



# CirThink

**Embedding Circular Economy Thinking in HEIs Through University and Industry Partnerships**

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**NEWSLETTER 1**

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# About Cirthink



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The origins of the concept of the circular economy are based on "The Ecology of Industry" developed in the 1970s by environmental scholars. Pearce & Turner used the term circular economy for the first time officially in an economic model.

The writers have criticized the traditional linear economic system on the basis that "all is a contribution of all else" and a new economic model called a circular economy has been developed which applies the primary and secondary laws of thermodynamics. The environment and the economy in this model interact extremely highly and, in keeping with the model, the three key environmental economic functions are: resource supply, waste collector and utility source.

Circular economy is a regenerative or restorative system that is differentiated through processes and designs. Restoration replaces the end-of-life concept, encourages renewable energy use, eliminates use of non-recyclable, toxic chemicals and better design of materials for waste disposal.



The "CirThink" Project aimed to embed CE thinking in HEIs through university and industry partnership. The main reason behind this design is in the literature various studies have examined how universities can support sustainable development through formal learning outcomes.

Also these studies have highlighted how student-led change from formal learning, sustainability in campus operations, and branding the green university or green campus were key factors for embedding sustainability in education. However few studies have focused on the "hidden curriculum" and the role that universities, as part of the local economy, can assume in implementing the sustainability practices they teach.

The hidden curriculum is defined as the difference between the actual learning and the curriculum-based learning in the personal student experience within an educational facility. In this project, it is aimed to show how universities can play a key role in helping to promote circular economy approaches by engaging their students and being a key partner with both public and private organizations. Besides how human resources development outside of the curriculum will be important for circular economy approaches in industry, will be explored in partner countries.



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# About IOs

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**IO1 Overarching Analysis of CE Thinking in partner countries :** This report will provide an opportunity for the many universities who are using circular economy thinking as a focus for both teaching and research, to enhance their sustainability strategies and learning in practice by encouraging sustainable consumption and behaviour. Following deep analysis this output report will show that across Europe there are many potential approaches that challenge traditional learning and teaching practices in CE thinking.



**IO2 CE Thinking in Hidden Curriculum Development:** This output aims to develop a hidden curriculum in HEIs in order to help formal and informal learning process. According to the literature, a hidden curriculum refers to the unspoken or implicit values, behaviors, procedures, and norms that exist in an educational setting. In this regards, the hidden curriculum can be defined as the unstated promotion and enforcement of certain behavioral patterns, professional standards, and social beliefs experienced while navigating a learning environment (Miller & Seller, 1990). For this reason, the partnership will develop a hidden curriculum in MSKU and in this curriculum, there will be hidden expectations, skill sets, knowledge, and social processes developed in order to support CE thinking for hinder student achievement and belief systems.

**IO3 Build OER Platform:** The open educational resource (OER) platform of the CirThink Project will host the intellectual outputs of the project (IO1 and IO2). The platform will provide information, tools, opportunities, access to the learning materials etc. for the target audience. It will be used to promote activities, events, opportunities and key lessons for the project's target groups. The online platform will create a continuous upgrade for the target group and stakeholders and provide a guide for them. One of the expected impacts of this output is to provide target groups with innovative contents for the training of running and circulating of CE Thinking and introducing them to the intellectual outputs of the CirThink project.



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