circular Rural Regions* online series, additional perspectives will be explored in greater depth:

- **Civil Society:** Initiatives, associations, and engaged citizens make a significant contribution to circular development through participation, self-organisation, and local projects.
- **Administration and Policy:** As regulators and facilitators, they create the framework conditions for circular approaches to thrive. Examples and recommendations will illustrate how municipal actors can actively shape this transformation.
- **Research:** Research, teaching, and transdisciplinary collaborations support implementation – whether through methodologies, knowledge transfer, or accompanying research.

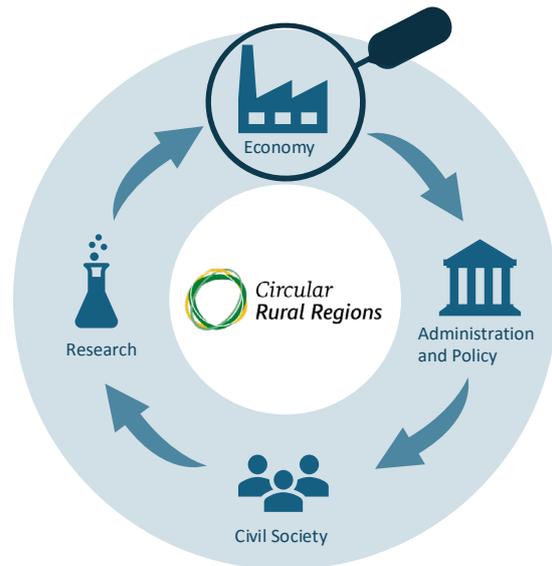


Figure 7: The four central stakeholder groups of the project

Those seeking further information can find up-to-date news, events, and practical examples on the project website “Region gestalten”. This keeps the dialogue open and demonstrates that the circular economy is not a distant goal, but a process that is already beginning locally today.

Further Information

➤ [BBSR–Project Page](#)

➤ [Region gestalten–Project Page \(German\)](#)

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Intep—Integrale Planung GmbH
10117 Berlin

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