

# Environmental change

Environmental change in European start-uppers thinking and acting – the solution for common sustainable development

NEWSLETTER 4 – November/2022

## The first project result is now available

VET providers can consult the environmental syllabus at the project's website

The environmental syllabus for VET providers is now available and can be downloaded through the project's website, at [www.environmentalchange.erasmus.site/io1/](http://www.environmentalchange.erasmus.site/io1/). It is available as Open Educational Resource (OER).

This result contributes to the upskilling of VET providers in the environmental and sustainability areas by defining the objectives, learning outcomes, evaluation methods and learning resources in six key areas that aim at strengthening start-uppers sustainable competitiveness.

## The final countdown

Environmental Change partners got together for the last time in October 2022 in Maribor, Slovenia. The meeting focused on closing the project's activities and discussing its results' exploitation possibilities for each partner.

## Reaching out to start-uppers and VET providers

Between October and November, project partners organised local events, reaching out to more than 200 start-uppers and VET providers.

These events – which were held in Greece, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain – had as main goal the presentation of the project's results to promote their exploitation among Environmental Change target groups.



Online environmental syllabus for VET providers

Easy to consult and download as PDF

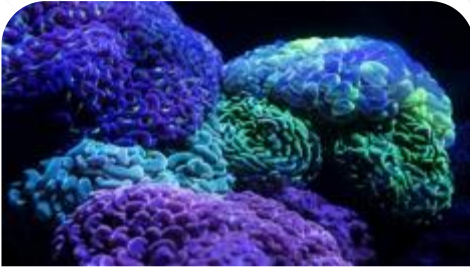
Developing environmental competences



[www.environmentalchange.erasmus.site](http://www.environmentalchange.erasmus.site)



[www.facebook.com/environmentalchangeproject](https://www.facebook.com/environmentalchangeproject)



## Circular economy

What is the idea of the circular economy? The Environmental Change project provides information to SMEs about the diverse and unique circular business models that companies around the globe have already established.

### The way forward

Entering circular economy and the adaptation of circular business models as an alternative to the traditional linear economy is the key to fight climate change. Businesses should make the shift towards a more sustainable approach while there is still time to save our planet.

### The right tools

Life cycle thinking is a powerful tool to support a company's process towards adopting a sustainable business model, but it must be used the right way to reduce resource consumption and improve product performance.

However, creating a circular business model is challenging and taking the wrong approach can be expensive. To better understand circular economy, it is crucial to know the linear economy first.

A linear economy traditionally follows the "take-make-dispose" plan. This means that the economic system works by producing and selling as many products as possible. On the other hand, the circular economy follows the "reduce – reuse – recycle" plan. A circular economy is an economic system of closed loops in which raw materials, components and products lose their value as little as possible, renewable energy sources are used, and systems thinking is at the core.

## Life cycle thinking can save the world

Our current business models and everyday lifestyle have a great negative impact on nature and communities. Since their consequences are already a dangerous reality, we need fast cross-sectoral changes.

Life cycle thinking (LCT) is a useful approach to combat our challenges. It focuses on the entire supply chain of a product, from cradle to grave, considering all the important impact on the economy, the environment, and the society. By assessing the impact of a product on the world, businesses can adjust their products to be more sustainable.

Properly applied, LCT can benefit companies, citizens, and governments. Some of the benefits can be noticed in occupational health and safety, improved image and brand value, reduced costs along the whole supply chain, technological and social innovations, as well as new and more productive partnerships and collaborations.

## PARTNERSHIP

