

CircularCityChallenge

Creating a Next Generation Participatory Contest for Young People to integrate Circularity in School Curricula

SYNYO GmbH

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The purpose of CircularCityChallenge project

The CircularCityChallenge project started in May 2022. It is funded by ERA-NET Urban Transformation capacities from EU H2020 research and innovation program in order to:

- create a curriculum for high school students about sustainability and circular economy,
- pilot the contest-based curricula, and
- connect students with local policymakers.



The purpose of CircularCityChallenge project



Why do we do this?

Imbalances persist between the skills offered and the skills needed for the green transition. This skills mismatch is identified as an obstacle to the greening of the economy in 21 of 27 countries surveyed.*

18 million

more jobs will result from implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change & a shift to a greener economy goal by 2030. 24 million jobs will be created and 6 million will be lost in this transition.*

1.2 billion

jobs globally depend on a stable and healthy environment. Industries like agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, as well as tourism and pharmaceuticals, depend on natural environmental processes.*

The challenge

How to create relevant curricula on sustainability and circular economy within various needs and constraints?



CircularCityChallenge: the approach

Teaching about sustainability issues and circular economy through systems thinking lens



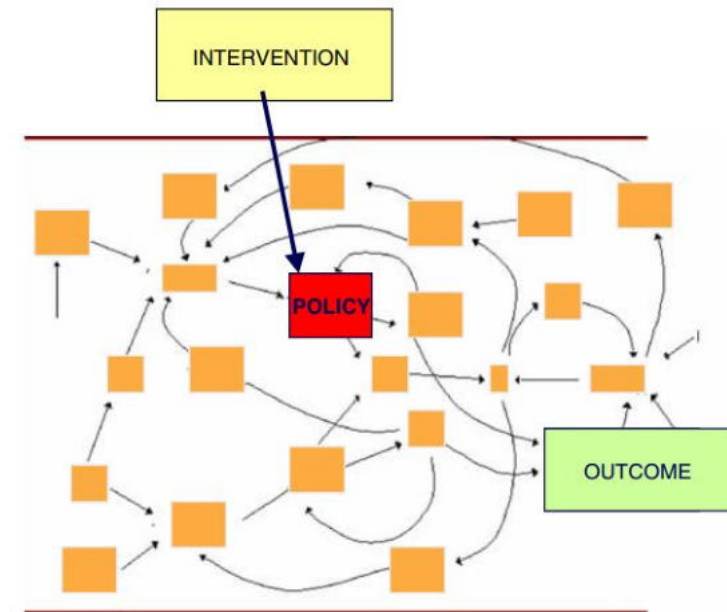
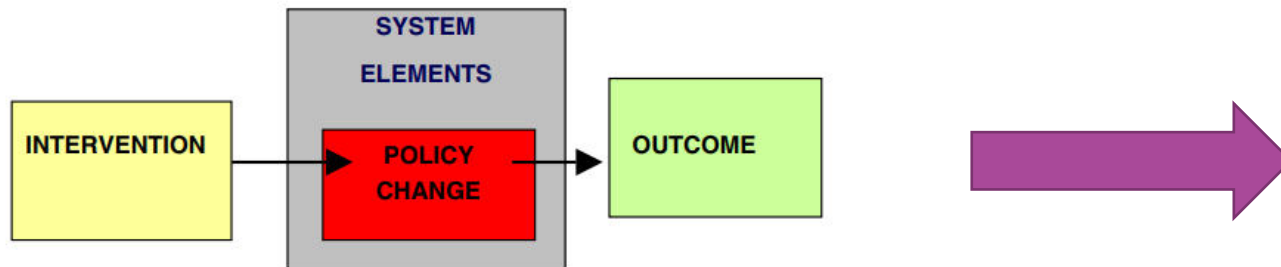
systems thinking + inquiry-based learning + contest

CircularCityChallenge: the approach

Teaching about sustainability issues and circular economy through systems thinking lens

System thinking is a powerful skill that can help students understand how different parts of a system interact with each other and how they can work together for meaningful environmental action.*

This skill will help students to become better problem solvers, critical thinkers, and decision-makers.



* Graefe, Abigail Noble. "Assessing the potential benefits of learning about environmental issues through a systems thinking pedagogy." (2010).

CircularCityChallenge: the approach

Teaching about sustainability issues and circular economy through systems thinking lens

Inquiry-based learning allows schools and teachers to easily lead students through complex sustainability issues more effectively, without the need for extensive sustainability knowledge.

The **CCC platform** will provide comprehensible and ready-to-use educational toolkits.



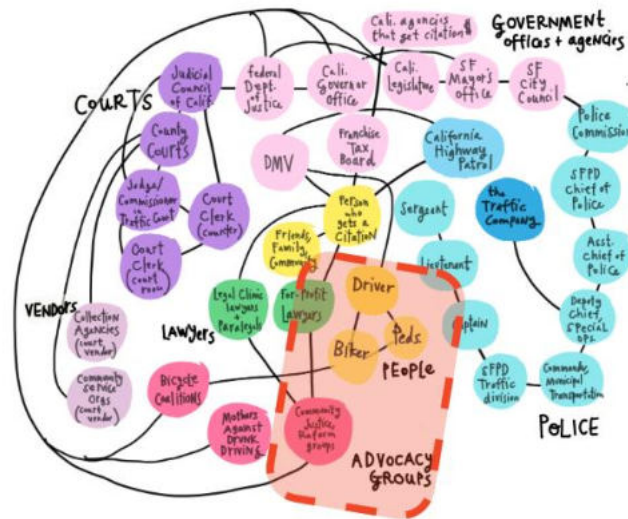
CircularCityChallenge: the approach

The CircularCityChallenge pilot contest

Through a pilot **participatory contest**, CCC amplifies the perspective of the young.

CCC will equip them with the tools to identify local challenges, to find their own impact, to connect with relevant stakeholders and spread their ideas beyond school boundaries.

Stakeholder Map for the Traffic Citation System



STEP 1

IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGE

Find a circular challenge in your city and organise your team of three students

STEP 2

FIND YOUR IMPACT

Observe and map the system around your challenge

STEP 3

ENVISION CIRCULAR FUTURES

Find a better way! Rewrite the rules!

STEP 4

DEVELOP YOUR INTERVENTION – ACTION/PLAN

Design and test your circular idea

STEP 5

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Tell us your story & submit!

CircularCityChallenge: the approach

The CircularCityChallenge pilot contest

STEP 6

AWARD CEREMONY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH INTERNATIONAL JURY
Vienna, October 2024.



Flexible concept

problem-based learning

cross-subject collaboration within the school

science fairs

Project Weeks

Green Weeks

after-school activities

homework

Summer schools workshops

seminars

Relevant students' competencies

systems thinking

critical thinking

creativity

problem-solving

communication

collaboration

learning about sustainability and circular economy

social responsibility

information about the green jobs industry career opportunities

Support for teachers

handbooks and tools for teaching topics on the circular economy

learning outcomes in line with national requirements
information about the green jobs industry and career opportunities in the next 10 years

JOIN US!



Pilot contest duration: September 2023 – July 2024
Impact: 100 schools, 20 city level policymakers, 8 countries

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<https://project.circularcitychallenge.eu/>

