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Circular B - CA 21103

NEWSLETTER



Editors : Philip Griffiths and
Adriana Salles | WG4

Welcome to the fifth newsletter

Many achievements have marked the third Grant Period. We received the feedback on the 24-Month Report. We hosted two WG meetings, had our 2nd Workshop, and a 3rd Stakeholders Day.

This year, we are discussing the future of circularity and how to move from theory to practice.

However, we are not yet at the end of the period, and many things are still to come. So joining us on this open dialogue

From theory to practice

Hearing from the industry is always an excellent opportunity for us to get feedback on our research. Bridge the gap between academia and industry is a challenge, and sometimes it seems that they are different worlds, instead of complementary.

One of CircularB's missions is to establish this connection between academia and industry, fostering dialogue and engaging in fruitful discussions towards a more circular built environment.

Past June 27, we had our 3rd Stakeholders Day. As in the previous ones, we could hear from the industry about the main challenges and opportunities for circularity practices.

Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter is due to be circulated in December 2025. If you have an item for the newsletter, please get in contact with us, via the website, www.circularB.eu. We welcome notices of conferences, seminars, and special focus journal editions, which have a focus upon the circular economy in the built environment.



Written By: Philip Griffiths

WGs Meeting – Heraklion, Greece

We met in the Crete capitol, Heraklion, for a workgroup meetings 30-31 January. During our time we had in-depth discussions. The **WG1** workshops concentrated upon feedback and updates on deliverables 4 and 5, specifically on the topics:

- Novel Design Strategies and Solutions for circularity across the building lifecycle.
- Guidelines for the initial design stage, and
- BIM and circularity options.

The **WG3** review spent time considering Deliverable 8, allocation of responsibilities and updates from across the various eight workstreams.



Knossos Palace



That evening we gathered in local restaurant and enjoyed a meal together. Katerina had organised for a CircularB cake to be delivered and was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Prof. Katerina Tsikaloudaki, who grew up in Heraklion, for organising the two days.



On day two we commenced by discussing dissemination and communication – **WG4** issues. An update was provided on the e-learning section and the grant calls were discussed and finalised. An update was also provided on the D3 material, with papers being prepared along with a publication being prepared which covers the material which was removed from D2 – the country reviews and the glossary of terms. Finally, a **WG2** took place to discuss the training school and the deliverable 6.

We managed to conclude our work by the lunchtime on day 2, so we headed to the Archaeological Museum, where we met with a guide who explained the origins of the Minoan civilisation. We then travelled by coach to visit Knossos, where our guide gave us an informative tour.

Written By: Adriana Salles

WGs Meeting – Cosenza, Italy

Over the course of three days, the four working groups discussed the ongoing activities and the expectations for the third and final year. Through a transversal dialogue, it was possible to identify synergies and potential overlaps between the deliverables and the research. Hands-on sessions were also part of this meeting.

On day one, **WG1** and **WG3** had discussed a hot topic: digitalization and circular economy. We could identify the synergies between the two groups' studies, and talked a lot about BIM. Topics like sustainability and circularity, LCA, LCC and materials flow analysis, as well as best practices and shining examples, were brought to the table.

WG2 was responsible for engaging the participants and conducting discussions. We talked about Deliverable 6, Circular Business Models Case Studies, Innovation and Challenges, and Stakeholders' Roles. The Training School was also part of the discussion, and we could define the CBM Canvas model for trainees.

Finally, on the last day, **WG4** opened the dialogue to promote the Action. We discussed the next publications, Workshop, Grant opportunities, and the plans for the last Grant Period.



Not only do discussions make CircularB! Thanks to our host, Prof. Marilena De Simone, we had the opportunity to enjoy (and a lot!) the flavours of Cosenza. We also took a tour around the old town and learned more about the history of this cosy town in southern Italy.

Prof. Marilena, thank you for organized this meeting and for taking care of every single detail.



Written By: Adriana Salles

2nd Workshop and 3rd Stakeholders Day - Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina




The 2nd CircularB Workshop, held in Sarajevo on 25–26 June, brought together researchers, practitioners, and innovators to share and discuss cutting-edge work on circular economy strategies for the built environment. As an official partner event of EU Green Week 2025, the workshop featured presentations on topics ranging from BIM integration to urban-scale circular indicators and experimental design tools—such as the Biodiversity Maximiser, a computational tool in development that received valuable feedback from the community.

The momentum continued with the 3rd Stakeholders Day in Kiseljak on 27 June, where academia and industry engaged in a vibrant exchange of ideas on real-world challenges and opportunities in implementing circular strategies. Participants praised it as one of the most successful stakeholder events to date, highlighting inspiring efforts from local manufacturers and meaningful collaboration across sectors.

A special thank you to Vice Chair **Meri Cvetkovska** for her outstanding support, and to **Mirzo Selimic**, our dedicated local organizer, for making this event possible.





