

Trifold approach to circular economy: perspectives of academia, business and wider society

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Circular Economy is a viable and promising alternative to the currently prevailing linear economic system. The fact of having a world with finite resources involves the need to adopt a sustainable economic system where sustainable processes must be prioritized. Therefore, in this context of finite resources, Circular Economy seeks economic growth only if achieved in a sustainable way by keeping resources within closed cycles as long as possible.

In this regard, the project is aimed to explore the aspects of circular economy and sustainable entrepreneurship in detail and in various aspects – students, academic staff, business people, and society activists. The project will suggest visualized summary brochures on the main identified challenges.

The general project objective is to present implications and introduce solutions to circular economy challenges in an adapted way bringing together students from various social categories with a focus on those who are discouraged and lagging behind their peers. This will be done by providing training materials and organizing a series of matching activities and joint workshops.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Exploring the components of circular economy from teachers' perspective
- Exploring the components of circular economy from students' perspective
- Exploring circular economy challenges to business and wider society

Project participants are:

- D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics - Bulgaria;
- Universitatea ARTIFEX din București - Romania;
- Istanbul esenyurt university - Turkey;
- University of Niš - Serbia.

More about the project at: <https://circlecon.eu/>

The first workshop of the Erasmus+ project CRCLEcon

As part of the first work package of the **Erasmus+ KA220-HED "Trifold approach to circular economy: perspectives of academia, business and wider society", 2022-1-BG01-KA220-HED-000085464**, the first workshop was held in the conference center in the National Park Central Balkan in Bulgaria from April 30 to May 2, 2023. The participants of the workshop were representatives of four partner universities - D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics Svishtov, ARTIFEX University Bucharest, Istanbul Esenyurt Üniversitesi and University of Niš. The workshop was organized by the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, the leading organization on this project, headed by Prof. Dr. Andrey Zahariev, project leader. This is the first in a series of workshops that will be held during the two-year duration of the project.

After the presentation of partner institutions and their teams, during the three-day seminar, current topics in the field of circular economy were discussed, a comprehensive overview of existing educational programs in circular economy was given and the approaches used in teaching were analyzed. During the active discussion on the topic of introducing the circular economy in education and brainstorming sessions, the topics and expected results of the project were defined. After the introductory lectures and presentations on the need for the fastest possible transition to the principles of circular economy, the last day of the workshop was dedicated to the discussion of the structure of the Reference Book on Circular Economy for Teachers, which will be the result of the first work package of the project, and the selection of author teams for each chapter of the book. In addition, the main result of the three-day workshop was the development of a plan for all phases of the project. At the end of the seminar, Prof. Dr. Andrey Zahariev awarded all participants certificates of participation.



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