

# A SOCIAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY ANCHORING REVIEW

**SCE-VET:  
ANCHORING SOCIAL  
CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY  
ATTITUDES IN VET**





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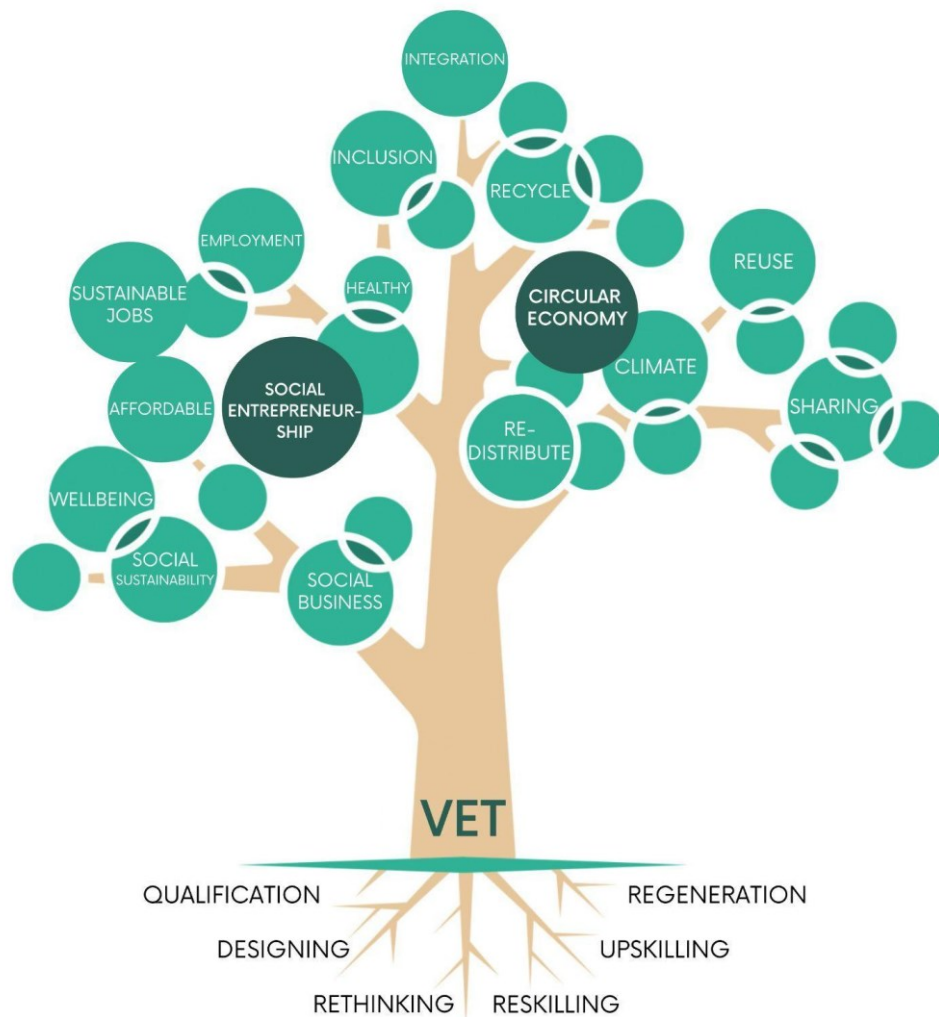


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# 1. Social Circular Economy Guide



Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET) is a cooperation partnership where the transnational network is as important as the innovative results. It is due to this partnership that we can innovate and develop a Social Circular Economy (SCE) network online and to offer accessible online course modules focusing on social circular economy. In this partnership it is also important for all partners to focus on inclusion and diversity in all fields of vocational education and training (VET).

Circularity can be expected to have a positive net effect on job creation provided that workers acquire the skills required by the green transition. The purpose of Social Circular Economy (SCE) is to inspire people to rethink, redesign and pursue a positive future with the belief that linking the principles of the circular economy with social enterprise gives the right conditions to foster innovation and creativity, for a world with local solutions to meet societal, environmental and economic needs. The aim is to engage in a more social, inclusive and environmental responsible economy by merging the concepts of circular economy (CE) and social enterprising.

The project has been co-funded by the Erasmus+ program and the partners are:

- The Federation of Swedish Ostrobothnia for Education and Culture/YA - Vocational College of Ostrobothnia, Finland (coordinator)
- Stowarzyszenie Edukacji Rolniczej i Lesnej EUROPEA Polska, Poland
- Stichting De Drie AOC's, the Netherlands
- UC LIMBURG, Belgium
- INNOVATION HIVE, Greece
- CENTRUL DE INCUBARE CREATIV INOVATIV DE AFACERI, Romania
- HumaCapiAct, Italy
- STICHTING PLATFORM BETA EN TECHNIEK, the Netherlands
- CENTRO INTEGRADO DE FORMACIÓN Y EXPERIENCIAS AGRARIAS DE Molina de Segura, Spain

## 1.1 What is a (social) circular economy?

In our traditional economy materials are taken from the earth to produce products that are eventually thrown away as waste<sup>1</sup>. A circular economy provides an alternative paradigm in which the production of waste is minimized. Circular economy is based on three core principles: 1) eliminating pollution and waste, 2) circulating materials and products at their highest value for as long as possible and 3) regenerating nature.

Several strategic documents put both circular economy and social issues at the core. The European Green Deal aims to reach the goal of 0 emission by 2050.<sup>2</sup> In order to do this, it wants to detach economic growth from resource use. Importantly, it posits to have a *fair* and *inclusive* transition aiming to *improve wellbeing and health* of citizens.

The focus on social issues is clearly present in the key target areas of the European green deal:

- Clean air, water, soil and biodiversity. Biodiversity strategy.
- Renovated energy-efficient buildings
- *Healthy and affordable* food.
- More public transport: *give users affordable, accessible, healthier* and cleaner alternatives
- Clean energy and technological innovation

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<sup>1</sup> Reference: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview#:~:text=The%20circular%20economy%20is%20a,do%20with%20the%20materials%20af terwards.>

<sup>2</sup> Reference: [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

- Sustainable products which can be *repaired, recycled and reused*
- *Sustainable jobs and skills training* for the transition
- Industry that is competitive and resilient

In these target areas, a focus on health, affordability, accessibility, sustainable jobs and agency for users (e.g. products which can be repaired, recycled and reused, skill training, ...) clearly highlight the core social focus of the European Green Deal.

Simultaneously, there is an increasing need for systemic approaches instead of conventional ones, leading to the promotion of new forms of collaboration. Multi-stakeholder involvement, including involvement of the public, is seen as more and more necessary. An example of this is the European Climate Pact, a movement of people around the world taking steps towards a more sustainable Europe. The European Climate Pact is founded by the European commission as part of the European Green Deal.

Another key policy document is the Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>3</sup>. The Circular Economy Action Plan views the circular economy as key for reaching the aims of the European Green Deal and wants to **make the circular economy work for people, regions and cities**. Social aspects of a circular economy are clearly integrated in the Circular Economy Action Plan:

- For **citizens** the aim of the Circular Economy Action Plan is to provide high-quality functional and safe products, which are efficient and affordable.
- The Circular Economy Action Plan values multistakeholder involvement and wants to create its agenda in **co-creation with economic actors, consumers, citizens and civil society organisations**.
- The action plan aims to make a **sustainable product policy framework** making sustainable products and business models the norm and transforming consumption patterns. The goal of the policy framework is **to empower consumers and public buyers** and increase circularity in the production process.

Although the social aspect was already implied in circular economy policy documents, it was made more explicit when the term *social circular economy* was coined.<sup>4</sup> Social circular economy combines principles of the circular economy (e.g. a regenerative and restorative industrial economy that keeps resources in use at their highest value for as long as possible) and social enterprises (e.g. enterprises

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<sup>3</sup> Reference: [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en)

<sup>4</sup> Reference: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/social-circular-economy-opportunities-people-planet-and-profit>

aiming to make social impact as much as making money). While no common definition exists for social enterprises, there are a few common characteristics, namely 1) social enterprises have a clear social mission, 2) they generate the majority of their income through trading goods or services, 3) they reinvest the majority of their profits into their mission or organization, 4) they are independent and autonomous from state, 5) they are transparent and accountable, and 6) it is clear which stakeholders they support. Due to the circular economy's inherent focus on economic benefits, societal challenges can be overlooked. Similarly, social enterprises have the potential pitfall of overlooking negative impact on the environment. By combining concepts of circular economy and social enterprises, social circular economy delivers benefits for people, planet and profit. The core belief of a social circular economy is that society and the environment can be improved while also enhancing personal wellbeing. In sum, a social circular economy provides a working model ensuring that the economy does no harm to society or the environment.

## 2. National Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship Strategies and Concepts

### **What is a national circular economy strategy?**

A national strategy on circular economy is a plan developed by a country's government to transition to a more sustainable and circular economic model. This strategy outlines specific policies, measures, and targets to increase the efficient use of resources, reduce waste, and promote sustainable production and consumption patterns.

The circular economy is an economic system that aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible, minimizing waste and environmental impact. It promotes the reuse, repair, and recycling of products and materials, and the adoption of renewable energy sources.

A national strategy on circular economy may include initiatives such as:

- Reducing waste and increasing resource efficiency through the adoption of circular business models and practices.
- Encouraging the use of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns through education and awareness-raising campaigns.
- Supporting research and development of new technologies that enable a circular economy.

- Building a robust and resilient circular economy ecosystem that involves all stakeholders, including businesses, consumers, policymakers, and civil society.

Overall, a national strategy on circular economy aims to promote sustainable economic growth, create jobs, and protect the environment, while also contributing to the achievement of global sustainable development goals.

### **How is a national circular economy strategy connected with the EU strategy for the transition to a more sustainable model?**

A national circular economy strategy is closely connected with the EU strategy for the transition to a more sustainable model (EU Circular Economy Action Plan) which launched in 2020. In fact, the EU has set ambitious targets and guidelines for its member states to implement circular economy strategies in their national policies.

The EU also provides funding and support to member states to implement their national circular economy strategies. For example, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) provides financial support for projects that promote the circular economy, while the European Investment Bank (EIB) provides loans and financing for circular economy projects.

Therefore, a national circular economy strategy should be aligned with the EU strategy and guidelines to ensure a coherent and effective approach to the transition to a more sustainable economic model.

### **What is a social enterprise?**

The definition of social enterprise is based on one of two main approaches. A social enterprise strives to stand out from other businesses with their distinct characteristics. A social enterprise tracks business in order to achieve its societal objectives and socially beneficial objectives, and uses more than half of its profits to achieve its goals, promote business ideas and develop its operations. Today, corporate social responsibility should be part of normal value creation, not a standalone project. The goal is to create special legislation, institutions and clearly defined criteria for social enterprises. Societal objectives are not just a part of the company's business reason but the main principle guiding all operations.

Social enterprises are involved in a business area that is based on different premises and contributes to solving societal challenges. Many EU Member States have begun to create legislation and structures specially designed for social enterprises. Social enterprises can define the societal focus of their actions, as well as the importance of societal action objectives at large. Due to the absence of a clear definition makes it difficult to identify social enterprises in a business context. From the viewpoint of



legislation and consensus, they act in the same fields as other companies. Therefore, social entrepreneurship can take various forms, such as nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses with a social mission, or hybrid models that combine both elements. The ultimate goal is to create innovative, sustainable, and impactful solutions to complex social and environmental challenges while promoting positive change in society. Also, the social enterprises are founded by people who would not otherwise be interested in starting a business.

Societal business objectives are similar like corporate social responsibility. Trends today are highlighting responsible and sustainable actions and progress. Business is more and more driven by companies' improved awareness of the state of the globe and climate, as well as their necessity to satisfy customer, investor and other stakeholder expectations. A need to stand out from competitors, manage risks, increase their value and safeguard their future operating conditions are also increasing. Companies are integrating environmental and social responsibility into their business operations at an increasing pace. This is also related to innovation, leadership, production and operating models.

### **Which are the main activities of a social enterprise?**

Social enterprises are often focused on the social and health sector, but other actions can be created around any social injustice, potentials and prospects. The opportunities are many. Well-being of citizens, regional life, culture, sport, education, the needs of special groups and immigrants.

A social enterprise is engaged in business activity to achieve its chosen social objective and directs the majority of its profits to that purpose. The activities highlight responsibility, openness and transparency, as well as inclusion and democracy in the governance model. The strategy's idea is that the way social enterprises conduct business will be recognized, but no specific legal basis or special treatment will be provided for them. Instead, the operating conditions of social enterprises will often be strengthened through national established networks.

Social enterprises work in a variety of fields. In for example the United Kingdom, the pioneer of social enterprise, they typically complement public social and health-care services. In Finland, the best-known social enterprises are the Linnanmäki amusement park, which is owned by the Children's Day Foundation, and Diacor Medical Services, owned by the Helsinki Deaconess Institute.

### **How can social entrepreneurship lead to circular economy strategies?**

The intensification of the circular economy and increased consumer awareness also create new growth opportunities for social enterprises. As it is difficult to precisely define the diverse societal objectives

of business operations, countries have chosen to approach questions related to the scope of social enterprises.

Social entrepreneurship can drive a social circular economy strategy by fostering innovation in sustainable business models, solving social and environmental issues, promoting waste reduction and resource efficiency, empowering communities, raising awareness, and collaborating with various stakeholders. Successful initiatives can be scaled, replicated, and advocated for policies that support the circular economy. In essence, social entrepreneurs act as catalysts for the transition to a more circular and equitable economy.

## 2.1. Belgium

**Flanders to be a frontrunner in circular economy by 2030**

**Goal:** Reduce ecological footprint by 30% by 2030 (vs 2010) through circular innovation.

**Flanders Circular:** Cooperation between financial partners, research, social profit, companies and government.

**Key topics:** bio-economy, chemistry / plastics, circular construction, make industry, food, and water.

**Why Invest in Circular Economy?**

- Resilience: Circular economy helps retain access to resources and materials in the face of resource scarcity.
- Partnerships: Circular economy creates excellent partnerships and meaningful jobs.
- Climate Goals: Circular economy helps reach climate goals and limits the impact of resource use on the environment, people, and biodiversity.

**Flanders' Strengths**

- Crucial Sectors: Flanders has strong sectors in construction, make-industry, agri-food, chemistry, social economy, recycling, water, and plastic- and biotechclusters.
- Open Economy: Around two-thirds of product- and material streams are exported internationally.
- Central Location: Flanders is located centrally, with an extensive logistical network and harbors to transport resources.
- Engaged Citizens: Flanders has several circular citizen initiatives and a highly educated population.
- Supportive Policy: Policy supports the transition to a circular economy on the level of the Flemish, Belgian, and European government.

**Social Circular Economy**

Flanders invests in projects to include people with a distance to the job market to transform traditional organizations to circular organizations.

In Belgium, the government wants Flanders to be a frontrunner in the circular economy. In order to reach this goal, the government will invest in circular innovation and reduce their ecological footprint by 30% by 2030 (vs 2010) as a means of decoupling from economic growth. The government has invested in Flanders Circular, a cooperation between financial partners, research, social profit, companies and government. Flanders Circular addresses six key topics: 1) bio-economy, 2) chemistry / plastics, 3) circular construction, 4) the make industry, 5) food and 6) water.

The government sees a circular economy as a way to be more resilient. Circular economy is a way to retain access to resources and materials in the face of resource scarcity. Moreover, the circular economy is seen as a way to create excellent partnerships and novel meaningful jobs, a means to reach the climate goals and to limit the impact of resource use on the environment, people and biodiversity.

Furthermore, Flanders has some strong points to make the transition to a circular economy

reality. The industry in Flanders has several strong crucial sectors (e.g. construction, make-industry, agri-food sector, chemistry, social economy, recycling, water, plastic- and biotech clusters). The economy in Flanders is also open since around two thirds of product- and material streams are exported internationally. Flanders is located centrally, has an extensive logistical network and harbors to transport resources. Moreover, citizens in Flanders are very engaged in the circular economy. There are several circular citizen initiatives. There also is a high level of education in Flanders, since it has 5 universities and several research centers of European organizations. This level of education will support the technological and social innovation necessary for the transition to a circular economy. Finally, policy is supporting the transition to a circular economy on the level of the Flemish, Belgian and European government.

When it comes to the social circular economy, Flanders is investing in projects where people with a distance to the job market can be included to transform traditional organizations to circular organizations.

### **Social Enterprises in Belgium**

In Belgium, the definition of 'social entrepreneurship' varies depending on the level of authority involved, and it aligns with the European Commission's approach. The European Commission considers social economy as the third sector of the economy and defines social enterprise in its 'Social Business Initiative' (2011) as a business where:

- The social or societal objective of common interest drives commercial action.
- Profits are primarily reinvested in achieving that societal goal, making profit maximization a means rather than an end.
- The method of organization is based on democratic or participatory principles.

Belgium has a notable presence of social enterprises, and it is one of the European countries with a significant number of social enterprises relative to its economy's size.

Social entrepreneurs in Belgium are active in various sectors and industries, and while it's not possible to provide an exhaustive list, some common examples include social services, education, ethical finance, integration of low-skilled workers, fair trade, renewable energy, recycling, healthcare, and more. Social enterprises operate in a broad array of fields related to the production of goods (food, garments, furniture, energy, etc.) and services (retail, transport, homecare, education, health, culture, insurance, finance, information technology, construction, and refurbishing, among others).

The main objectives of social enterprises in Belgium include increasing the visibility and credibility of the social economy, promoting social entrepreneurship, and making the social economy known to the general public. Additionally, these objectives involve interdepartmental discussions with federal

departments to identify expectations and potential actions at the federal level, creating a federal action plan for social economy, working with regions to establish national indicators for social economy, and supporting an ambitious Belgian stance on the development of social economy at the European level. These efforts aim to foster the growth and recognition of social enterprises within the Belgian economy.

## 2.2 Finland

Finland has prepared a strategic programme to promote a circular economy. The aim is to transform the economy into one that is based on the principles of circular economy by 2035. With this programme, the Finnish Government wants to strengthen Finland's role as a leader in the circular economy. The transition into a circular economy is also a step towards achieving the Government's carbon neutrality target by 2035. The Finnish Government adopted the resolution on promoting a circular economy on 8 April 2021.

- [Government resolution on the Strategic Programme for Circular Economy 8.4.2021](#) File opens in a new tab PDF 551kB
- [Press release of Ministry of the Environment 8 April 2021: Finland's Circular Economy Programme sets targets to curb overconsumption of natural resources](#)

The strategic programme to promote a circular economy sets out objectives for the use of natural resources. It sets the objectives and indicators, specifies the measures to be

### Finland commits to EU-wide circular economy objectives

**Goal:** Transformation of the economy in line with the principles of the circular economy and contribution to the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2035.

**Synergies:** Cooperation amongst stakeholders such as different ministries and research institutes and dialogue with companies, business sectors and local governments.

#### Strengths

- **Broad Stakeholder Engagement:** Involvement of ministries, research institutes, businesses, and local governments.
- **Citizens' Involvement:** Engaged citizens through a citizens' jury and online brainstorming.
- **Job Creation:** Expect 75,000 new jobs through the circular economy.
- **Social Inclusion:** Promote employment for disadvantaged individuals and social enterprises.
- **Community-Based Services:** Support rural communities through local services.
- **Workplace Adaptation:** Adapt to changes in the labor market and generational shifts.
- **Consumer Ethical Choices:** Respond to consumer preferences for ethical products.

#### Social Circular Economy

- **Social Inclusion:** Promotes employment for vulnerable populations.
- **Diversification:** New business opportunities in the health and social services sector.
- **Community-based Social Enterprises:** Meet local service needs, stimulate rural development.

taken and allocates the resources needed to promote the circular economy and achieve systemic change.

A broad spectrum of stakeholders such as different ministries and research institutes, in dialogue with companies, business sectors and local governments, participated in the process to prepare the resolution. The preparation of the programme for circular economy has been supported by a citizens' jury, which consisted of 50 citizens randomly selected from among volunteers. In addition, all citizens had an opportunity to participate in the preparation of the programme through an online brainstorming platform.

Promoting the circular economy at all levels is one of the most significant tools for climate policy. Finland is committed to the EU-wide objectives of promoting the circular economy, which focus on environmental aspects as well as on increasing the EU's competitiveness through new innovations and low-threshold employment opportunities. According to surveys, the circular economy holds significant business potential. The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra expects the circular economy to offer 75,000 new jobs in the next few years. Promoting the reuse of usable products as part of the circular economy has the potential of significantly improving employment. The circular economy and reuse of products provide various opportunities to employ people who are partially incapacitated or otherwise disadvantaged in the labour market, as well as increase the number of social enterprises.

The health and social services sector grapples with major changes resulting from demographic trends. This offers the sector numerous new business opportunities related to, for example, the health and social services reform, different types of services vouchers, opportunities provided by artificial intelligence and the platform economy, robotics and business acquisitions. To safeguard wellbeing services, we need operating models that encourage service providers to increase the productivity, impact and profitability of service operations. There is a need to diversify the service market and support companies based on alternative business models. The business model of social enterprises is one way to diversify service provision. Community-based social entrepreneurship has attracted a great deal of interest in many countries, especially as a way for rural environments to develop the wellbeing and employment of inhabitants and satisfy the demand for services.

Community-based social enterprises meet local service needs by providing, for example, care, transport, housing, shopping and postal services. The Ruralia Institute predicts a growing demand for services that are jointly provided by rural communities. Many small municipalities find that their tender invitations for service provision receive no offers from the private sector, forcing 14 Publications of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment 2022:5 municipalities and

communities to develop new alternatives for providing services. The increase in remote and multi-location work creates added potential for the emergence of new business models.

Changes in the workplace will also affect the diversification of companies and entrepreneurship and increase the number of the self-employed. A generational change will be taking place in the labour market, as baby boomers retire. Young people place increasing value on the significance and content of their work, the workplace community, their opportunity to influence matters and a good work-life balance. As new generations take up entrepreneurial activities, the foundations of entrepreneurship will likely change as well. The change in values is reflected in the behaviour of consumers. More and more consumers now base their choices on ethical considerations. Consumers' increasing interest in the source of commodities and ethical production methods requires companies to sharpen their profile on the market.

### **Social Enterprises in Finland**

In Finnish strategy, social entrepreneurship is not limited to specific sectors only. The act regulating work integration social enterprises (1351/2003) entered into force in Finland in 2004. Operating according to business principles, a work integration social enterprise produces products and offers jobs especially to people whose disability or illness hampers their employment. Work integration social enterprises differ from other companies in that at least 30 percent of their staff must be partially incapacitated for work or a total of at least 30 per cent must be partially incapacitated for work or long-term unemployed. In compensation, work integration social enterprises receive wage subsidies on more advantageous terms. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment maintains a register of work integration social enterprises operating in Finland. However, the number of work integration social enterprises has been decreasing. It was at its highest in 2009, when registered enterprises numbered 212, compared to 21 in January 2021. Not all social enterprises are work integration social enterprises and vice versa. Social enterprise is a broader concept than work integration social enterprise. The societal objective of a work integration social enterprise is to find employment opportunities for disadvantaged people, while a social enterprise may also seek to provide other types of societal benefits. For example, the act on work integration social enterprises does not include a requirement for restricting profit distribution, as is the case for social enterprises

In Finland it is estimated that there are hundreds of social enterprises in various sectors of the economy tackling social and/or environmental problems. These types of companies are typically established to find a solution or a new operating model for a social challenge. Their operations are profitable but generating profit for shareholders is not their primary goal. Social enterprises may reform service structures, produce welfare services in a manner that is sustainable for the economy

and the people, create jobs and develop services locally and dedicate their profits to improving wellbeing in the local community and develop viable solutions for environmental problems.

Social enterprises are often categorised into the social and health sector, but new operations can be created around any social injustice or opportunity. The possibilities are endless: well-being of the young, regional vitality, culture, sport, education, the needs of special groups, and so on.

Social enterprises are no different from other companies, as companies. They produce goods and services for the market and try to make a profit, the same as any other business. It pays all its employees a salary under a collective bargaining agreement and it always has an entry in the Finnish Trade Register. The difference from other companies lies in the fact that at least 30% of the employees in a social enterprise are disabled or all are disabled or previously unemployed in the long term. In addition, the company must have an entry in the register of social enterprises held by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Only a company with an entry in this register can use the name and business ID of a social enterprise in its business operations and marketing.

Globally, social entrepreneurship is a growing trend. And even though Finland has a tradition of social entrepreneurship through cooperatives, the concept of social enterprise remains a relatively unknown concept.

### **Strategy for Social Enterprises in Finland 2022:**

A social enterprise is engaged in business activity to achieve its chosen social objective and directs the majority of its profits to that purpose. The activities emphasise responsibility, openness and transparency, as well as inclusion and democracy in the governance model

The strategy's premise is that the way social enterprises conduct business will be recognised, but no specific legal basis or special treatment will be provided for them. Instead, the operating conditions of social enterprises will be strengthened. The strategy proposes that a new centre of expertise, which will be national and network-based, be established. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for the management and oversight of the centre. The centre's task is to create national advisory and guidance services specialising in social enterprises and introduce measures to raise awareness of the business model. Business skills and competence in effectiveness among social enterprises will be increased. Measures to help integrate social innovations will be strengthened. The effectiveness of public procurement and the use of social criteria and innovative practices will be advanced and the need for new funding models will be assessed. Statistics and data production will be systematised and research activities will be increased. The key objective of the strategy is to improve

the employment of people with partial work ability and others who are in a weak labour market position.

### 2.3 Greece

## The 4 Pillars in Greek Circular Economy Strategy

Greece's NAPCE is a strategic response to EU's Circular Economy Action Plan and its four pillars aim to achieve a circular economy by 2030, focusing on sustainability, efficiency, innovation, and governance. Accompanying plans extend the impact.

- 01 Sustainable Production and Consumption**  
**Goal:** Promote sustainable production and consumption.  
**Initiatives:** Eco-design, green public procurement, re-use, re-store, re-pair.  
**Focus:** Reduce new product purchases, consumer awareness.
- 02 Resource Efficiency and Waste Management**  
**Goal:** Improve resource efficiency and reduce waste.  
**Measures:** Extended producer responsibility, recycling programs, raw materials markets.  
**Focus:** Reduce waste, enhance resource efficiency.
- 03 Circular Business Models**  
**Goal:** Promote circular business models.  
**Actions:** Support circular entrepreneurship, innovation, collaboration.  
**Focus:** Foster circular economy understanding and education.
- 04 Governance and Monitoring**  
**Goal:** Enhance governance and monitoring.  
**Actions:** Coordination, collaboration, indicator development.  
**Focus:** Government agencies, academia, civil society collaboration.

Greece responded to the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy and the Governmental Economic Policy Council endorsed the National Action Plan on Circular Economy (NAPCE) in 2018.

The NAPCE details short-term priority interventions aimed at setting up a path towards the long-term adoption of circular economy principles. The strategic long-term goals for 2030 included in the NAPCE focus, on four main pillars:

- **Sustainable Production and Consumption:** The first pillar of the NAPCE focuses on promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns in Greece, through initiatives such as eco-design, green public procurement, re-using, re-storing and re-pairing rather than buying new products (especially for electrical and electronic devices) and consumer awareness campaigns.
- **Resource Efficiency and Waste Management:** The second pillar of the NAPCE aims to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste, by implementing measures such as extended producer responsibility,



waste reduction and recycling programs, and the development of secondary raw materials markets.

- **Circular Business Models:** The third pillar of the NAPCE aims to promote the adoption of circular business models in Greece, by providing support for circular entrepreneurship and innovation, and by encouraging collaboration between different stakeholders in the circular economy and enhancing knowledge, understanding and education.
- **Governance and Monitoring:** The fourth and final pillar of the NAPCE focuses on governance and monitoring, by establishing a framework for coordination and collaboration between different government agencies, academia and civil society and by developing indicators and targets to track progress towards a more circular economy.

Two other national plans accompanied the NAPCE. The National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and the National Strategic Plan for Waste Prevention (NSPWP) firstly had a five-year horizon (2015-2020), however both of them have been revised in 2020 and 2021 with a time horizon up to 2030.

### **Social Enterprises in Greece**

When Greece was hit by the crisis over the last decade, cooperative ideals and practices obtained new meaning and forms of implementation, especially in cities. 2011 was a start point in Greek social enterprise development, as the first law regarding social economy and social entrepreneurship (4019/2011), was approved that year. However, the Greek social enterprises are still currently embryonic when compared with other European countries.

Both the EU operational definition and Greek law have built their concept of social enterprise around the same threefold structure, involving social, economic and inclusive governance criteria. Despite many similarities, there is a significant difference in Greek legislative and administrative documents in the preferred use of the term 'social and solidarity economy organisation' over 'social enterprise'. However, in general the 'social enterprise' is a term which is used by practitioners and stakeholders. Despite broadly matching, legal typologies covered by the Greek Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) do not fully correspond to the criteria of the EU operational definition of social enterprise.

The Law 4430/2016, which replaced former Law 4019/2011, does not explicitly introduce the social enterprise as a distinct legal entity. For example, any business with the following characteristics is a social enterprise:

- Has a primary social objective, which is to promote the general interest and serve the needs of society

- Uses its profits mainly to achieve its social objective, rather than distributing them to shareholders or owners
- Operates in an ethical, transparent, and accountable manner, with a focus on social and environmental responsibility.

However, the legal forms that fulfil EU operational definition are: social cooperative enterprises (SCEs) and limited liability social cooperatives (KoiSPEs).

According to EU criteria, the total number of Greek social enterprises is estimated at 1,148 and they are unevenly spread across Greece. The vast majority (984) are SCEs for collective and social benefit purposes (KoinSEp Syllogikis & Koinonikis Ofeleias). There is a wide spectrum of economic activities, however most of the organisations commonly operate within the food trade and processing, education, general trade and leisure services. Greek social enterprises are also characterised by members with high-level educational qualifications and women who constitute more than 60% of their total workforce.

