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# Capacitation: International Experience PROJECT: CirculEc

Time period: April, 22 – April, 30 2024

# **Event Report**

# Summary of the event

The workshop commenced in Bielefeld, continued in Santiago, and concluded in Naples, with each institution hosting a two-day session aimed at sharing the experiences of EU partners in integrating circular economy disciplines into their curricula. First day in each country was devoted to the presentation of CE implementation at EU partners Universities and the second day CA partners were visiting private sectors, companies and research labs.

The primary objective of this initiative was to equip professors from the Central Asia region with the basic knowledge of CE, implementation of CE concept at the higher educational institutions and private sectors, to effectively implement curriculum changes, ensuring the success and sustainability of the project.







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# **Capacitation: International experience at FACHHOCHSCHULE DES** MITTELSTANDS (FHM); Niederwall 51, 33602 BIELEFELD

The foundational principles for integrating a circular economy in both research and teaching, as well as from an economic perspective in Europe, were clearly articulated. A detailed presentation on Fachhochschule des Mittelstandes (FHM) showcased its dedicated efforts in the realms of research and education related to the circular economy. This included a workshop aimed at examining the feasibility of adapting the "Circular Economy" course from Bielefeld for inclusion in academic programs across Central Asia, providing participants with a thorough understanding of the course structure and content.

In addition, participants were informed about ongoing **FHM research projects** focusing on various aspects of the circular economy. This exposure helped to deepen their understanding of current academic and practical approaches in the field. The opportunity to engage with Mark-Philip Lamm from Lamm Bakery in Bielefeld was particularly valuable, as it allowed participants to directly address questions related to creating and sustaining a circular economy-based business.

Practical sessions during the workshops enabled participants to actively engage with and practice various tools and methods pertinent to the circular economy, enhancing their hands-on skills. Furthermore, a presentation by Armando García Schmidt from the Bertelsmann Stiftung provided critical insights into the political and legal frameworks governing the circular economy in Europe and Germany. This comprehensive approach helped participants grasp the complex interplay between policy, legal standards, and practical implementation of circular economy principles, rounding out their learning experience with a robust understanding of both theoretical and applied dimensions of the field. The workshop on creating first ideas and concepts, which employed the Design Thinking approach, introduced an innovative, user-centered method to solve complex problems. This approach was a new experience for the Central Asian (CA) partners. By engaging in this method, CA partners gained valuable insights into how to approach problems creatively and collaboratively. They learned to focus on human-centered solutions, a critical aspect when addressing challenges within the circular economy. This experience not only enhanced their problem-solving skills but also equipped them with a versatile tool they plan to employ in their ongoing and future projects.

The adoption of the Design Thinking approach will enable CA partners to more effectively innovate and implement solutions in their respective fields, whether it's in education, business, or technology.

#### <u>Agenda:</u>

<u>Title of event: ERASMUS+, Capacity Building</u> <u>Venue:</u> FACHHOCHSCHULE DES MITTELSTANDS (FHM); Niederwall 51, 33602 BIELEFELD <u>Date</u>: April 22, 23 2024 <u>Speakers & trainers:</u> April 22, 2024

- Management Board Meeting - Madina Yussubalieva







- FHM overview educational programs and projects in CE Melanie Eikenbusch, Marianna Gevorski
- Circular Economy Introduction Melanie Eikenbusch
- Workshop "Circular Economy" Dr. Fabian Schoden, "Hochschule Bielefeld"

April 23, 2024

- Creating regional CE Transformation experiences from CirQuality OWL Project, CirQualityOWL 2019 - 2022 - CIRQUALITY OWL PLUS - Christina Schulte, Monika Pieper "EnergieImpuls OWL"
- "Linear to Circular" project overview, Talking with a SME leader experiences and challenges of circular transformation Anett Wolgast Metje Rocklage
- Practical instruments and tools for fostering circularity Test it yourself Monika Piper, Christina Schulte "EnergieImpuls OWL"
- Circular Economy in Germany and EU regulations Overview Armando Garcia Schmidt "Bertelsmann Stiftung"
- Workshop creating first ideas and concepts using Design Thinking Approach Melanie Eikenbusch
- Marianna Gevorski



