



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia

Circular economy: a necessity and transformative opportunity for cities and regions in Europe

**Catalonia
a Circular
Economy
Vision**



Catalonia is an industrially-based country, with an open, competitive and sustainable economy combining talent, creativity, a diversified business ecosystem and its own research system of excellence, all within a dynamic, entrepreneurial and inclusive society.

Circular economy represents gains in resilience, close links with local natural assets and new opportunities for most sectors, reinforcing competitive advantage, improving efficient use of resources, developing new activities and quality jobs, and could act as a fundamental vector of competitiveness through innovation and efficiency.

The Government of Catalonia along with its key **economic and environmental agencies**, (Agency for business competitiveness, ACCIÓ, Catalan Waste Agency, Catalan Water Agency and Catalan Institute of Energy), is taking a big step forward, developing an integrated framework of policies and instruments in this direction.

MAIN CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMMES AND INICIATIVES

- ✓ **Strategies** Catalan strategy on green and circular economy. Smart Strategy of Catalonia. Catalan Energy and Climate Change Plan 2012-2020.
- ✓ **National Agreement for Industry:** specific section for circular economy.
- ✓ **Innovation Strategy for Smart specialization:** Integrate circular economy R+D programs for each sector identified by RIS3CAT*.
- ✓ **Catalan General Waste and Resource Management and Prevention Program (2013-2020).** Focusing in Circular Economy
- ✓ **National energy transition agreement:** Towards a new energy model based on energy efficiency and renewables (between government, society, companies and political groups).
- ✓ **Ecodesign initiatives:** Catalan Ecodesign Strategy, Ecodesign Award and Catalan Ecodesign Catalogue. Controlling the use of hazardous chemical substances according to ecolabels (EU Ecolabel and Catalan Ecolabel).

MAIN CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

- ✓ **Green public procurement** towards a circular economy (development and implementation of new green and innovation criteria).
- ✓ **Circular economy & innovation business support schemes:** Eco vouchers. RIS3CAT Communities. Collaborative innovation programme boosting R&D projects. Technology Center of Catalonia (Eurecat). Specialised Catalan Research groups and Technology Centers. Catalonia cluster programme and inter-cluster projects.
- ✓ **Waste & resources:** By-products exchange in Catalan industry. Waste disposal tax. Door to door waste collection from households and businesses (148 municipalities). Pay-as-you-throw scheme in 5 municipalities
- ✓ **Energy efficiency and renewable energy:** Energy Excellence Award. Action plan for industrial energy efficiency in Catalonia.
- ✓ **Promoting Best Available Techniques (BAT)** in industrial sectors.
- ✓ **Implementation of internationalization action plan for the environmental sector** incl. trade missions, market studies, Green Tech Catalonia, Advice services for international public procurement (World Bank, EBRD).

Progress and development in the past 6 months

	Headline	Progress Made	Lessons Learned
#1	Capture CE business opportunities	Almost finished 383 companies offering solutions in CE with a total turnover of €4.8m	Sectors with more potential: agroindustry, mobility, chemical, environment solutions
#2	CE100 SME Multiplier Scheme	4 clusters Involved: Packaging, Foodservice, Habitat, Catalan Water partnership	Growing number of initiatives
#3	Award new grants for circular economy related projects (waste prevention and valorization of waste to promote reuse/recycling)	68 projects	Growing the number of projects

Progress and development in the past 6 months

	Headline	Progress Made	Lessons Learned
#4	European summit on circular economy as a congress track in the Smart City World Expo Congress in combination with CE100 Gov. & Cities site visit to Catalonia	Collaboration with EMF Agenda planned	Divulcation and promotion of new CE projects led Increasing commitment & interest of participation
#5	CE SME Programme	International benchmarking of other programmes and identification of obstacles and barriers	Need for more coherence between legal requirements and incentives
#6	ENHANCE: EMAS as a Nest to Help And Nurture the Circular Economy	Program INTERREG EUROPE 2014-2020. From 1 Jan 2017 to 31 Dec 2020	Improve the implementation of regional policy instruments oriented to increasing the efficiency of resources by the exchange of experiences and practices on supporting EMAS registration. EMAS is considered as a driver of the Circular Economy

Progress and development in the past 6 months

	Headline	Progress Made	Lessons Learned
#7	CircE: European regions toward circular economy	Program INTERREG EUROPE 2014-2020. From 1 Jan 2017 to 30 June 2021	Increasing number of regions and local authorities interested in circular economy
#8	Catalogue ecodesign Catalonia http://mediambient.gencat.cat/ecodissenycataleg	Publication of more than 70 cases of sustainable products and services.	The importance of promoting environmental policies with real examples of companies.

In progress, Circular Catalonia, a platform for CE in Catalonia