The social enterprises in Greece aim to:

- **Address Social and Environmental Challenges:** The primary goal of social enterprises in Greece is to address social and environmental challenges in the communities where they operate. This may include providing services or products that meet the needs of marginalized or vulnerable groups, promoting sustainable development, and addressing environmental challenges such as waste management and pollution.
- **Create Social and Economic Value:** Social enterprises in Greece seek to create social and economic value by combining their social and environmental objectives with sustainable business models. They aim to generate income and create jobs, while also delivering social and environmental impact.
- **Promote Social and Economic Inclusion:** Social enterprises in Greece aim to promote social and economic inclusion by creating employment opportunities for marginalized groups, providing skills training and education, and supporting the development of local communities.
- **Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Social enterprises in Greece also aim to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, by developing new solutions to social and environmental challenges, and creating new opportunities for economic growth and development.

Regarding social circular enterprises, there is no specific legal definition for this term in Greece. But, the Law introduced and operationalised terms such as “social innovation”, “social entrepreneurship” and “social impact” for the first time in Greece.

## 2.4 Italy

The Italian national circularity performances in the production sector confirm to be better than the other four main EU economies. As per the resource productivity, Italy generates the highest economic value per material consumption unit: every kg of consumed resources generates 3.3 € in GDP, as compared to the European average of 1.98 €. Energy productivity is also good, generating a production of 8.1 € per kilogram of oil equivalent consumed.

Domestic material consumption in Italy in 2019 accounted for 490 Mt, unchanged compared to the previous year. In comparison with the main EU economies, Italy has the lowest consumption rate, together with Spain, with a value of consumed materials accounting for less than half of the value of Germany. In 2018, the five-top energy consuming countries are the five most advanced economies of the continent. Italy employs approximately 116.000 TOE (tons of oil equivalent) per year, unchanged compared to the previous year. As per the share of renewable energy consumed in relation to total energy consumption, Italy loses its primacy and ranks second, behind Spain, with 18.2% of energy produced from renewable sources, as compared to final gross consumption.

Per capita urban waste production in Italy in 2019 was stable at 499 kg per inhabitant, compared to a European average of 502 kg per inhabitant. The decoupling of waste

# ITALY'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRESS

Italy showcases strength in resource and energy productivity and is committed to circularity, sustainability, and balanced economic growth.

## Goals

The strategy focuses on decarbonisation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency to achieve a sustainable economy that prioritises wellbeing.

## Strengths

- **Resource Productivity:** Italy generates €3.3 in GDP per kg of consumed resources (vs. EU average €1.98).
- **Energy Productivity:** Produces €8.1 per kg of oil equivalent consumed.

## Key Topics

**Waste Management:** EUR 1.5 billion for strengthening waste management in cities.  
**Circular Economy Projects:** EUR 600 million for flagship projects and industrial supply chains.  
**Southern Regions Development:** Aim to bridge socio-economic gaps and create green infrastructure.  
**Bioeconomy:** Focus on circular bioeconomy in the South for sustainability and economic growth.

production and GDP has been constantly increasing since 2011, reaching a significant gap in recent years: while waste production was unchanged, GDP increased by 4.3% in the period 2015-2019. According to ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Research and Protection), urban waste recycling in Italy reached 46.9% in 2019, in line with the EU average; Italy thus ranks second behind Germany. The overall recycling rate for all types of waste is 68%, the highest among the main European economies and significantly above the EU average (57%).

The material circular use index reached 19.3% in Italy in 2019, above the EU average, with the Netherlands, Belgium and France performing better than Italy (28.5%, 24%, and 20.1%, respectively), and Germany performing lower than Italy, at 12.2%

On the other hand, Italy has the lowest number of patents filed among the main EU economies.

As per the employment in the repairing, reuse and recycling sectors, Italy ranks second, behind Poland, but above France, Germany, and Spain.

A recent report by Symbola Foundation in February declared Italy being on the podium with France and the United Kingdom followed by Germany — the Italian rate stands at 79%, the French at 56%, the British at 50%, and the German at 43%. Italy has thus improved its performance in eight years by +8%. The commitment started with funds for the development and initiative of large and small enterprises in the area. For this matter, attention to the Circular Economy has grown exponentially, involving many young people to get involved in the world of commerce and information.

On the circularity of European countries, according to the national report on the circular economy by the Circular economy network (CEN), in collaboration with ENEA, Italy is confirmed in first place in 2020 in Europe for “overall circularity index” with 100 points followed by Germany at 89 points, France at 88, Poland at 72 and Spain at 71. The results obtained so far give hope for improvement despite the immense efforts that will have to be made to achieve significant objectives.

In Italy, in 2020, several legislative decrees transposing EU directives on waste and circular economy entered into force, and the 2020 Budget Law provided for incentives for investments by companies in the context of Impresa 4.0 measures. New measures and funds for circular economy are now expected to derive from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan employing European funds derived from Next Generation EU.

### **Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) on circular economy**

Italy's Recovery Plan has great ambition for the transition to a circular economy. EUR 1.5 billion is available to reinforce waste management capacity in the cities and another EUR 600 million for the

construction of flagship circular economy projects to strengthen and implement strategic industrial supply chains and compensate for the scarcity of raw materials, 65% of which is consumed in the cities.

The Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition has recently published the calls for submitting proposals under the National Recovery Funds and Resilience. The funding is dedicated to circular economy projects to be completed by 30 June 2026. This initiative aims to develop the circular economy according to the guiding criteria of the European Action Plan. It is designed to boost the Italian ecosystem towards the European recycling targets and contribute up to 50% of the decarbonization objectives achievement. EUR 600 million will go to implement circular economy Flagship Projects to strengthen and implement strategic industrial supply chains by compensating for the scarcity of raw materials. Specifically, EUR 150 million will be dedicated to realizing investments related to Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) supply chains.

### **A circular growing industry having social impact in Italy**

It is worth mentioning the socio-economic division between North and South which has long characterized Italian regions. Numerous research and reports show that northern regions excel (and in particular Trentino Alto Adige), while southern ones suffer with regards to sustainable development. New policy actions should aim at revamping the anemic industrial structure of the South, both building new green infrastructures as well as new competences for operating in those sectors that can best combine economic growth with social and environmental sustainability. These actions would put Southern regions in a position to close the gap with Center and Northern regions, placing themselves in a competitive position on global scale. In this regard, industrial policies aimed at revamping the economy of Southern regions should be focused on those sectors less impacting on the environment. On this point, the bioeconomy (and more specifically the circular bioeconomy) might well represent a strategic meta-sector for the South of Italy. Several Southern regions have already a competitive advantage in biobased related sectors including food and biobased products. As a matter of fact, the circular bioeconomy well reconciles economic growth with social and environmental targets, hence prompting improvements along the pillars of sustainability.

Moreover, the need to react to the COVID-19 crisis can be a catalyst for the transition to a more sustainable economy, where well-being is reconsidered through new lenses that must focus on new production and consumption models. This requires structural policies, targeted innovation, access to green finance, risk-taking capacity and sustainable business models. In this sense, the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) is well oriented along these strategic lines. It could pave the way to the implementation of a resilient and sustainable model, which places ecological transition at the core of all economic activities achieving, among others, reduction of climate-altering gas emissions,

energy efficiency, reforestation, sustainable agriculture, the production of biobased materials, better management of urban and industrial waste and conversion to circularity.

Sustainability is a major challenge, not only to provide concrete responses to climate change, but also to support a much-needed socio-economic recovery after the pandemic period. The Italian national government has become fully aware of the severity of the crisis, allocating significant economic resources to recovery plans. Sustainability is not just about carbon taxation, it is also about other serious problems, such as child exploitation, low schooling rates and the severe poverty in which some families live.

Southern Italian regions suffer significantly from a socio-economic point of view, while from an environmental point of view the picture shows a good performance of these very same regions. The non-recovery of Southern regions in Italy cannot only be associated with wrong political choices. It is necessary that the best minds and forces can be trained in these territories, enhancing human capital. These generations must have the opportunity to live in these areas, being able to develop their ideas, creating new business models and acting as a positive example to future generations. If this part of the country fails to grow, the social differences between the territories will continue and the lack of economic development in this area will be a brake for the whole country. Italy's PNRR, which is strongly based on sustainability and has significant funds for the south of Italy, is the last chance to reclaim a territory with enormous natural potential. Sustainability is the harmony between nature and society, a principle that drives territories to cooperate with each other and to involve citizens in decision-making.

### **Social Enterprises in Italy**

In Italy, a "L'Impresa Sociale" (Social Enterprise) is a private entity engaged in regular business activities that serve the general interest, operate on a non-profit basis, and work for civic, solidarity, and socially beneficial causes. These enterprises are prevalent in sectors such as education and research, healthcare, social assistance, civil protection, economic development, and social cohesion, as highlighted in the IV Rapporto Iris Network 2021.

The primary goals of social enterprises in Italy include pursuing civic, solidaristic, and socially beneficial purposes. They are committed to conducting ongoing and primary business activities in the general interest. Any profits and surpluses generated are reinvested to support their statutory activities or to bolster their assets. Furthermore, these enterprises actively promote broad participation from employees, users, and other stakeholders in their operations.

# NETHERLANDS: THE PATH TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY 2050

## GOALS

Achieving a fully circular economy by 2050 and ensuring that environmental impacts stay within 'planetary boundaries.'

- An ambitious circular economy and climate goal.
- Mix of pricing, standards, and stimulus measures.
- Aims to make sustainable, circular products the obvious choice.

## THE STRATEGY

- 1.Reducing raw material usage** promote circular procurement
- 2.Substituting raw materials** encourage recycled content
- 3.Extending product lifetime** introduction of a repairer registry
- 4.High-grade processing** recycle and reuse

## 4 PATHWAYS

- Focus on achieving circular economy through pricing, standards, and incentives
- Integration of circular economy and climate goals
- Shift of measures from supply chain to input side (e.g., circular design) and user phase
- Regular updates based on the Integral Circular Economy Report

## STRENGTHS

## SOCIAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### Community Engagement

active participation in circular practices such as recycling, repair, and sharing

### Equity and Inclusivity

circular economy benefits reach everyone, irrespective of their socio-economic background

### Job Creation

local employment opportunities within circular industries, particularly in areas like repair and refurbishment

### Education and Awareness

resources and programs that empower individuals and communities to make sustainable choices in their daily lives

By 2050, the Netherlands aspires to have a fully circular economy. This means that the environmental effects of the use of raw materials for Dutch production and consumption will fall within 'planetary boundaries'. The government is working to give concrete shape to these boundaries and the resultant 'safe operating space' for the Netherlands' use of raw materials, and is also pressing at European level to operationalise this further. This will allow us to show what impacts we are aiming for and how the circular economy will contribute to this process. In addition, circularity targets on the use of raw materials have been set at product group level. Measures to achieve a circular Dutch economy To date, circular economy policy has focused primarily on a voluntary, noncommittal approach. To achieve our ambition, however, measures of a more target-oriented and mandatory nature are required.

To this end, we will be adopting a mix of pricing, standard-setting and stimulus measures. The National Circular Economy Programme 2023-2030 (NPCE) elaborates the ambitious circular economy goal, which is simultaneously a climate goal. After all, by steering and facilitating national and international sustainable, circular systems, circular economy policy also promotes climate targets. The government needs to shape the economic, physical and social environment so as to make sustainable, circular products the obvious, easy and fair choice for businesses and

members of the public. Whereas policy had previously focused primarily on the back of the supply chain, we will now be targeting measures more at the input side (such as circular design) and the user phase. Based on the findings of the biennial Integral Circular Economy Report issued by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), we will be augmenting the package of measures and where necessary extending it to other sectors and product groups.

### **Supporting measures**

In addition to general and specific measures aimed at the circular economy, the government is creating a conducive environment for the circular economy transition. For instance, we seek to increase relevant knowledge and skills on the circular economy and on sustainability in the broader sense and give scope for giving these subjects due attention within education, based on demand. Circularity will also be covered in short courses aimed at, for instance, procurement and marketing professionals. We will additionally be supporting the transition through funding, behavioural change, the Circular Economy Accelerator and regional circular economy networks.

### **General measures**

There are four ways in which we can make our use of materials more circular, and they are accordingly the focus of measures set out in the NPC.

- Reducing raw material usage: using fewer (primary) raw materials by abstaining from the production or purchase of products, sharing products or making them more efficient ('narrow the loop'). The NPCE aims, for example, to achieve a significant increase in circular procurement across governments by 2030. This covers everything from desks and chairs to roads and waterworks.
- Substituting raw materials: replacing primary with secondary raw materials and sustainable bio-based materials (in high-value applications), or with other, more generally available raw materials with a lower environmental burden. An example is a mandatory percentage of recycled content.
- Extending product lifetime: making longer and more intensive use of products and components through reuse and repair will slow demand for new raw materials ('slow the loop'). An example of a measure aimed at increasing longevity is the introduction, as of 2023, of a registry of repairers of electric and electronic goods, so that people can easily find a technician to repair their appliance or device;
- High-grade processing: closing the loop by recycling materials and raw materials. This will not only reduce the amount of waste being incinerated or dumped, but ensure a more high-grade supply of secondary raw materials ('close the loop'). By 2050, incinerating recyclable material



will be a thing of the past. This will require measures at the front of the supply chain. We will therefore be helping Dutch municipalities and residents, amongst others, to separate waste yet better.

## **Social Enterprises in the Netherlands**

In the Netherlands, social enterprises are businesses that harmonize social and environmental goals with financial sustainability. Their mission is to create a positive impact on society and the environment while also generating revenue and profits. Social enterprises often adhere to the Social Enterprises Code, emphasizing the "impact first" principle, which comprises five fundamental principles demonstrating the essence of social entrepreneurship. These principles are practiced and upheld by social enterprises that choose to endorse the Code and are included in the Social Enterprises Register upon passing the assessment. Additionally, the Netherlands is home to social circular enterprises, which merge social missions with circular economy principles. These enterprises concentrate on waste reduction, material reuse, and the establishment of closed-loop systems while simultaneously tackling societal challenges and providing employment opportunities.

The primary sectors where social entrepreneurs are most active in the Netherlands include:

- **Sustainable Fashion:** Social entrepreneurs advocate for ethical production, fair labor practices, and environmentally friendly materials in the sustainable fashion industry.
- **Renewable Energy:** Social enterprises focus on renewable energy solutions, energy efficiency, and reducing carbon emissions in line with the Netherlands' commitment to sustainability.
- **Food and Agriculture:** These entrepreneurs work on initiatives related to local and sustainable food production, reducing food waste, and enhancing food security.
- **Healthcare:** Social enterprises address healthcare innovations, emphasizing accessibility, affordability, and the quality of healthcare services.
- **Circular Economy:** With the Netherlands' circular economy emphasis, social circular enterprises engage in recycling, waste reduction, and sustainable supply chains.

The main objectives of social enterprises in the Netherlands, as guided by Social Enterprise NL and the Social Enterprise Code, encompass:

1. **Social Impact:** Prioritizing positive social and environmental impact.
2. **Financial Viability:** Ensuring financial sustainability while pursuing their mission.
3. **Innovation:** Offering innovative solutions to societal and environmental challenges.
4. **Job Creation:** Generating employment opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged groups.
5. **Community Development:** Supporting local communities and businesses.

6. Ethical Practices: Adhering to ethical and transparent business operations.
7. Long-Term Sustainability: Addressing root causes for sustainable, lasting change.

## 2.6 Poland

In Poland priorities concerning circular economy include:

1. Innovation, strengthening of cooperation between industry and the science sector, and implementing innovative solutions in the economy as a result.
2. Creating a European market for secondary raw materials.
3. Ensuring availability of high quality secondary raw materials.
4. Development of the service sector.

Accordingly, the main document called "ROAD MAP towards the Transition to Circular Economy" was adopted by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of 10 September 2019. The draft document was developed as a result of the work of working groups operating in the Closed Cycle Economy Team and extensive public consultations. They were attended by over 200 socio-economic partners, as well as representatives of government and self-government administration who took part in the consultations.

The GOZ Roadmap is a document containing a set of tools, not only legislative ones, aimed at creating conditions for implementing a new economic model in Poland. The proposed actions concern

**Poland's Circular Economy Priorities**

**Goal:** Poland drives the circular economy forward with focus on innovation through stronger collaboration between industry and science. The national strategy would like to establish a European market dedicated to secondary raw materials, guaranteeing the availability of high-quality resources. Additionally, it committed to the development of the service sector to support and sustain the circular economy.

**Key topics:** Industrial Production, Sustainable Consumption, Bioeconomy, New Business Models.

**Strengths**

- Collaborative Approach: Involvement of over 200 socio-economic partners.
- Comprehensive Document: The "ROAD MAP towards the Transition to Circular Economy" offers a set of tools for a new economic model.
- Sustainability Focus: Addressing environmental and socio-economic aspects.

**Social Circular Economy Aspects**

1. Tax System Amendment
2. Shared Property Legislation
3. Support Ecosystem for Enterprises
4. Role of Universities
5. Polish Circular Hotspot

While the strategy focuses on various economic and environmental aspects of the circular economy, these social elements, such as cooperation, job creation, and education, are intertwined with the circular economy's broader goals and implementation.

primarily analytical and conceptual work, information and promotion, and coordination in areas within the competence of individual ministries.

The aim of the Circular Economy Road Map is, on the one hand, to indicate horizontal actions which would affect the largest possible section of social and economic life. On the other hand, the Circular Economy Road Map prioritizes the areas whose development will allow for taking advantage of the opportunities facing Poland, and at the same time will address the currently existing or expected threats.

- In Chapter 1 “Sustainable industrial production” attention was drawn to the important role of industry in the Polish economy and new opportunities for its development.
- In Chapter 2 “Sustainable consumption” the need to act on this stage of the life cycle, so far often underestimated in the context of its contribution to the transition to Circular Economy, is justified.
- Chapter 3 “Bioeconomy” outlines the management of renewable raw materials (the biological cycle of Circular Economy), which seems to have an unexploited potential in Poland.
- Chapter 4 “New business models” discusses the opportunities for reorganizing functioning of various market participants based on the idea of Circular Economy.
- Chapter 5 covers the implementation, monitoring and financing of Circular Economy.

The transfer to Circular Economy requires reorganization of the functioning model of practically all market participants, including entrepreneurs, public institutions and consumers. In order to create the right conditions for the development of Circular Economy business models, the following actions are suggested:

1. Analysis of the possibility of amending the tax system, which would allow for the increase of competitiveness of enterprises operating based on Circular Economy business models: The analysis should result in regulatory change proposals, which would create incentives for economic activities such as: recovery of key raw materials, product reuse, repair services, sharing (movables, real estate, production tools, transport), rental, product quality improvement.
2. Developing a proposal for a legislation on shared property and shared use of real estate and movables, in particular short-term rental of vacant residential space and passenger transport.
3. Analysis of the opportunities for introducing reporting and control reliefs for entities applying environmental standards (e.g., EU Eco-label, EMAS, ISO etc.) and for entities registered in the Polish Register of Cleaner Production and Responsible Entrepreneurship.
4. Developing proposals of amendments to public procurement law, which would generate demand for products and services produced within the Circular Economy business models.

5. Developing a concept of a support ecosystem for enterprises based on Circular Economy business models, including financing, education and promotion at the development and commercialization phase of green technologies (the GreenInn project).
6. Developing guidelines for increasing the role of Circular Economy in economic clusters in the field of circulation of raw materials and waste from particular industry sectors, including the processing industry: The creation and cooperation of clusters should be even more Circular Economy-oriented. The analysis of the waste management options will be carried out by individual sectors of the economy, considering the intersectoral potential and the creation of economic clusters.
7. Creation of a CAD (Connected Automated Driving) Contact Point in the field of automation of road transport to provide substantive support for the effective functioning and competitiveness of the national automotive market (including car parts and ICT market) and to activate society with the aim of promoting and developing the ways of operation of autonomous systems to improve mobility, shorten the route to destination and travel time, and developing the idea of automated carsharing.
8. Developing a concept for the creation of a nationwide multi-industry Internet platform that would enable lending products and sharing products with low usage frequency.
9. Establishment of the National Intelligent Specialization for Circular Economy focused on the development of R&D&I in the area of technologies related to Circular Economy (especially in the area of water, non-renewable raw materials and waste) in cooperation with entrepreneurs, scientists and public institutions.
10. Developing a system of incentives for universities to introduce research programs and curricula concerning Circular Economy, e.g., subsidies for scientific research, support for subsidizing laboratories/design studios, support for subsidizing the activity of academic associations, competitions for engineering and master's theses on Circular Economy.

The implementation of individual actions provided in the Circular Economy Road Map will be carried out by the entities indicated in the tables of actions, including the ministers responsible for individual sectors of the economy. The minister competent for economy – as the minister in charge of coordination of the implementation of Circular Economy in the Polish government administration will analyze the progress of implementation of the Circular Economy Road Map, based on reports from individual ministries responsible for actions.

Monitoring of Circular Economy is a major challenge due to the complexity of the Circular Economy concept itself, which includes policies covering multiple areas and the interdependence between them, and due to the multidimensional impact of the transition to Circular Economy on the socioeconomic development of the country. Therefore, within the framework of the Circular Economy

Road Map, a separate action has been identified to develop a conceptual approach to monitoring Circular Economy in Poland.

Implementation of the “oto-GOZ” [“this-is-Circular Economy”] project (the Gospostrateg program): The aim of the “oto-GOZ” project is to develop two methodologies which would allow for evaluation of

a) the progress of transformation towards Circular Economy in Poland and

b) the impact of Circular Economy on social and economic development at the mesoeconomic (regional) and macroeconomic (national) levels.

The Circular Economy Road Map has not been assigned a separate framework for financing since the document identifies actions to be taken only by the government administration in order to create appropriate general framework for the transfer to Circular Economy in Poland. The actions proposed in the Circular Economy Road Map concern mainly analytical, conceptual, informational, promotional and coordination tasks in the areas within the competence of individual ministries. The concept of Circular Economy is firmly established in the country's strategic documents, including the SDR, the draft Productivity Strategy and the draft State Environmental Policy. As the basis of the country's development policy, these documents are, and will continue to be in the future, a reference point for the direction of the support system in the area of Circular Economy, including the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy. Circular Economy will be reflected in investments and actions aimed at innovation, research and development. Financial support for Circular Economy-related actions should also be reflected in the funds currently included in the HORIZON 2020 program. The implementation of Circular Economy can also be financed from other sources of public sector funding, such as environmental fees. In the future, if such legislative changes are introduced to the waste management system, financing can be provided from the deposit systems within the environmental protection system. The implementation of Circular Economy will require commitment of the staff with regard to the ministries responsible for various actions included in this Circular Economy Road Map.

Polish Circular Hotspot is a public-private platform gathering entities that, thanks to cooperation and access to shared resources can achieve more both for the introduction of the circular economy concept and for their own interests.

### **Social Enterprises in Poland**

In Poland, social enterprises represent a distinct category of economic entities with a primary focus on social objectives rather than profit maximization. These enterprises operate under various legal forms, including social cooperatives, associations, foundations, and non-profit companies. A common characteristic among them is that any profits generated are reinvested to achieve goals such as social

and professional integration of company members or activities benefiting their local communities. The Act on Social Economy outlines the legal framework for social enterprises in Poland.

Social entrepreneurs in Poland are primarily active in the following sectors:

- Social Cooperatives
- Entrepreneurial Non-Profit Organizations
- Vocational Activity Establishments (ZAZ)
- Other Non-Profit Companies

As of 2019, Poland was home to 29,535 social enterprises, with non-profit organizations being the most numerous (27.6 thousand), followed by social cooperatives (1.7 thousand), other non-profit companies (226), and vocational activity establishments (109). These social enterprises collectively employed 428.7 thousand people in 2019.

The main objectives of social enterprises in Poland, as outlined in the National Programme for the Development of the Social Economy until 2023 (known as "Social Solidarity Economy"), aim to align with broader national development strategies. This program sets out the following overarching goals:

- **Activation and Reintegration:** Social enterprises focus on activating and reintegrating individuals at risk of social exclusion, fostering their self-reliance and self-help.
- **Community-Centric:** They address the needs of local communities while building upon community resources and aim to serve the common good by providing social services of general interest and implementing public tasks for local development.
- **Economic Self-Sufficiency:** Social enterprises prioritize self-reliance and self-sufficiency as they pursue innovation and economic efficiency.

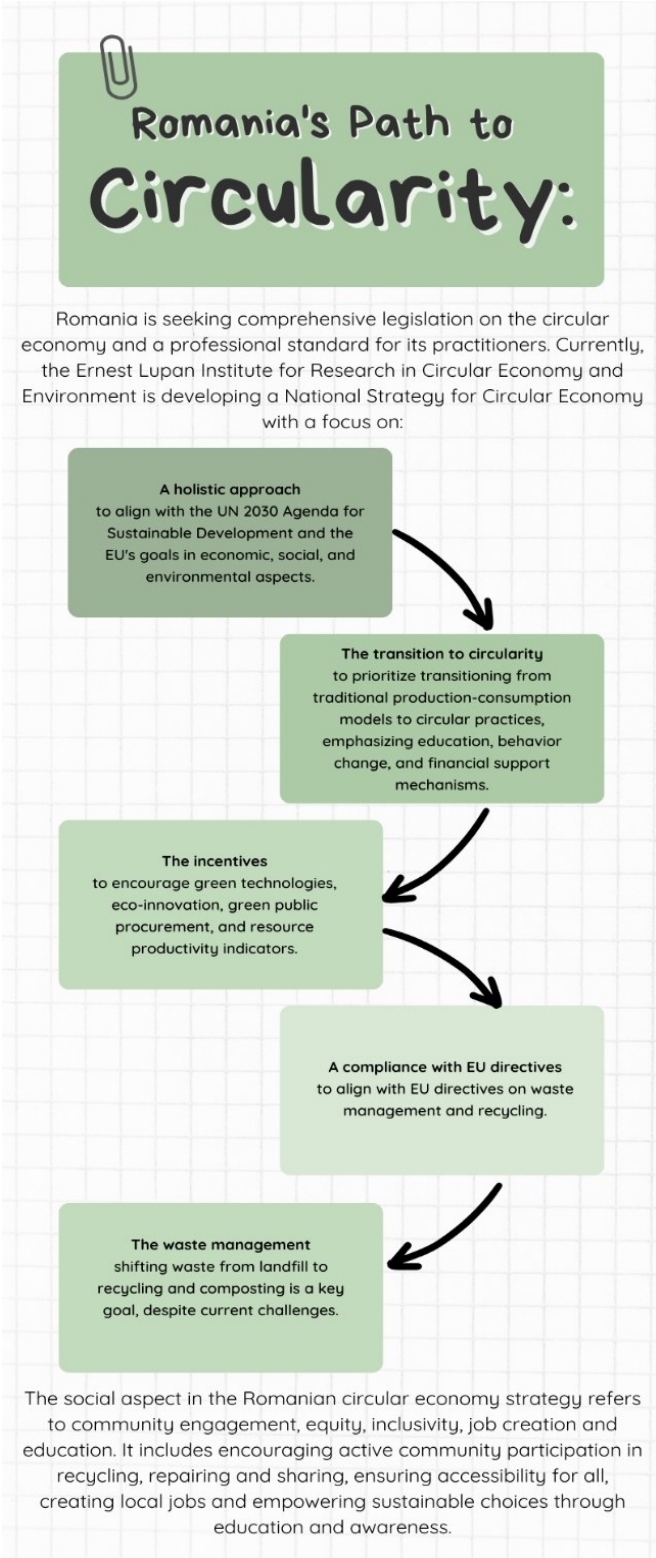
The specific objectives to achieve these goals include:

- **Encouraging Partnership:** Facilitating lasting partnerships between social economy entities and local governments for the delivery of social services and local development tasks.
- **Job Creation:** Increasing the number of high-quality jobs in social enterprises for individuals threatened by social exclusion.
- **Competitive Market Presence:** Enhancing the competitiveness of social and solidarity economy entities in the market.
- **Positive Attitudes:** Promoting positive attitudes toward social and solidarity-based economy.

These objectives are part of a coordinated effort to leverage the potential of the social and solidarity economy sector, where the entities' activities are aligned with broader social and local development

goals. The envisioned outcome is a robust network of social enterprises contributing to public services, local development, and social integration.

## 2.7 Romania



In Romania, there is now a need for legislation on the circular economy and an occupational standard for those who want to work in this field. The Ernest Lupan Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment is currently developing a National Strategy for the Circular Economy. There is, however, a strategy already elaborated at Buzau County level. Also, the biggest school in Buzau has officially become the first 100% eco-school and the first "circular school" in Romania. The local authorities implemented this project in Primary School No 11 with an investment of 200,000 euro. The new concept, which is truly a national first step, involves using natural resources and reducing waste and costs. Specifically, rainwater is collected and reused, electricity is produced using photovoltaic panels, and waste is collected selectively by seven fractions. More than 2,000 students are learning how to make a big difference to their behavior and their lives. In addition, the local authorities have also been working on a Circular Economy textbook for grades 1 to 8, which they have already submitted for approval.

At a national level, the RO National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030 was

adopted, a document structured according to the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU Council Conclusions adopted on 20 June 2017, "A Sustainable Future for Europe: the EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Thus, Romania's National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030 provides the strategic prerequisites for Romania's development on three main pillars, namely economic, social and environmental.

In this strategic paper, reference is made to the objective of a transition from the current economic model based on production and consumption to the circular economy by changing mindsets through education, changing consumer behavior and developing financial mechanisms to support this transitory period.

Among the elements seen as incentives for sustainable development were mentioned: the introduction of green technologies and the stimulation of eco-innovation, green public procurement, but also the adoption of regulations "on the introduction in the income and expenditure budgets and financial statements of economic operators of the indicator "resource productivity". As a target for the year 2030, the Strategy proposed: "moving towards the average level of sustainable production and consumption achieved by EU member countries at that time".

Regarding integrated waste management, the objective refers to the shift "from landfill to separate collection and recovery of a higher proportion of recyclable waste, including through composting of organic waste, and the exclusive use of landfills for the urban environment". By joining the European Union in 2007, Romania committed itself to gradually achieving targets for separate collection, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste. Despite these commitments, Romania's waste management system is still largely based on landfill. There are currently several difficulties, Romania having the highest landfill rate in the EU (72%) which is well above the EU average of 25.6%.