## Description: April 22-23, 2024

Each section of the event covered the topic of sustainable development and circular economy in education and research. The speakers spoke in detail about how to effectively organise the coordination of scientific research and projects in collaboration with partners. The speakers talked about the importance of choosing real projects based on the needs of the region. Specific advice

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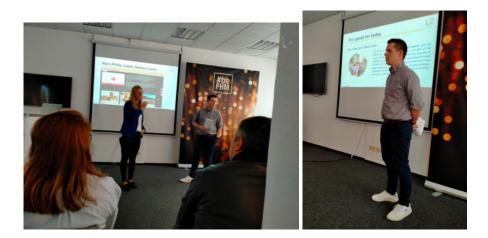


was given on how to develop an action plan by the target gropes and how dialogue with the expert community should be carried out. The speakers also talked about the competency model: how it is built, what competencies are relevant today. A chain of sequential actions was also built from identifying the problems of sustainable development and circular economy in education to their solution and implementation of specific products in practice. The question of how to organise applied research and how to attract experts from business and production as lecturers was addressed. The workshop became a platform for each partner to present their vision of solving the issue of introducing a circular economy and education.



Getting acquainted with the book «Linear Turns Circular Fostering SMEs' Circular Economy Transition» made it possible to learn the individual history of different companies, and how the new mindset can be cultivated.

The invited guest, an entrepreneur running a family business, showed a vivid and inspiring experience of introducing circular economy ideas into production.



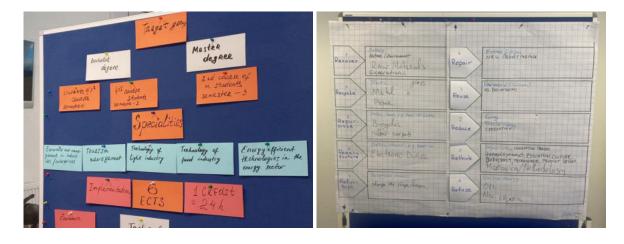
Activities The World Café allowed us to look at the problem being solved broadly and deeply.

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A detailed analysis of Circular Economy in Germany and EU regulations showed another angle on the problem.

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# Capacitation: International experience at University of Santiago de Compostela, Faculty of Economic and Business administration, Avda. do Burgo, Santiago de Compostela

Experience in the circular economy was provided, tailored specifically to the specialties of agriculture, construction, water supply, and business models within the circular economy framework. Participants gained a nuanced understanding of how to integrate a circular economy component into business disciplines, aiming to develop effective sustainable business models. Additionally, a comprehensive concept emerged on embedding circular economy principles more broadly across various curricula, highlighting the multifaceted benefits of sustainability in professional practices.

Detailed mechanisms were outlined for establishing and nurturing relationships with corporations, enterprises, and government agencies. This guidance was crucial for conducting research, performing calculations, and analyzing data that would benefit these entities directly. Moreover, the workshop emphasized the importance of collaborative projects that not only advance academic research but also drive real-world applications in circular economy practices. Through these collaborations, participants learned how to leverage partnerships to enhance both







educational outcomes and business practices, facilitating a deeper integration of circular economy strategies into local and regional development plans.

#### Agenda:

Date: April 25, 26 Venue: Faculty of Economic and Business administration, Avda. do Burgo, Santiago de Compostela

### April 25, 2024

- Basic approach to Circular Economy, Approach to CE within the master DEIN Sustainability and Circular Economy: company level - Xavier Vence, Adolfo Carballo, Nailya Saifulina

- Circular business models Entrepreneurship: case studies based on R2PI and WATER MINING project - Ángeles Pereira, Alberto Turnes

#### April 26, 2024

- Thematic visit to VIAQUA – CETAQUA technological center for Circular Economy in water sector. Presentation of VIRATEC (Galician Cluster of Environmental Solutions and Circular Economy) - Ana Botas, Teresa Alvariño



Spanish colleagues focused on analysing the historical aspect of the development of circular economy ideas, as well as a detailed description of the current situation today. 6 planetary pathways for sustainable development were described, such as decarbonization, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability, sustainable production and consumption, and sustainability management. There was also talk about reformist and transformist approaches to the circular economy. The focus was on the importance of managing sustainable development and the role that international organisations play in establishing circular economy principles everywhere.









