



# Join one of the new CCRI communities of practice

The **CCRI communities of practice** are dedicated working groups for local and regional authorities working on the circular economy. There are already [four communities](#) up and running, **each focusing on a key topic** and **bringing together cities and regions** facing similar challenges. By joining, you will **connect with peers**, **share experiences**, and **develop practical solutions** that fit your local context. You'll gain fresh insights, expand your network, and find concrete ways to accelerate your circular economy initiatives. These groups offer a structured but flexible space to learn, collaborate, and take action together.

## What are the CCRI communities of practice

The CCRI communities of practice are **small working groups** designed to **support cities and regions** in advancing their circular economy initiatives. Each group addresses a specific topic, selected based on the priorities and challenges identified by local and regional authorities. These topics ensure relevance to urban and regional transitions, focusing on practical needs and policy priorities. The communities of practice provide a platform for participants to share experiences, co-create knowledge, and develop practical solutions.

The **four communities of practice now open for applications** are:

Topic	Background
<a href="#">Monitoring and indicators for the circular economy</a>	This community of practice invites urban policymakers and circular economy practitioners to <b>advance the practical use of circular indicators and monitoring frameworks</b> at local and regional level. Although interest in circular metrics is growing and many frameworks exist, current tools remain underutilized because they are hard to operationalise in practical policy tasks. By sharing hands on experiences, surfacing good practices, and co-developing workable monitoring approaches, we'll aim to bridge this gap. Participants will dive into topics such as <b>data governance</b> , <b>hands-on indicator frameworks</b> , and <b>assessing policy impacts</b> to support more <b>evidence-based policy-making</b> in the circular transition.
<a href="#">Circular water management</a>	Water naturally circulates in a closed loop, but local management practices have disrupted this balance, contributing to droughts, floods, and growing pressure on freshwater resources. This community will bring together European cities and regions to explore <b>how circular economy principles</b> can help <b>restore that balance</b> at urban and regional scale by <b>reducing water demand</b> , <b>reusing and recovering resources</b> , and <b>building resilience</b> through <b>nature-based and decentralised solutions</b> . While challenges such as outdated infrastructure, fragmented governance, limited financial incentives, and spatial constraints persist, circular approaches offer innovative pathways forward.
<a href="#">Social impacts of the circular transition</a>	How do you make circularity work for people? This community of practice invites cities and regions to explore how circular strategies can <b>strengthen communities</b> , improve <b>quality of life</b> and support <b>inclusive local economies</b> , if they're designed to do so. To unlock this potential, it's essential to understand how circular policies affect different groups, engage diverse voices in shaping solutions, and ensure that no one is left behind.

	Together, we'll unpack topics such as <b>inclusion, equity, gender, employment, affordability, and belonging</b> in the transition to a circular economy.
<b>Critical raw materials in cities and regions</b>	<p>Europe's green and digital transitions are driving up demand for critical raw materials, such as lithium, cobalt, copper or rare earths, while access remains constrained by global supply risks. <b>Cities and regions face growing challenges</b> in managing <b>complex waste streams</b> and improving <b>material efficiency</b>, yet they also hold key levers for action. <b>Many critical materials are embedded in local infrastructure, goods and procurement</b>. By adopting circular strategies, such as <b>urban mining, reuse, repair and industrial symbiosis</b>, local governments can recover valuable resources, reduce landfill and lower reliance on virgin inputs. These approaches can also help <b>close material loops</b> and support both local sustainability and Europe's broader resource security goals.</p> <p>This community of practice provides a collaborative platform for cities and regions to share experiences, overcome challenges and exchange insights on circular approaches tailored to local needs and aligned with broader strategic goals.</p>

## What to expect?

As a member, you'll have the opportunity to tailor the community of practice to your needs and interests, co-designing the structure and activities alongside other participants. The following outlines some key aspects:

- **Size:** Each group will consist of 10 to 15 cities and regions (with one representative each), supported by experts.
- **Duration:** Each community of practice will run for 12 months, with the option to extend until December 2026 or beyond, depending on interest.
- **Time commitment:** Around one day per month, to attend at least five online meetings per year, exchange with peers, and take part in consultations on new materials to support cities and regions.
- **Activities:** The groups will organise online working meetings focused on the ongoing actions and projects of the participants.
- **Outputs:** Your input and insights will be used to develop concrete, publishable deliverables. These are determined by the group, but may include case studies, roadmaps, policy briefings or recommendations.
- **Funding:** Participation is voluntary, and no funding is available to cover participation costs. There will be no travel required, as all activities will take place online.

## Why join?

- **Learn from your peers:** Gain valuable insights from other cities and regions tackling the same challenges.
- **Find better solutions faster:** Collaborate with peers to address your needs more effectively.
- **Expand your network:** Connect with an international community of like-minded partners.
- **Gain fresh perspectives:** Discover best practices firsthand and bring proven solutions back to your own community.

- **Create real impact:** Work together on outputs such as case studies and policy briefs to support replication, inform policy decisions, and increase your visibility.

## Who can apply?

We invite all European local and regional authorities, along with their agencies and publicly owned companies, to apply. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a collaborative network driving impactful change in the circular economy.

Participation will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Commitment:** Active engagement is key. As a member, you are expected to actively contribute to discussions, attend meetings, and help shape or review group outputs.
- **Relevant experience:** We are looking for participants who are already working on circular economy initiatives on the chosen topic and can bring valuable insights and experiences to the table.
- **Geographical diversity:** To foster a well-rounded exchange, communities of practice aim to include members from a variety of European regions, ensuring a broad perspective on the challenges and solutions in circular economy practices.

We welcome all applications. To give more cities and regions the opportunity to participate, priority will be given to those not already involved in one or more CCRI [Thematic Working Groups](#) or [Communities of Practice](#).

## How to express your interest

Simply complete the short application form online and we'll review your application. If needed, we'll reach out to you for clarifications.

**Deadline for submission: 03/10/2025, 6:00 PM CET.**

<b>Monitoring and indicators</b>	<a href="#">Apply here</a>
<b>Circular water management</b>	<a href="#">Apply here</a>
<b>Social impacts of the circular transition</b>	<a href="#">Apply here</a>
<b>Critical raw materials in cities and regions</b>	<a href="#">Apply here</a>

Any questions or doubts whether this is right for you?

Reach out to [info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu](mailto:info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu) for more information or join our [online Q&A](#) on 23/09/2025 – 12.00 CET.

## Background

Funded by the EU as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) aims to bring the circular economy to life in cities and regions across Europe. The initiative supports the development of circular solutions that address different sectors and value chains, engage diverse stakeholders, and tackle a range of challenges, such as creating new business models and navigating regulatory impacts. It also seeks to drive positive change across social, economic, and environmental fields.

## About CCRI Communities of Practice

The CCRI Communities of Practice's activities complement those already offered by the CCRI Coordination and Support office, the [CCRI Knowledge Hub](#) and other [CCRI partners](#). They are all about bringing cities and regions together to share experiences, learn from each other, and exchange best practices. By fostering peer learning and networking, they aim to broaden the CCRI's impact to more European cities and regions.

## Contacts

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**CCRI LinkedIn page:** [www.linkedin.com/company/circular-cities-and-regions-initiative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/circular-cities-and-regions-initiative)