The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC has been transposed by Law 211/2011 on waste management. As regards post-consumer waste, Romania has fully transposed the *acquis Communautaire* since the pre-accession period. The legislation has been updated, amended, replaced/repealed over time and transposes EU directives (Directive 94/62/EC, Directive 2012/19/EU, Directive 2000/53/EC and Directive 2006/66/EC).

The programmatic documents on waste management are represented by the National Waste Management Plan (PNGD) approved by GD no. 942/20.12.2017 and which was developed based on the National Waste Management Strategy approved by GD no. 870/2013, basic instruments for the implementation of EU policy.



As part of future developments, Romania has committed to promote a public policy towards the circular economy by adopting Senate Decision No 3 of 2016 on the Circular Economy Package. This approach aims to continue efforts to address the waste problem.

The circular economy framework in Romania can be extended to other areas related to this approach, such as: (i) the mining waste area; (ii) the compost area; (iii) the sewage sludge area; (iv) the food waste area.

At the national level there is law no. 217/2016 on reducing food waste, which requires implementation rules, respectively the achievement of a standard for clearly defining the criteria for cessation of waste status and transformation into a by-product, which can be composted and used later in agriculture or for biogas. Donation issues need to be well regulated in terms of food security, human health, and so on. An updated version of the law should also include the part of preventing the generation of food waste. \$

Regarding the green economy area, Romania has implemented at national level a series of relevant normative acts for this field, which achieve synergies with the circular economy, in areas such as: energy efficiency, establishing eco-design requirements applicable to energy impact products, establishing a system to promote the production of energy from renewable energy sources, climate change, low-carbon growth, green jobs, green public procurement.

The national legislative framework needs to be improved to facilitate the implementation of the circular economy.

In addition to the aspects mentioned above, for Romania the structural and cohesion funds have an important role for the implementation of the circular economy and the concept of efficient use of resources.

In this respect, the new post-2020 multiannual financial framework is an opportunity that should not be underestimated due to the low absorption rate on various types of funds. The proposal aims for an 8% increase in cohesion funds in the future multiannual budget (from € 25.2 billion in 2014-2020 to € 27.2 billion in the post-2020 period).

Considering the introduction of new financing lines for the circular economy at national level, in particular for the implementation of sector-level policies, technologies or processes for the efficient use of resources, or for the area of synergies of the circular economy is an important step and a clear signal of political commitment (e.g. through Local Action Groups for the implementation of Local Development Strategies funded by the Leader program as part of the NRDP, the Operational Program for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, granting funding to support accreditation of national testing laboratories for complex analysis for the compost area, for the sludge from sewage treatment plants

to determine the presence of medicines, cosmetics or other traces of pollutants and to determine exactly whether they can be used in agriculture).

The circular economy requires an active involvement not only at the level of public policy, but also at the level of implementation of this concept on the national territory. Local public authorities have an important role to play in designing an efficient collection system, including at source, for all types of waste. For example, the implementation of schemes such as "pay as you throw" would allow the "polluter pays" principle to be put into practice. With the adoption of GEO no. 74/2018, this becomes legally binding for the local public administration authorities starting with January 1, 2019. In addition, the ordinance also stipulates the obligation to ensure, starting with December 31, 2020, a minimum level of readiness for reuse and recycling.

The rate of municipal waste recycling has seen a sharp upward trend in 2008-2010, from 1.1% to 12.8%, followed by a decrease in 2011 to 11.7%, the highest level of waste recycling rate was recorded in 2012 (14.8%), after which followed a downward trend, reaching in 2018 approximately 11.1%. The main goal was that, by 31 December 2020, EU Member States reach, at least for waste paper, metal, plastic and glass from municipal waste, a level of readiness for reuse and recycling of at least 50% of the total amount of waste generated. Romania is one of the poorest performing Member States in this regard and will have to submit considerable efforts to increase recycling and reduce waste disposal.

It is necessary to involve all public authorities for the circular economy to become functional in Romania and to be able to produce a high added value.

**National Objectives for Circular Economic** to be realized soon:

- at least 55% of the waste in the municipalities to be recycled by 2025.
- at least 65% of packaging waste to be recycled by 2023.

The transition to the circular economy is a necessary step for Romania, but the lack of education and responsibility on the part of the actors involved, as well as the slightly ambitious regulations at local and national level, slow down the country's progress.

*Figure 1: GDP per kg of materials used for Romania compared to different countries*

(<http://apdcr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Economia-circulara-riscuri-si-opportunitati-Ninel-Lazar.pdf>)

Romania is about to miss the 2020 targets for recycling rates for municipal waste (50%). We officially recycle only 13% and almost 70% is thrown to the trash pits, since for some trash pits, we have already initiated infringement procedures. Although it became mandatory from January 1, 2019, the system "pay for how much you throw" is not implemented or, at best, works with syncope and not at the level

of the whole country. The quantities of waste "taken to the pit" do not decrease. On the contrary, the costs for the local administrations are increasing, by taxing the deposit (from ~6 euro / t in 2019, to ~16 euro / t in 2020). The guarantee-deposit system for returnable packaging also works synoptically, although in many countries it has proven its usefulness.

From a legislative point of view, Romania seems to have all the necessary measures to reach its future recycling targets, but their efficient implementation is short-circuited. The legislative package was elaborated with the purpose of aligning the Romanian legislation with the European legislation in the field of waste management and aims to implement the economic instruments "pay for how much you throw - PAYT - Pay As You Throw", "extended producer liability" and "tax on storage", as well as establishing the responsibilities of all parties involved, including considering the changes made by promoting the circular economy package. Considering the approach at the European Commission level, which is reflected in the circular economy package, the "contribution to the circular economy" is set instead of the deposit tax.

It is in the elaboration phase "Strategy for the transition of Romania to the circular economy 2020-2030 (ROCES)", a project that aims to collect opinions on the development and implementation of the strategy on circular economy in Romania.

#### **Problems identified:**

- Increasing the level of information on the opportunities of the circular economy, eco-efficient technologies, consumers are not aware of the **benefits of organic products** so that they actively contribute through the consumption choices they make to changing the production model.
- Implementing a **green organizational culture**, recognizing the benefits of green products and services as promoters of sustainable production models, the need for more active support from local authorities.
- Creation of a **unitary legislative framework** that motivates the generators to properly manage the waste produced. The economic instruments that will be the basis of this legislation are the principles "pay for how much you pay (PAYT - Pay As You Throw)" and "extended producer responsibility", instruments implemented by a large part of the European states, with the role of encouraging the recycling of waste, also stimulating the economy.
- **Education.** In general, young people do not have an ecological education in the family or at school, and adults do not apply what they know, because the legislation is permissive, the infrastructure is insufficient and the local authorities do not take sufficient measures.
- The circular economy aims to reduce the consumption of resources, to maintain them as long as possible on the market and to prolong their life cycle. Here the part of **redesign, innovation,**

**technologies, patents** play a very important role in helping us to change things. The policies in the area of innovation do not integrate the aspects related to the creation of opportunities for the implementation of sustainable business models such as the circular or green local business.

- Unfortunately, the element of redesign and regeneration, an essential part of the circular economy, is ignored in Romania and there is a low participation of the Ministry of Education and Research.
- The absence of a **national platform for industrial symbiosis**, which facilitates the exchange of information between stakeholders for promoting the circular economy. This approach can be included in a general framework for promoting the circular economy, respectively of sustainable production and consumption models.

Romania still has important steps to take in the direction of promoting the circular economy, respectively of a national model of good practice, which should actively contribute to the promotion of new sustainable business models.

### **Social Enterprises in Romania**

In Romania, the concept of social enterprises has existed for an extended period, but it was officially recognized as a distinct sector under the Social Economy Law No. 219 of 2015. Social enterprises in Romania encompass various entities, including:

- Specific NGOs, primarily associations and foundations offering social services.
- Companies with special status, such as protected workshops employing disabled individuals.
- Mutual aid cooperatives designed for employees and pensioners, functioning as mutual organizations.
- Cooperatives of various types, including those related to consumption, craftsmanship, agriculture, and transportation.
- Associations of pensioners, which also provide social services.

Here are some key statistical data regarding social enterprises in Romania:

- As of March 2022, 2,597 social enterprises have been officially certified. This surge in certification was partly driven by available grants from the European Social Fund/Human Capital Operational Program 2014-2020, with 2,514 social enterprises registered in 2021 alone.
- The legal structure of most certified social enterprises in Romania is limited liability companies, accounting for 87% of the total. This marks a slight decrease from March 2021 when commercial companies comprised 88%.

- The total workforce employed by social enterprises remains relatively low, with only 1,682 employees, including 420 from vulnerable groups.
- Non-profit organizations, representing 12.3% of social enterprises, contribute to 26% of jobs in the social enterprise sector.
- Romania exhibits a balanced geographical distribution of social enterprises, with at least one certified social enterprise in each of the 41 counties. On average, there are 49 enterprises per county, a notable increase from the 35 recorded in March 2021.

While Romania has social enterprises, data on social circular enterprises is not available.

Social entrepreneurs in Romania predominantly engage in the following sectors, as revealed by the Map of Social Innovators:

- Education - 30% of social innovators are active in this sector.
- Social Inclusion - 20% of social innovators focus on social inclusion initiatives.
- Cross-Sectoral - 15% of innovators work across various sectors.
- Civic Involvement - 12% of innovators are involved in civic engagement.
- Health - 11% of social innovators work on health-related initiatives.
- Socio-economic Development - 7% of innovators are dedicated to socio-economic development.
- Environment - 5% of social innovators work in environmental sustainability.

Regionally, social entrepreneurs are concentrated in the following top three areas:

- Bucharest-Ilfov (45%)
- North West (13%)
- Northeast (12%)

Regarding gender distribution, 63% of social innovators are female, while 36% are male.

Social enterprises in Romania are often seen as critical for:

- Strengthening economic and social cohesion.
- Employment generation.
- The development of social services.

These objectives reflect the broader goals of social enterprises in Romania, which aim to address societal challenges, support vulnerable groups, and contribute to the country's overall well-being.

## 2.8 Spain

The Spanish strategy for a circular economy by 2030 is focused on the following key sectors:

- 1) construction,
- 2) farming,  
fishing and forestry,
- 3) industry,
- 4) consumer goods,
- 5) tourism and
- 6) textile and garments.

Spain has set the following goals for 2030 concerning circular economy:

- Reducing domestic material consumption by 30% in relation to national GDP, taking 2010 as a reference.
- Reducing waste by 15% with regard to 2010 waste levels
- Reducing food waste throughout the entire food chain
- 50% reduction per person in retail and households
- 20% in production chains and supplies from 2020, thus advancing towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- Promoting reuse and reuse enabling activities until reaching 10% of municipal waste.

# SPAIN'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY 2030

## KEY SECTORS:

1. Construction
2. Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
3. Industry
4. Consumer Goods
5. Tourism
6. Textile and Garments



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## GOALS

- Reduce domestic material consumption by 30% relative to 2010 GDP.
- Cut waste by 15% compared to 2010 levels.
- Slash food waste by 50% per person in retail and households.
- Achieve a 20% reduction in food waste within production chains by 2020.
- Promote reuse activities to account for 10% of municipal waste.
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions to under 10 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq.
- Enhance water use efficiency by 10%.

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## COMMITMENT TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

Around 400 companies and organizations have endorsed the Circular Economy Pact.



- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to under 10 million tons of CO2 eq.
- Improving water use efficiency by 10%.

To show their commitment to a circular economy, around 400 larger companies and organizations have signed the pact for a circular economy. In September 2017, the governing council came to an agreement on the development of a circular economy strategy specific for the region of Murcia. In June 2018, a report on the consultation of the public for input on the circular economy strategy was published. The circular economy strategy for the region of Murcia is focused on the following aspects:

- sustainable production
- sustainable consumption
- waste management
- secondary raw materials
- efficient water use
- promotion of research, development and innovation
- knowledge, awareness and participation and
- employment and training.

### Social Enterprises in Spain

In Spain, the concept of social enterprises is not defined by a specific legal form but rather represents a broad category of organizations within the social economy and the third sector. The emergence of social enterprises in Spain occurred during the late 1970s and 1980s, coinciding with the country's transition from an authoritarian regime to democracy. The development of social enterprises in Spain was influenced by local responsiveness to regional issues and the framework established by the Autonomous Communities. This approach resulted in a diverse and fragmented landscape of social enterprises with varying policies across regions.

The main characteristics of a working description of social enterprise in Spain are:

<b>Outcome emphasis</b>	<b>Social benefit</b>
Variation in types of activities	<b>Low:</b> social integration employment and the provision of social services. Cross-sector associations represent different types of entities from different sectors
Reliance on commercial revenue	<b>Moderate-Low</b> (income and fees)

SE policies/subsidies	<b>High:</b> tax treatment, aid to the direct creation of jobs (subsidies for salaries, reductions in contributions for social security of workers), national fund granting taxes to social services activities
SE legal form	<b>No specific:</b> Non-profit co-operatives (cooperativas de iniciativa social), mutuels, labor worker-owned societies (sociedades laborales), social employment centers (centros especiales de empleo de economía social), mutual benefit societies, work integration social enterprises (empresas de inserción)
Civil society presence	<b>Moderate-high:</b> democratic principles and citizen participation mechanisms

The main objectives of social enterprises in Spain include:

- Insertion Companies:

Dedication to incorporating individuals with difficulties accessing employment into job positions.

- Special Employment Centers:

Provision of paid employment and personal and social adjustment services to workers with disabilities while promoting the integration of these workers into regular working regimes.

- Social Initiative Cooperatives:

Provision of assistance services, such as health, education, culture, or other social-related activities.

Development of economic activities aimed at labor integration for people experiencing social exclusion.

Social enterprises in Spain play a significant role in addressing social challenges, supporting vulnerable populations, and fostering economic and social development while working within a diverse and regionalized policy landscape.



In Spain, social entrepreneurs are active in various sectors and industries, focusing on:

<b>Resources</b>
Smart construction: boosting the construction and demolition waste market
Bio refineries and Biotechnologies. produce energy using waste
<b>Recovery of resources or interconnected value chains</b>
Plastic and glass
Paper
Urban waste
Sustainable crops
Circular farms
<b>Extend product life</b>
Reuse of objects.
Repair
Modular products
Second hand.
<b>Consumer training and preparation</b>
Communication and 'branding' agencies
Preparation of guides and user manuals. Specialize in blogs and tutorials on environmental training, home use of waste or energy efficiency, training and awareness, user guides.
Specialized consultancies to help SMEs and communities to be more efficient in terms of resources and to better recycle waste.
<b>Platforms for sharing and products for services</b>
Use of spaces. There are a multitude of offices, garages, premises, floors that are being underused most of the time.

Exchange platforms for machinery and tools.
Loans of objects between individuals.
Mobility: a shared car means a reduction in emissions of up to 20 owned cars
Shared talent. There are more and more projects that are committed to sharing talent or knowledge,
<b>Development of technology for the sector</b>
Classification software.
Custom solutions. It designs efficiency indicators adapted to the different products that an industry requires
Technology 4.0. Robotics, augmented reality, artificial intelligence...

### 3. Social Circular VET Education

#### 3.1 The Role of VET Education in Anchoring the Social Circular Economy

The Osnabrück Declaration on vocational education and training acts as an enabler of recovery and just transitions to digital and green economies<sup>5</sup>. It focuses on four areas for the 2021 – 2025 period:

- Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive, and flexible Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Establishing a new lifelong learning culture – relevance of C-VET and digitalization
- Sustainability – a green link in VET
- European Education and Training Area and international dimension of VET

There is a clear recognition of the necessity for education and training in the light of the green transition.

<sup>5</sup> Reference: [https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/osnabrueck\\_declaration\\_eu2020.pdf](https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/osnabrueck_declaration_eu2020.pdf)

The Ellen MacArthur foundation<sup>6</sup> presents an example concerning the vision for the role education can play in the transition to a circular economy in London. Throughout London they have a vision whereby:

- Choosing to enroll at a London higher education institution as a student means you will be engaged with the circular economy
- Operations at all London higher education institutions are circular
- Circular ambitions of London's businesses are supported by applied research at London higher education institutions
- Local and regional government cooperate with higher education institutions in a variety of ways to support circular economy ambitions in London
- Students are enabled to support circular economy activities within higher education institutions and beyond

However, when it comes to defining which skills are needed for the green transition. The picture becomes more complex.

### 3.2 Skills for the Green Transition

In recent years, several frameworks have appeared trying to define the necessary skills for the green transition. Frameworks range from more academic ones, to ones appearing from policy, and to those having a more practical focus.

#### **Circular literacy**

Zwiers and colleagues (2020)<sup>7</sup> take a more knowledge-based approach to the skills necessary for the circular transition. They defined the term circular literacy as consisting of three types of knowledge:

1. **System knowledge** encompasses an understanding of complexity which can be illustrated by a consideration of the interconnections between diverse components in natural, social and technological systems and by a consideration of the self-organizing properties of a system.
2. **Target knowledge** contains knowledge of how to establish the circular economy, the preservation of natural livelihoods, intra- and intergenerational justice and diversity and uniqueness.

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<sup>6</sup> Reference: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/circular-economy-direction-of-travel-statement-for-londons-higher-education>

<sup>7</sup> Reference: Zwiers, J., Jaeger-Erben, M., & Hofmann, F. (2020). Circular literacy. A knowledge-based approach to the circular economy. *Culture and Organization*, 26(2), 121-141.

3. **Transformation knowledge**<sup>8</sup> includes understanding of theories of complexity and reflexivity and innovation.

Each of these types of knowledge consists of several dimensions. In addition, Zwiers and colleagues (2020) have developed indicators for each of these dimensions.

### Inner Development Goals

The Inner Development Goals (IDGs) provide another relevant framework for considering the skills needed for the transition towards a circular economy (Growth that Matters AB 2021)<sup>9</sup>. It identifies a set of skills needed in order to deal with complex societal issues identified within the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's Agenda 2030. The IDGs encompass the following five types of skills:

1. **Relationship to self (being)** entails finding ways to establish a deep connection with oneself (including one's thoughts, feelings and body) as a way of staying present, intentional and calm in the face of complexity.
2. **Cognitive skills (thinking)** are related to accepting different views, evaluating information and making wise decisions by understanding the wholeness of the world.
3. **Caring for others and the world (relating)** concerns the ability to create just and sustainable systems and societies by connecting to others.
4. **Social skills (collaborating)** involve working on shared concerns with stakeholders while having the capacity to embrace different values, skills and competencies.
5. **Driving change (acting)** includes qualities that foster honesty, originality, creativity and persistence. As such, the IDGs show a clear relationship to skills needed to collaborate in the face of complex issues in order to transition to a circular economy.

### The European sustainability competence framework: GreenComp

Recently, a European sustainability competence framework, the GreenComp was created that identifies a set of competences to foster sustainability to feed into educational programmes (Bianchi et al. 2022)<sup>10</sup>. The GreenComp encompasses four subsets of competences that bear some resemblance to the inner development goals and circular literacy, namely

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<sup>8</sup> Reference: [Circular literacy. A knowledge-based approach to the circular economy: Culture and Organization: Vol 26, No 2 \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> Growth that Matters AB. (2021). *Inner Development Goals: Background, method and the IDG framework*. [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/600d80b3387b98582a60354a/t/61aa2f96dfd3fb39c4fc4283/163854%203258249/211201\\_IDG\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/600d80b3387b98582a60354a/t/61aa2f96dfd3fb39c4fc4283/163854%203258249/211201_IDG_Report_Full.pdf). Accessed 30 March 2023

<sup>10</sup> Bianchi, G., Pisiotis, U., & Cabrera, M. (2022). *GreenComp - The European sustainability competence framework* (No. EUR 30955 EN). European Commission. <https://doi.org/10.2760/13286>

1. embodying sustainability values,
2. embracing complexity in sustainability,
3. envisioning sustainable futures, and
4. acting for sustainability

Below, you can find an overview of the different dimensions and skills identified in the Inner Development Goals and GreenComp frameworks based on Bianchi et al. (2022) and Growth that Matters AB (2021)

Framework	Dimension	Skills
<b>Inner Development Goals</b>	Being - Relationship to self	Inner compass
		Integrity and Authenticity
		Openness and Learning mindset
		Self-awareness
		Presence
	Thinking - Cognitive skills	Critical thinking
		Complexity awareness
		Perspective skills
		Sense-making
		Long-term orientation and visioning
		Appreciation

	Relating - Caring for Others and the World	Connectedness
		Humility
		Empathy and compassion
	Collaborating - Social Skills	Communication skills
		Co-creation skills
		Inclusive mindset and Intercultural competence
		Trust
		Mobilization skills
	Acting - Driving change	Courage
		Creativity
		Optimism
		Perseverance
	<b>GreenComp</b>	Embodying sustainability values
Supporting Fairness		
Promoting nature		
		Systems Thinking

	Embracing Complexity in Sustainability	Critical Thinking
		Problem framing
	Envisioning Sustainable Futures	Futures literacy
		Adaptability
		Exploratory Thinking
	Acting for Sustainability	Political Agency
		Collective Action
		Individual Initiative

### 3.4 VET System and How Does It Anchor the SCE in Each Country?

#### Belgium

**VET EDUCATION**  
IN BELGIUM

It is part of the secondary education system, but it is not mandatory for all students to follow a vocational track. Students can choose between general, technical, or vocational secondary education.

IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?	IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?
IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?	IS IT CONTINUING VET?
IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?	IS IT INITIAL VET?

**MAJOR FEATURES**

**EQF LEVEL:**  
EQF levels vary from 1 to 4 for secondary education and can go up to higher levels in post-secondary education.

**LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS):**  
1 (or 2 to 3 years at the secondary education level)

**LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE):**

- full-time,
- part-time,
- school-based learning combined with workplace-based learning,
- distance learning in some cases.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS:**

- a combination of theoretical exams, practical assessments, and evaluations of work-based learning experiences
- professional qualification certificate

**MAIN TARGET GROUPS:**

- young who prefer a more practical approach to learning and be interested in pursuing a specific trade or profession directly after completing their education
- adults who wish to acquire new skills or change careers

Since Belgium has both three Communities and three Regions, learners can access three different vocational education and training systems: Flemish (BE-FL), French-speaking (BE-FR) and German-speaking (BE-DE)<sup>11</sup>. Since Brussels is bilingual, both the BE-FR and the BE-FL systems coexist in this region. Social partners are involved in VET policies at all levels in a tradition of social dialogue.

**Duration:** In the BE-DE system, formal upper secondary education lasts 3 or 4 years and is available from the age of 15. A branch in general education and a branch in VET are offered.

**Learning Forms:**

Technical school-based programmes leading to both a VET qualification and an upper secondary education diploma

more practice-based vocational school-based programmes leading to a VET qualification only (with the option to follow a 1-year upper secondary programme providing a secondary education diploma). The focus here is on preparing learners for labour market entry.

Another option is to follow a 2- to 3-year apprenticeship programme for learners age 15 onwards offered by a regional training provider. In these programmes, 1 day of

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/belgium-u2>



general occupational and practical courses are combined with 4-days of learning on the job in a company each week. After graduates have a certain level of professional experience, they can become qualified self-employed professionals by following a 2- to 3-year master craftsperson programme at post-secondary level.

**Duration:** In the BE-FL system, the Flemish Government is in charge of education and training and employment. At age 14, VET starts as school-based programmes. From age 15 onwards, company and school-based learning can be combined in the form of apprenticeships.

**Learning forms:** There are 2 types of VET programmes, each lasting 4 years:

Technical programmes which are a combination of both practical lessons and technical classes. Learners receive an upper secondary education diploma including a VET qualification.

Vocational programmes aimed at direct employment which are more practice-based. Learners can receive an upper secondary education diploma after successful completion of an additional year.

**Duration:** The Ministry of the French Community and school boards collaborate to regulate formal education in the BE-FR VET system. Given that the French Community spans the Walloon and Brussels Regions, responsibility for vocational training and employment provision is shared, requiring close and regular intergovernmental cooperation with formal and non-formal agreements. VET policies involve social partners at all levels. School-based VET programmes start at the age of 14 and VET schemes alternating between learning at school and in a company are offered from the age of 15 onwards.

**Learning Forms:** VET education is one of 2 possible upper secondary education branches (next to general education). Upper secondary education lasts 4 years. VET comprises:

Technical or artistic programmes leading to both a VET qualification and an upper secondary education diploma, offering direct access to tertiary education

Vocational programmes aimed at direct employment which are more practice-based leading to a VET qualification.

Apprenticeship programmes for learners aged 15 to 25 are offered by regional dual training services beside the formal VET programmes described above. From age 18 onwards, these apprentices can progress to be entrepreneurial, to leading and coordinating training programmes or to entering the labor market directly.

Throughout Belgium, divergent political priorities and strategies exist due to the multitude of different political actors. Within individual Communities, examples of strong cooperation do exist though mostly on an informal basis. Communication can be carried out in a more coordinated way when consensus

is needed on specific topics (e.g. priorities on an EU level). At the same time, there are some common national goals (e.g. the 202 National reform programme).

A distinctive feature of VET in Belgium is the strategic importance of social partners. Formal sector agreements are formed by negotiating strategies, policies and measures involving employment and VET with social partners. In addition, social partners organize programmes that alternate between work and education, and continuous vocational training.

## Finland

Vocational education and training (VET) in Finland provides students with strong vocational competence. Another key principle is continuous competence development.

**Target group:** both for young people without upper secondary qualifications and for adults already in work life.

**Qualification Level:** There are three types of qualifications – vocational qualifications, further vocational qualifications and specialist vocational qualifications. All qualifications are composed of units of learning outcomes that are either compulsory or optional. Currently there are approx. 160 vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications consist of vocational units and common units. Further and specialist qualifications comprise only vocational units and the necessity for common units is assessed when preparing the personal competence development plan. Students can complete entire qualifications, parts of them or smaller units, or combine parts of different qualifications based on their needs. Competence requirements are the same in all learning environments, also in workplaces. Qualifications are the same for young people and adults.

Vocational qualifications are independent of the way the vocational skills have been acquired. As long as the individual's



## VET EDUCATION

IN FINLAND

It is offered during compulsory schooling to students until the age of 18.

 IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?	 IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?
 IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?	 IS IT CONTINUING VET?
 IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?	 IS IT INITIAL VET?

### MAJOR FEATURES

 EQF LEVEL :  
4

 LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS):  
3 (or until you have gathered the competences)

 LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE):

- training agreement;
- apprenticeship;
- blended learning including work-based learning

 ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS :

- competence demonstrations in work-based learning
- no final examination

 MAIN TARGET GROUPS :

- Young people without upper secondary qualification,
- adults,
- learners with special needs

competences meet the national qualification requirements, they can be acquired in different learning environments and ways, at different times. Students demonstrate their skills in competence demonstrations at practical work.

**Target Group:** Prospective students can apply to VET whenever suitable and start their studies flexibly throughout the year. National joint application is organized each spring for those who have completed basic education and who do not have a secondary qualification. The aim is to ensure each young person a student place after basic education. Vocational special needs education is designed for students who need special support in learning and studying regularly or on a long-term basis due to learning difficulties, disabilities, illness or other reasons. The purpose of special needs education is to enable the students to meet the vocational skills requirements and learning objectives for the qualification or the education.

**Learning forms:** Guided and goal-oriented studying at the workplace takes place in versatile learning environments both at home and abroad and is based on practical work tasks. Educational institutions, workplaces, workshops, worksites of educational institutions and virtual learning environments reinforce each other. The education provider is responsible for the education but the student will also be appointed a workplace trainer who must have the required competencies for the task. Studying at the workplace is either based on apprenticeship or on training agreement. Both can be flexibly combined. Learning at work can be used to acquire competence in all vocational qualifications as well as other training advancing or supplementing vocational skills. Studying at the workplace can cover an entire degree, a module or a smaller part of the studies.

**Duration:** Compulsory education ends when the student turns 18 years of age or when the compulsory education student before that has successfully completed a degree as referred to in the Matriculation Examination Act (502/2019) or the Vocational Education Act (531/2017) or an equivalent education on Åland or abroad training.



## VET EDUCATION

IN GREECE

It is offered, after the completion of compulsory schooling, mainly at upper secondary and post-secondary level.

✗ IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

✓ IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?

✓ IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?

✗ IS IT CONTINUING VET?

✓ IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?

✓ IS IT INITIAL VET?

### MAJOR FEATURES



**EQF LEVEL :**  
4



**LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS) :**  
3



**LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE) :**

Full-time

- school-based learning
- work practice (practical training at school)



**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS :**

- pass a final examination
- receive a vocational upper secondary school degree and / or a vocational upper secondary school certificate



**MAIN TARGET GROUPS :**

- graduates of lower secondary programmes young people over 15 years old (compulsory education)
- adults
- learners with special educational needs (These programmes are offered by special vocational schools)

Vocational Education and Training in Greece aims to equip students with practical skills and knowledge, making them well-prepared for the job market. The system is designed to be flexible and inclusive, allowing individuals to choose a career path that aligns with their interests and goals.

**Qualification Levels:** VET is offered at the upper secondary level, parallel to general education. It is designed to prepare students for employment and provide them with practical skills and knowledge. VET programs in Greece are typically offered at Levels 3 and 4 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Level 3 corresponds to upper secondary education, and Level 4 represents post-secondary non-tertiary education.

**Duration:** VET programs typically last for three years, and they start after the completion of compulsory education, usually around the age of 15 or 16.

**Learning Forms:** VET programs in Greece are provided through vocational schools and apprenticeships. Vocational schools offer both theoretical and practical training in various fields, including technical, agricultural, and commercial sectors. Apprenticeships involve on-the-job training, allowing students to gain practical

experience while working under the guidance of experienced professionals.

**Diplomas:** Upon successful completion of a VET program, students receive a Certificate of Vocational Training. This certificate is recognized by the Greek labor market and many European countries.