The role of business is also great in this process, because it is it that controls the methods and forms of production. The experience of Inditex (Zara) in participating in the conservation and processing of resources was very indicative. Participants also shared what is a priority for Central Asian countries in addressing issues of sustainable development and circular economy: management of urban and industrial waste, development of remanufacturing, renewable energy sources, reduction of plastic waste, etc.

Excursion to the research center, which is a cluster of laboratories VIAQA, LABAQA, COC, AQUATEC.



During the excursion, project participants got acquainted with the activities of the center. The center cooperates with industrial enterprises, government agencies, and universities. The main types of research carried out by the research and development department are work on environmental prevention and supervision, innovative analysis of microplastics contained in water, and tests for organic pollutants. All types of physicochemical and microbiological analysis of contaminated soils, sediments, sediments and wastes are also carried out. Based on the research results, scientists draw up corrective plans and propose solutions to environmental problems.

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# Capacitation: International experience at University of Naples Federico II, Italy

The presentation from the University of Naples Federico II, particularly through its TEMALab, demonstrated their significant experience in implementing Circular Economy (CE) concepts into the fields of urbanism and sustainable building. Here's a summary of what was presented: 1. Urbanis:

- TEMALab highlighted its approach to integrating circular economy principles into urban planning. This includes promoting the reuse and optimal utilization of urban spaces, applying sustainable resource management practices, and fostering urban environments that support sustainable community life.

2. Sustainable Building:

- The focus on sustainable building practices was evident, with an emphasis on innovative construction techniques that reduce environmental impact. This includes the use of recycled materials, energy-efficient building designs, and methodologies that support the lifecycle assessment of building projects to ensure sustainability from construction through to usage.

These initiatives showcased by the University of Naples Federico II demonstrate a practical application of CE principles, aiming to make urban and architectural projects more sustainable. This expertise not only serves as a model for educational purposes but also illustrates the potential for broader application in professional practices within the field of sustainable development and circular economy.

# Safari workshop by TmEs

At the Safari workshop organized as part of the study visit to Italy by the TmEs partner, participants focused on defining "perfect match" modules. These modules are designed to align the expertise and resources of EU partners with the specific needs of Central Asian regions in the field of education and training. Here's a concise summary of what was presented and discussed at the workshop:

1. Identification of Local Needs: The most significant local needs identified by Central Asian partners were in areas such as CE business modeling, construction, and agro-processing. There was also a noted requirement for skills in tourism, medicine, mining, and manufacturing







2. EU Partner Offerings: The workshop involved discussions on what EU partners could provide. This included their strengths and areas of expertise in research and teaching related to sustainability and the circular economy.

3. Collaborative Framework: The workshop aimed to leverage existing strengths of both EU and Central Asian partners to foster effective collaboration. This involved exploring how the academic and practical knowledge of EU partners could be integrated into the educational frameworks of Central Asian institutions.

4. Development of Educational Modules: The discussions led to the identification of specific modules where circular economy programs could be integrated. These modules are intended to equip students and professionals in Central Asia with relevant skills and knowledge, tailored to both regional needs and global sustainability practices.

5. Implementation Strategy: The workshop not only focused on the planning and theoretical aspects but also laid the groundwork for the practical implementation of these modules in Central Asian educational institutions.

The Safari workshop successfully created a platform for identifying and aligning educational needs with expert resources, setting the stage for future collaborations and the development of tailored educational offerings in Central Asia.

