



Special Session Proposal

The necessity of Circular Economy implementation in a Regional Context

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Abstract

Circular economy (CE) is implemented in different levels through **Industrial Symbiosis (IS)** referring to industrial ecosystems, and it is extended towards urban environment via **Industrial-Urban Symbiosis (I-US)** that cities and their activities in the implemented symbiotic value chains. **Hub4Circularity** concept emerges in the research, industrial and business community as well as in the institutions of the European Commission, proposing systemic solutions to regional scale, integrating several regional stakeholders (authorities, citizens etc.) and introducing a variety of different operational models, due to the different regional settings, strategies, social aspects, characteristics, regional and sectoral needs¹. The approaches on CE implementation towards **sustainable regional development**, including economic, social and environmental aspects into the overall regional context is in its early stages and has not yet been sufficiently studied. This special session aims to discuss this integration, the **necessity of Circular Economy implementation in a Regional Context** and exploit valuable learning in the new Horizon Project creating the first Hub4Circularity in Greece Theseus².

Proposed presenters and indicative presentation topic:

- Eleni Gaki (organizer) & Manolis Christofakis, Professor, University of the Aegean, Department of Business Administration, **Connection of CE and regional development**
- Charalampos Manousiadis (organizer): **Theseus Attica H4C Horizon Europe Project, Regional Circular Economy (RCE), matchmaking frameworks for synergies within regional territory**
- Kostas Chatziioannou, CE leader, ICCS/NTUA: **CE research projects, H4C approaches and relevant innovations.**
- Marianna Lena Kambanou, Assistant Professor in Circular Economy, Linköping University: **Governance Models and Cooperation in I-US and H4C ecosystems**

¹ Short definition and main characteristics of Hubs4Circularity (produced by the H4C Europe Project based on Deliverable 6.1 of the H4C Europe Project and numerous discussions with internal and external stakeholders. To be public available soon.)

² <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101178059>