**Target Groups:**

- **Young People:** VET programs are available for secondary school graduates who want to acquire vocational skills before entering the workforce.
- **Adults:** There are VET programs tailored to adults seeking to change careers or acquire new skills. These are often shorter and more flexible.
- **Unemployed Individuals:** Special VET programs and training initiatives are available for the unemployed, helping them acquire skills and improve their employability.
- **Disadvantaged Groups:** Specific VET programs are designed for disadvantaged individuals, such as refugees or people with disabilities, to facilitate their integration into the labor market.
- **Lifelong Learners:** Greece promotes lifelong learning, and VET programs offer opportunities for continuous skill development throughout one's career.

**Further Education:** After obtaining their Certificate of Vocational Training, students have the option to continue their education. They can enroll in post-secondary vocational programs or pursue higher education, such as entering a Technological Educational Institute (TEI) to earn a bachelor's degree.

Circular economy principles and practices have become increasingly important in recent years, and many VET institutions across Europe are incorporating circular economy concepts into their training programs. In Greece, the circular economy principles are being promoted and incorporated into VET education through various initiatives, training programs, and support from the government.

Many vocational education and training (VET) providers in Greece offer courses and training programs related to circular economy, such as waste management, sustainable production, and circular design. For example, the National Centre for Vocational Education and Training (EKKE) has developed a number of training programs related to circular economy, such as the "Green Economy and Sustainable Development" program, which includes modules on circular economy principles and practices.

Unfortunately, the social aspects of the circular economy are linked only to the development of learners' interdisciplinary skills in order to be qualified for new jobs in the area.

## Italy


Italy's vocational education and training (VET) system is a key component of its education system, preparing students for the labor market by combining classroom learning with practical training. Here are the main features of the VET system in Italy:

### Types of VET Programs

**Secondary School-Based VET:** Secondary school students in Italy can choose vocational education as a path alongside traditional academic education. VET programs provide both general education and specific vocational training. After three years of lower secondary education (Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado), students can opt for a variety of vocational courses. These courses can lead to a Technical Diploma (Diploma di Tecnico) or Professional Diploma (Diploma Professionale).

**Apprenticeships:** Italy has a strong tradition of apprenticeships. Students can enter apprenticeship programs, typically after completing lower secondary education, and work as apprentices in companies while also receiving classroom instruction. Apprenticeships can lead to a Professional Qualification (Qualifica Professionale).




**Technical Institutes (Istituti Tecnici):** These institutes offer a mix of general and technical education. Students can choose





## VET EDUCATION

IN ITALY

It is offered to students up to the age of 18 as a school-based programme in all upper secondary schools, but could also be offered as an apprenticeship.

 <b>IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?</b>	 <b>IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?</b>
 <b>IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?</b>	 <b>IS IT CONTINUING VET?</b>
 <b>IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?</b>	 <b>IS IT INITIAL VET?</b>

### MAJOR FEATURES

 <p><b>EQF LEVEL :</b> 3-4</p>	 <p><b>LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS) :</b> 3-5 (Secondary school-based VET) 1-3 (apprenticeships)</p>
 <p><b>LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE) :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• school-based learning</li><li>• work practice (practical training at school and in-company practice)</li><li>• self-learning</li><li>• apprenticeships</li></ul>	 <p><b>ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• final examination</li><li>• professional operator certificate</li><li>• professional technician diploma</li></ul>
 <p><b>MAIN TARGET GROUPS :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• young people</li></ul>	

a technical path, which emphasizes practical and technical skills, alongside standard high school subjects. They can graduate with a Technical Diploma (Diploma di Maturità).

Professional Institutes (Istituti Professionali): These institutes offer practical vocational training in various fields. Graduates receive a Professional Diploma (Diploma di Maturità Professionale).

**Qualification level:** Many VET programs in Italy are offered at the upper secondary level and align with EQF Level 3 while more advanced apprenticeships, especially those involving a higher level of specialization and training, can be mapped to EQF Level 4.

**Duration:** The duration of VET programs varies. Secondary school-based VET programs are typically three to five years long, while apprenticeships can range from one to three years, depending on the field and the level of qualification.

**Work-Based Learning:** Italy follows a dual education system, combining classroom learning with hands-on training. This approach ensures that students are well-prepared for their chosen careers. The Italian VET system strongly emphasizes work-based learning. Students in VET programs spend a significant amount of time in real workplaces, gaining practical experience under the guidance of experienced professionals.

**Diplomas:** Successful completion of VET programs leads to various certifications, including Technical Diplomas, Professional Diplomas, and Professional Qualifications. These certifications are recognized and valued by employers in Italy.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Italy plays a pivotal role in grounding the Social Circular Economy (SCE) in the country. Italian VET programs are designed to align with the principles of the circular economy, emphasizing skills development for sustainability and promoting circular practices. These programs educate students on sustainable production, waste reduction, recycling, and resource management.


VET institutions in Italy actively collaborate with businesses engaged in the SCE, providing students with practical training opportunities and fostering innovation. This contributes to job creation within the circular economy sectors, such as recycling and sustainable manufacturing. VET education also prioritizes resource efficiency, teaching students to use materials effectively while minimizing waste. Additionally, it promotes social inclusion by offering opportunities to individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, Italy's VET system recognizes the importance of lifelong learning, allowing individuals to continuously update their skills and knowledge to stay abreast of evolving circular economy practices and technologies. Overall, VET education in Italy empowers individuals with the skills and knowledge



needed to contribute to a more sustainable and circular economy, aligning with the SCE's goals and principles.

## The Netherlands



### VET EDUCATION IN NETHERLANDS

It is a comprehensive and well-structured education system designed to prepare students aged 16 or above for the labor market. Only the theoretical pathway (VMBO) is available in adult education (vavo).

✓ IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?	✓ IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?
✓ IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?	✗ IS IT CONTINUING VET?
✗ IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?	✓ IS IT INITIAL VET?

### MAJOR FEATURES

- EQF LEVEL :** 1-4
- LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS):**
  - 1-2 (Lower-level programs)
  - 3-4 (higher-level programs)
- LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE):**
  - school-based learning with practical training in real work environments
- ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS :**
  - central, national examinations and school examinations
  - various levels of diplomas
- MAIN TARGET GROUPS :**
  - young people

The Vocational Education and Training (VET) system in the Netherlands is a comprehensive and well-structured education system designed to prepare students for the labor market. Here are some key features of the VET system in the Netherlands:

**Qualification Levels:** VET programs in the Netherlands are categorized into different qualification levels, ranging from Level 1 (entry-level) to Level 4 (higher-level skills). This allows students to choose programs that match their prior education and career aspirations.

**Dual System:** The VET system in the Netherlands follows a dual approach, combining school-based learning with practical training in real work environments. This dual system helps students gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, making them highly employable.

**Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships are a common feature of the VET system. They allow students to work for a company while receiving training, earning a wage, and gaining practical experience.

**Duration:** The duration of MBO programs varies depending on the level and type of education. Lower-level programs (levels 1

and 2) usually last one to two years, while higher-level programs (levels 3 and 4) typically take three to four years to complete. Some MBO programs can be shorter when combined with work-based learning.

**Diplomas:** The Dutch VET system offers various levels of diplomas. The primary VET diploma is the "Middelbaar Beroepsonderwijs" (MBO), which translates to Intermediate Vocational Education.

**Target Groups:** The Dutch VET system is open to a broad range of learners. It's not limited to recent school graduates but also includes adult learners and those seeking a career change. The system is flexible, allowing learners to enter at different stages, and many MBO programs include apprenticeships or internships where students gain practical experience in real workplaces.

The VET system in the Netherlands is instrumental in anchoring the principles of a Social Circular Economy. Dutch VET programs have adopted a circular economy focus, incorporating sustainability and resource efficiency principles into their curricula. Students in various VET sectors, such as construction and agriculture, are educated about sustainable practices and waste reduction, aligning with SCE goals.

One of the key aspects is the emphasis on work-based learning and apprenticeships. VET students engage in hands-on experience with companies that prioritize resource efficiency and sustainability. These partnerships create real-world opportunities for students to apply circular economy principles and learn from industry experts.

Additionally, some VET institutions are actively involved in research and innovation related to the circular economy. They work on projects to develop sustainable technologies and eco-friendly materials, contributing to the growth of SCE. Ultimately, the Dutch VET system equips graduates with the knowledge, skills, and sustainability awareness needed to drive the transition to a more sustainable and circular economy.

## Poland

The VET system in Poland is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in both general education and vocational skills, ensuring they are equipped to enter the workforce with the necessary knowledge and expertise.

**Qualifications Level:** These programs are usually offered at the upper secondary level, corresponding to European Qualifications Framework (EQF) levels 2 and 3.

**Learning forms:** The VET system in Poland is well-structured and includes both school-based and work-based learning. It provides education and training at different levels, including basic vocational schools, technical schools, and vocational upper secondary schools. Poland operates a dual education system where students split their time between school and practical training in companies. This approach helps students gain real-world experience and develop practical skills while studying.

**Duration:** VET programs typically last three years, and they combine general education with vocational training. Some programs may also lead to the completion of the Matura examination, which is a prerequisite for entering higher education.



### VET EDUCATION IN POLAND

It is provided to students up to the age of 18, mainly, in school-based upper secondary and post-secondary programmes. Upper secondary programmes combine general and vocational education.

✓ IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?	✓ IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?
✓ IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?	✗ IS IT CONTINUING VET?
✗ IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?	✓ IS IT INITIAL VET?

### MAJOR FEATURES


- EQF LEVEL :** 2-3
- LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS) :** 2-3
- LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE) :**
  - school-based learning
  - work-based learning
- ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS :**
  - completion of the programme
  - completion of work preparation classes
  - school leaving certificate
- MAIN TARGET GROUPS :**
  - young people over 15 years old

**Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships are a significant part of the VET system, allowing students to work in companies and learn from professionals in their chosen field.

**Target groups:** It accommodates those who want to enter the labor market directly after completing their education, as well as students who may wish to continue their studies at the tertiary level.

Poland VET programs equip students with practical skills relevant to the circular economy, such as waste management, renewable energy, and resource-efficient production. Work-based learning, including apprenticeships, offers hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of circular principles.







In addition, the close collaboration with industries ensures VET programs stay aligned with emerging circular practices. Students are taught to adopt a sustainability mindset, focusing on resource efficiency and waste reduction. This shift in thinking is vital for circular economy adoption.




## VET EDUCATION

IN ROMANIA


It is provided at upper secondary and post-secondary levels.  
The first two years of upper secondary education are compulsory for all learners.

 IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?	 IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?
 IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?	 IS IT CONTINUING VET?
 IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?	 IS IT INITIAL VET?


### MAJOR FEATURES



**EQF LEVEL :**  
3



**LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS) :**  
3-4





**LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE) :**

- daytime learning (most popular)
- evening classes
- work-based learning
- dual form

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS :**

- pass a summative assessment
- final examination
- professional qualification certificate





**MAIN TARGET GROUPS :**

- young people
- adults

**Types of programs for VET:** At the upper secondary level, there are four types of study programs and/or branches:

**Qualifications Level:** Three-year study programs (ISCED-P 352), called vocational education, provide graduates with a CEC/CNC level 3 "skilled worker" professional qualification (cook, welder, baker, carpenter, etc.). The EQF level 3 vocational qualification is provided by "vocational schools" cooperating with employers who provide compulsory practical training in companies for learners as part of work-based learning/practical training (WBL). Practical training at the workplace is combined with practical training in school workshops/laboratories. The practical training periods are spread over the entire duration of the school year. Graduates receive a certificate attesting to the completion of the compulsory education cycle that allows access to the third year of technological programs of qualification level 4 CEC.

**Learning forms:** Starting with the year 2017/18, dual education is also available as „a form of professional education organization". The educational institution provides theoretical technical training (1-2 days of study per week), and the employer provides the human

and financial resources (including the scholarship) to organize the practical training at the workplace (3-4 days per week). If in the first year the practical training carried out in the workshops of the school and at the economic operator represents approximately 20% of the total time allocated to the program, in the second year approximately 60% of the time is allocated to practical training, and in the third year, approximately 72% of the time to be allocated to practical training. And those who want to continue their studies, doing the 4th year of high school, take the Baccalaureate which will certify their basic skills to the same extent.

Technological study programs, from the technological branch, with a duration of four years (ISCED-P 354, technological high school) offer graduates a high school graduation diploma and a "technician" qualification, at the level of professional qualification 4 CEC (41) (gastronomy technician, industrial design technician, computer technician supervisor, furniture designer). The programs include the lower and upper cycle, two years for each, and are provided by high schools and technical colleges. The percentage of on-the-job training (WBL) is 25%. Graduates who pass the baccalaureate exam can enroll in higher education. After graduating from the lower cycle (compulsory education), students can opt to drop out and enroll in a short-term program / practical training internship (ISCED-P 352) that offers only a professional qualification;

Short-term programs / practical training internships (ISCED-P 352 internships) offer students who have completed a two-year technological program (they have completed the 10th grade) a CEC level 3 professional qualification (e.g. chef) through 720 hours of on-the-job training. These internships are coordinated by VET schools and are mainly provided by employers. Young people and adults who leave education and vocational training programs early can also access these programs/internships, after graduating from a program called "Second Chance";

The four-year vocational study programs (ISCED-P 354, CEC level 4, vocational high school) offer graduates a professional qualification in the military, theological, sports, arts and pedagogy fields, as well as a graduation diploma of a higher secondary education school. Graduates who pass the baccalaureate exam can enroll in higher education. Most graduates make this option. Study programs are provided by high schools and colleges, and the share of practical training is a maximum of 15%.

Non-university tertiary education offers post-secondary study programs, lasting one to three years (**ISCED-P 453**), after which a professional qualification of level 5 CEC is obtained; they are organized within technological schools or colleges/universities, at the request of companies or students. They offer upper secondary education graduates the opportunity to advance in the professional qualifications they have, such as nursing and pharmacist technician, optician, programmer analyst, meteorologist. Access to these programs is open to all secondary school graduates, regardless of whether or not they have a baccalaureate diploma.

From this year, a step forward was taken for the complete dual route, the government also validating dual university education, inviting dual pre- and university education institutions to join - together with UAT and economic operators - in consortia to access government funds and develop integrated professional campuses.

The university professional chain will have 4 profiles: technical, services, natural resources and environmental protection.

**Learning Forms:** Day education (the most popular), Evening classes, On-the-job training, Dual form

**Statistical data:** Vocational education in Romania is graduated annually by just over 20,000 students. According to the latest data from the National Institute of Statistics (INS), in 2019, 22,787 students graduated from a vocational school.

Transport, catering and car construction were the most frequented training profiles, totaling 12,618 graduates, i.e. more than half of all students who completed their studies in the vocational education regime.

Fewer graduates completed specializations related to construction materials (15), petroleum (46) or forestry (93).

## Spain

Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Spain is known as "Formación Profesional" (FP) and plays a crucial role in the country's education system. Here's an overview of the VET system in Spain:

**Duration:** The duration of VET programs varies depending on the level and the specific field of study. Basic FP programs typically last two years, while intermediate and higher FP programs can last from one to two years, sometimes longer.

**Work-Based Learning:** Work-based learning is an essential component of VET in Spain. Students are required to complete internships or work placements in companies related to their field of study. This practical experience helps them apply what they've learned in a real-world context.

**Learning forms:** Spain has been working to expand the concept of dual VET, where students split their time between school-based learning and on-the-job training. This approach helps bridge the gap between education and the labor market.

**Qualifications Level:** The EQF levels for VET in Spain range from EQF Level 1 to EQF Level 4.

**Diplomas:** Upon completing a VET program, students receive a vocational qualification that is recognized by employers. These

### VET EDUCATION IN SPAIN

The education in Spain is decentralized, and each of the 17 autonomous communities has some control over its education system, including VET. This can lead to variations in the structure and offerings of VET programs across regions.

IS IT PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING?	IS IT OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE?
IS IT PART OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM?	IS IT CONTINUING VET?
IS IT AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS?	IS IT INITIAL VET?

### MAJOR FEATURES

- EQF LEVEL:** 1-4
- LENGTH OF A PROGRAMME (YEARS):** 2
- LEARNING FORMS (E.G. DUAL, PART-TIME, DISTANCE):**
  - school-based learning (face-to-face)
  - work-based learning at workshops
  - work placement module
  - dual VET
- ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES/DIPLOMAS:**
  - completion of a VET programme requires a pass grade in all the modules
  - basic VET diploma
- MAIN TARGET GROUPS:**
  - learners over 15
  - adults



qualifications are essential for those seeking employment in their chosen field.

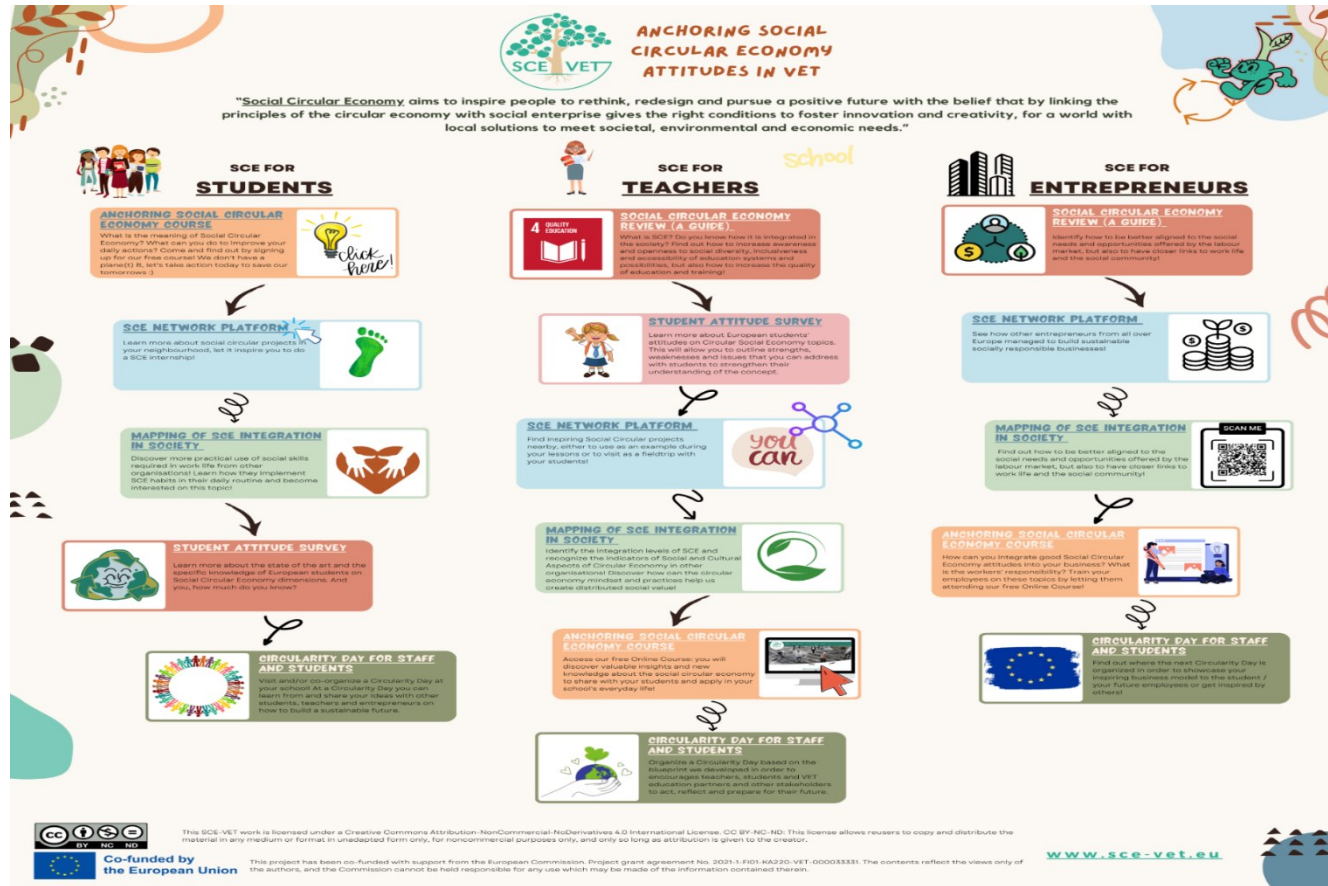
**Regional Variations:** It's important to note that education in Spain is decentralized, and each of the 17 autonomous communities has some control over its education system, including VET. This can lead to variations in the structure and offerings of VET programs across regions.

VET programs in Spain are tailored to address the evolving needs of industries adopting circular economy practices. This includes sectors such as waste management, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. By aligning VET with these areas, individuals are prepared to contribute to and thrive within the SCE.

VET also encourages entrepreneurship in the circular economy space. Students are equipped with the expertise needed to establish and manage circular businesses, fostering innovation and sustainable resource management. Furthermore, VET extends to lifelong learning, allowing professionals to upskill or reskill in SCE-related areas, ensuring they remain adaptable to changing labor market demands. Overall, VET in Spain cultivates sustainability awareness and a sense of environmental responsibility, promoting adherence to SCE principles in both personal and professional life. This multifaceted role of VET supports the successful integration of circular economy practices in Spain.

### 3.5 Social Circular VET Education Method Canvas

<https://sce-vet.eu/results/canvas-social-circular-economy/>



### 3.6 MOOC on Social Circular Economy

The general aim of the “Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET” MOOC (<https://sites.google.com/yrkesakademin.fi/sce-vet-mooc/homepage>) is for participants to learn “embodying sustainability values” and thus to help learners develop the attitude to value sustainability. This means learners are encouraged to reflect on personal values; identify and explain how values vary among people and over time, while critically evaluating how they align with sustainability values.

In order to develop the ability to embody sustainability values, the following types of knowledge, skills and attitudes will be discussed in the MOOC.

#### Knowledge:

- Knows the main views on sustainability
- Knows the main values and principles of sustainability.
- Knows that values and principles influence action that can damage, does not harm, restore or regenerate the environment.
- Knows that various cultures and generations may attach more or less importance to sustainability depending on their value systems.

#### Skills

- Can critically assess and compare underlying sustainability values and principles in arguments, action, policies and political claims.
- Can evaluate issues and actions based on sustainability values and principles.
- Can adapt personal choices and actions in line with sustainability values and principles.
- Can articulate and negotiate sustainability values, principles and objectives while recognizing different viewpoints.
- Can identify and include values of communities, including minorities, in problem framing and decision making on sustainability.

#### Attitudes

- Is willing to act in accordance with the values and principles of sustainable development.
- Is willing to share and clarify views on sustainability values.
- Is open-minded to others and their world-views.
- Is ready to criticize and value various cultural contexts depending on their impact on

sustainability.

More particularly, the aim of the course is to equip the participant with the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of Social Circular Economy. The topics of each module are aimed at creating awareness for changing social attitudes in labor force participation, entrepreneurship and environmentally responsible attitudes. The MOOC also contains knowledge, good practices of the social circular economy and its potential in different countries and cultures. By the end of the course, the participant will be familiar with good SCE practices at different fields and levels of VET.

The following modules are covered in the MOOC:

1. The circular economy: find out what it means, how it benefits you, the environment and our economy.
2. Social entrepreneurship: find out how economic activity meets social objectives.
3. Social Circular Economy (Enterprises): find out how to recognise the characteristics of social circular enterprises.
4. Social enterprises: find out why social circular enterprises are needed in the contemporary world.
5. Job learning: practice how to become more responsible for our society.
6. On-the-job learning: get to know social circular enterprise examples in the local community.

## 4. Show Cases and Best Practices

Social Circular Economy best practices often carry similarities. Robinson (2018, pp. 4-5) identified common Circular Economy Business Models (CEBMs) that are present in circular economy good practices<sup>12</sup>:

- **“Dematerialization**: reducing the amount of resource required to create products through digitization, on-demand production (made to order) and a move to reusable products
- **Circular inputs**: using renewable (e.g. solar power), fully biodegradable (e.g. untreated wood), sustainable (e.g. properly sourced palm oil) and/or fully recyclable (e.g. pure high-density polyethylene) for production

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<sup>12</sup> Reference: <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/social-circular-economy-opportunities-people-planet-and-profit>

- **Product life extension:** extending the life of products through design for durability, design for modularity, maintenance and repair, reuse, reconditioning, refurbishment, remanufacture, repurpose and part harvesting
- **Resource recovery** through recycling, bio-chemical extraction, anaerobic digestion and composting.
- **Product as a service** or Product Service System (includes Sharing Economy) comprises leasing, performance-based payment (pay for success), sharing resources and peer to peer lending”

Furthermore, Robinson (2018) identified the following common working principles that are present in good examples of social circular economy.

- Combining several circular economy business models
- Install broker-enabler roles between communities and corporates
- Provide training for those involved in implementing social circular economy projects
- Scale the impact of social circular economy projects by 1) building online platforms that can function as a new marketplace, 2) removing potential bottlenecks by automating (manual) operations and 3) social franchising
- Install a cross-subsidy model by generating income in one way to create social impact in another
- Start with small capital operations that scale somewhat linearly
- Make sure there is proper handover, especially in the case of ad-hoc volunteer support
- Focus on emerging markets
- Create a Social Business Model Canvas (such as the [Social Circular VET Education Canvas](#))
- Create solutions for reverse logistics by either pricing in the added logistics costs or pushing the risk back to their suppliers. Examples of solutions for reverse logistics are:
  - Offering collection as a service
  - Include the cost of collection in the product price
  - Reverse logistics as part of the contract
  - Push the cost to supplier: one way this is typically done is by productive groups and artisans living close to the ‘waste’

- Push the cost to the user or ‘waste producer’: this is typically not prevalent in emerging markets

Below, we present best practices from the partners in the Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET) project.

## 4.1 Belgium

### 4. 1. 1. Atelier Groot Eiland

Atelier Groot Eiland is a social enterprise in Brussels. Its main focus is on upcycling and creative reuse. They offer workshops and training programs for individuals facing social exclusion. In these training programs, people learn in circular craftsmanship and entrepreneurship.

### 4. 1. 2. BEWEL (Hasselt)

Bewel can make a significant difference for companies dealing with waste streams that are challenging to separate. Not everything can be processed mechanically, and that's where our skilled hands make a difference.

A prime example is our work for Electronite. They dismantle their used cables, separating the valuable platinum from other materials. This platinum, with high financial value, is reintroduced into circulation. It's a precision task that machines cannot handle.

To streamline and strengthen our ambitions and capabilities in the circular economy, they have established our own circular working group. They have also joined a project by Groep Maatwerk, which provides support to sheltered workshops in the context of the circular economy. Together with the external consulting firm Möbius, they are scrutinizing our operations and activities, with the ultimate goal of further developing ourselves as the go-to partner for profitable circular initiatives.

Bewel as a social and circular partner. If you want to emphasize circularity in your production processes or waste streams, they collaborate with you to design a sustainable workflow and deploy our skilled hands for your needs.

### **4.1. 3. Färm**

Färm is an organic food stores cooperative. They prioritize local and organic products, reducing waste and promoting sustainable consumption. Their primary focus is on providing healthy food options, but they are also committed to promoting sustainability.

### **4. 1. 4. 4werk**

<https://4werk.be/> is a unique platform comprising 24 custom work companies in West Flanders. They are a structured non-profit organization with paying members, an external chairman, a Board of Directors, and Directors' Meetings. They represent the custom work companies employing 6,900 workers, of which over 80% (5,800) are individuals who, for various reasons, cannot, have not yet, or may never be employed in conventional enterprises. They tailor their offerings to meet the needs of their partners and clients, aligning our processes with the requirements of our employees.

4Werk operates from a common interest. The added value of this platform manifests in the following points:

1. Joint societal responsibility to promote sustainable employment.
2. Strong economic profiling.
3. Unique internal collaboration.
4. Ambition to make the members more successful.
5. Actively playing a role in the economy and factories of the future.

### **4. 1. 5. Mangelmoes VZW**

Mangelmoes is a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm, where the community supports agriculture, ensuring fair compensation for the farmer. You can purchase a share of the harvest at the beginning of the season, running from June 6 (week 23) to November 28 (week 48).

By doing so, you receive a weekly portion of our harvest in the form of a vegetable package. This is a wonderful way to reconnect with the origin of your food.

Participants (shareholders) secure themselves with high-quality and sustainable vegetables while enhancing local biodiversity. You can expect a weekly newsletter with the upcoming package contents, field news, and recipes.

For the farmer, the advantage lies in precise planning for planting and harvesting, minimizing losses, and providing income security. Purchasing a share is the most cost-effective and responsible way to ensure access to quality vegetables and actively contribute to sustainable agriculture.

The intention is to make the total amount in one payment, providing the necessary budget in advance to guarantee quality and streamline administrative processes.

#### **4. 1. 6. Re-Born**

Re-Born is a social enterprise that upcycles waste materials into new products. They provide training and employment opportunities for individuals with a distance to the labour market. They invest in diverting materials from landfills.

## **4.2 Finland**

### **4. 2. 1. Folkhälsan**

Folkhälsan is the largest Swedish-speaking organization/association in Finland that works for better health and quality of life. The organization, founded in 1921, is both a service producer and expert organization as well as a citizen movement. Their operations in Finland and on the Åland Islands include daycare centers, support for young people, education, services for the elderly and people with disabilities, as well as a world-class research center. Their services are based on evidence-based knowledge. Folkhälsan is a versatile, modern non-profit organization operation in the field of social- and health care. The activities include assistance, support, education, and care, being present at every stage of life.

Folkhälsan has worked for over a century as an initiator and forerunner. They are proud of the work they do together in different parts of society, from voluntary involvement to cutting-edge research.

Public health supports a sustainable, safe, healthy and active everyday life and local environment for everyone.

### **4. 2. 2. LivsVinn**

#### **Business idea**

At LivsVinn, there is a wide range of products in different categories and they sell unsold products from other shops with the aim to reduce waste and reduce the price of the products. The products vary from day to day, but by following LivsVinn on Instagram, you get a good picture of which products are currently in the store. You can also contact us if you have any questions about the offer.



**Different products** LivsVinn offers everything from vegetables, fruits, bakery products and food boxes to hygiene and cleaning products. Common to certain products is that they are not daily fresh and therefore sold to lower price.

You will also find a small cozy café where you can have a coffee break or light lunch.

#### **4. 2. 3. Minimossen**

Minimossen consists of 15 companies, which repair and fix recycled items and promote a sustainable lifestyle.