#### Agenda:

### University of Naples Federico II, Italy

April 29, 2024

- Sustainable competitiveness - Gerardo Carpentieri, Floriana Zucaro, Carmen Guida

- Shaping Circular Economy Education in Central Asia - Aizhan Samambayeva

#### April 30, 2024

- Results of the study visit questionnaire in European countries - European partners,

- Site visit (San Giovanni University Campus), Location Corso Nicolangelo Protopisani, 70 - Naples - Gerardo Carpentieri, Floriana Zucaro, Carmen Guida

- Digita Academy and Lumina Academy - Maddalena Carmosino

<u>Participants:</u> EKTU, KoKSU, TSIEM, TUT, ABU, WIUT, TSUC, CAU, KarUK, TSIF, AST, TmES, FHM, University of Santiago de Compostela, University of Naples Federico II - 26 people

### April 29-30, 2024

During the session, TemaLab projects were presented, such as a smart university, walking distance of Milan for women. A connection was also established between the implementation of the principles of sustainable development (primarily Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements) and the competitiveness of the enterprise. The circular economy is considered as a







driver of economic development. A dialogue took place about the progress of the university's collaboration with society and policy makers.



The experience of San Giovanni University was presented. The campus of this university is located in an industrial zone - an example of the reuse of territory and buildings. The university is home to large IT companies. The university and partners are also improving the surrounding areas and giving impetus to economic development.



The practical part was presented by a Safari workshop, during which the Central Asian partners showed their priorities and preferences in the implementation of the project. The brainstorming session identified regional needs for a circular economy: Understanding which industries dominate the region will help tailor educational modules to real-world sectors.

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The strengths and areas of expertise of Central Asian universities in research and teaching related to sustainable development and the circular economy were also identified, and partners interested in sustainable development were identified. Collaborations with companies and organisations provide the opportunity to provide students with a real-life context of applied research. As a result, Central Asian partners have identified modules in which circular economy programs will be implemented.

### Safari workshop by TmEs (Aizhan Samambayeva):

As ice breaking technique, preliminary results of Market needs analysis were demonstrated where TmES showed the best practices of CE in high education (ppt is available here <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/17oztM8oQ8asSHzr5covT-5JOfY8sl -Z/view?usp=share link</u>) and validate the CA legislation in CE (ppt: <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eliHg2E9qVbv4T-EqlOk\_WA7z-\_TE500/view?usp=share\_link</u>).

During the study visit to Italy hosted by UNINA partner, TmEs organised a Safari workshop that was focused on creating a collaborative framework where the expertise and resources of EU partners could be aligned with the specific needs of Central Asian regions. Results of the workshop to define requirements to the educational and training modules (specify modules), pedagogical methodologies (co-design, experimental approach, multidisciplinary), research collaborations that are tailored to the needs of the Central Asian stakeholders.

Themethodologyoftheworkshopisdetailedherehttps://docs.google.com/document/d/1IIZ297xYsPZ7yx1zTAEFpIInyFK78/edit?usp=sharelink&ouid=105668700787988679409&rtpof=true&sd=true

The results of the workshop were exceptionally productive. The collaborative sessions facilitated the identification of 'perfect match' modules, which aligned the expertise of EU partners with the needs of the Central Asian regions. These outcomes are invaluable as they provide a solid foundation for the development of tailored teaching materials. The insights gained from the workshop not only enrich the educational resources but also ensure that they are directly relevant







and highly beneficial to the intended beneficiaries in Central Asia. This strategic alignment enables the creation of targeted educational programs that can effectively address regional needs while disseminating specialized knowledge from the EU.

1. **The first "station"named "Local needs"** (Are there specific industries in your region that would particularly benefit from circular economy practices?) revealed that local needs are grouped into key group:

N	Field	HEI	Disciplines in CE
1	Agro-processing (food processing, textile, agriculture)	TJ: TSUC, TUT UZ:CAU, WUIT KZ: Koksu, KarUK TKM:	Agricultural Advancements, Sustainable farming
2	Construction (eco building, architecture, green building)/ Design	TJ: UZ: CAU, WUIT KZ: ABU, EKTU, Koksu TKM:	Eco-Building Design, Green Building, Sustainable Space Design
3	CE business models (management, banking, economics, entrepreneurship)	TJ: TSUC UZ: CAU, WUIT KZ: Koksu, KarUK, ABU, EKTU TKM: TSIF, TSIEM	Sustainable Business Models, Sustainable Entrepreneurship
4	Tourism	TJ: TSUC UZ: KZ: ABU TKM:	Hospitality Management, Sustainable tourism management
5	Medicine, Pharmacy, Health	TJ: UZ: KZ: KarUK TKM:	Sustainable health management, Environmental Health, Biomedical Engineering, Sustainable public health management
6	Engineering/Manufacturing/Energy/T echnology	TJ: TUT, UZ:CAU, WUIT KZ: EKTU, KarUK TKM: TSIF, TSIEM	Energy Innovations







