



# Join the CCRI community of practice on the social impacts of the circular transition

How do you make circularity work for people? As a city or region, you're on the frontlines of the circular transition, but social impacts are often unclear. Who benefits? Who might be left behind? Without clear answers, resistance grows, especially among those who feel excluded from the benefits. To build support and lasting impact, circular strategies must also strengthen communities and create social value.

## Leaving no one behind: the social impact of circular economy

Cities and regions are in a unique position to shape circular policies that not only reduce waste and emissions, but also strengthen communities, improve quality of life, and support local economies. When designed with people in mind, circular strategies can open up new pathways to employment, make everyday services more accessible and affordable, and foster a stronger sense of ownership and participation among residents. By aligning with people's needs and realities, circular policies can engage communities that were previously on the sidelines.

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. From supporting inclusive labour markets to creating space for community-driven initiatives, the social dimension of circularity offers cities and regions a powerful lever to advance fairness, cohesion, and trust, all while accelerating the transition to a more sustainable future.

**How can local authorities better understand who benefits, and who doesn't, from circular policies? How do we build inclusive processes that go beyond consultation? And how can social goals like equity, affordability and belonging become core elements of circular strategies?**

To answer these questions, we'll explore a range of topics, including:

- **Social dimensions of the circular transition:** the shift to a circular economy affects people and communities, beyond environmental and economic impacts. We'll look at impacts in the domains of:
  - **Inclusive employment and labour markets**
  - **Poverty, affordability and access**
  - **Education and skills**
  - **Gender and equity**
  - **Social cohesion and a sense of belonging**
- **Justice and the just transition:** what does justice mean in the context of the circular transition? We'll discuss a fair distribution of benefits and burdens, fair and meaningful participation in the decision-making process, while acknowledging a multitude of perspectives.
- **Embedding the just transition:** we'll examine how cities and regions can embed social dimensions into their policies and which policies can further enable and support a just circular transition.

This community of practice will bring together city practitioners and regional bodies, to explore and unpack the **social impact of the circular economy** and co-develop approaches that ensure **circular strategies leave**

**no one behind.** By joining, you will engage with peers, exchange knowledge, and co-develop solutions to ensure a just circular transition.

## 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, 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 organize online working meetings focused on the ongoing actions and projects of the participants.
- **Outputs:** You will work together to produce concrete, publishable deliverables.
- **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 strategies 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 social impacts of circular economy 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. If you have any issues accessing or completing the form, please contact [info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu](mailto:info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu).

**Apply now**

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

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.

**There are 3 more communities of practice now open for applications. Discover them all [here](#)**

## 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're 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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