You can bring combustible waste, wood, plastic, cardboard and glass packaging, metal, paper, ceramics, tiles, window glass and small electrical appliances. You can also donate smaller items for re-use that are intact and clean.

They offer different options for entrepreneurs. You can rent anything from a single shelf to a larger retail space. The entrepreneur must have a Business ID and a short business plan.

A truly ecological act is to take care of your things, instead of throwing them away. ReTuned is specialized in repairing and reusing home electronics and kitchen appliances.

#### **4. 2. 4. Sitra in Finland – promoting well-being**

The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra is a future-oriented organisation that promotes Finland's competitiveness and the well-being of the Finnish people. Sitra anticipates societal change, develop and test new operating models and accelerate business activities aimed at creating sustainable well-being. In Finland Sitra promotes the development of a Finnish model for social enterprise by creating better operating conditions. Sitra is also actively involved in creating a definition and a brand for social enterprise. Sitra is for example involved in the Koukkuniemi and Kierrätysverkko development projects, which make use of the social enterprise model.

In Finland the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for the management of the Sitra centre. The centre's task and objective is to create national advisory and guidance services specializing in social enterprises and introduce measures to raise awareness of the business model.

Measures to help integrate social innovations will be strengthened. The effectiveness of public obtaining and the use of social criteria and innovative practices will be cutting-edge and the need for new funding models will be assessed.

Sitra promotes the development of a Finnish model for social enterprise by creating better operating conditions. Sitra has been actively involved in creating a definition and a brand for social enterprise. Sitra is also involved in the Koukkuniemi and Kierrätysverkko development projects, which make use of the social enterprise model.

#### **4. 2. 5. The Finnish Red Cross, FRC**

Tens of thousands of Finnish Red Cross members and volunteers take part in the activities of their local branch.

The supreme authority of the organisation lies with the General Assembly, which represents the members and meets every three years. The General Assembly selects the board and other elected bodies for the organisation to lead the operations of the organisation.

**First Aid Training:** One of the key objectives of the Red Cross is to protect life and health. The organisation carries out a variety of activities in order to meet this goal, one being our high-quality first aid training for citizens.

Health promotion is an essential part of the Red Cross preparedness work in Finland. They work together with local authorities and organisations as well as other health promotion operators.

Our trained volunteers support people in finding lifestyles that promote health and guide them to local services as necessary.

**Friend activities:** Loneliness is harmful to a person's well-being. Each of us needs the company of another person, and even a single positive relationship can stop the cycle of loneliness.

Thousands of trained Finnish Red Cross volunteer friends offer concrete help with loneliness.

**Youth Shelters:** The Finnish Red Cross Youth Shelters listen and look for solutions when things go wrong at home or elsewhere.

At the Youth Shelters, you can ask us about anything related to adolescence or parenting – an everyday worry or a major life crisis. Contact us online, call us whenever you need to or come directly to one of our Youth Shelters. You can come to us on your own initiative and without an appointment. Our help is free of charge.

**Food Aid activities:** The Red Cross organises food aid activities in several towns across Finland. Our food aid is built around respectful and safe encounters with human values. Our activities are based on volunteering.

**Second-hand Department stores:** The Kontti second-hand department stores sell donated products. Kontti is a part of the fundraising activities of the Finnish Red Cross, and its proceeds are divided between aid activities in Finland and the Disaster Relief Fund. Some donations are sent through the Finnish Red Cross Logistics Centre to aid targets around the world. Kontti stores also provide emergency aid in domestic disasters, e.g. for families who have lost their homes in fires.

#### **4. 2. 6. The Sustainability Week**

**The Sustainability Week** addresses the challenge of sustainable development and circular economy in different sectors by:

- Organising a week of sustainability representing responsible actions. The focus is on ecological, social and economic sustainability.
- Inviting and encouraging different sectors, to organise events around the region on sustainability and circular economy bringing forward their own sustainable and responsible acts. Hence, it provides a platform to market own activities and find new customers, not only to buy products but also for behavioural change and ethics.

The Sustainability Week has been presented as a **good practice** for craft SMEs to access new markets and targets. The good practice guide contains 10 innovative practices from around Europe that could be transferable to other regions.

### **4.3 Greece**

#### **4. 3. 1. Βοόμε**

One good example of social circular economy in Greece in the agriculture sector is the social enterprise "Βοόμε". Βοόμε is a cooperative that produces organic food and offers services such as land management and agricultural consulting to local farmers in the region of Thessaly.

Βοόμε's main objective is to promote sustainable agriculture and circular economy principles by implementing regenerative farming practices that reduce waste and enhance soil fertility. The cooperative follows a zero-waste approach, where all organic waste is reused to produce compost,

which is then used to fertilize the soil. Βοόμε also operates a community-supported agriculture (CSA) program, where consumers can purchase a share of the harvest and receive fresh, locally grown organic produce on a regular basis. This model allows farmers to have a stable source of income and reduces waste by only producing what is needed by the community. Moreover, Βοόμε collaborates with other local organizations and businesses to promote a circular economy and social sustainability in the region. For example, they work with a local brewery to produce beer using the spent grains from the brewing process, and they participate in community initiatives that promote waste reduction and environmental protection.

Βοόμε's work is a great example of how circular economy principles can be applied in the agriculture sector to create positive social and environmental impact while promoting sustainable and regenerative farming practices.

#### **4. 3. 2. Wise Greece**

The social cause of Wise Greece is double: on the one hand it helps the small Greek producers -the backbone of the Greek economy- to develop, to promote and to export their products, while on the other hand it manages to constantly collect and offer high nutritious food supplies to Social Groceries, Soup Kitchens and Orphanages.

Also, Wise Greece implements educational programs focusing on combating unemployment and strengthening entrepreneurship.

Meanwhile, it designs and organizes Corporate Social Responsibility programs in collaboration with companies, so as to maximize its social impact or to address important humanitarian crises such as the pandemic of COVID-19.

At the same time, Wise Greece implements educational programs focusing on promoting the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable production and consumption.

#### **4. 3. 3. Titan**

Cement and building material manufacturer Titan Greece actively contribute to the implementation of a circular economy model at different points throughout its production process. The company uses less energy and produces concrete that helps with climate adaptation and mitigation.

TITAN makes certain that the company has a positive impact on society and the communities surrounding its facilities. TITAN has been able to establish trusting relationships and generate shared

value because of its respect and sincere interest in the communities it interacts with. Together with stakeholders, TITAN shares resources and expertise to help lay the groundwork for a brighter future for everybody.

Furthermore, its products are fully recyclable and play a major role in promoting the circular economy by allowing waste or by products like cement to be recycled as well as extending the lifecycle of infrastructure projects and buildings. Its objective also includes material and energy recovery through the use of alternative fuels and raw materials.

#### **4. 3. 4. WEnCoop**

Women from a variety of backgrounds and cultures founded the WEnCoop, a "broad-based" energy cooperative. The Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs, is the organization behind this initiative, which seeks to advance women's entrepreneurship and enable its members to work in the energy sector through the use of clean energy sources. Together, the members of WEnCoop innovate and build Europe's first energy cooperative, implementing the energy revolution in the net-zero world.

WEnCoop's goal is to strengthen the role of citizens and to gradually change them from consumers to active members and micro-investors in local clean energy investment projects. As the Energy communities are an important vehicle for the transition to self-consumption, WEnCoop wants and aims to provide free quantities to vulnerable groups, mainly single-parent families of women, etc.

The project has created the first 1 MW solar power plant, located in Kassandreia, Chalkidiki. The businesses, run by 60 women, will be able to cover the cost of electricity - one of the most significant operating costs - thanks to the autonomy granted by the Energy Community. The transition of their companies to a green economy has also been achieved.

#### **4. 3. 5. Wind of Renewal / Anemos Ananeosis**

Through the WELCOMMON Hostel, a new Hostel in Athens, they are combining two "different" aims: sustainable tourism, green and social innovation with social inclusion, art, and intercultural dialogue.

They use the 2 floors as an open center for social empowerment, social inclusion, social and green entrepreneurship activities, intercultural dialogue and art work.

The remaining 5 floors of the WELCOMMON HOSTEL are dedicated for sustainable tourism.

One of their goals is to create new employment opportunities for everyone in areas such as up-cycling, green / cyclic economy, energy efficiency and others.

In addition, they promote educational programmes to schools, young people and stakeholders in the field of reduction of energy consumption and on renewable energy sources topics focused on vocational education of Green skills and professions field.

## 4.4 Italy

The Circular Economy is still mainly perceived as a zero-waste economy in particular by policy makers and centered on the conventional concept of "recycling". However, case studies show how circular start-ups focused on innovating waste management and treatment activities can create new forms of sustainable entrepreneurship also generating positive social impacts other than environmental and economic. Moreover, during the Covid-19 pandemic such start-ups have been crucial in facing the health needs of the society, thanks to the flexibility of their digital technologies. Circular start-ups are in many cases also linked to a specific territorial context as they born in response to local waste resources problems (e.g., abundance of agri-food by products or urban waste issues) and are key in addressing social inclusion of people by providing new employment opportunities or training programmes for new professional skills.

Some examples of Italian circular enterprises:

### **4. 4. 1. EHOP, the riciclamercato**

EHOP, the riciclamercato is a Milanese company with an online marketplace encourages the use of natural products by offering also a take-back service on its product once consumed. The next step would be to provide business-to-business services where one's industry waste is sold to another.

### **4. 4. 2. Grycle**

Grycle, in the province of Potenza, which is pushing towards a world without waste with an artificial intelligence that learns to recognize and sort shredded waste.

### **4. 4. 3. Pcup**

Pcup, a start-up that wants to make disposable cups sustainable by using a chip and the history of each one of them, which can be viewed from the smartphone to obtain promotions in the event of 'return'.

#### **4. 4. 4. Rethinking Climate**

Rethinking Climate, which has been pushing for more awareness with podcasts, interviews and articles, bringing innovation to the way social and environmental issues are communicated, and circularity has to become part of the communication process for sustainability.

Every country and stakeholder have to take part into an industrial process where even waste can become an investment and profit not only economically, but especially for our planet who is paying the highest price of our activities.

The Circular Economy Platform, born in January 2020 from a collaboration agreement between the Politecnico and Environment Park, is the first of the Politecnico di Torino's strategic platforms to become operational. The Platform envisages a joint roadmap for enhancing research, technology transfer and training activities developed by the University on circular economy issues, and for creating concrete opportunities for the transfer of innovation and for the collaboration with companies and institutions.

The aim of the thematic Platforms is to bring the Politecnico directly into the industrial fabric of the city and the territory, in close collaboration with laboratories and centres that already bring together research and innovation activities on key issues for the economy and society. This innovative model, proposed by the Politecnico di Torino, aims to create an even more synergic and functional link between the scientific research developed in the departments and laboratories and the innovation needs of companies.

In addition to the Circular Economy Platform, the Politecnico di Torino has launched other thematic platforms in the areas of Manufacturing 4.0, Energy & Water, Digital Revolution, 3D Mobility, Urban-Territorial Regeneration and Heritage Protection.

The start-ups presented in Turin work in the most diverse fields: new generation fuels obtained from plastic materials or oils with a high level of fatty acids, lightened cement mixes for construction, new generation bioplastics made with biomasses from food waste, etc.

These are some of the innovative companies presented in Turin:

#### **4. 4. 5. Sintol**

Produces advanced (so-called 2nd generation) synthetic fuels through the treatment of end-of-life plastic materials by means of a patented catalytic pyrolysis technology. The raw materials used in the process are secondary raw materials, i.e. plastic coming from the recycling chain. The first plant was already started successfully. The next step will be the hydrogenation of fuels, a process which the firm

will be investing on in the next few years, aiming for a substantial increase of the amount of its completely renewable energy vectors.

#### **4. 4. 6. SIh**

The company developed an effective solution for the reduction of fatty acids in oils: this determined a significant increase of the value of the incoming raw materials, which are directly transformed into fuel. Fatty acids cause inefficiency and high wear levels, forcing operators of the sector to buy refined oils or oils that were originally of high quality (such as palm oil). The partnership strategy employed by the start-up allowed to activate the first plant on an industrial scale, thus overcoming the inevitable technical and normative obstacles deriving from such a complex venture.

#### **4. 4. 7. Stonebricks**

Sawing muds are waste by-products of stone extraction and processing works: this waste, produced during extraction and cutting phases, represents a considerable economic and environmental problem. To better understand the scale of the problem is it enough to consider that every year Europe produces about 345,000 tons of sawing muds, which have no other destination but landfills. Now, however, the process developed by Stonebricks allows to transform sawing muds in highly valuable construction materials that are suitable to be used in the building sector. The project, created in cooperation with sector professionals, is an excellent example of technological integration: it shows how an innovative technology can be integrated in traditional sectors, generating value for all.

#### **4. 4. 8. Replant**

The company promotes supply chain models in the field of forestry based on the model of the Energy Service Companies. This approach involves local actors (local authorities, forestry companies, artisans, plant installation companies) and citizens, who are the subjects concerned by the social, economic and environmental impacts of the starting of a new work chain. Replant designed a complete model that spans from the approach to forest resources up to specific solutions to desiccate, select and distribute wood material as an alternative to imported pellets.

#### **4. 4. 9. Polipo**

Polipo (poli like polymer and lipo from Greek “fat”) works on the development of biodegradable plastics for non-food industry. The raw materials are plant oils: they are used to produce completely



biodegradable polymers with a structure similar to polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA). These oils can be first-generation (canola oil, sunflower oil) or second-generation (deriving from waste biomasses such as tomato seeds, pomace and coffee grounds). The aim is to produce completely biodegradable plastics from food waste that is currently of no or little use.

#### **4. 4. 10. InVento Innovation LAB**

InVento is a Social Enterprise established in 2014 in Milan, with a predominantly female team of TEDx speakers, innovators, lecturers in the most important business schools with multidisciplinary and multi-year expertise in accompanying multinational companies, SMEs etc. towards regenerative paths.

In 2017, InVento was certified as a B Corp, acting as a bearer of the principles of sustainable development and green entrepreneurship, with the aim of accompanying more and more companies towards regenerative business models and inspiring new generations of changemakers. In 2020, they received the award from B Lab Europe as 'Best Collaborator 2020'.

They are in charge of training the Changemakers of the future to improve the world, creating B Corp entrepreneurship and circular economy pathways in cooperation with the best sustainable companies, to spread an ethical model of work and inspiration.

They activate collaborations and consultancies for B Corporations, Foundations and Institutions and for companies that share their values, helping them to have a positive impact on their territory to improve it.

They collaborate with various schools in Italy, at different levels; students can certify their course hours as pathways related to the Italian dual system.

InVento Innovation Lab has signed a memorandum of understanding with MIUR (prot.556 of 27-03-2020) to bring environmental issues to all schools in Italy by supporting distance learning.

InVento has carried out several interventions with Italian schools.

#### **4. 4. 11. Mirafiori Cultura in Circolo**

Culture, social dimension, and circular economy interact in Turin's Mirafiori district as part of the 'Mirafiori Cultura in Circolo' project! Its activities involve students and citizens of the district in artistic processes aimed at experimenting sustainable practices involving the local community with the goal of improving the district's quality of life throughout the year. "Mirafiori Cultura in Circolo" proposes five workshops on reuse and circular economy with the involvement of Primo Levi High School students and neighbourhood residents on topics of sustainability and reuse, supporting active waste-reduction

activities. The objectives of the project are, on one side, to promote culture to foster well-being and improve the quality of life of the residents of Mirafiori Sud, involving people from different cultural backgrounds. On the other side, to enhance the history and vocation of the Primo Levi Institute, presenting itself to the territory as a proper presidium, by opening its spaces to the neighborhood and initiating partnerships and collaborations with different actors. -Circular Building Lab (Edilizia Circolare Lab) is an activity that involves enhancing and creating new functions in the school while integrating the local community in the retrieval of salvaged materials and self-construction. - Columbus Egg Lab (L'Uovo di Colombo Lab) takes a food design approach to the issue of surplus food and its recovery; waste food is turned into new consumer items through a series of workshops hosted on school grounds and engaging Mirafiori residents. -Come dance with us 2.0 (Balla con Noi 2.0) aspires to promote dance in all of its forms while also enhancing the Primo Levi Institute's environment. Classical, contemporary, classical basic/posture, and hip-hop dance training are provided to everyone from 6 years old to over 70, with special emphasis to the 'differently young'. -The Home Music Lab project combines the aggregation and involvement capabilities of music with the themes of recovery and reuse. An exploration into the world of household objects and the sounds of different materials, through the exercise of a "specialised ear" that enables the development of children's innate musical aptitudes. - Finally, in the Digital Lab, students and citizens of Mirafiori experiment together with the use of different multimedia tools to acquire the skills to structure and manage a social strategy and, through the use of photos and videos, construct a multimedia narrative of the entire course.

Social Aspects: Create a bridge between the school environment and the local community people, spreading a culture of social and civic education and active citizenship.

Circular Aspects: Digital education, green and culture, food waste and recovery, food surplus recovery; education on reuse and recycling of used goods.

## 4.5 The Netherlands

### 4. 5. 1. Boro Atelier

The Boro Atelier produce and process natural dyes, Boro is a household name and means 'use everything'. The pigment is extracted from vegetables flowers and sometimes fruits. Lotje Terra and Celia Geraedts started their social enterprise to integrate people with a distance to the labour market into the work process, one of their goals is to work as a catalyst for poverty alleviation.

### 4. 5. 2. Floating Farm

For the Floating Farm, it is important to reduce food losses, reduce transport of food and improve food quality. But also, of course, animal welfare, circularity, sustainability and innovation. Bring the farm back into the city as part of a clean, livable and conscious urban transformation.

Floating Farm stands for circular farming: a large part of our cows' diet consists of organic residues from the city. For instance, our cows are fed brewers' grains from a number of Rotterdam breweries, bran from Schiedam mills, grass from sports fields in the neighborhood and potato peels from a local processor.

#### **4. 5. 3. Made in Moerwijk**

Made in Moerwijk provides a social and economic stimulus to the current needs of people in our neighborhood. How do they are? By providing activities that have a positive impact on employment, well-being, health, engagement and a sense of social belonging. That what they offer in terms of activities is aimed at creating jobs and employment.

#### **4. 5. 4. PRICE**

PRICE is the Flevoland-based platform for innovation and the circular economy. They empower entrepreneurs, businesses, students, teachers, and municipalities to collaborate and participate. They accelerate and scale-up circular ideas and business cases. Together they establish a new economy, in which they value impact over profit.

### **4.6 Poland**

#### **4. 6. 1. GOSPODARSTWO PRODUKCYJNO - HANDLOWO - US?UGOWE „KOWALSKI”**

It is a family farm where the traditions of oil pressing and closed-cycle pig farming continue. They grow their own flax and rapeseed. They sell the oil they produce in-house, and the leftover oilcake is an organic and nutritious feed for the pigs. The farm they run is largely self-sufficient. Employment can be found here by locals and currently by refugees from Ukraine.

#### **4. 6. 2. Zaklad Aktywnosci Zawodowej**

The Vocational Activity Enterprise was established by Tuchola County Council's resolution in order to ensure proper vocational and social rehabilitation for the disabled residents of Tuchola County. The

centre is located in the dormitory of the Secondary and Technical School Complex (Zespołu Szkół Licealnych i Technicznych) at 98a Świecka Street, where four floors have been adapted for the needs of the centre. It also occupies the former gymnasium where the "Colourful Corner" children's play park operates.

## 4.7 Romania

Despite the difficulties, the first examples of industrial symbiosis models began to appear in an attempt to identify viable solutions for waste management.

They believe that a more careful approach is needed at the national level to the competitive advantages and from the perspective of the circular economy, respectively the capacity of the sectors to recycle resources and generate new resources for other industries.

### 4. 7. 1. Atelierul de Panza

Atelierul de Panza started in 2009 and is a project of the non-profit organisation ViitorPlus.

Our social business was designed as an example for the concept of "sustainable development".

Our products have an environmental and social component, in order to offer a sustainable alternative to plastic bags. They have 2 business lines: products made of natural cotton, easy to customize with different prints (tote bags) and products made of textile waste (pencil cases, school bags, laptop bags, bulk shopping bags, covers for tablet sets – a business line called Puzzletex).

Atelierul de Panza is a social enterprise organized as an authorized protected unit which means that at least 30% of our employees are persons with disabilities.

### 4. 7. 2. Capace cu Suflet / Bottle Caps with Love

Caps with love is an easy idea to implement and customize, for communities of people who are passionate about good deeds and who care about WHAT'S IN and WHAT'S AROUND them.

In 4 simple steps it would be like this:

- **encouraging** the collection of plastic bottle caps
- **selling** the plastic bottle caps to specialized companies
- **rounding up** the amounts with NGO funds
- **donating** to causes proposed by the people involved in the project themselves.

The amounts are not very large, but they are talking about money obtained from things that would otherwise end up in the garbage or in the environment. The amounts, multiplied by other funds they manage to obtain become more consistent.

Anyone can suggest a cause they have heard about (often it's someone's child, a child from a child's kindergarten/school, someone from their grandparents' village, a school in a village, etc). Most people collect caps without a cause in mind because they will always find someone who needs it.

Individually and in companies/kindergartens/institutions/wherever, people collect the plastic bottle caps in any kind of containers placed in a place where the whole world is (near the elevator, in the kitchen, near the copier, hobby room, etc.) and then keep them in boxes, raffia bags or airy containers. When the quantity that needs to be handed over is collected, they speak to establish the logistics, which differ from case to case. They don't have collection centers, but, like with a civic initiative, they rely on volunteers who can centralize them or, in certain localities, collaborators who can take them.

At the moment they have collaborators and ambassadors who represent us in their city, inspiring people from the local community to join the initiative and help us with the centralization of the plastic bottle caps in the following areas: Alba, Arad, Bihor, Bistrita, Braila, Brasov, Bucharest and Ilfov, Cluj, Constanta, Harghita, Iasi, , Mures, Prahova, Sibiu, Suceava, Timisoara and Tulcea.

In addition to the ambassadors, they have two strong allies PENNY Supermarkets for the Bucharest and Ilfov areas and CORA Supermarkets countrywide, where anyone can hand over the collected plastic bottle caps.

- collected 82 tons of plastic bottle caps (i.e. approx. 45 million lids);
- donated 114.750 RON (eq to ~23.000 EUR) from the sale of lids and donations; \* contributed to 124 social causes;
- more than 200 educational institutions and more than 300 state and private companies have joined us as partners.

It may not seem like much, but to us it seems at least extraordinary! In 2022 alone they have already handed over 46 tons, compared to only 23 tons in the previous year.

Our focus moves more and more towards education, with one project ongoing in 8 schools and others prepared for the following period.

#### **4. 7. 3. Centrul de Incubare Creativ Inovativ de Afaceri**

Asox. CICIA is a NGO dedicated to stimulate the sustainable development of local communities and to promote the entrepreneurial spirit among different target groups, with a special accent on vulnerable

groups, woman and young people. They developed and implemented more than 60 local and national project on different topics and having been partner and coordinator on more than 16 European projects, having in its team experts on with expertise in entrepreneurship, circular economy, green policies, stimulate participation among citizens, fight against woman violence, stigmatization, children education, etc.

#### **4. 7. 4. SocialXChange Store Romania**

SocialXchange is a circular social economy center where it is established a charitable and exchange system that excludes the input of money and from which everyone has something to gain.

- The SocialXChange Store receives donations from citizens or businesses company. The products are stored and directed to disadvantaged people. The objects that do not find their need within 3 months, are introduced in upcycling workshops.
- Donors are rewarded with attractive services such as: salinotherapy, empowerment and personal development courses for children and adults, space and facilities for meetings or conferences.
- The evaluation of products and services is based on a transparent point system.
- Access is opened to those who cannot afford certain goods that they choose according to their own needs, that they otherwise could not obtain. People get involved and perceive the effects of their actions on the community. And the environment is helped to "breathe" through reallocation of resources.
- More than 6500 companies and individuals got involved in this project, offering various donations. During 2022, over 30 tons of food products and over 10 tons of hygiene products were received.

Over 8.000 individuals (direct and indirect beneficiary's) had received support from SocialXchange Charity Shop.

- Any company or individual can contribute with donations to support this project. They need products of strict necessity such as food supplies and hygiene products. The services they offer in return to companies can contribute to improving the organizational climate, increasing employee productivity, involving companies in social responsibility activities.

#### **4. 7. 5. The Orchard School - we work with Nature!**

The "The Orchard School - we work with Nature!" project creates a bridge between 2 communities: urban Bucharest (especially the Livada Comunitara Marțișor community in district 4) and rural Buzăul

(especially the community on the Buzău River valley, Poieni - Pănătău). Throughout the duration of the project, they will support the regeneration of the rear orchard located in the museum space of the Mărțișor Memorial House Museum and the social vegetable farm Grădina Bio Amurtel Poieni Buzău. The project combines practical, educational and personal transformation activities for harmonious individual living in sustainable and resilient communities. This new holistic approach is necessary in the context of the challenges they face at all levels: personal, ecological, educational, social, economic. Together they create a pleasant learning environment, through experiences close to nature, found in the philosophy of permaculture. They believe that adults, responsible for raising the little ones (parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers), represent a critical mass to start this transformational journey, in which they will rediscover the value of interpersonal relationships in the local community, the cause-effect relationship to solve a certain situation, the beauty of applied natural sciences, with the ultimate goal of planting the seed of societal healing through resilience and inclusion. The project is addressed to a recurring community of 100 citizens from both Bucharest and Buzau, who participated in the practical educational activities. Since the beginning of the project, more than 1000 students and adults (parents, teachers, students at the Faculty of Horticulture Bucharest, volunteer citizens) have been directly exposed, at least 1 hour, to nature education events, gardening, plant-based healthy eating, with local vegetables and fruits, without waste, with the generation of only biodegradable and locally compostable waste. Educational and practical sessions supported by passionate facilitators: 1. healthy body 2. balanced spirit and sound mind 3. quality time through art and culture 4. healthy, plant-based / vegan, locally sourced, plant-based food with no waste or waste 5. they protect natural resources 6. they grow food in a permaculture and regenerative agriculture system 7. they get involved in the community: volunteering and eco-entrepreneurship 8. regenerative eco-camp. They thank all partners who support the project:

- National Museum of Romanian Literature & Tudor Arghezi Memorial House - Mărțișor
- Auchan Retail Romania & Auchan Foundation
- Amurtel Romania & Amurtel Bio Garden Poieni
- Faculty of Horticulture Bucharest!
- to all the citizens involved

## 4.8 Spain

### 4. 8. 1. Agrosingularity

Agrosingularity is a start-up that produces solutions and ingredients for the food industry from the waste of agro-industrial production, giving a second life to production surpluses that would otherwise end up being lost and contributing to the emission of CO<sub>2</sub>e into the atmosphere.

Its founders wanted to do their bit with a project that proposes avoiding food waste.

This, as in the case of plastic, is another of the great problems of society worldwide.

Based in Murcia, the place par excellence of the national garden, the company identifies agricultural by-products that it turns into powder.

Subsequently, this pulverized waste is reintroduced again into three industries: food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics.

In summary, it is a decentralized platform for the production of powdered raw materials, which uses by-products from the food industry as raw materials.

As an example, they can talk about the artichoke leaves that are discarded in the canning industry.

Garlic peels or watermelon extract are other notable examples, which after being transformed into powder are the basis of dietary products and nutritional and energy supplements.

#### **4. 8. 2. Ashes to life**

ATL Project is an R&D&I project promoted by ASHES TO LIFE whose objective is to help regenerate the planet's burned forests.

When a forest burns, there is nothing left. Nothing but ash.

ASHES TO LIFE Project proposes to transform a small portion of that ash into different products, and with its sale, obtain funds that help the regeneration of those same forests through an Ecological Restoration Protocol.

Thus, they will be able to create life, again, from the ashes.

ASHES TO LIFE Project is a unique, complex and pioneering research project carried out in collaboration with environmental experts whose ultimate objective is to develop a specific Action Protocol to restore areas affected by forest fires, which allows:

1. Carry out a specific diagnosis of the needs in each burned forest and develop the optimal methodology to extract a portion of ash, so that it does not compromise the regeneration of the environment.
2. Produce and subsequently sell limited editions of products made with that same ash after being approved for use in cosmetics.
3. Carry out our Environmental Regeneration Program with the funds obtained through the sale of these ash products.



#### **4. 8. 3. ATELIER EL COSTURERICO**

Clothing workshop that promotes social and labor insertion, through the enhancement of textile waste.

They provide a service to customers who request it and they reduce textile waste by giving it a new use, preventing it from going to a landfill. This Atelier is a job placement project where they generate decent and quality employment for women at risk of vulnerability.

This workshop arose as a result of a need from our Camina entre Telas employability project, where they train people (mainly women) in the field of sewing and customer service, so that they can enter the world of work in this sector.

#### **4. 8. 4. Circúbica**

They recover waste from companies to offer them as material for creation, extracting the beauty that exists in them and showing the infinite possibilities of action they offer. They dialogue between cultural, artistic, educational, environmental and scientific contexts. They recover, rethink and catalog non-toxic objects of all kinds, from cardboard, paper and all their derivatives, to natural material (stones, wood), metal objects, plastics or any other waste that they consider interesting. They are objects decontextualized from the function for which they were created. In this way they give each piece as many possibilities as the user wishes to give it, generating infinite immersions in the game in which logical-mathematical, spatial or sensory concepts, among others, arise naturally and are embraced by the protagonist to the extent just where he is prepared to do it. This is why the creative process in its purest form is breathed in the Laboratory regardless of the age of the person using the material.

#### **4. 8. 5. Nutripeople**

NutriPeople is an initiative against waste with great social value.

They are a socially responsible Murcian food company with an international vocation, which bases its activity on the production of 100% natural fruit drinks—pouch format specialists.

They are committed to the circular economy to contribute to Zero waste and better food redistribution. Our innovative system allows us to take advantage of surplus fruits in perfect condition to create healthy and healthy foods. They have a long shelf life, are enriched and help combat malnutrition due to overweight or dietary deficiencies.

