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CircularB- CA21103

NEWSLETTER

Editors : Philip Griffths and Adriana Salles | WG4

Welcome to the seventh newsletter

We are more than half-way to the end of the 4th Grant Period and our Action. But still, we have done a lot in this ⅔ of our GP4.

This last year, have been marked to put in practice our research through the use of tools. We are also spreading our word and finalizing our last deliverables.

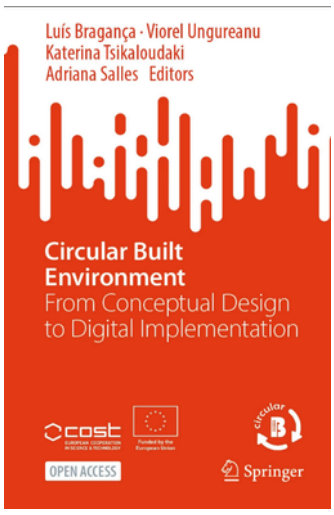
Let's have a look on the updates of our **Final Conference - ReSBE 2026 -** ReShaping the Built Environment through Sustainability and Circularity.

Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter is due to be circulated in January 2027. If you have an item for the newsletter, please contact us via the website at www.circularb.eu. We welcome notices of conferences, seminars, and special journal editions focused on the circular economy in the built environment.

New Deliverable Available

We are thrilled to announce the publication of our **Deliverable 4: Circular Built Environment - From Conceptual Design to Digital Implementation**, now available in open access! This book brings together cutting-edge research from our international network, offering an integrated perspective on how circular economy principles can be applied across the entire building lifecycle - from early design decisions to digital implementation through BIM.
You can download it here: https://circularb.eu/repository/deliverables/ or here: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-39598-6



Written By: Adriana Salles

WGs and MC Meetings – Zaragoza, Spain

In a super-cold winter, we held our first face-to-face event: a three-day meeting combining two days of WG meetings and one day of the MC Meeting. During these three days, Zaragoza was our place. In the **WG meetings**, we could present the development of current deliverables and plan their finalization. We also discussed the WG3 Training School and brainstormed ideas for the event. The conference chairs updated the group about the accepted abstracts and the development of papers. On the second day, we had a very interesting technical visit to the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Zaragoza. The building was recently renovated and integrated into a new building. The building has LEED certification and is a practical example of sustainable building adaptation and renovation.

A very, very **thank you** to our **Local Organizer Marta Gomez-Gil**. She made our stay in Zaragoza even better than we could imagine. A part of preparing the meeting, scheduling two amazing technical visits, taking us to excellent restaurants, she was our tour-guide in Zaragoza. We had a wonderful tour experience, she explained the history of the city, and walked us around the beautiful city center!
Marta, we are very greatful for your amazing hospitality!

On the last day in Zaragoza, we had the **MC Meeting**. The day started with a second technical visit: the temporary Real Zaragoza stadium. This visit represented the practical application of circular principles. We could listen to the technical team on how to implement circular strategies in such a challenging project. The contractor and designers explained the challenges, proposals, and budget constraints, as well as how circularity can be implemented. A **true "shining example**".

After the visit, we discussed the proposals for last year with the MC. We could count on the online presence of our Science Officer, Sara Silvestre, and Administrative Officer, Joelle Thonet, which was crucial to clarify some doubts about the final conference. We also presented to the MC the achievements of our Action and invited them to help us in disseminating beyond the Action.

Written By: Adriana Salles

3rd CircularB Training School – Turin, Italy

From 28 to 30 April, we had our Training School. Hosted by the Politecnico di Torino in the magnificent Castello del Valentino, this **Training School was devoted to Empowering Circularity Innovators in Building Assessment: From Design to Monitoring**. Throughout the three days, we had lectures, interactive discussions, technical visits, and hands-on applied group work. Participants could engage directly with the CircularB-DfC Tool developed within CircularB WG3 and apply it to two case studies. Four working groups had the opportunity to test the tool, address trade-offs, and give feedback to the developers.

On the first day, a new Resilience Tool to face Climate Change was presented. The RBTool/ RNTool explores the resilience concept for the built environment (both neighborhood and building levels). We also had lectures on Circularity vs. Sustainability Assessment, Design for Disassembly & Reversibility, Durability vs. Longevity, and the presentation of the case studies for the working groups. The second day started with a technical visit to the PoliTo campus, including the Energy Center. Back at Castello del Valentino, the working groups rolled up their sleeves and started working on the case studies. And the third day was presentation time! Very engaged groups and amazing discussions on CircularB-DfC Tool .

Many, many thanks to our Local Organizers **Patrizia Lombardi** and **Sara Torabi**. They and their team made this TS memorable!

Testimonials

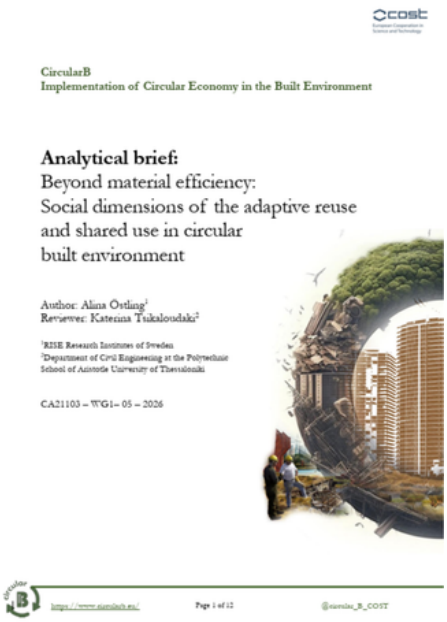
STSM at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

“In May 2026, I had the privilege of participating in a STSM focused on integrating participatory and socio-demographic perspectives into circular building design strategies. Collaborating closely with my host, Prof. Katerina Tsikaloudaki, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, we conducted a literature review and drafted an analytical brief titled ‘Beyond material efficiency: Social dimensions of the adaptive reuse and shared use in circular built environment’. Specifically, the brief argues that a sustainable circular transition must move beyond technocentric models to address overlooked social dimensions, framing gender equity and norm-critical design as important conditions for building practice. Furthermore, it utilizes the concept of 'circular commons' to demonstrate how collective action, shared resource governance and local knowledge can deliver more equitable and inclusive outcomes.