UZ: Management KZ: EKTU, KarUK, Koksu TKM: TSIF, TSIEM	7	Mining/Mining	KZ: EKTU, KarUK, Koksu	Sustainable Resource Management
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Based on the results, the most important local needs the CA partners specified were **CE business modelling, Construction, agro-processing.** Few universities also specify that local market requires skills in Tourism, Medicine, Mining and manufacturing.

2. The second station is named "HEI current offer" (What are your university's strengths and areas of expertise in research and teaching related to sustainability and the circular economy? This helps in leveraging existing strengths and identifying areas for development or collaboration.) Based on workshop analysis 3 key areas of CA HEI offer were specified:

### a. Business models, management, entrepreneurship

Central Asian partners are indicating a need for expertise in Circular Economy (CE) business models. This involves designing business practices that promote sustainable use of resources and minimize waste. EU partners could provide training and development in CE principles, focusing on how to create and implement sustainable business models that can be adopted by local enterprises.

#### b. Energy, resource management, engineering, manufacturing

Incorporating advanced sustainable engineering practices, renewable energy technologies, and efficiency optimization in resource use within the existing curricula. Development of new research initiatives focusing on reducing the environmental impact of manufacturing processes.

#### c. Construction

There's a need for advanced construction techniques, especially those that incorporate sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. EU partners could share expertise in green building technologies, sustainable urban planning, and efficient resource management in construction projects.

3. The third station was devoted to name and list stakeholders CA HEI currently work with "Company list" (Does your university have partnerships with local businesses or industries that could facilitate practical applications of circular economy principles? Partnerships can provide real-world contexts for students and opportunities for applied research). The list of companies by HEI were collected for a future stakeholders pool creation.









- 4. The fourth station was aimed to evaluate the impact, how many Education programs will possibly include CE modules. Which will be the scope of CE integration: How do you envision these modules being integrated into your existing curricula? Are there specific departments or programs where they would be most relevant?
  - a. CE in Management
  - b. Bachelor
  - c. Master
  - d. Life-long learning

The most relevant level of education for CE implementation is Bachelor and Master levels.

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# **Results of the evaluation**

FACHHOCHSCHULE DES MITTELSTANDS (FHM); Niederwall 51, 33602 BIELEFELD Date: April 22, 23 2024

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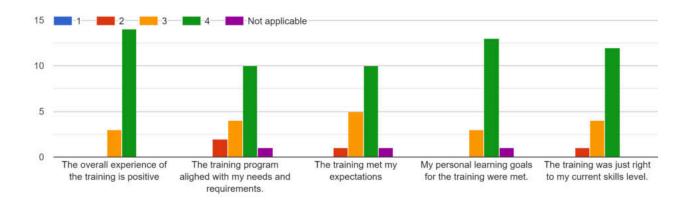






Participants noted that the training program fully met their expectations and requests. The training was productive and helped to understand the essence of the circular economy and how to solve the problems of sustainable development in education (see figure 1,2).

Please assess following statements considering only your study visit/training part in the particular country:



#### Figure 1.

The content of the training was also highly rated: the variety of topics related to the circular economy; practical examples (figure 2).

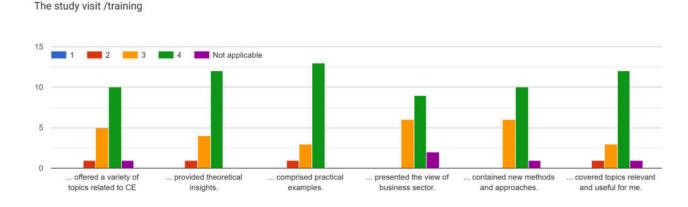


Figure 2.