With this innovative format, they want to make it easier for people to consume fruit anywhere and at any time since it does not need refrigeration and at an affordable price. They use pasteurized fruit without preservatives, without added sugar, without additives, rich in fibre and suitable for all ages.

In addition to selling wholesale to large corporations, they have gone on the market with NUTRIBOX, boxes of 21 units, loaded with wonderful, vitaminized fruit, “a healthy habit that helps others.” When purchasing them, you can choose the social project with which you want to collaborate, since 20% of sales are allocated to social projects.

#### **4. 8. 6. Too good to go**

2.5 BILLION TONS OF FOOD ARE WASTED EACH YEAR.

They dream of a world where food is not wasted. Every day, restaurants, grocery stores, cafes and supermarkets have to waste food that they have not managed to sell in time.

To avoid this, the Too Good To Go application allows users to take advantage of that meal by purchasing Surprise Packs at a better price.

At Too Good To Go, they dream of a planet without food waste. To achieve this, our goal is to inspire and empower everyone to save food through our app and various initiatives around the world.

#### **4. 8. 7. Traperos de Emaus**

Traperos Emaús Murcia has been present in the Region of Murcia since 1995 and has developed a program of comprehensive care and social and labour insertion through employment for socially excluded groups.

The means of insertion within the Emmaus community is the work of recovering objects and materials that people throw away, their collection, classification, cleaning, arrangement and subsequent sale in La Trapería, in Los Ramos and in Murcia, the two points of sale they have.

A workspace has been created within the recovery that has to date allowed the reception of disadvantaged people and has generated an infrastructure (warehouse, trucks, van, office, points of sale, etc.) suitable for the reception and basic social care of the participating people.

## 5. Summary

The Erasmus+ project "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" brings together nine European organisations from Finland, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Romania, Italy and Spain to pioneer the integration of social entrepreneurship and circular economy principles in vocational education and training (VET). This initiative aims to foster innovation for an inclusive and green economy by developing an SCE network and accessible online courses in different VET fields.

The Social Circular Economy (SCE) model emphasises the elimination of pollution and waste, the efficient circulation of materials and the regeneration of nature, in line with the EU's sustainability goals. By embedding social entrepreneurship and circular economy principles into VET, the project aims to develop a socially and environmentally aware workforce that addresses diverse societal, environmental and economic needs.

In line with EU policies such as the Circular Economy Action Plan and the European Green Deal, the project emphasises the importance of inclusive transitions and stakeholder involvement in promoting innovation for sustainable business practices. In addition, the project takes into account frameworks such as GreenComp and the Inner Development Goals (IDGs), which emphasise circular literacy and additional skills essential for the green transition. It also recognises the importance of education in advancing the Circular Economy (CE), echoing recommendations from organisations such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the Osnabrück Declaration on VET.

This guide is the first outcome of the project and presents the results of in-depth research that identified the social aspect of Circular Economy and how it can be linked to social entrepreneurship, and explores the role of national strategies, action plans and the EU 2020 strategy in putting EU policy for a sustainable and circular economy into practice. In addition, the partnership explored the VET systems of the participating countries and how they can embed SCE, focusing on showcases and best practices. Moreover, a Social Circular VET Education Method Canvas along with the goals of the e-learning platform (MOOC) on Social Circular Economy are also presented.

Overall, the project and its results contribute significantly to the objectives of the European Green Deal by promoting sustainability, innovation and inclusiveness in VET, paving the way for a more environmentally and socially responsible workforce.

# Comparison Chart

## VET EDUCATION

	Belgium	Finland	Greece	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Romania	Italy
Compulsary Education	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Formal Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Available for Adults	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Free of Charge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continuing VET	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Initial VET	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EQF Level	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Duration	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Learning Form	Full-time Part-time School-based Work-based Distance learning	Training agreement Apprenticeship Work-based Dual form	Full-time School-based Work practice	School-based Work practice	School-based Work-based	School-based Work-based Work placement module Dual VET	Daytime learning Evening classes Work-based Dual form	School-based Work practice Self-learning Apprenticeship
Assesement/ Diplomas	Exams Evaluations Professional qualification certificate	No final exams Competence demonstration In work-based learning Qualification with number of competence points	Final Exams Vocational upper secondary school degree Vocational upper secondary school certificate	Exams Various levels of diplomas	Completion of the programme Completion of work preparation classes School leaving certificate	Completion of the programme Basic VET diploma	Final Exams Summative assessment Professional qualification certificate	Final Exams Professional operator certificate Professional technician diploma
Target Group	Young over 14 years old Adults	Young Adults Learners with special needs	Young over 15 years old Adults Learners with special needs	Young over 16 years old	Young over 15 years old	Young over 15 years old Adults	Young Adults	Young over 14 years old

# National Circular Economy Strategies and Social Entrepreneurship

	BELGIUM	FINLAND	GREECE	ITALY	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	ROMANIA	SPAIN
GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of ecological footprint by 30% by 2030 through circular innovation</li> <li>Cooperation between financial partners, research, social profit, companies and government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformation of the economy in line with circular economy</li> <li>Contribution to the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2035</li> <li>Cooperation amongst ministries, research institutes, companies, business sectors and local governments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement of a circular economy by 2030, focusing on sustainability, efficiency, innovation, and governance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decarbonisation</li> <li>Reducing greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>Energy efficiency</li> <li>Sustainable economy</li> <li>Wellbeing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement of a fully circular economy by 2050</li> <li>Ensurance that the environmental impacts stays within 'planetary boundaries'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on innovation</li> <li>Stronger collaboration between industry and science</li> <li>Establishment of a European market dedicated to secondary raw materials</li> <li>Development of the service sector to support and sustain the circular economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU's goals in economic, social, and environmental aspects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce domestic material.</li> <li>Cut waste.</li> <li>Promote reuse.</li> <li>Decrease greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Enhance water use efficiency.</li> </ul>
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crucial Sectors</li> <li>Open Economy</li> <li>Central Location</li> <li>Engaged Citizens</li> <li>Supportive Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad Stakeholder Engagement</li> <li>Citizens' Involvement</li> <li>Job Creation</li> <li>Social Inclusion</li> <li>Community-Based Services</li> <li>Workplace Adaptation</li> <li>Consumer Ethical Choices:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Production and Consumption</li> <li>Resource Efficiency and Waste Management</li> <li>Circular Business Models</li> <li>Governance and Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource Productivity</li> <li>Energy Productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circular economy through pricing, standards, and incentives.</li> <li>Integration of circular economy and climate goals.</li> <li>Shift of measures from supply chain to user phase.</li> <li>Integral Circular Economy Report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborative Approach</li> <li>Comprehensive Document</li> <li>Sustainability Focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holistic approach</li> <li>Waste management</li> <li>Emphasis to education</li> <li>Behavior change</li> <li>Financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key sectors</li> <li>400 companies and organizations have endorsed the Circular Economy Pact.</li> </ul>
SCE	<p>The strategy invests in projects to include people with a distance to the job market to transform traditional organizations to circular organizations.</p>	<p>The strategy promotes employment for vulnerable populations, new business opportunities in the health and social services sector and meet the local service needs, stimulate rural development.</p>	<p>The third pillar of the strategy promotes the adoption of circular business models by providing support for circular entrepreneurship and enhancing knowledge, understanding and education.</p>	<p>The strategy aims to bridge socio-economic gaps and a balanced economic growth.</p>	<p>The strategy promotes the active participation of citizens in circular practices such as recycling, creates local employment opportunities within circular industries and educates individuals and communities to make sustainable choices in their daily lives.</p>	<p>The strategy combines social elements such as cooperation, job creation and education with the broader goals and implementation of the circular economy.</p>	<p>The in-progres strategy encourages active community participation in recycling, repairing and sharing, ensures accessibility for all, creates local jobs and empowers sustainable choices through education and awareness.</p>	<p>The social aspects of the strategy refer to the enhancement of knowledge, awareness, participation and it promotes the employment and training.</p>
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES	<p>They aligned with the European Commission's definition.</p>	<p>They must have at least 30% disabled or previously long-term unemployed employees</p>	<p>Legal forms fulfilling EU operational definition about the social enterprises include social cooperative enterprises (SCEs) and limited liability social cooperatives (KoiSPEs).</p>	<p>They are private entities engaging in regular business activities, operating on a non-profit basis, and serving the general interest, civic, solidarity, and socially beneficial causes.</p>	<p>They adhere to the Social Enterprises Code, emphasizing the "impact first" principle, which comprises five fundamental principles demonstrating the essence of social entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>They operate under various legal forms, such as social cooperatives, associations, foundations and non-profit companies, and are governed by the Act on Social Economy.</p>	<p>They are recognised as a separate sector under the Social Economy Law No. 219 of 2015 and take different forms, including specific NGOs, companies with special status and different types of cooperatives.</p>	<p>They are characterized by a lack of a specific legal form and are considered a broad category within the social economy and the third sector.</p>

## 5.1 Belgium – The Netherlands

Het Erasmus+ project "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" brengt negen Europese organisaties uit Finland, Polen, Nederland, België, Griekenland, Roemenië, Italië en Spanje samen om de integratie van sociaal ondernemerschap en de principes van de circulaire economie in beroepsonderwijs en -opleiding te bevorderen. Dit initiatief is gericht op het stimuleren van innovatie voor een inclusieve en groene economie door het ontwikkelen van een SCE-netwerk en toegankelijke onlinecursussen op verschillende gebieden van beroepsonderwijs en -opleiding.

Het model van de sociale circulaire economie (SCE) legt de nadruk op het elimineren van vervuiling en afval, de efficiënte circulatie van materialen en het herstel van de natuur, in lijn met de duurzaamheidsdoelstellingen van de EU. Door sociaal ondernemerschap en de principes van de circulaire economie in te bedden in beroepsonderwijs en -opleiding, wil het project een sociaal en milieubewust personeelsbestand ontwikkelen dat tegemoetkomt aan diverse maatschappelijke, ecologische en economische behoeften.

In lijn met EU-beleid zoals het actieplan voor de circulaire economie en de Europese Green Deal, benadrukt het project het belang van inclusieve transitie en betrokkenheid van belanghebbenden bij het bevorderen van innovatie voor duurzame bedrijfspraktijken. Daarnaast houdt het project rekening met kaders zoals GreenComp en de Inner Development Goals (IDG's), die de nadruk leggen op circulaire geletterdheid en aanvullende vaardigheden die essentieel zijn voor de groene transitie. Het erkent ook het belang van onderwijs bij het bevorderen van de Circulaire Economie (CE) en sluit zich aan bij aanbevelingen van organisaties zoals de Ellen MacArthur Foundation en de Osnabrück Verklaring over beroepsonderwijs en -opleiding.

Deze gids is het eerste resultaat van het project en presenteert de resultaten van diepgaand onderzoek naar het sociale aspect van de circulaire economie en hoe dit kan worden gekoppeld aan sociaal ondernemerschap, en verkent de rol van nationale strategieën, actieplannen en de EU 2020-strategie bij het in de praktijk brengen van het EU-beleid voor een duurzame en circulaire economie. Daarnaast onderzocht het partnerschap de beroepsonderwijs- en -opleidingsstelsels van de deelnemende landen en hoe ze SCE kunnen inbedden, met de nadruk op showcases en best practices. Bovendien wordt er een Social Circular VET Education Method Canvas gepresenteerd, samen met de doelen van het e-learning platform (MOOC) over Social Circular Economy.

In het algemeen dragen het project en de resultaten ervan aanzienlijk bij aan de doelstellingen van de Europese Green Deal door het bevorderen van duurzaamheid, innovatie en inclusiviteit in beroepsonderwijs en -opleiding, waardoor de weg wordt vrijgemaakt voor een meer milieuvriendelijke en sociaal verantwoordelijke beroepsbevolking.

# Vergelijkings tabel

Beroepsonderwijs per land

	België	Finland	Griekenland	Netherland	Polen	Spanje	Romenië	Italië
Verplicht onderwijs	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Formeel onderwijs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beschikbaar voor volwassenen	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Gratis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Voortgezet beroepsonderwijs	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Initieel beroepsonderwijs	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EQF niveau	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Duur	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Onderwijsvorm	Volledig Deeltijd Op school Op het werk Aftandsonderwijs	Opleidingsovereenkomst Leerlinggevoel Werk Duale vorm	Volledig Op school Praktijk	Gesubsidieerde onderwijs organisatie	Locaties Op school Op het werk	Op school Op het werk Module stage Duaal beroepsonderwijs en - opleiding	Leren overdag Avondonderwijs Werkgebaseerd Dubbele vorm	Op school Praktijk Zelfstudie Leerlinggevoel
formatieve / summatieve beoordeling	Examens Doelkwaliteit Getuigschrift van beroepskwalificatie	Geen eindexamens Aantonen van competenties in werkend leren Kwalificatie met aantal vaardigheidspunten	Eindexamens Diploma hoger secundair beroepsonderwijs Diploma hoger secundair beroepsonderwijs	Examens op niveau 1 t/m 4	Afsluiting van het programma Afronding van lessen ter voorbereiding op werk Certificaat schoolverlaten	Afsluiting van het programma Basisdiploma beroepsonderwijs en - opleiding	Eindexamens Summatieve beoordeling Certificaat beroepskwalificatie	Eindexamens Diploma professionele operator Diploma vakkundig technicus
Doelgroep	Jongeren ouder dan 14 jaar Volwassenen	Jong Volwassenen Leerlingen met speciale behoeften	Jongeren ouder dan 15 jaar Volwassenen Leerlingen met speciale behoeften	Jongeren ouder dan 18 jaar	Jonger dan 15 jaar	Jongeren ouder dan 15 jaar Volwassenen	Jong volwassenen	jonger dan 14 jaar

# Nationale Circulaire Economy Strategieën & Socialondernemerschap

	BELGIË	FINLAND	GRIEKENLAND	ITALIË	NEDERLAND	POLEN	ROMENIË	SPANJE
DOELEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vermindering van de ecologische voetafdruk met 30% tegen 2030 door circulaire innovatie</li> <li>Samenwerking tussen financiële partners, onderzoek, social profit, bedrijven en overheid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformatie van de economie in lijn met circulaire economie</li> <li>Bijdrage aan het bereiken van koolstofneutraliteit in 2035</li> <li>Samenwerking tussen ministeries, onderzoeksinstituten, bedrijven, bedrijfssectoren en lokale overheden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verwezenlijking van een circulaire economie tegen 2030, gericht op duurzaamheid, efficiëntie, innovatie en bestuur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontkoling</li> <li>Vermindering van de uitstoot van broeikasgassen</li> <li>Energie-efficiëntie</li> <li>Duurzame economie</li> <li>Welzijn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bereiken van een volledig circulaire economie tegen 2050</li> <li>Ervoor zorgen dat de milieueffecten binnen de 'planetaire grenzen' blijven</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus op innovatie</li> <li>Sterkere samenwerking tussen industrie en wetenschap</li> <li>Oprichting van een Europese markt voor secundaire grondstoffen</li> <li>Ontwikkeling van de dienstensector om de circulaire economie duurzaam te ondersteunen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afstemming op de VN 2030-agenda voor duurzame ontwikkeling en de doelstellingen van de EU op economisch, sociaal en milieugebied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huishoudelijk materiaal verminderen.</li> <li>Afval verminderen.</li> <li>Hergebruik bevorderen.</li> <li>De uitstoot van broeikasgassen verminderen.</li> <li>Efficiënter watergebruik.</li> </ul>
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cruciale sectoren</li> <li>Open economie</li> <li>Centrale locatie</li> <li>Betrokken burgers</li> <li>Ondersteunend beleid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brede betrokkenheid van belanghebbenden</li> <li>Betrokkenheid van burgers</li> <li>Banen scheppen</li> <li>Sociale integratie</li> <li>Diensten vanuit de gemeenschap</li> <li>Aanpassing werkplek</li> <li>Ethische keuzes van de consument</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duurzame productie en consumptie</li> <li>Efficiënt gebruik van hulpbronnen en afvalbeheer</li> <li>Circulaire bedrijfsmodellen</li> <li>Bestuur en controle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Productiviteit van hulpbronnen</li> <li>Energie Productiviteit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulaire economie door prijsstelling, normen en stimuleringsmaatregelen.</li> <li>Integratie van circulaire economie en klimaatdoelstellingen.</li> <li>Verschuiving van maatregelen van de toeleveringsketen naar de gebruikersfase.</li> <li>Integraal rapport circulaire economie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gezamenlijke aanpak</li> <li>Uitgebreid document</li> <li>Focus op duurzaamheid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holistische benadering</li> <li>Beheer van afval</li> <li>Nadruk op onderwijs</li> <li>Gedragverandering</li> <li>Financiële ondersteuning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sleutel sectoren</li> <li>400 bedrijven en organisaties hebben het Pact voor Circulaire Economie onderschreven</li> </ul>
SCE	<p>investeringsstrategie in projecten om mensen met een afstand tot de arbeidsmarkt op te nemen om traditionele organisaties om te vormen tot circulaire organisaties.</p>	<p>De strategie bevordert werkgelegenheid voor kwetsbare groepen, nieuwe zakelijke kansen in de gezondheids- en sociale dienstensector en voldoet aan de lokale behoeften aan dienstverlening, en stimuleert plattelandontwikkeling.</p>	<p>De derde pijler van de strategie bevordert de invoering van circulaire bedrijfsmodellen door ondersteuning te bieden voor circulair ondernemerschap en het vergroten van kennis, begrip en onderwijs.</p>	<p>De strategie is gericht op het overbruggen van sociaaleconomische kloven en een evenwichtige economische groei.</p>	<p>De strategie bevordert de actieve deelname van burgers aan circulaire praktijken zoals recycling, creëert lokale werkgelegenheid binnen circulaire industrieën en onderwijst individuen en gemeenschappen om duurzame keuzes te maken in hun dagelijks leven.</p>	<p>De strategie combineert sociale elementen zoals samenwerking, het creëren van banen en onderwijs met de bredere doelen en implementatie van de circulaire economie.</p>	<p>De progresstrategie stimuleert actieve gemeenschaps participatie in recyclen, repareren en delen, garandeert toegankelijkheid voor iedereen, creëert lokale banen en maakt duurzame keuzes mogelijk door onderwijs &amp; bewustwording.</p>	<p>De sociale aspecten van de strategie hebben betrekking op het vergroten van kennis, bewustzijn en participatie en het bevordert de werkgelegenheid en training.</p>
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES	<p>Ze zijn vergelijkbaar met de definitie van de Europese Commissie.</p>	<p>Bedrijven hebben minstens 30% gehandicapte of langdurig werkloze werknemers in dienst hebben.</p>	<p>Rechtsvormen die voldoen aan de operationele EU-definitie van soc. ondernemingen zijn coöperatieve ondernemingen en sociale coöperaties met beperkte aansprakelijkheid (Koispe's).</p>	<p>Het zijn privé-entiteiten die reguliere bedrijfsactiviteiten uitvoeren, zonder winst oogmerk en ten dienste van het algemeen belang, burgerzin, solidariteit en maatschappelijk nut.</p>	<p>Ze houden zich aan de Code Sociale Ondernemingen en benadrukken het principe "impact eerst", dat vijf fundamentele principes omvat die de essentie van sociaal ondernemerschap weergeven</p>	<p>Ze opereren onder verschillende rechtsvormen, zoals sociale coöperaties, verenigingen, stichtingen en non-profitbedrijven, en vallen onder de wet op de sociale economie.</p>	<p>Erkend als een aparte sector onder de Wet op de Sociale Economie nr. 219 van 2015 en nemen verschillende vormen aan, waaronder specifieke ngo's, bedrijven met een speciale status en verschillende soorten coöperaties.</p>	<p>Ze worden gekenmerkt door het ontbreken van een specifieke rechtsvorm en worden beschouwd als een brede categorie binnen de sociale economie en de derde sector.</p>



## 5.2 Finland

Inom Erasmus+ projektet "Förankra Sociala Cirkulära Ekonomiska Attityder inom yrkesutbildning (SCE - VET)" samarbetar nio europeiska organisationer från Finland, Polen, Nederländerna, Belgien, Grekland, Rumänien, Italien och Spanien. Projektet strävar till att bana väg för integreringen av principerna för socialt entreprenörskap och cirkulär ekonomi i yrkesutbildningen. Målet är också att främja innovation för en inkluderande och grön ekonomi genom att utveckla ett nätverk för social cirkulär ekonomi och tillgängliga onlinekurser inom olika yrkesutbildningsområden.

I modellen för social cirkulär ekonomi betonas i linje med EU:s hållbarhetsmål eliminering av föroreningar och avfall, effektiv materialcirkulation och återställande av naturen. Genom att samordna principerna för socialt entreprenörskap och cirkulär ekonomi inom yrkesutbildningen, syftar projektet till att utveckla en socialt och miljömedveten arbetskraft, som tillgodoser olika samhällsrelaterade, miljömässiga och ekonomiska behov.

För att främja innovation för hållbara affärsmetoder i linje med EU:s politik, t.ex. handlingsplanen för den cirkulära ekonomin och den europeiska gröna given, betonar projektet betydelsen av inkluderande omställningar och intressenters delaktighet. Dessutom tar projektet hänsyn till ramverk som GreenComp och de Inre Utvecklingsmålen (IDG), som betonar cirkulärt kunnande och särskilda färdigheter som är nödvändiga för den gröna omställningen. Det värdesätter också vikten av utbildning för att främja den cirkulära ekonomin, vilket återspeglar rekommendationer från organisationer som Ellen MacArthur Foundation och Osnabrück-deklarationen om yrkesutbildning.

Denna guide är det primära resultatet av projektet och presenterar resultaten av djupgående forskning, som identifierat den sociala aspekten av cirkulär ekonomi och hur den kan kopplas till socialt entreprenörskap. Denna guide utforskar den roll som nationella strategier, handlingsplaner och Europa 2020-strategin spelar för att omsätta EU:s politik för en hållbar och cirkulär ekonomi i praktiken. Dessutom utforskade nätverket de deltagande ländernas yrkesutbildningssystem och hur de kan integrera SCE med fokus på exempel och bästa praxis. Dessutom presenteras även en metodmall för Social Cirkulär Yrkesutbildning tillsammans med målen för den e-lärande plattformen (MOOC) om Social Cirkulär Ekonomi.

Sammanfattningsvis bidrar projektet och dess resultat i hög grad till målen för den europeiska gröna given genom att främja hållbarhet, innovation och inkludering inom yrkesutbildningen och banar väg för en arbetskraft som är mer miljö- och socialt ansvarsfull

# Jämförelsedigram

## YRKESUTBILDNING

	Belgien	Finland	Grekland	Nederländerna	Polen	Spanien	Rumänien	Italien
Grundläggande utbildning	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Formell utbildning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vuxenutbildning	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Avgiftsfri	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yrkesutbildning och specialyrkesutbildning	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Grundexamen	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EQF-nivå	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Varaktighet	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Utbildningsform	Heltid Deltid Skolbaserat Arbetsbaserat Distanslärande	Utbildning på arbetsplatsen Läroavtal Praktik Dual modell	Heltid Skolbaserad arbetspraktik	Skolbaserad arbetspraktik	Skolbaserad Arbetsplatsbaserad	Skolbaserad Arbetsförlagd praktikmodul Dual yrkesutbildning	Undervisning dagtid Kvällslektioner Arbetsbaserad Dualform	Skolbaserad Arbetspraktik Självstudier Läroavtal
Bedömning/ Betyg	Prov Utvärderingar Yrkesutbildnings- examensbevis	Inga slutprov Yrkesprov på arbetsplatsen Omfattning i kompetenspoäng	Slutprov Yrkesutbildningsexamen Yrkesutbildningsintyg	Prov Olika nivåer av betyg	Genomförande av programmet Genomförande av arbetsförberedande klasser Avgångsbetyg	Genomförande av programmet Grundläggande yrkesutbildning	Slutprov Summativ bedömning Yrkesutbildnings- examensbevis	Slutprov Yrkesinriktat operatörs-certifikat Yrkesmäsigt tekniker- diplom
Målgrupp	Unga studerande över 14 år Vuxna studerande	Unga studerande Vuxna studerande Studerande med särskilda behov	Unga studerande över 15 år Vuxna studerande Studerande med särskilda behov	Unga studerande över 16 år	Unga studerande över 15 år	Unga studerande över 15 år Vuxna studerande	Unga studerande Vuxna studerande	Unga studerande över 14 år

# Nationella strategier för cirkulär ekonomi och socialt entreprenörskap

	BELGIEN	FINLAND	GREKLAND	ITALIEN	NEDERLÄNDERNA	POLAND	RUMÄNIEN	SPANIEN
<b>MÅL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minskning av det ekologiska fotavtrycket med 30 % till 2030 genom cirkulär innovation</li> <li>Samarbete mellan finansiella partners, forskning, social profit, företag och myndigheter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omvandling av ekonomin i linje med cirkulär ekonomi</li> <li>Bidrag till att uppnå koldioxidneutralitet till 2035</li> <li>Samarbete mellan ministerier, forskningsinstitut, företag, näringsliv och kommuner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uppnående av en cirkulär ekonomi till 2030, med fokus på hållbarhet, effektivitet, innovation och styrning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dekarbonisering</li> <li>Att minska utsläppen av växthusgaser</li> <li>Energieffektivitet</li> <li>Hållbar ekonomi</li> <li>Välbefinnande</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uppnående av en helt cirkulär ekonomi till 2050</li> <li>Säkerställa att miljöpåverkan håller sig inom "planetära gränser"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fokus på innovation</li> <li>Starkare samarbete mellan industri och vetenskap</li> <li>Upprättande av en europeisk marknad dedikerad till sekundära råvaror</li> <li>Utveckling av tjänstesektorn för att stödja och upprätthålla den cirkulära ekonomin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anpassning till FN:s 2030-agenda för hållbar utveckling och EU:s mål i ekonomiska, sociala och miljömässiga aspekter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minska inhemskt material</li> <li>Minska avfall.</li> <li>Främja återanvändning.</li> <li>Minska utsläppen av växthusgaser</li> <li>Förbättra vattenanvändnings-effektiviteten</li> </ul>
<b>STYRKOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avgörande sektorer</li> <li>Öppen ekonomi</li> <li>Centralt läge</li> <li>Engagerade medborgare</li> <li>Stödande policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brett intressentengagemang</li> <li>Medborgarnas engagemang</li> <li>Skapande av jobb</li> <li>Social integration</li> <li>Samhällsbaserade tjänster</li> <li>Arbetsplatsanpassning</li> <li>Konsumenters etiska val</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hållbar produktion och konsumtion</li> <li>Resurseffektivitet och avfallshantering</li> <li>Cirkulära affärsmodeller</li> <li>Styrning och övervakning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resursproduktivitet</li> <li>Energiproduktivitet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cirkulär ekonomi genom prissättning, standarder och incitament</li> <li>Integration av cirkulär ekonomi och klimatmål</li> <li>Förskjutning av åtgärder från leveranskedja till användarfärd</li> <li>Rapport om integrerad cirkulär ekonomi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samarbetsätt</li> <li>Omfattande dokument</li> <li>Hållbarhetsfokus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holistiskt förhållningssätt</li> <li>Avfallshantering</li> <li>Betoning på utbildning</li> <li>Beteendeförändring</li> <li>Ekonomiskt stöd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nyckelsektorer</li> <li>400 företag och organisationer har ställt sig bakom den cirkulära ekonomipakten</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL CIRKULÄR EKONOMI</b>	Strategin investerar i projekt för att inkludera personer distansierade från arbetsmarknaden genom att omvandla traditionella organisationer till cirkulära organisationer.	Strategin främjar sysselsättning för utsatta befolkningar, nya affärsmöjligheter inom hälso- och socialtjänstsektorn och möter de lokala servicebehoven samt stimulerar landsbygds-utveckling.	Den tredje pelaren i strategin främjar implementering av cirkulära affärsmodeller genom att erbjuda stöd till cirkulärt entreprenörskap och öka kunskap, förståelse och utbildning.	Strategin syftar till att överbrygga socioekonomiska klyftor och en balanserad ekonomisk tillväxt.	Strategin främjar medborgarnas aktiva deltagande i cirkulära metoder som återvinning, skapar lokala sysselsättningsmöjligheter inom cirkulära industrier och utbildar individer och samhällen att göra hållbara val i deras dagliga liv.	Strategin kombinerar sociala element som samarbete, skapande av jobb och utbildning med de bredare målen och genomförandet av den cirkulära ekonomin.	Den pågående strategin uppmuntrar aktivt samhällsdeltagande i återvinning, reparation och delning, säkerställer tillgänglighet för alla, skapar lokala jobb och ger hållbara val genom utbildning och medvetenhet.	De sociala aspekterna av strategin avser ökad kunskap, medvetenhet, delaktighet och den främjar sysselsättning och utbildning.
<b>SOCIALA FÖRETAG</b>	De överensstämmer med Europeiska kommissionens definition.	De ska ha minst 30 % funktionshindrade eller tidigare långtidsarbetslösa anställda.	Rättsliga former som uppfyller EU:s operativa definition av sociala företag inkluderar sociala kooperativa företag (SCE) och sociala kooperativ med begränsat ansvar (KoISPEs).	De är privata enheter som ägnar sig åt regelbunden affärsverksamhet, verkar på ideell basis och tjänar det allmänna intresset, medborgarliga, solidariska och socialt fördelaktiga ändamål.	De följer koden för sociala företag, som betonar principen "påverkan först" och som består av fem grundläggande principer, som visar essensen av socialt entreprenörskap.	De verkar under olika juridiska former, såsom sociala kooperativ, föreningar, stiftelser och ideella företag, och regleras av lagen om social ekonomi.	De är erkända som en separat sektor enligt lagen om social ekonomi nr 219 från 2015 och har olika former, inklusive specifika icke-statliga organisationer, företag med särskild status och olika typer av kooperativ.	De kännetecknas av brist på en specifik juridisk form och anses vara en bred kategori inom den sociala ekonomin och den tredje sektorn.