Participants' testimonial

"I had the opportunity to attend CircularB Workshop and presented my research on "Developing a PSR-Based Indicator Framework for Circular Energy Self-Sufficiency at the Urban Scale." It was a great opportunity to learn from others and share ideas. One important part of the workshop was the group activity. Researchers with similar interests were placed in teams, each led by a coordinator from CircularB. My group included people from different backgrounds. We had a very productive brainstorming session to choose a topic and start a joint research proposal. We will continue working together to develop a paper. On 27 June, the event continued with the participation of stakeholders from different sectors of the construction industry. They shared their contribution to circularity in their sector, presenting different case studies, explaining their real-world challenges in applying circular economy practices, regulatory barriers, and budget limitations. These open discussions gave researchers the chance to offer feedback, ideas, and possible solutions. This exchange was very valuable for both parties, academia and industry, and I think it helped bridge the academic research with practical needs in the field. In sum, **the workshop was a very useful and inspiring experience for my research and future collaborations.**"

Written By: Bahar Feizollabeigh





Testimonials

STSM at TU Delft

I appreciate Dr. Thaleia Konstantinou for hosting me during my STSM at TU Delft, which focused on evaluating real-world case studies of Product-as-a-Service business models in the built environment. Ahead of the visit, a comprehensive review of relevant literature and practice was conducted. During the mission, I interviewed seven industry and academic experts across five Dutch cities: Utrecht, The Hague, Oude Meer, Amsterdam, and Delft, with a key highlight being an information-sharing session with the Circular Built Environment Manager at TNO.

The mission also included other engagements such as participating in an EitBE guest lecture, AE+T Bites session, and collaborative meetings with PhD researchers at the TU Delft CBE hub. A standout experience was attending the Future Facade 2025 conference, where innovative ideas—ranging from CO₂-negative bricks to structures made from scrap materials—were both discussed and showcased. These activities collectively offered a vivid picture of how industry-academia collaborations are shaping the future of sustainable construction. Work is now underway to analyse the findings and share insights through a peer-reviewed journal publication and at industry forums.

Written By: Moses Itanola



STSM at Birmingham University

From May 5 to May 23, 2025, I had the opportunity to carry out an STSM at the University of Birmingham as part of COST Action CA21103. For three enriching weeks, I was fully immersed in a dynamic research environment focused on Circular Economy and Resilient Infrastructure, under the supervision of Prof. Sakdirat Kaewunruen.

This mission not only contributed to the advancement of my research on circular building strategies, specifically through the development of a draft paper titled "Embedding Circularity in Early-Stage Building Design," but also fostered lasting academic connections and valuable interdisciplinary dialogue.

More than just a technical achievement, this experience was intellectually and personally transformative, strengthening the collaborative foundations needed to accelerate the transition to a circular built environment. I am deeply grateful to COST, the UoB team, and my academic mentors for making this journey possible.

Written By: Camila Cervantes



Progress Review 24 Months Rapporteur summary

Action's major outcomes, impacts and successes:

- Substantial progress toward its primary objective of developing a unified circularity framework.
- CircularB has established a solid foundation through collaborative research, stakeholder engagement, and targeted communication strategies.
- Notable achievement: comprehensive communication and dissemination strategy.
- Engagement of a diverse network of stakeholders (training schools, workshops, outreach activities): Over 400 members across 40 COST countries.
- Deliverables (D2 and D3): valuable insights into the current state of circular economy practices, identifying existing research gaps and barriers.
- Significant accomplishment: the formation of EU consortia.
- Stakeholder engagement: Series of webinars and Stakeholder Days.

“This ongoing dialogue ensures that CircularB’s research remains relevant to both industry needs and societal expectations.”



Grants Opportunities

- Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant
- Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grant
- Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants

Further information:
<https://circularb.eu/activity/>



IMST 2025 Conference

Our WG2 Leader, **Diana Bajare**, together with the Faculty of Civil and Mechanical Engineering of the Riga Technical University, is pleased to invite scientists, students and engineers to attend the “ Innovative Materials, Structures and Technologies (**IMST 2025**) Conference.

The conference will be held in Riga, Latvia, **September 10-12, 2025.**

Abstract submission until August 1, 2025.

This event will run in parallel with CircularB 2nd Training School.

Further information:

<https://transition.rtu.lv/imst-2025-international-conference-on-innovative-materials-structures-and-technologies/>.

COMING SOON!

The **CircularB Training School** will equip participants with the knowledge and tools to develop **Circular Business Models**. Through a dynamic mix of lectures, **hands-on** workshops, and **real-world case studies**, attendees will explore circular design principles, resource efficiency, environmental assessment methods, and innovative business models.

The program emphasizes systems thinking, practical applications, and emerging digital trends driving circular transformation.

Participants will also benefit from expert insights and valuable networking opportunities — including **synergies with the IMST Conference** and the **LCA Summer School** taking place in parallel.

Training School in Riga, Latvia

- Circular Business Models
- **September 8 - 11**
- **6 Trainers confirmed!**
- Parallel event with IMST 2025
- On-site, interdisciplinary, and hands-on training
- Applications under evaluation

Results disclosure: July 15

MC Members: Save the Date:



The next MC Meeting will be face-to-face, on **July 24**, in Guimarães, Portugal.

All the MC Members were invited, and we will discuss the plans for the last year of our Action.

MC Members, if you haven't confirmed your participation, please, do it ASAP. Thanks and see you in Guimarães!

Call for hosting our Final Conference



We are now inviting proposals from our members to host this important event. To express your interest and submit a proposal, please complete the short questionnaire by July 15 available at the link below:

👉 <https://forms.gle/k9ZLSji978iZ375V7>.