

December 2021



Dear circular economy community,

Save the date: 2022 Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference

<u>The Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference</u> is the main gathering of the European Circular Economy community. Now in its 5th edition, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee joined forces with the French EU Council Presidency to organise this flagship stakeholder conference.

The two-day conference on the **1st** and **2nd** of **March 2022** will take us "Towards a new normal: Sustainable products for sustainable consumption", including a focus on the main upcoming milestones in the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan. We shall prepare the ground for the next steps in the Circular Economy and give participants the opportunity to grow their network of circular partners.

Day 1 of the conference will present and discuss the latest circular economy policy developments, setting the scene for upcoming initiatives to make sustainable products the norm.

Day 2 of the conference is being prepared in cooperation with the <u>Coordination Group</u> members of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. Participatory workshops will showcase successes and identify new challenges and opportunities in areas such as circular cities, retailers & consumers, procurement, food waste & bioeconomy, textiles, network governance, construction & infrastructure, and economic incentives.

Stay tuned for updates on registration and other details.

Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Linkedin</u> and <u>subscribe</u> to the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform's <u>newsletter</u> to receive the latest updates.

We will continue closely monitoring recommendations from the Belgian authorities to guarantee a safe conference for all our quests. We will keep you posted on the arrangements for this conference.

News and events

ECESP goes global! Circular Europe Days at the Dubai Expo

On **17** and **18 January 2022** during the <u>Circular Europe Days</u> in Dubai, the Platform's <u>Coordination</u> <u>Group</u> members will showcase Europe's excellence in the transition to a circular economy and how it brings together stakeholders. Across five national pavilions, the thematic Leadership Groups will organise eight hybrid events to present the result of their work and debate with the international audience.

Digital Europe Programme first calls for proposals are open for submission

The strategic funding provided through the new Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) focuses on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations. Submit your proposal for <u>Digital Product Passport: sustainable and circular systems</u> prototypes until **22 February 2022**.

#EUCircularTalks

In 2021, we organised no less than **26 #EUCTs**! If you missed any of our recent #EUCircularTalks, you can read the <u>final reports</u> or watch the <u>recordings</u>, and feel free to join the online <u>discussion</u>!

Did you participate in an #EUCircularTalks? We want to hear from you! Fill in the survey here.

More about <u>news and events</u>

Knowledge and strategies

Green Public Procurement: An Overview of Green Reforms in Country Procurement Systems

The <u>Green Public Procurement (GPP) report</u>, issued by the World Bank, reviews international experiences in implementing GPP and focuses on the institutional framework needed to support the mainstreaming of GPP practices across governments departments.

More about knowledge and strategies

Good practices

Ekofungi: Waste to taste

The Serbian company, <u>Ekofungi</u>, takes a 100% circular approach to mushroom cultivation. Ekofungi, already recognised by the OECD in 2018, is today considered the most prominent example of a company following the "Blue Economy" philosophy in the Balkan region. And a tasty one!

UPMADE ® by Reet Aus turns textile leftovers from cost into value

In line with its mission to minimise the ecological footprint of the fashion industry – <u>Reet Aus</u> designs and produces clothes with almost no environmental footprint, reducing fabric waste up to 80%. The non-wasteful production process is based on a scientific core methodology called UPMADE®, jointly developed by Reet Aus and the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Center.

More about good practices

Circular updates from the European Commission

Give your feedback on microplastics pollution and relevant measures to reduce its environmental impact. The European Commission's legislative initiative called Measures aiming to reduce the presence in the environment of unintentionally released microplastics from tyres, textiles and plastic pellets aims to tackle microplastics unintentionally released into the environment. Provide your feedback on the initiative until 28 December 2021.

Are you making the circular economy happen? Can your project inspire others? Share your good practice and connect with the circular economy community!