

Three tuition-free master's degrees in digital deep-tech circular economy open for applications

The circular transition is short of people who can do both halves of the job. Europe has no shortage of circular economy strategy, and no shortage of digital and deep-tech capability. What it lacks is a workforce that can hold the two together: professionals who understand material flows and governance, and who can also work with the data infrastructure, AI and traceability systems that make circularity measurable rather than aspirational.

3D-CIRCULAR, a 32-partner project funded under the Digital Europe Programme, has spent the past year building degrees for exactly that gap. Applications for the first intake are now open, and close on 25 September 2026.

Three degrees are available, all taught in English, all worth 90 ECTS, all **starting in October 2026**:

- **MSc in Digital Deep-Tech Driven Circular Economy**, University of the Aegean. 100% online, three semesters. For those building technical and analytical depth. [Apply here](#)
- **MSc by Research in Digital Deep-Tech Driven Circular Economy**, University of the Aegean. 100% online, three semesters, research-led. For those heading towards doctoral study or an applied research role. [Apply here](#)
- **MBA in Digital Deep-Tech Driven Circular Economy**, École des Ponts Business School. Online with hybrid elements, 18 months across three semesters, AMBA-accredited. For practitioners moving into leadership of circular transformation. [Apply here](#)



All three are **tuition-free for eligible applicants from EU Member States and Digital Europe Programme associated countries** (the MBA carries an application and registration fee).

The curriculum spans digital product passports, AI and blockchain for traceability, circular business models and financing, and the policy architecture from the Circular Economy Act to the EU AI Act. It also treats the human questions as engineering constraints rather than optional extras: data governance and ethical AI, energy justice, accessibility and inclusion, and the global governance dimension of a circular economy that can either reinforce or challenge existing hierarchies.

Teaching is delivered by a consortium spanning universities, research institutes and companies across Europe, and the project carries the STEP Seal for strategic technologies.

The programmes are designed for individual applicants and for employers. Organisations wanting to put a cohort of employees through the degrees can contact the consortium at 3dcircular@aegean.gr.

Applications close on 25 September 2026. Full programme details are at 3d-circular.eu, and enquiries go to 3dcircular@aegean.gr.

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