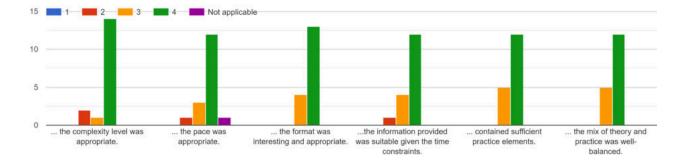
The content of the training was also highly rated: the variety of topics related to the circular economy; practical examples provide theoretical insights (figure 3).







Please assess following statements: The training



#### Figure 3.

The assessment of the speakers is also high: trainers and speakers have a high level of knowledge. The speakers maintained communication with the participants and coordinated activities to solve practical problems.

The training participants noted that they saw the experience of their colleagues, how they implement this issue at different levels of training and integration into business, mastered new competencies that will help them more successfully solve issues of the circular economy: problem solving skills, application of Design thinking teaching and learning tools, Group working, Coworking. We also learned more about regulation and regulatory documents on the circular economy in Germany.

The following suggestions were made for future training: analysis of real syllabuses, study of different models for integrating the circular economy in different educational programs; organisation Field trips, characteristics Government support and regulation of CE and cooperation with private sector.

At the same time, some participants made a proposal to further expand the practical component of such training to fully immerse themselves in the tools and mechanisms for introducing a circular economy into education. Participants also noted that it would be useful to have a list of European scientific papers and normative documents that can be referred to in scientific research. Expanding the training space, visiting enterprises, discussing presentations would also be useful for participants in such training.

# University of Santiago de Compostela Date: April 26, 27 2024

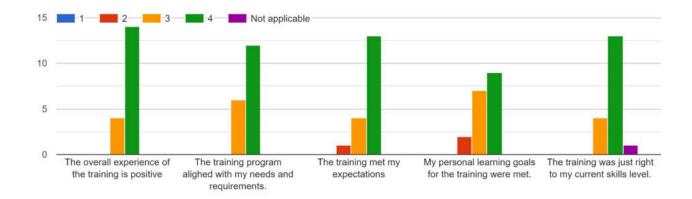
The training participants noted that the content met their expectations and the level of their knowledge and competencies. The training was very informative and in the spirit of mutual exchange of experience; the partners demonstrated very clearly tested options (figure 4, 5).





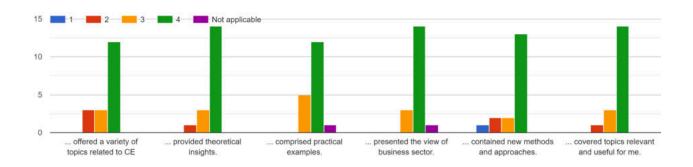


Please assess following statements considering only your study visit/training part in the particular country:



#### Figure 4

The study visit /training



#### Figure 5

Survey participants highly rated the speakers, noting their professionalism, depth of knowledge and ability to convey information in an interesting and accessible way. High ratings also indicate that the speakers were able to connect with the audience and meet participants' expectations, which is an important indicator of the success of the training.

Participants noted that increasing the number of practical sessions would be useful, as this allows them to put theoretical knowledge into practice and gain first-hand experience. Practice sessions can lead to better understanding of the material, strengthening of skills, and greater interaction with other participants and mentors. It also provides the opportunity to ask questions in real time and solve problems that may arise during practical work. Increasing the number of such sessions can improve overall participant satisfaction and make the program more effective and dynamic.







# University of Naples Federico II, Italy Date: April 29, 30 2024

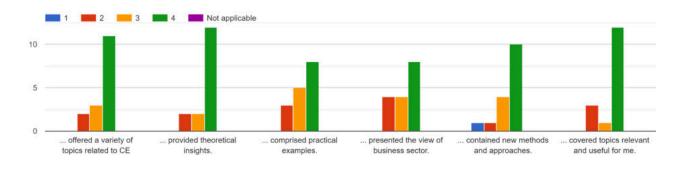
Participants rated the training at the University of Naples Federico II quite highly: they noted the positive experience and compliance of the program with the stated topics. The personal goals of the training participants were generally achieved. Participants also noted the theoretical value of the presentation material (see pictures 6,7)



