

CircularCityChallenge

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

SYNYO GmbH

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Vienna, Austria | 23–28 April 2023 EGU23 week











"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning



is project is part of the ERA-NET Urban Transformation bacHtes which has mocived funding from the European Unicon's 020 revearts and inecession program under grant agreement 101003758 (FFG grant agreement No. 42073329)



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





Erapen Commission

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?



I want my ideas on how to make society better to be heard.

> I want to put my effort into relevant issues. I need to understand what are my future job opportunities in the green industry.

I need good circular economy policies because they offer businesses and the government a clear opportunity for long- I'm not an expert in term growth. circular economy nor sustainability, how

can I teach that?

Although I want to my students prepare for work and their role in society, I'm overburdened with existing curricula and don't have time for additional work.

> I need future employees to know about the circular economy because it has the potential to unlock billions in economic growth and play a key role in protecting our planet.

We should teach models of production and consumption that involve circulating existing materials and products for as long as

ENTERPRENOUR



EXPERT

STUDENT

POLICY MAKER



Teaching about sustainability issues and circular economy through systems thinking lens



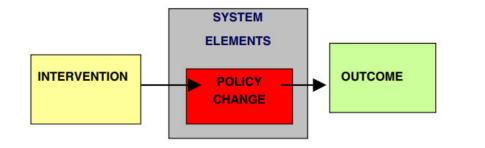


systems thinking + inquiry-based learning + contest

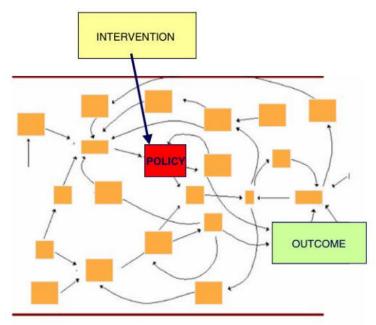
Teaching about sustainability issues and circular economy through systems thinking lens

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).



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.



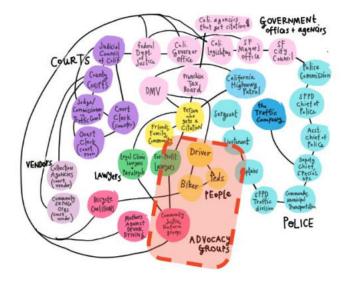


The CircularCityChallenge pilot contest

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!



The CircularCityChallenge pilot contest

STEP 6 AWARD CEREMONY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH INTERNATIONAL JURY Vienna, October 2024.





CircularCityChallenge: outcomes

Flexible concept

problem-based learning cross-subject collaboration within the school science fairs

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 Project Weeks Green Weeks after-school activities homework Summer schools workshops seminars

Support for teachers

handbooks and tools for teching 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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