



WEBINAR OUTCOMES: CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE ALPS: EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

3 June 2025



Alpine Space

As part of its capacity-building programme, the EUSALP Secretariat organised a series of four webinars focused on EU funding opportunities in May/June/July 2025. The second episode was held on 3 June and focused on **circular economy**.

EU funding programmes

The keynote presentation was made by Maite Zazpe, Environmental Team Leader at Zabala Innovation. She presented a detailed overview of the EU central funding programmes to support circular economy:

- **Horizon Europe** funds collaborative research and innovation projects. Projects are 100% funded, with except for Innovation Actions where for-profit entities are funded at 70%. There is no dedicated work programme for circular economy, with calls spread across Clusters 4,5 and 6, the Missions and Partnerships, such as Circular Bio-based Europe.
- **LIFE** funds demonstration and capacity building projects in the areas of Environment and Climate Action. There is a dedicated sub-programme for 'Circular economy and quality of life' which has a budget of €450 million for the current period. 'Standard Action Projects' in this sub-programme are funded at 60%.
- **Interreg Europe** is an interregional cooperation programme. No new calls will be opened during the current programming period (2021-2027), however, Interreg Europe provides free, tailor-made expert support services on circular economy topics in the form of peer reviews and matchmakings.

Topics of interest

Participants were asked to share their priority topics in order to identify themes of common interest. The following clusters could be identified during the discussion.

Circular construction and New European Bauhaus

New European Bauhaus is an EU initiative to imagine and build a sustainable and inclusive future. Circular construction is a key theme within it. Participants that expressed an active interest in these topics were: Leidy Guante (University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland), Sébastien Bécline (CIRIDD), Roberto Lollini (Eurac Research), and Julien Lombardo (Bolzano Chamber of Commerce). Relevant open calls include:

- [Applying regenerative design to the built environment in neighbourhoods](#) (HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-REGEN-01) Deadline: 12 November 2025
- [Renovating the built environment through design for adaptability and disassembly](#) (HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-BUSINESS-01) Deadline: 12 November 2025
- [Reverse local construction supply chains for the beautiful re-assembly of reclaimed construction](#)

[products](#) (HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-BUSINESS-03) Deadline: 12 November 2025

- [Demonstrators for clusters of social circular enterprises](#) (HORIZON-CL4-2025-05-TWIN-TRANSITION-21-two-stage) Deadline: 23 September 2025 (first stage)
- [Circular Economy and Zero Pollution](#) (LIFE-2025-SAP-ENV-ENVIRONMENT) Deadline: 23 September 2025

Consumers

Participants also showed an interest in consumer behaviour and consumption patterns, as well as indicators to measure circularity. Participants that expressed an active interest were: Chiara Pellegrini (Eurac Research), Floriana Mulazzi (University of Milan), and Leidy Guante (University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland). Relevant open calls include:

- [Indicators for the transition to sustainable and circular economy](#) (HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-06) Deadline: 17 September 2025
- [Consumption patterns and environmental awareness as enablers of transition to circular economy](#) (HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-05) Deadline: 17 September 2025
- [Research and innovation for food waste prevention and reduction at household level through measurement, monitoring and new technologies](#) (HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-04-two-stage) Deadline: 4 September (first stage)
- [Circular Economy and Zero Pollution](#) (LIFE-2025-SAP-ENV-ENVIRONMENT) Deadline: 23 September 2025

Additional topics

During the session participants raised many other topics of interest: **sustainable food systems** (Marjan Jarnjak, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia), **circular solutions in mountain and border regions** (Leidy Guante, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland), **textiles** (Sébastien Bécline, CIRIDD), **reuse and repair, industrial symbiosis** (Roberto Lollini, Eurac Research), **wood sector and municipal waste management** (Julien Lombardo, Bolzano Chamber of Commerce), **circularity and energy** (Chiara Bertolin, NTNU), **social issues and vulnerable groups** (Chiara Pellegrini, Eurac Research).

Next steps

EUSALP Policy Officer Véronica Capenti closed the webinar, encouraging participants to reach out to the EUSALP Technical Secretariat TSS in order to be connected with peers interested in similar topics and receive support towards their funding applications.