Please assess following statements considering only your study visit/training part in the particular country:

### Figure 6

The study visit /training



#### Figure 7

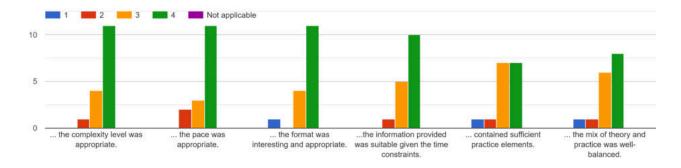
The level of complexity of the information presented was acceptable, the format reflected the essence of the questions and corresponded to the stated topics (Figure 8).







#### Please assess following statements: The training



#### Figure 8

The speakers were convincing and presented interesting and useful facts.

At the same time, the following proposals were received from the training participants:

- provide more specific results and experience of Italian colleagues,

- in the future, in the process of study visit the relationship between science and production should be increased,

- attention should be paid to the legal and organisational aspects of the issue
- more education information, get content by discipline
- devote more time to individual work
- take a closer look at the features of business models

# Conclusions

The workshop, held in various locations including Bielefeld, Santiago, and Naples, were aimed at sharing experiences and best practices in integrating circular economy disciplines into curricula at different educational institutions across the European Union and Central Asia.

Key Takeaways from the Event:

- The workshops successfully met the participants' expectations, providing them with a deep understanding of the circular economy's implementation both in higher education and the private sector.

- Participants were able to directly engage with various educational tools and methods, enhancing their practical skills and theoretical understanding of the circular economy.

- The event facilitated significant knowledge exchange and fostered potential for future collaborations between EU and Central Asian partners.







- The Design Thinking approach introduced during the workshops was particularly effective in fostering creative problem-solving skills among the participants.

Feedback and Recommendations:

- The participants appreciated the interactive and hands-on approach of the workshops, which helped to solidify their learning and understanding.

- Suggestions for future events include increasing the practical components of the training, providing more detailed case studies and real-world applications, and enhancing collaboration between academia and industry.

Overall Impact:

- The workshops not only equipped professors and professionals from Central Asia with the skills needed to implement and teach circular economy concepts effectively but also created a platform for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between different regions and disciplines.

- The strategic alignment of educational needs with EU expertise has set a solid foundation for developing tailored educational programs that address regional needs while promoting sustainable and circular economic practices globally.

The Capacitation event, as part of the CirculEc project, was pivotal in advancing the integration of circular economy principles into higher education curricula across Central Asia and the European Union. By facilitating an exchange of expertise and practical approaches between EU and Central Asian educational institutions, the event not only enhanced the participants' understanding and skills in implementing sustainable practices but also fostered international collaboration. This collaborative framework is crucial for developing tailored educational modules that address specific regional needs while promoting global sustainability goals. As such, the event played a significant role in equipping educators and professionals with the necessary tools to drive the transition towards a more sustainable and circular economy in their respective regions, making it an essential step towards environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

# **Evidence**

- 1. Supporting documents, training materials, deliverables: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/16pK-E4ia2Xog\_u-GCeCjflm4wmjogzi9</u>
- 2. Participants' signature sheet Germany: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1x8v7zCKLluthzU-\_s2Sw5a\_6dLiJBmM\_</u> Spain: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1oPcUSnVINHMwOyUnwvOH9GozbPossVV</u> <u>Q</u>







Italy: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1e1k4rsoEessALyHQsIhewOld-d5sSLri</u>

- 3. Agenda https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1e1k4rsoEessALyHQsIhewOld-d5sSLri
- 4. Pictures, videos https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1E8f-K8UN0HKe47M80Rio1U8rkMcoXA4t
- 5. Brochure https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1x8v7zCKLluthzU-\_s2Sw5a\_6dLiJBmM\_
- 6. Evaluation forms <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1gxFSosi\_1z08qUC0rOMcmoheJJ0K\_wUG</u>
- 7. Certificate of participation

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1xx0knBt-2dErUSURzKJV1WibLaTQAQDZ

8. Poster

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1oPcUSnVINHMwOyUnwvOH9GozbPossVV 0