### 5.3 Greece

Το έργο Erasmus+ "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" φέρνει σε επαφή εννέα ευρωπαϊκούς οργανισμούς από τη Φινλανδία, την Πολωνία, την Ολλανδία, το Βέλγιο, την Ελλάδα, τη Ρουμανία, την Ιταλία και την Ισπανία για να συμβάλει πρωτοποριακά στην ενσωμάτωση της κοινωνικής επιχειρηματικότητας και των αρχών της κυκλικής οικονομίας στην επαγγελματική εκπαίδευση και κατάρτιση. Η πρωτοβουλία αυτή αποσκοπεί στην προώθηση της καινοτομίας για μια χωρίς αποκλεισμούς και πράσινη οικονομία με την ανάπτυξη ενός δικτύου Κοινωνικής Κυκλικής Οικονομίας και προσβάσιμων διαδικτυακών μαθημάτων σε διάφορους τομείς της επαγγελματικής εκπαίδευσης και κατάρτισης.

Το μοντέλο της Κοινωνικής Κυκλικής Οικονομίας (SCE) δίνει έμφαση στην εξάλειψη της ρύπανσης και των αποβλήτων, στην αποτελεσματική κυκλική κυκλοφορία των υλικών και στην αναγέννηση της φύσης, σύμφωνα με τους στόχους βιωσιμότητας της ΕΕ. Με την ενσωμάτωση της κοινωνικής επιχειρηματικότητας και των αρχών της κυκλικής οικονομίας στην επαγγελματική εκπαίδευση και κατάρτιση, το έργο στοχεύει στην ανάπτυξη ενός κοινωνικά και περιβαλλοντικά ευαισθητοποιημένου εργατικού δυναμικού που θα ανταποκρίνεται σε ποικίλες κοινωνικές, περιβαλλοντικές και οικονομικές ανάγκες.

Σύμφωνα με τις πολιτικές της ΕΕ, όπως το "Σχέδιο Δράσης για την Κυκλική Οικονομία" και η "Ευρωπαϊκή Πράσινη Συμφωνία", το έργο δίνει έμφαση στη σημασία των χωρίς αποκλεισμούς πράσινων μεταβάσεων και της συμμετοχής των ενδιαφερομένων μερών στην προώθηση της καινοτομίας για βιώσιμες επιχειρηματικές πρακτικές. Επιπλέον, το έργο λαμβάνει υπόψη πλαίσια όπως τα GreenComp και Inner Development Goals (IDGs), τα οποία δίνουν έμφαση στον κυκλικό εγγραμματισμό και στις πρόσθετες δεξιότητες που είναι απαραίτητες για την πράσινη μετάβαση. Αναγνωρίζει επίσης τη σημασία της εκπαίδευσης για την προώθηση της Κυκλικής Οικονομίας (CE), υιοθετώντας τις συστάσεις οργανισμών όπως το Ίδρυμα Ellen MacArthur και η Διακήρυξη του Osnabrück για την επαγγελματική εκπαίδευση και κατάρτιση.

Ο παρών οδηγός αποτελεί το πρώτο αποτέλεσμα του έργου και παρουσιάζει τα αποτελέσματα εμπειριστατωμένης έρευνας που προσδιόρισε την κοινωνική πτυχή της Κυκλικής Οικονομίας και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο μπορεί να συνδεθεί με την κοινωνική επιχειρηματικότητα, και διερευνά τον ρόλο των εθνικών στρατηγικών, των σχεδίων δράσης και της «Στρατηγικής 2020 της ΕΕ» στην εφαρμογή της πολιτικής της ΕΕ για μια βιώσιμη και κυκλική οικονομία στην πράξη. Επιπλέον, η σύμπραξη διερεύνησε τα συστήματα της επαγγελματικής εκπαίδευσης και κατάρτισης των συμμετεχουσών χωρών και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο μπορούν να ενσωματώσουν την Κοινωνική Κυκλική Οικονομία, εστιάζοντας σε μελέτες περίπτωσης και βέλτιστες πρακτικές. Επιπλέον, παρουσιάζεται το "Canvas Μεθόδων Εκπαίδευσης για την Κοινωνική Κυκλική Επαγγελματική Εκπαίδευση και Κατάρτιση" μαζί με τους στόχους της "Πλατφόρμας Ηλεκτρονικής Μάθησης (MOOC) για την Κοινωνική Κυκλική Οικονομία".

Συνολικά, το έργο και τα αποτελέσματά του συμβάλλουν σημαντικά στους στόχους της «Ευρωπαϊκής Πράσινης Συμφωνίας», προωθώντας τη βιωσιμότητα, την καινοτομία και τη συμμετοχικότητα στην επαγγελματική εκπαίδευση και κατάρτιση ανοίγοντας το δρόμο για ένα πιο περιβαλλοντικά και κοινωνικά υπεύθυνο εργατικό δυναμικό.

# Συγκριτικός Πίνακας

ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΤΑΡΤΙΣΗ

	Βέλγιο	Φινλανδία	Ελλάδα	Ολλανδία	Πολωνία	Ισπανία	Ρουμανία	Ιταλία
Υποχρεωτική Εκπαίδευση	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Τυπική Εκπαίδευση	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Διαθέσιμη για Ενήλικες	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Χωρίς Δίδακτρα	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Επαγγελματική Εκπαίδευση Έχοντας Κατάρτιση	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Επαγγελματική Εκπαίδευση Μη Έχοντας Κατάρτιση	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Επίπεδο ΕΠΕΠ	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Διάρκεια	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Τύπος Εκμάθησης	Πλήρης Μερική Με βάση το σχολείο Με βάση την εργασία Εξ αποστάσεως	Με σύμβαση κατάρτισης Μαθητεία Με βάση την εργασία Διπλή μορφή	Πλήρης Με βάση το σχολείο Πρακτική εργασία	Με βάση το σχολείο Πρακτική εργασία	Με βάση το σχολείο Πρακτική εργασία	Με βάση το σχολείο Με βάση την εργασία Πρακτική άσκηση Διπλή μορφή	Πρινά μαθήματα Απογευματινά μαθήματα Με βάση την εργασία Διπλή μορφή	Με βάση το σχολείο Πρακτική άσκηση εργασίας Αυτομόρφωση Μαθητεία
Αξιολόγηση/ Πιστοποιητικά	Τελικές εξετάσεις Αξιολογήσεις Πιστοποιητικό επαγγελματιών προσόντων	Δεν υπάρχουν τελικές εξετάσεις Απόδειξη της απόδοσης στην εκμάθηση με βάση την εργασία Πιστοποίηση με αριθμό πόντων δεξιοτήτων	Τελικές εξετάσεις Πτυχίο ανώτερης επαγγελματικής δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης Πιστοποιητικό ανώτερης επαγγελματικής δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης	Τελικές εξετάσεις Διάφορα επίπεδα διπλωμάτων	Ολοκλήρωση του προγράμματος Ολοκλήρωση των τάξεων εργασιακής προετοιμασίας Πιστοποιητικό αποφοίτησης από το σχολείο	Ολοκλήρωση του προγράμματος Βασικό δίπλωμα επαγγελματικής εκπαίδευσης και κατάρτισης	Τελικές εξετάσεις Αβρουστική αξιολόγηση Πιστοποιητικό επαγγελματιών προσόντων	Τελικές εξετάσεις Πιστοποιητικό επαγγελματιών προσόντων Δίπλωμα επαγγελματία τεχνικού
Ομάδες Στόχου	Νέοι άνω των 14 ετών Ενήλικες	Νέοι Ενήλικες Μαθητές με ειδικές ανάγκες	Νέοι άνω των 15 ετών Ενήλικες Μαθητές με ειδικές ανάγκες	Νέοι άνω των 16 ετών	Νέοι άνω των 15 ετών	Νέοι άνω των 15 ετών Ενήλικες	Νέοι Ενήλικες	Νέοι άνω των 14 ετών

# Εθνικές Στρατηγικές Κυκλικής Οικονομίας και Κοινωνική Επιχειρηματικότητα

	ΒΕΛΓΙΟ	ΦΙΝΛΑΔΙΑ	ΕΛΛΑΔΑ	ΙΤΑΛΙΑ	ΟΛΛΑΝΔΙΑ	ΠΟΛΩΝΙΑ	ΡΟΥΜΑΝΙΑ	ΙΣΠΑΝΙΑ
<b>ΣΤΟΧΟΙ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Μείωση του οικολογικού αποτυπώματος κατά 30% έως το 2030 μέσω της κυκλικής καινοτομίας</li> <li>Συnergασία μεταξύ οικονομικών εταίρων, έρευνας, κοινωνικού οφέλους, επιχειρήσεων και κυβέρνησης</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Μετασχηματισμός της οικονομίας σύμφωνα με την κυκλική οικονομία</li> <li>Συμβολή στην επίτευξη ουδετερότητας ως προς τις εκπομπές διοξειδίου του άνθρακα έως το 2035</li> <li>Συnergασία μεταξύ υπουργείων, ερευνητικών ιδρυμάτων, εταιρειών, επιχειρηματικών τομέων και τοπικών κυβερνήσεων</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Επίτευξη μιας κυκλικής οικονομίας έως το 2030, με έμφαση στη βιωσιμότητα, την αποδοτικότητα, την καινοτομία και τη διακυβέρνηση</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Αποανθρακοποίηση</li> <li>Μείωση των εκπομπών αερίων του θερμοκηπίου</li> <li>Ενεργειακή απόδοση</li> <li>Βιώσιμη οικονομία</li> <li>Ευημερία</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Επίτευξη μιας πλήρως κυκλικής οικονομίας έως το 2050</li> <li>Διασφάλιση ότι οι περιβαλλοντικές επιπτώσεις παραμένουν εντός των "πλανητικών ορίων"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Εστίαση στην καινοτομία</li> <li>Ισχυρότερη συνεργασία μεταξύ βιομηχανίας και επιστήμης</li> <li>Δημιουργία μιας ευρωπαϊκής αγοράς αφιερωμένης στις δευτερογενείς πρώτες ύλες</li> <li>Ανάπτυξη του τομέα των υπηρεσιών για τη στήριξη και τη διατήρηση της κυκλικής οικονομίας</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ευθυγράμμιση με την Ατζέντα 2030 του ΟΗΕ για τη βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη και τους στόχους της ΕΕ σε οικονομικό, κοινωνικό και περιβαλλοντικό επίπεδο</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Μείωση των οικιακών υλικών</li> <li>Μείωση των απορριμμάτων</li> <li>Πρώθηση της επαναχρησιμοποίησης</li> <li>Μείωση των εκπομπών αερίων του θερμοκηπίου</li> <li>Βελτίωση της αποδοτικότητας της χρήσης νερού</li> </ul>
<b>ΠΛΕΟΝΕΚΤΗΜΑΤΑ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Κρίσιμοι τομείς</li> <li>Ανοικτή οικονομία</li> <li>Κεντρική τοποθεσία</li> <li>Συμμετέχοντες πολίτες</li> <li>Υποστηρικτική πολιτική</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Εκτεταμένη εμπλοκή των ενδιαφερομένων μερών</li> <li>Συμμετοχή των πολιτών</li> <li>Δημιουργία θέσεων εργασίας</li> <li>Κοινωνική ένταξη</li> <li>Υπηρεσίες με βάση την κοινότητα</li> <li>Προσαρμογή του χώρου εργασίας</li> <li>Ηθικές επιλογές των καταναλωτών</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Βιώσιμη παραγωγή και κατανάλωση</li> <li>Αποδοτικότητα πόρων και διαχείριση αποβλήτων</li> <li>Κυκλικά επιχειρηματικά μοντέλα</li> <li>Διακυβέρνηση και παρακολούθηση</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Παραγωγικότητα των φυσικών πόρων</li> <li>Ενεργειακή παραγωγικότητα</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Κυκλική οικονομία μέσω τιμολόγησης, προτύπων και κινήτρων</li> <li>Ενσωμάτωση των στόχων της κυκλικής οικονομίας και του περιβάλλοντος</li> <li>Μετατόπιση των μέτρων από τη φάση της αλυσίδας εφοδιασμού στη φάση του χρήστη</li> <li>Ολοκληρωμένη έκθεση για την κυκλική οικονομία</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Συnergατική προσέγγιση</li> <li>Περιεκτικό έγγραφο βιωσιμότητας</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ολιστική προσέγγιση</li> <li>Διαχείριση αποβλήτων</li> <li>Έμφαση στην εκπαίδευση</li> <li>Αλλαγή συμπεριφοράς</li> <li>Οικονομική στήριξη</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Βασικοί τομείς</li> <li>400 εταιρείες και οργανισμοί έχουν προσυπογράψει το Σύμφωνο Κυκλικής Οικονομίας</li> </ul>
<b>ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΚΥΚΛΙΚΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑ</b>	<p>Η στρατηγική επενδύει σε σχέδια για την ένταξη ατόμων που απέχουν από την αγορά εργασίας, ώστε να μετατραπούν οι παραδοσιακές επιχειρήσεις σε κυκλικές επιχειρήσεις</p>	<p>Η στρατηγική προωθεί την απασχόληση για τους ευάλωτους πληθυσμούς, νέες επιχειρηματικές ευκαιρίες στον τομέα της υγείας και των κοινωνικών υπηρεσιών και την κάλυψη των τοπικών αναγκών σε υπηρεσίες, την τόνωση της αγροτικής ανάπτυξης</p>	<p>Ο τρίτος πυλώνας της στρατηγικής προωθεί την υιοθέτηση κυκλικών επιχειρηματικών μοντέλων παρέχοντας στήριξη στην κυκλική επιχειρηματικότητα και ενισχύοντας τη γνώση, την κατανόηση και την εκπαίδευση</p>	<p>Η στρατηγική αποσκοπεί στη γεφύρωση των κοινωνικοοικονομικών κενών και στην ισορροπημένη οικονομική ανάπτυξη</p>	<p>Η στρατηγική προωθεί την ενεργό συμμετοχή των πολιτών σε κυκλικές πρακτικές όπως η ανακύκλωση, δημιουργεί τοπικές ευκαιρίες απασχόλησης σε κυκλικές βιομηχανίες και εκπαιδεύει τα άτομα και τις κοινότητες να κάνουν βιώσιμες επιλογές στην καθημερινή τους ζωή</p>	<p>Η στρατηγική συνδυάζει κοινωνικά στοιχεία όπως η συνεργασία, η δημιουργία θέσεων εργασίας και η εκπαίδευση με ευρύτερους στόχους και την εφαρμογή της κυκλικής οικονομίας</p>	<p>Η στρατηγική "υπο εξέλιξη" ενθαρρύνει την ενεργό συμμετοχή της κοινότητας στην ανακύκλωση, την επιδιόρθωση και την κοινή χρήση, διασφαλίζει την προσαρμοστικότητα για όλους, δημιουργεί τοπικές θέσεις εργασίας και ενισχύει τις βιώσιμες επιλογές μέσω της εκπαίδευσης και της ευαισθητοποίησης</p>	<p>Οι κοινωνικές πτυχές της στρατηγικής αναφέρονται στην ενίσχυση της γνώσης, της ευαισθητοποίησης, της συμμετοχής και προωθούν την απασχόληση και την κατάρτιση.</p>
<b>ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΙΣ</b>	<p>Έχουν ευθυγραμμιστεί με τον προσδιορισμό της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής</p>	<p>Πρέπει να έχουν τουλάχιστον 30% εργαζόμενους με αναπηρία ή μακροχρόνια άνεργους στο παρελθόν</p>	<p>Οι νομικές μορφές που πληρούν τον επιχειρησιακό ορισμό της ΕΕ σχετικά με τις κοινωνικές επιχειρήσεις περιλαμβάνουν τις κοινωνικές συνεταιριστικές επιχειρήσεις (SCE) και τους κοινωνικούς συνεταιρισμούς περιορισμένης ευθύνης (ΚοiSPE)</p>	<p>Πρόκειται για ιδιωτικές επιχειρήσεις που ασκούν κανονικές επιχειρηματικές δραστηριότητες, λειτουργούν σε μη κερδοσκοπική βάση και εξυπηρετούν το γενικό συμφέρον, την πολιτική, την αλληλεγγύη και κοινωνικά επωφελεείς σκοπούς</p>	<p>Τηρούν τον Κώδικα Κοινωνικών Επιχειρήσεων, δίνοντας έμφαση στην αρχή "πρώτα ο αντίκτυπος", η οποία περιλαμβάνει πέντε θεμελιώδεις αρχές που καταδεικνύουν την ουσία της κοινωνικής επιχειρηματικότητας.</p>	<p>Λειτουργούν υπό διάφορες νομικές μορφές, όπως κοινωνικοί συνεταιρισμοί, ενώσεις, ιδρύματα και μη κερδοσκοπικές εταιρείες, και διέπονται από τον νόμο για την κοινωνική οικονομία.</p>	<p>Αναγνωρίζονται ως ξεχωριστός τομέας βάσει του νόμου για την κοινωνική οικονομία αριθ. 219 του 2015 και λαμβάνουν διάφορες μορφές, συμπεριλαμβανομένων ειδικών ΜΚΟ, εταιρειών με ειδικό καθεστώς και διαφόρων τύπων συνεταιρισμών.</p>	<p>Χαρακτηρίζονται από την έλλειψη συγκεκριμένης νομικής μορφής και θεωρούνται μια ευρεία κατηγορία εντός της κοινωνικής οικονομίας και του τρίτου τομέα.</p>

## 5.4 Italy

Il progetto Erasmus+ "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" riunisce nove organizzazioni europee provenienti da Finlandia, Polonia, Paesi Bassi, Belgio, Grecia, Romania, Italia e Spagna per promuovere l'integrazione degli aspetti dell'imprenditorialità sociale e dei principi dell'economia circolare nell'istruzione e formazione professionale (VET). L'iniziativa mira a incentivare l'innovazione per un'economia inclusiva e verde, sviluppando una rete SCE e corsi online accessibili in diversi settori dell'istruzione e della formazione professionale.

Il modello dell'economia circolare ad impatto sociale (SCE) pone l'accento sulla riduzione dell'inquinamento e dei rifiuti, sulla circolazione efficiente dei materiali e sulla rigenerazione del patrimonio naturale, in linea con gli obiettivi di sostenibilità dell'UE. Integrando i principi dell'imprenditoria sociale e dell'economia circolare nell'istruzione e nella formazione professionale, il progetto mira a sviluppare una forza lavoro consapevole dal punto di vista sociale e ambientale, in grado di rispondere a diverse esigenze di natura sociale, ambientale ed economica.

In linea con le politiche dell'UE, come il Piano d'azione per l'economia circolare e il Green Deal europeo, il progetto sottolinea l'importanza delle transizioni inclusive e del coinvolgimento delle parti interessate nella promozione dell'innovazione per le pratiche commerciali sostenibili. Inoltre, il progetto tiene conto di framework come GreenComp e gli Obiettivi di Sviluppo Interno (IDG), che valorizzano l'alfabetizzazione circolare e le competenze aggiuntive essenziali per la transizione verde. Il progetto riconosce inoltre l'importanza dell'istruzione nel promuovere l'economia circolare (CE), facendo eco alle raccomandazioni di organizzazioni come la Fondazione Ellen MacArthur e la Dichiarazione di Osnabrück sull'istruzione e la formazione professionale.

Questa guida è il primo risultato del progetto e presenta i risultati di una ricerca approfondita che ha identificato l'aspetto sociale dell'economia circolare e il modo in cui può essere collegata all'imprenditoria sociale, ed esplora il ruolo delle strategie nazionali, dei piani d'azione e della strategia UE 2020 nel mettere in pratica la politica dell'UE per un'economia sostenibile e circolare. Inoltre, il partenariato ha esplorato i sistemi di istruzione e formazione professionale dei Paesi partecipanti e il modo in cui possono incorporare la SCE, concentrandosi su vetrine e buone pratiche. Il progetto illustra il Social Circular VET Education Method Canvas e gli obiettivi formativi della piattaforma di e-learning (MOOC) sull'economia circolare sociale.

Nel complesso, il progetto e i suoi risultati contribuiscono in modo significativo agli obiettivi del Green Deal europeo, promuovendo la sostenibilità, l'innovazione e l'inclusione nell'istruzione e nella formazione professionale, aprendo la strada a una forza lavoro più responsabile dal punto di vista ambientale e sociale.

# Tabella Comparativa

## EDUCAZIONE E FORMAZIONE PROFESSIONALE

	Belgio	Finlandia	Grecia	Paesi Bassi	Polonia	Spagna	Romania	Italia
Istruzione obbligatoria	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Educazione formale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disponibile per gli adulti	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Gratuita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formazione continua	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Formazione iniziale	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Livello EQF	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Durata	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Modello di apprendimento	Tempo pieno Tempo parziale A scuola Formazione sul lavoro Apprendimento a distanza	Progetto formativo Apprendistato Basato sul lavoro Modello duale	Tempo pieno A scuola Formazione sul lavoro	A scuola Formazione sul lavoro	A scuola Formazione sul lavoro	A scuola Formazione sul lavoro Modulo inserimento lavorativo Modello duale	Lezioni diurne Corsi serali Formazione sul lavoro Modello duale	A scuola Formazione sul lavoro Autoapprendimento Apprendistato
Certificazione/ diplomi	Esami Valutazione Certificato di qualifica professionale	Nessun esame finale Dimostrazione delle competenze nell'apprendimento sul lavoro Qualifica con punteggio di competenza	Esami finali Diploma di scuola secondaria superiore professionale Certificato di scuola secondaria superiore professionale	Esami Diplomi di vario livello	Completamento del programma Completamento dei corsi di preparazione al lavoro Attestato	Completamento del programma Diploma di formazione professionale di base	Esami finali Valutazione finale Certificato di qualifica professionale	Esami finali Certificato di operatore professionale Diploma di tecnico professionale
Gruppo target	Giovani oltre i 14 anni Adulti	Giovani Adulti Studenti con bisogni speciali	Giovani oltre i 15 anni Adulti Studenti con esigenze speciali	Giovani oltre i 16 anni	Giovani oltre i 15 anni	Giovani oltre i 15 anni Adulti	Giovani Adulti	Giovani oltre i 14 anni



# Strategie nazionali di economia circolare e imprenditorialità sociale

	BELGIO	FINLANDIA	GRECIA	ITALIA	PAESI BASSI	POLONIA	ROMANIA	SPAGNA
OBIETTIVI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riduzione dell'impronta ecologica del 30% entro il 2030 attraverso l'innovazione circolare</li> <li>Cooperazione tra partner finanziari, ricerca, social profit, aziende e governo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trasformazione dell'economia in linea con l'economia circolare</li> <li>Contributo al raggiungimento della neutralità di carbonio entro il 2035</li> <li>Cooperazione tra ministeri, istituti di ricerca, aziende, settori commerciali e amministrazioni locali</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realizzazione di un'economia circolare entro il 2030, incentrata su sostenibilità, efficienza, innovazione e governance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decarbonizzazione</li> <li>Riduzione delle emissioni di gas a effetto serra</li> <li>Efficienza energetica</li> <li>Economia sostenibile</li> <li>Benessere</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raggiungere un'economia completamente circolare entro il 2050</li> <li>Garantire che l'impatto ambientale rimanga entro i "confini del pianeta".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus sull'innovazione</li> <li>Maggiore collaborazione tra industria e scienza</li> <li>Creazione di un mercato europeo dedicato alle materie prime secondarie</li> <li>Sviluppo del settore dei servizi per supportare e sostenere l'economia circolare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allineamento con l'Agenda 2030 dell'ONU per lo sviluppo sostenibile e con gli obiettivi dell'UE in materia economica, sociale e ambientale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diminuire il materiale di scarto domestico.</li> <li>Ridurre i rifiuti.</li> <li>Promuovere il riutilizzo.</li> <li>Ridurre le emissioni di gas serra.</li> <li>Migliorare l'efficienza nell'uso dell'acqua.</li> </ul>
PUNTI DI FORZA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settori cruciali</li> <li>Economia aperta</li> <li>Posizione centrale</li> <li>Cittadini impegnati</li> <li>Politica di sostegno</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ampio coinvolgimento delle parti interessate</li> <li>Coinvolgimento dei cittadini</li> <li>Creazione di posti di lavoro</li> <li>Inclusione sociale</li> <li>Servizi basati sulla comunità</li> <li>Adattamento del luogo di lavoro</li> <li>Scelte etiche dei consumatori</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produzione e consumo sostenibili</li> <li>Efficienza delle risorse e gestione dei rifiuti</li> <li>Modelli di business circolari</li> <li>Governance e monitoraggio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produttività delle risorse</li> <li>Produttività energetica</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economia circolare attraverso pricing, standard e incentivi.</li> <li>Integrazione tra economia circolare e obiettivi climatici.</li> <li>Spostamento delle misure dalla catena di approvvigionamento alla fase di utilizzo.</li> <li>Report sull'economia circolare integrale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approccio collaborativo</li> <li>Focus sulla sostenibilità</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approccio olistico</li> <li>Gestione dei rifiuti</li> <li>Enfasi sulla formazione</li> <li>Miglioramento delle abitudini</li> <li>Sostegno finanziario</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settori chiave</li> <li>400 aziende e organizzazioni hanno sottoscritto il Patto per l'economia circolare.</li> </ul>
SCE	<p>La strategia investe in progetti di inclusione di persone distanti dal mercato del lavoro per trasformare le organizzazioni tradizionali in organizzazioni circolari.</p>	<p>La strategia promuove l'occupazione per le popolazioni vulnerabili, nuove opportunità di business nel settore dei servizi sanitari e sociali e soddisfa le esigenze dei servizi locali, stimolando lo sviluppo rurale.</p>	<p>Il terzo pilastro della strategia promuove l'adozione di modelli di business circolari fornendo sostegno all'imprenditorialità circolare e migliorando la conoscenza, la comprensione e la formazione.</p>	<p>La strategia mira a colmare i divari socio-economici e a una crescita economica equilibrata.</p>	<p>La strategia promuove la partecipazione attiva dei cittadini alle pratiche circolari come il riciclo, crea opportunità di lavoro locali nell'ambito delle industrie circolari e educare gli individui e le comunità a fare scelte sostenibili nella loro vita quotidiana.</p>	<p>La strategia combina elementi sociali come la cooperazione, la creazione di posti di lavoro e l'istruzione con gli obiettivi più ampi e l'attuazione dell'economia circolare.</p>	<p>La strategia in-progress incoraggia la partecipazione attiva della comunità al processo di recupero, riparazione e condivisione, garantisce l'accessibilità per tutti, crea posti di lavoro a livello locale e promuove scelte sostenibili attraverso la sensibilizzazione.</p>	<p>Gli aspetti sociali della strategia si riferiscono al miglioramento della conoscenza, della consapevolezza, della partecipazione e promuovono l'occupazione e la formazione.</p>
IMPRESE SOCIALI	<p>Sono allineati con la definizione della Commissione Europea.</p>	<p>La percentuale di dipendenti con disabilità o disoccupati di lunga durata deve essere almeno del 30%.</p>	<p>Le forme giuridiche che soddisfano la definizione operativa dell'UE sulle imprese sociali includono le imprese cooperative sociali (SCE) e le cooperative sociali a responsabilità limitata (KoSPE).</p>	<p>Si tratta di entità private che svolgono attività commerciali regolari, operano senza scopo di lucro e sono al servizio dell'interesse generale, di cause civiche, di solidarietà e di utilità sociale.</p>	<p>Aderiscono al Codice delle Imprese Sociali, sottolineando il principio "impact first", che comprende cinque principi fondamentali che dimostrano l'essenza dell'imprenditoria sociale.</p>	<p>Operano sotto varie forme giuridiche, come cooperative sociali, associazioni, fondazioni e società senza scopo di lucro, e sono disciplinate dalla Legge sull'economia sociale.</p>	<p>Sono riconosciute come settore a sé stante ai sensi della legge sull'economia sociale n. 219 del 2015 e assumono forme diverse, tra cui ONG specifiche, società a statuto speciale e diversi tipi di cooperative.</p>	<p>Sono caratterizzati dalla mancanza di una forma giuridica specifica e sono considerati una categoria ampia all'interno dell'economia sociale e del terzo settore.</p>

## 5.5 Poland

Projekt Erasmus+ "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" zrzesza dziewięć europejskich organizacji z Finlandii, Polski, Holandii, Belgii, Grecji, Rumunii, Włoch i Hiszpanii, które są promotorami integracji przedsiębiorczości społecznej i zasad gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym w kształceniu i szkoleniu zawodowym (VET). Inicjatywa ta ma na celu wspieranie innowacji na rzecz zielonej gospodarki sprzyjającej włączeniu społecznemu poprzez rozwój sieci SCE i dostępności kursów online w różnych dziedzinach kształcenia i szkolenia zawodowego.

Model społecznej gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym (SCE) kładzie nacisk na eliminację zanieczyszczeń i odpadów, efektywny obieg materiałów i regenerację przyrody, zgodnie z celami zrównoważonego rozwoju UE. Poprzez włączenie przedsiębiorczości społecznej i zasad gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym do kształcenia i szkolenia zawodowego, projekt ma na celu rozwój społecznie i środowiskowo świadomej siły roboczej, która zaspokaja różnorodne potrzeby społeczne, środowiskowe i gospodarcze.

Zgodnie z politykami UE, takimi jak plan działania na rzecz gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym i Europejski Zielony Ład, projekt podkreśla znaczenie integracyjnych przemian i zaangażowania zainteresowanych stron w promowanie innowacji na rzecz zrównoważonych działań biznesowych. Ponadto projekt uwzględnia ramy, takie jak GreenComp i Wewnętrzne Cele Rozwoju (IDG), które kładą nacisk na umiejętności związane z obiegiem zamkniętym i dodatkowe umiejętności niezbędne do zielonej transformacji. Uznaje również znaczenie edukacji w rozwoju gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym, odzwierciedlając zalecenia organizacji takich jak Fundacja Ellen MacArthur i Deklaracja z Osnabrück w sprawie kształcenia i szkolenia zawodowego.