This work aims to support the COST Action's by translating academic insights into practical recommendations for designers, researchers and policymakers. Moreover, the mission served as an excellent networking platform to establish academic connections and spark ideas for future project proposals. I am very grateful for this opportunity, which has bridged social dimensions with circular design, while laying the groundwork for long-term research.”

Written By: Alina Östling

STSM Outcome: Analytical Brief


CircularB
Implementation of Circular Economy in the Built Environment

Analytical brief:
Beyond material efficiency:
Social dimensions of the adaptive reuse and shared use in circular built environment

Author: Alina Östling[1]
Reviewer: Katerina Tsikaloudaki[2]

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[2]Department of Civil Engineering at the Polytechnic School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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This is what COST Actions are about: networking, collaborative work, and knowledge exchange!

Building on the STSM, this **Analytical Brief** examines circular commons, adaptive reuse, and shared use as frameworks for more inclusive resource governance, drawing on cases from Rotterdam, Valparaiso, Nairobi, and Athens.

You can download it here:
https://circularb.eu/repository/action-documents/

Find out more about the social aspects of circular economy implementation!

CircularB Participation in Conferences

CircularB members are spreading the word around the world. Through three different grants, our members could participate in important discussions in the **First International Congress "Resilient and Sustainable Cities: From Ecoconstruction to Smart Cities**, in Agadir, Morocco, and the **World Sustainable Built Environment Conference WSBE 2026**, in Melbourne, Australia . Let's hear about their experience!

WSBE 2026 – YRI Grant

"Attending the World Sustainable Built Environment (WSBE) Conference 2026 was an extremely valuable experience for both my research and professional development. Presenting my work as part of the Circular Construction 4.4 session generated strong interest and led to insightful discussions that helped me reflect and further develop my research findings. The conference also provided excellent opportunities to connect with researchers and practitioners from around the world, strengthening existing relationships and creating new avenues for collaboration. Through participating in various workshops, technical sessions, and networking, I gained fresh perspectives on sustainability challenges. Overall, the conference increased my research visibility, expanded my international network, and opened up promising opportunities for future collaborations."

Written By: Moses Itanola

First International Congress "Resilient and Sustainable Cities: From Ecoconstruction to Smart Cities" – ITC Grant

"The ITC Conference Grant gave me the valuable opportunity to participate in the First International Congress "Resilient and Sustainable Cities: From Ecoconstruction to Smart Cities" in Agadir, Morocco, where I presented my work on "Earthen Construction Today: From Laboratory Characterisation of CEBs to In-situ Thermal Performance of Rammed Earth". This experience was highly enriching, as it allowed me to disseminate research aligned with COST Action CA21103 – CircularB on sustainable, circular, and low-carbon construction solutions. In particular, the presentation highlighted how earth-based construction can contribute to circularity in the built environment by relying on locally available, minimally processed materials, reducing embodied carbon, supporting material efficiency, and promoting passive thermal regulation to lower operational energy needs. The conference also provided an excellent opportunity to engage with an international and interdisciplinary audience of researchers and practitioners. The discussions following the presentation were particularly useful for reflecting on the role of performance-based evidence in overcoming regulatory and technical barriers to the wider adoption of earthen construction systems. Overall, the grant significantly contributed to increasing the visibility of my research, strengthening my international network, and identifying opportunities for future collaboration in the field of circular, resilient and climate-responsive building solutions."

Written By: Ricardo Mateus

ReSBE 2026 Conference updates

We are thrilled (and genuinely humbled) by the extraordinary response to the ReSBE 2026. We received **541 abstract** submissions from **1,368 authors** across **71 countries**, a level of global engagement that far exceeded our expectations and that reflects the growing urgency and vitality of research on circular and sustainable built environments. Following a rigorous peer-review process, **335 full scientific papers** were accepted and will be published in the conference proceedings, representing a rich and diverse body of knowledge from researchers, practitioners, and policymakers worldwide. The scientific program is organized into twelve thematic sessions, offering a broad and integrated overview of the concepts, tools, technologies, policies, and case studies that are shaping the transition towards a sustainable and circular built environment. Whether your work focuses on material flows, digital tools, lifecycle assessment, urban resilience, or policy frameworks, there is a session designed to connect you with the research community advancing these fields.

The full **scientific program,** including session timetables, room assignments, and presenter guidelines, is **available** on the conference website: https://resbe2026.web.auth.gr/programme/. Please take a look and meet our distinguished **Keynote Speakers**: https://resbe2026.web.auth.gr/keynote-speakers/.

The thematic sessions have been carefully curated by the Scientific Committee to ensure coherent groupings of related contributions, facilitating meaningful dialogue across papers. Each session will be chaired by a member of the CircularB network and will include time for open discussion following the paper presentations.

We look forward to welcoming you and to what promises to be an exceptional gathering of the global circular built environment research community. For any queries regarding registration, the program, or logistics, please do not hesitate to contact the organizing team through the conference website.

THANK YOU!

See you in Thessaloniki