

Circular Innovation and Resilient City Labs in the Adrion Region

WORK PACKAGE T1

DELIVERABLE

**Design of a joint model for the development
and operation of CIRCLabs**

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Summary

The circular economy concept is widely promoted by the European policy framework and this is unambiguously depicted in the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) which was adopted on 2020. The CEAP emphasises on the value chains utilizing resources with a high potential for circularity and focuses on the waste sector through the promotion of enhanced waste policy to strengthen waste prevention and circularity as well as through the creation of a well-defined secondary raw materials EU market.

The CIRCLE project aims at increasing and spreading knowledge on practical viability of circular economy principles, through a collaborative approach involving innovation producers business actors, administrative and financial organisations as well as civil society within urban areas, where biggest amount of waste is produced and simultaneously innovative circular business models can be implemented. In this framework Circular Innovation Resilient Cities Labs (CIRCLabs) are going to be developed within the project. **The aim of the present Deliverable is to design a Joint Model for the development and operation of the CIRCLabs.**

In the context of the CIRCLE project, CIRCLab is described as *an interactive physical or online space where circular business models in the field of waste management are implemented by involvement and collaboration of different stakeholders*. The five main principles under which the CIRCLab will operate include **I.** Investigate new circular business models, **II.** Open character of the lab, **III.** Real-life context, **IV.** Collaborative context and **V.** Raise public awareness and promote the participation of citizens.

The methodology for the development and operation of the CIRCLabs is based on *the “plan-do-study/check-act” framework* which is widely used in business project planning while at the same time it is adjusted to the principles and the overall scope of the project and the CIRCLab operation. In particular, the proposed methodology is structured upon three main phases. **Phase I CIRCLab Identity – Strategy Formulation:** The first phase focuses on the identification of the main goal of the CIRCLab and the formulation of its objectives. Furthermore, during this phase the stakeholder analysis is proposed to be conducted as well as the exploration and conceptualization of the new circular business model of the lab. **Phase II CIRCLab Planning and Implementing Activities:** The second phase focuses on the development and operationalization of the CIRCLab. In this phase the activities of the lab will be defined as well as other details such as where, who, when etc. Finally, in this phase planned activities will be put into action. **Phase III CIRCLab Monitoring and Reviewing:** The aim of this phase is to monitor the progress of the implemented actions as well as the organizational structure and the responsibilities assigned, through an indicator-based-monitoring-system.

Supportive tools are presented and proposed for each step in order to help the CIRCLab team to put them into practice.

Finally, in the context of the CIRCLabs’ operation high quality educational services and training sessions will be implemented to foster knowledge as an integral part for the support of the labs’ Managers. The main sections that will be included in the training sessions are the **circular economy framework**, the emerging **circular business models** and their application and last but not least **communication and networking skills**.