Niniejszy przewodnik jest pierwszym rezultatem projektu i przedstawia wyniki dogłębnych badań, które zidentyfikowały społeczny aspekt gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym i sposób, w jaki można go powiązać z przedsiębiorczością społeczną, a także bada rolę krajowych strategii, planów działania i strategii UE 2020 we wdrażaniu polityki UE na rzecz zrównoważonej gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym w praktyce. Ponadto partnerzy zbadali systemy kształcenia i szkolenia zawodowego w poszczególnych krajach partnerskich oraz sposób, w jaki mogą one uwzględniać SCE, koncentrując się na prezentacjach i najlepszych praktykach. Co więcej, przedstawiono również metodę kształcenia w zakresie społecznej gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym wraz z celami platformy e-learningowej (MOOC) na temat społecznej gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym.

Ogólnie rzecz biorąc, projekt i jego wyniki znacząco przyczyniają się do realizacji celów Europejskiego Zielonego Ładu poprzez promowanie zrównoważonego rozwoju, innowacji i integracji w kształceniu i szkoleniu zawodowym, torując drogę dla bardziej przyjaznych dla środowiska i zaangażowanych społecznie pracowników.

# Tabela porównawcza

## EDUKACJA ZAWODOWA

	Belgia	Finlandia	Grecja	Holandia	Polska	Hiszpania	Rumania	Włochy
CEdukacja obowiązkowa	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Formalna Edukacja	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dostępne dla Dorosłych	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Nieodpłatna	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kontynuacja VET	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Wstępne szkolenie zawodowe VET	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poziom EQF	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Czas trwania	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Formy kształcenia	Full-time Part-time School-based Work-based Distance learning	Training agreement Apprenticeship Work-based Dual form	Full-time School-based Work practice	School-based Work practice	School-based Work-based	School-based Work-based Work placement module Dual VET	Daytime learning Evening classes Work-based Dual form	School-based Work practice Self-learning Apprenticeship
Ocena/ Certyfikaty	Exams Evaluations Professional qualification certificate	No final exams Competence demonstration In work-based learning Qualification with number of competence points	Final Exams Vocational upper secondary school degree Vocational upper secondary school certificate	Exams Various levels of diplomas	Completion of the programme Completion of work preparation classes School leaving certificate	Completion of the programme Basic VET diploma	Final Exams Summative assessment Professional qualification certificate	Final Exams Professional operator certificate Professional technician diploma
Grupa docelowa	Young over 14 years old Adults	Young Adults Learners with special needs	Young over 15 years old Adults Learners with special needs	Young over 16 years old	Young over 15 years old	Young over 15 years old Adults	Young Adults	Young over 14 years old

SCE-VET

# Krajowe strategie gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym i przedsiębiorczość społeczna

	BELGIA	FINLANDIA	GRECJA	IWŁOCHY	HOLANDIA	POLSKA	RUMANIA	HISZPANIA
<b>CELE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zmniejszenie śladu ekologicznego o 30% do 2030 r. dzięki innowacjom o obiegu zamkniętym</li> <li>Współpraca między partnerami finansowymi, badaniami, zyskiem społecznym, firmami i rządem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformacja gospodarki zgodnie z zasadami gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym</li> <li>Wkład w osiągnięcie neutralności węglowej do 2035</li> <li>Współpraca między ministerstwami, instytutami badawczymi, firmami, sektorami biznesowymi i samorządami lokalnymi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osiągnięcie gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym do 2030 r., koncentrując się na zrównoważonym rozwoju, wydajności, innowacjach i zarządzaniu.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dekarbonizacja</li> <li>Redukcja emisji gazów cieplarnianych</li> <li>Efektywność energetyczna</li> <li>Zrównoważona gospodarka</li> <li>Dobre samopoczucie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osiągnięcie gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym do 2050 r.</li> <li>Zapewnienie, że wpływ na środowisko pozostanie w "granicach planety".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nacisk na innowacje</li> <li>Ścisła współpraca między przemysłem a nauką</li> <li>Ustanowienie europejskiego rynku surowców wtórnych</li> <li>Rozwój sektora usług w celu wsparcia i utrzymania gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dostosowanie do Agencji ONZ na rzecz zrównoważonego rozwoju 2030 i celów UE w aspektach gospodarczych, społecznych i środowiskowych.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zmniejszenie ilości materiałów domowych.</li> <li>Ograniczenie ilości odpadów.</li> <li>Promowanie ponownego użycia.</li> <li>Zmniejszenie emisji gazów cieplarnianych.</li> <li>Zwiększenie wydajności zużycia wody.</li> </ul>
<b>SMOCNE STRONY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kluczowe sektory</li> <li>Otwarta gospodarka</li> <li>Centralna lokalizacja</li> <li>Zaangażowani obywatele</li> <li>Wspierająca polityka</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zaangażowanie szerokiego grona interesariuszy</li> <li>Zaangażowanie obywateli</li> <li>Tworzenie miejsc pracy</li> <li>Włączenie społeczne</li> <li>Usługi dla społeczności</li> <li>Dostosowanie miejsca pracy</li> <li>Etyczne wybory konsumentów:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zrównoważona produkcja i konsumpcja</li> <li>Efektywne gospodarowanie zasobami i odpadami</li> <li>Usługi dla społeczności</li> <li>Modele biznesowe o obiegu zamkniętym</li> <li>Zarządzanie i monitorowanie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produktywność zasobów</li> <li>Wydajność energetyczna</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gospodarka o obiegu zamkniętym poprzez ceny, standardy i zachęty.</li> <li>Integracja gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym i celów klimatycznych.</li> <li>Przeniesienie środków z łańcucha dostaw do fazy użytkownika.</li> <li>Raport na temat zintegrowanej gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Podjęcie oparte na współpracy</li> <li>Kompleksowy dokument</li> <li>Zrównoważony rozwój</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Podjęcie holistyczne</li> <li>Zarządzanie odpadami</li> <li>Nacisk na edukację</li> <li>Zmiana zachowań</li> <li>Wsparcie finansowe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kluczowe sektory</li> <li>400 firm i organizacji zatwierdziło pakt na rzecz gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym.</li> </ul>
<b>SPOLECZNA EKONOMIA SOCJALNA</b>	<p>Strategia inwestuje w projekty mające na celu włączenie osób z dystansem do rynku pracy w celu przekształcenia tradycyjnych organizacji w organizacje o obiegu zamkniętym.</p>	<p>Strategia promuje zatrudnienie dla słabszych grup społecznych, nowe możliwości biznesowe w sektorze usług zdrowotnych i społecznych oraz zaspokaja lokalne potrzeby usługowe, stymulując rozwój obszarów wiejskich.</p>	<p>Trzeci filar strategii promuje przyjmowanie modeli biznesowych o obiegu zamkniętym poprzez zapewnianie wsparcia dla przedsiębiorczości o obiegu zamkniętym oraz zwiększanie wiedzy, zrozumienia i edukacji.</p>	<p>Strategia ma na celu zniwelowanie różnic społeczno-gospodarczych i zrównoważony wzrost gospodarczy.</p>	<p>Strategia promuje aktywny udział obywateli w praktykach związanych z obiegiem zamkniętym, takich jak recykling, tworzenie lokalnych możliwości zatrudnienia w branżach związanych z obiegiem zamkniętym oraz edukuje jednostki i społeczności w zakresie dokonywania zrównoważonych wyborów w ich codziennym życiu.</p>	<p>Strategia łączy elementy społeczne, takie jak współpraca, tworzenie miejsc pracy i edukacja, z szerszymi celami i wdrażaniem gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym.</p>	<p>Strategia in-progress zachęca do aktywnego udziału społeczności w recyklingu, naprawie i dzieleniu się, zapewnia dostępność dla wszystkich, tworzy lokalne miejsca pracy i umożliwia dokonywanie zrównoważonych wyborów poprzez edukację i świadomość.</p>	<p>Społeczne aspekty strategii odnoszą się do zwiększania wiedzy, świadomości, uczestnictwa i promują zatrudnienie i szkolenia.</p>
<b>PRZEDSIĘBIORSTWA SPOŁECZNE</b>	<p>Są one zgodne z definicją Komisji Europejskiej.</p>	<p>Muszą zatrudniać co najmniej 30% niepełnosprawnych lub wcześniej długotrwale bezrobotnych pracowników.</p>	<p>Formy prawne spełniające definicję operacyjną UE dotyczącą przedsiębiorstw społecznych obejmują spółdzielnie socjalne (SCE) i spółdzielnie socjalne z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością (KoISPE).</p>	<p>Są to podmioty prywatne prowadzące regularną działalność gospodarczą, działające na zasadzie non-profit i służące interesowi ogólnemu, obywatelskiemu, solidarnościowemu i społecznie korzystnemu.</p>	<p>Przestrzegają Kodeksu Przedsiębiorstw Społecznych, podkreślając zasadę "impact first", która obejmuje pięć podstawowych zasad ukazujących istotę przedsiębiorczości społecznej.</p>	<p>Działają one w różnych formach prawnych, takich jak spółdzielnie socjalne, stowarzyszenia, fundacje i spółki non-profit, i podlegają ustawie o ekonomii społecznej.</p>	<p>Są one uznawane za odrębny sektor na mocy ustawy o ekonomii społecznej nr 219 z 2015 r. i przybierają różne formy, w tym określone organizacje pozarządowe, spółki o specjalnym statusie i różne rodzaje spółdzielni.</p>	<p>Charakteryzują się one brakiem określonej formy prawnej i są uważane za szeroką kategorię w ramach ekonomii społecznej i trzeciego sektora.</p>

## 5.6 Romania

Proiectul Erasmus+ "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" reunește nouă organizații europene din Finlanda, Polonia, Țările de Jos, Belgia, Grecia, România, Italia și Spania pentru a iniția integrarea antreprenoriatului social și a principiilor economiei circulare în educația și formarea profesională (VET). Această inițiativă are ca scop promovarea inovării pentru o economie incluzivă și ecologică prin dezvoltarea unei rețele SCE și a unor cursuri online accesibile în diferite domenii VET.

Modelul economiei sociale circulare (SCE) pune accentul pe eliminarea poluării și a deșeurilor, pe circulația eficientă a materialelor și pe regenerarea naturii, în conformitate cu obiectivele de sustenabilitate ale UE. Prin integrarea principiilor antreprenoriatului social și ale economiei circulare în educația și formarea profesională, proiectul își propune să dezvolte o forță de muncă conștientă din punct de vedere social și ecologic, care să răspundă diverselor nevoi societale, de mediu și economice.

În conformitate cu politicile UE, cum ar fi Planul de Acțiune privind Economia Circulară și Green Deal-ul European, proiectul subliniază importanța tranzițiilor incluzive și a implicării părților interesate în promovarea inovării practicilor de business durabile. În plus, proiectul ia în considerare cadre precum GreenComp și Inner Development Goals (IDGs), care pun accentul pe alfabetizarea circulară și pe competențele suplimentare esențiale pentru tranziția ecologică. De asemenea, proiectul recunoaște importanța educației în avansarea economiei circulare (EC), reluând recomandările unor organizații precum Fundația Ellen MacArthur și Declarația de la Osnabrück privind educația și formarea profesională (VET).

Acest ghid este primul rezultat al proiectului și prezintă rezultatele unei cercetări aprofundate care a identificat aspectul social al economiei circulare și modul în care acesta poate fi legat de antreprenoriatul social și explorează rolul strategiilor naționale, al planurilor de acțiune și al Strategiei UE 2020 în punerea în practică a politicii UE pentru o economie durabilă și circulară. În plus, parteneriatul a explorat sistemele de educație și formare profesională din țările participante și modul în care acestea pot încorpora SCE, concentrându-se pe exemple și pe cele mai bune practici. În plus, este prezentat și un Canvas al metodei de educație și formare VET în economia Socială Circulară, împreună cu obiectivele platformei de e-learning (MOOC) privind economia socială circulară.

În general, proiectul și rezultatele sale contribuie în mod semnificativ la obiectivele Green Deal-ului European prin promovarea sustenabilității, a inovării și a incluziunii în educația și formarea profesională VET, deschizând calea pentru o forță de muncă mai responsabilă din punct de vedere ecologic și social.

# Tabel de Comparare

EDUCAȚIA ȘI FORMAREA PROFESIONALĂ – VET

	Belgia	Finlanda	Grecia	Țările de Jos	Polonia	Spania	Romania	Italia
Învățământ Obligatoriu	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Învățământ Formal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disponibil pentru Adulți	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Gratuit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formare continuă	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Formare inițială	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nivel EQF	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Durată	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Forma de învățământ	Cu normă întreagă Timp parțial În școală La locul de muncă Învățământ la distanță	Acord de formare Ucenicie Bazat pe muncă Formă duală	Cu normă întreagă În școală Practică la locul de muncă	În școală Practică la locul de muncă	În școală Practică la locul de muncă	În școală Practică La locul de muncă Modul de plasament la locul de muncă Dual VET	În școală Cursuri de seară Practică La locul de muncă Formă duală	În școală Practică La locul de muncă Auto-învățare Ucenicie
Certificare / Diploma	Examen Evaluări Certificat de calificare profesională	Fără examene finale Demonstrarea competențelor în cadrul învățării prin muncă Calificare cu număr de puncte de competență	Examen finale Diploma de absolvire a liceului profesional Certificat de absolvire a liceului profesional	Examen Diferite niveluri de diplome	Finalizarea programului Finalizarea cursurilor de pregătire pentru muncă Certificat de absolvire a școlii	Finalizarea programului Diplomă VET de bază	Examen finale Evaluare sumativă Certificat de calificare profesională	Examen finale Certificat de operator profesionist Diplomă de tehnician profesionist
Grup Țintă	Tânăr peste 14 ani Adulți	Tânăr Adulți Cursanți cu nevoi speciale	Tânăr peste 15 ani Adulți Cursanți cu nevoi speciale	Tânăr peste 16 ani	Tânăr peste 15ani	Tânăr peste 15 ani Adulți	Tânăr Adulți	Tânăr peste 14 ani

SCE-VET

# Strategii naționale de Economie Circulară și Antreprenariat Social

	BELGIA	FINLANDA	GRECIA	ITALIA	ȚĂRILE DE JOS	POLONIA	ROMANIA	SPANIA
<b>OBIECTIVE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducerea amprentei ecologice cu 30% până în 2030 prin inovare circulară</li> <li>Cooperare între partenerii financiari, cercetare, profit social, companii și guverne</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformarea economiei în conformitate cu economia circulară</li> <li>Contribuția la realizarea neutralității emisiilor de carbon până în 2035</li> <li>Cooperare între ministere, institute de cercetare, întreprinderi, sectoare de afaceri și administrații locale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realizarea unei economii circulare până în 2030, cu accent pe durabilitate, eficiență, inovare și guvernare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decarbonizare</li> <li>Reducerea emisiilor de gaze cu efect de seră</li> <li>Eficiența energetică</li> <li>Economie durabilă</li> <li>Bunăstare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realizarea unei economii complete circulare până în 2050</li> <li>Asigurarea faptului că impactul asupra mediului rămâne în limitele "limitelor planetare".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accent pe inovare</li> <li>O colaborare mai strânsă între industrie și știință</li> <li>Crearea unei piețe europene dedicate materiilor prime secundare</li> <li>Dezvoltarea sectorului serviciilor pentru a sprijini și susține economia circulară</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alinierea la Agenda 2030 a ONU pentru dezvoltare durabilă și la obiectivele UE în ceea ce privește aspectele economice, sociale și de mediu.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducerea materialelor de uz casnic.</li> <li>Reducerea deșeurilor.</li> <li>Promovarea reutilizării.</li> <li>Reducerea emisiilor de gaze cu efect de seră.</li> <li>Îmbunătățirea eficienței utilizării apei.</li> </ul>
<b>PUNCTE FORTE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sectoare cruciale</li> <li>Economie deschisă</li> <li>Locație centrală</li> <li>Cetățeni implicați</li> <li>Politică de susținere</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implicarea largă a părților interesate</li> <li>Implicarea cetățenilor</li> <li>Crearea de locuri de muncă</li> <li>Incluziune socială</li> <li>Servicii bazate pe comunitate</li> <li>Adaptarea locului de muncă</li> <li>Alegeri etice ale consumatorilor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producție și consum durabil</li> <li>Eficiența resurselor și gestionarea deșeurilor</li> <li>Modele de afaceri circulare</li> <li>Guvernare și monitorizare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Productivitatea resurselor</li> <li>Productivitatea energetică</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economie circulară prin prețuri, standarde și stimulente.</li> <li>Integrarea economiei circulare și a obiectivelor climatice.</li> <li>Trecerea măsurilor de la faza de lanț de aprovizionare la cea de utilizator.</li> <li>Raportul privind economia circulară integrală.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abordare colaborativă</li> <li>Document cuprinzător</li> <li>Accent pe durabilitate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abordare holistică</li> <li>Gestionarea deșeurilor</li> <li>Accent pe educație</li> <li>Schimbarea comportamentului</li> <li>Sprijin financiar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sectoare cheie</li> <li>400 de companii și organizații au aderat la Pactul privind economia circulară.</li> </ul>
<b>ECONOMIA SOCIAL CIRCULARĂ</b>	<p>Strategia investește în proiecte de includere a persoanelor aflate la distanță de piața muncii pentru a transforma organizațiile tradiționale în organizații circulare.</p>	<p>Strategia promovează ocuparea forței de muncă pentru populațiile vulnerabile, noi oportunități de afaceri în sectorul serviciilor sociale și de sănătate și satisfacerea nevoilor locale de servicii, stimulând dezvoltarea rurală.</p>	<p>Cel de-al treilea pilon al strategiei promovează adoptarea modelelor de afaceri circulare prin oferirea de sprijin pentru antreprenoriatul circular și prin consolidarea cunoștințelor, a înțelegerii și a educației.</p>	<p>Strategia are ca scop reducerea decalajelor socio-economice și o creștere economică echilibrată.</p>	<p>Strategia promovează participarea activă a cetățenilor la practicile circulare, cum ar fi reciclarea, crează oportunități locale de angajare în cadrul industriilor circulare și educă indivizii și comunitățile pentru a face alegeri durabile în viața de zi cu zi.</p>	<p>Strategia combină elemente sociale, cum ar fi cooperarea, crearea de locuri de muncă și educația, cu obiectivele mai largi și punerea în aplicare a economiei circulare.</p>	<p>Strategia în-progres încurajează participarea activă a comunității la reciclare, reparare și partajare, asigură accesibilitatea pentru toți, creează locuri de muncă la nivel local și încurajează alegerile durabile prin educație și conștientizare.</p>	<p>Aspectele sociale ale strategiei se referă la sporirea cunoștințelor, conștientizarea, participarea și promovarea ocupării forței de muncă și a formării profesionale.</p>
<b>ÎNTRPREINDERILE SOCIALE</b>	<p>Întreprinderile sociale s-au aliniat la definiția Comisiei Europene.</p>	<p>Acestea trebuie să aibă cel puțin 30% dintre angajați cu handicap sau șomeri de lungă durată.</p>	<p>Printre formele juridice care corespund definiției operaționale a UE privind întreprinderile sociale se numără întreprinderile cooperative sociale (SCE) și cooperativele sociale cu răspundere limitată (KoiSPE).</p>	<p>Acestea sunt entități private care desfășoară activități comerciale obișnuite, funcționează fără scop lucrativ și servesc interesul general, cauze civice, de solidaritate și de utilitate socială.</p>	<p>Acestea aderă la Codul întreprinderilor sociale, punând accentul pe principiul "impactul în primul rând", care cuprinde cinci principii fundamentale care demonstrează esența antreprenoriatului social.</p>	<p>Acestea funcționează sub diferite forme juridice, cum ar fi cooperativele sociale, asociațiile, fundațiile și companiile non-profit, și sunt reglementate de Legea privind economia socială.</p>	<p>Acestea sunt recunoscute ca un sector separat în temeiul Legii economiei sociale nr. 219 din 2015 și iau diferite forme, inclusiv ONG-uri specifice, societăți cu statut special și diferite tipuri de cooperative.</p>	<p>Acestea se caracterizează prin lipsa unei forme juridice specifice și sunt considerate o categorie largă în cadrul economiei sociale și al celui de-al treilea sector.</p>

## 5.7 Spain

El proyecto Erasmus+ "Anchoring Social Circular Economy Attitudes in VET (SCE - VET)" reúne a nueve organizaciones europeas de Finlandia, Polonia, Países Bajos, Bélgica, Grecia, Rumanía, Italia y España para ser pioneros en la integración del emprendimiento social y los principios de la economía circular en la educación y formación profesional (EFP). Esta iniciativa tiene como objetivo fomentar la innovación para una economía inclusiva y verde mediante el desarrollo de una red SCE y cursos en línea accesibles en diferentes campos de la FP.

El modelo de Economía Social Circular (ESC) hace hincapié en la eliminación de la contaminación y los residuos, la circulación eficiente de materiales y la regeneración de la naturaleza, en consonancia con los objetivos de sostenibilidad de la UE. Al integrar los principios del emprendimiento social y la economía circular en la FP, el proyecto pretende que el personal desarrolle una conciencia social y medioambiental que aborde diversas necesidades sociales, medioambientales y económicas.

En consonancia con las políticas de la UE, como el Plan de Acción de Economía Circular y el Pacto Verde Europeo, el proyecto hace hincapié en la importancia de las transiciones inclusivas y la participación de las partes interesadas en la promoción de la innovación para las prácticas empresariales sostenibles. Además, el proyecto tiene en cuenta marcos como GreenComp y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Interior (IDG), que hacen hincapié en la alfabetización circular y en las competencias adicionales esenciales para la transición ecológica. También reconoce la importancia de la educación en el avance de la Economía Circular (EC), haciéndose eco de las recomendaciones de organizaciones como la Fundación Ellen MacArthur y la Declaración de Osnabrück sobre la FP.

Esta guía es el primer resultado del proyecto y presenta los resultados de una investigación en profundidad que identificó el aspecto social de la EC y cómo puede vincularse al emprendimiento social, y explora el papel de las estrategias nacionales, los planes de acción y la Estrategia Europa 2020 a la hora de poner en práctica la política de la UE para una economía sostenible y circular. Además, la asociación exploró los sistemas de la FP de los países participantes y cómo pueden integrar la ECS, centrándose en escaparates y buenas prácticas. Por otra parte, también se presenta un canvas de métodos educativos de la FP social y circular junto con los objetivos de la plataforma de aprendizaje electrónico (MOOC) sobre economía social circular.

En general, el proyecto y sus resultados contribuyen significativamente a los objetivos del Pacto Verde Europeo mediante la promoción de la sostenibilidad, la innovación y la inclusión en la FP, facilitando el camino para conseguir un personal más responsable desde el punto de vista medioambiental y social.



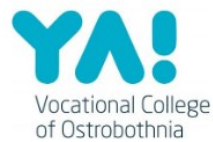
# TABLA COMPARATIVA

## EDUCACIÓN EN LA FORMACION PROFESIONAL

	Bélgica	Finlandia	Grecia	Países Bajos	Polonia	España	Rumania	Italia
Educación Obligatoria	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Educación Oficial	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disponible para adultos	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Gratuita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formación Profesional Continua	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Formación Profesional Básica	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nivel MEC (Marco Europeo de Cualificaciones)	1-4	4	4	1-4	2-3	1-4	3	3-4
Duración	1-3	3	3	1-4	2-3	2	3-4	1-5
Forma de aprendizaje	A tiempo completo A tiempo parcial En la escuela En el trabajo Aprendizaje a distancia	Acuerdo de formación Aprendizaje Basado en el trabajo Formación dual	A tiempo completo En la escuela Prácticas laborales	En la escuela Prácticas laborales	En la escuela Prácticas laborales	En la escuela En el trabajo Módulo de prácticas FP Dual	Clases diurnas Clases nocturnas En el trabajo Formación dual	En la escuela Prácticas laborales Autoaprendizaje Aprendizaje
Evaluaciones/ Diplomas	Exámenes Evaluaciones Certificado de cualificación profesional	Sin exámenes finales Demostración de competencias en el aprendizaje basado en el trabajo Cualificación con número de puntos de competencia	Exámenes finales Título de formación profesional de segundo ciclo de secundaria Bachillerato profesional	Exámenes Varios niveles de diplomas	Finalización del programa Finalización de las clases de preparación para el trabajo Certificado de fin de estudios	Finalización del programa Título de FP Básica	Exámenes finales Evaluación sumativa Certificado de cualificación profesional	Exámenes finales Certificado de operador profesional Diploma de técnico profesional
Grupo Objetivo	Jóvenes mayores de 14 años Adultos	Jóvenes Adultos Alumnos con necesidades especiales	Jóvenes mayores de 15 años Adultos Alumnos con necesidades especiales	Jóvenes mayores de 16 años	Jóvenes de más de 15 años	Jóvenes de más de 15 años Adultos	Jóvenes Adultos	Jóvenes mayores de 14 años

# Estrategias nacionales de economía circular y emprendimiento social

	BELGICA	FINLANDIA	GRECIA	ITALIA	PAISES BAJOS	POLONIA	RUMANIA	ESPAÑA
OBJETIVOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducción de la huella ecológica en un 30% para 2030 mediante la innovación circular</li> <li>Cooperación entre socios financieros, investigación, beneficio social, empresas y gobierno</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformación de la economía en línea con la economía circular</li> <li>Contribución al logro de la neutralidad de carbono para 2035</li> <li>Cooperación entre ministerios, institutos de investigación, empresas, sectores empresariales y gobiernos locales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consecución de una economía circular para 2030, centrada en la sostenibilidad, la eficiencia, la innovación y la gobernanza</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Descarbonización</li> <li>Reducción de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero</li> <li>Eficiencia energética</li> <li>Economía sostenible</li> <li>Bienestar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lograr una economía totalmente circular para 2050</li> <li>Garantizar que el impacto medioambiental se mantiene dentro de los "límites planetarios".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centrarse en la innovación</li> <li>Mayor colaboración entre la industria y la ciencia</li> <li>Establecimiento de un mercado europeo dedicado a las materias primas secundarias</li> <li>Desarrollo del sector servicios para apoyar y sostener la economía circular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alineación con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la ONU y los objetivos de la UE en aspectos económicos, sociales y medioambientales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducir el material doméstico.</li> <li>Reducir los residuos.</li> <li>Fomentar la reutilización.</li> <li>Reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero.</li> <li>Aumentar la eficiencia en el uso del agua.</li> </ul>
PUNTOS FUERTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sectores cruciales</li> <li>Economía abierta</li> <li>Ubicación central</li> <li>Ciudadanos comprometidos</li> <li>Política de apoyo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amplia participación de las partes interesadas</li> <li>Participación ciudadana</li> <li>Creación de empleo</li> <li>Inclusión social</li> <li>Servicios comunitarios</li> <li>Adaptación del lugar de trabajo</li> <li>Elecciones éticas de los consumidores.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producción y consumo sostenibles</li> <li>Eficiencia de los recursos y gestión de residuos</li> <li>Modelos empresariales circulares</li> <li>Gobernanza y supervisión</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Productividad de los recursos</li> <li>Productividad energética</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economía circular mediante precios, normas e incentivos.</li> <li>Integración de la economía circular y los objetivos climáticos.</li> <li>Traslado de las medidas de la cadena de suministro a la fase de usuario.</li> <li>Informe sobre la economía circular integral.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enfoque colaborativo</li> <li>Documento exhaustivo</li> <li>Enfoque de sostenibilidad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enfoque holístico</li> <li>Gestión de residuos</li> <li>Énfasis en la educación</li> <li>Cambio de comportamiento</li> <li>Apoyo financiero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sectores clave</li> <li>400 empresas y organizaciones se han adherido al Pacto por una Economía Circular.</li> </ul>
ECONOMIA SOCIAL Y CIRCULAR	La estrategia invierte en proyectos de inclusión de personas alejadas del mercado laboral para transformar las organizaciones tradicionales en organizaciones circulares.	La estrategia promueve el empleo para las poblaciones vulnerables, nuevas oportunidades de negocio en el sector sanitario y de servicios sociales y satisfacer las necesidades de servicios locales, estimular el desarrollo rural.	El tercer pilar de la estrategia promueve la adopción de modelos empresariales circulares mediante el apoyo a la iniciativa empresarial circular y la mejora del conocimiento, la comprensión y la educación.	La estrategia pretende salvar las diferencias socioeconómicas y lograr un crecimiento económico equilibrado.	La estrategia promueve la participación activa de los ciudadanos en prácticas circulares como el reciclaje, crea oportunidades de empleo local en industrias circulares y educa a las personas y las comunidades para que tomen decisiones sostenibles en su vida cotidiana.	La estrategia combina elementos sociales como la cooperación, la creación de empleo y la educación con los objetivos más amplios y la aplicación de la economía circular.	La estrategia fomenta la participación activa de la comunidad en el reciclaje, la reparación y el reparto, garantiza la accesibilidad para todos, crea empleo local y potencia las opciones sostenibles mediante la educación y la concienciación.	Los aspectos sociales de la estrategia se refieren a la mejora del conocimiento, la concienciación y la participación, y fomentan el empleo y la formación.
EMPRESAS SOCIALES	Se ajustaron a la definición de la Comisión Europea.	Deben tener al menos un 30% de empleados discapacitados o desempleados de larga duración.	Entre las formas jurídicas que cumplen la definición operativa de la UE sobre las empresas sociales figuran las empresas cooperativas sociales (SCE) y las cooperativas sociales de responsabilidad limitada (KoiSPE).	Son entidades privadas que ejercen una actividad empresarial regular, sin ánimo de lucro, al servicio de causas de interés general, cívicas, solidarias y de beneficio social.	Se adhieren al Código de las Empresas Sociales, haciendo hincapié en el principio de "el impacto primero", que comprende cinco principios fundamentales que demuestran la esencia de la iniciativa empresarial social.	Operan bajo diversas formas jurídicas, como cooperativas sociales, asociaciones, fundaciones y empresas sin ánimo de lucro, y se rigen por la Ley de Economía Social.	Están reconocidas como un sector independiente en virtud de la Ley de Economía Social nº 219 de 2015 y adoptan diferentes formas, como ONG específicas, empresas con estatuto especial y distintos tipos de cooperativas.	Se caracterizan por carecer de una forma jurídica específica y se consideran una categoría amplia dentro de la economía social y el tercer sector.



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