



DELIVERABLE 7.2

**Report describing the plans for
coordination with the broader
research community and projects
working on related research
questions**

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CircEULAR

Developing circular pathways for a EU low-carbon transition

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Executive Summary

This deliverable outlines the plan for coordination and generating synergies of activities in the **CircEular** project with the wider research community in the area of climate change mitigation and circular economy. In addition, plans for coordination with related projects funded under the same call **HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01-02 – CIRCOMOD**, and **CO2NSTRUCT** are described. This document provides a broader scope of the activities related to this task whereas a more detailed, elaborated plan of activities will be provided in the deliverable **D1.5: Dissemination, communication, and exploitation plan**.

Keywords

Coordination, Synergies, Collaboration



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Abbreviations (alphabetical)

BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
CircEULAR	Developing circular pathways for an EU low-carbon transition
CIRCOMOD	Circular Economy Modelling for Climate Change Mitigation
CO2NSTRUCT	Modelling the role of circular economy construction value chains for a carbon-neutral Europe
CMCC	Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici
D#	Deliverable# (of the project)
EDITS	Energy Demand changes Induced by Technological and Social innovations
EU	European Union
IAM(s)	Integrated Assessment Model(s)
IAMC	Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JRC	Joint Research Centre (of the European Commission)
M#	Month# (of the project)
MCC	Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PIK	The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
RITE	Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WP	Work Package



Report describing the plans for coordination with the broader research community and projects working on related research questions

1. Introduction

Beyond collaborating with a number of key stakeholders from public policy, industry and business, CircEULAR aims at coordinating its research activities with the wider research community and specifically also with its sister projects – CIRCOMOD and CO2NSTRUCT – funded under the same call for proposals HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01-02.

Section 2 of this deliverable outlines the plan for coordination and synergies among related projects under the same call – CircEULAR, CIRCOMOD, and CO2NSTRUCT. Following preliminary discussions with the other two consortia, some joint-activities include:

- Regular information sharing on the progress of each project,
- Joint participation in European Commission events to promote the outputs of the projects,
- Alignment of activities when possible, especially dissemination and communication activities (i.e. joint policy recommendations) and meetings,
- Exchange and consolidation of results when relevant,
- Consideration of other relevant EU projects and initiatives,
- Possible joint stakeholder meetings, if relevant.

Section 3 then moves on to describing efforts to coordinate and generate synergies with the wider research community. Here three important channels of exchange and collaboration have been identified:

- Specific collaboration activities with individual researchers and institutions, in particular with so-called *external partners* of CircEULAR that associate closely with the project,
- CircEULAR researchers engaging in networking and community activities, for example under the EDITS initiative or the IAMC,
- Traditional outreach activities at scientific conferences and workshops to generate visibility for CircEULAR activities.

This document provides a broader scope of the activities related to this task whereas a more detailed, elaborated plan of activities will be provided in the Deliverable D1.5: Dissemination, communication, and exploitation plan. With Deliverable D1.5 getting updated at the periodic reporting intervals (M18, M36, M48), also the adjustments of plans for coordination and generating synergies with the broader research community will be reported on as part of this plan.

2. Plan for Coordination and Synergies-Related Projects funded under the same topic HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01

The coordinators of the three sister projects funded under the same call – CircEULAR, CIRCOMOD, and CO2NSTRUCT – are in communication and have created a joint email list to keep each other informed on each project's activities. Several discussions among project coordinators have already taken place about proposed coordination and synergies which fall into three broader categories, (i)



Stakeholder dialogues, outreach and dissemination, (ii) Joint research framework development and data dissemination, and (iii) Internal communication. These are described in the sections below:

Stakeholder dialogues, outreach and dissemination

- Organizing joint stakeholder workshops, if possible according to the different timelines of the projects, along common themes as proposed in CircEULAR (mobility, households, digitalization etc). Communication and shared collaboration between the three projects' lead outreach/stakeholder partners T6 (CircEULAR), Tilburg University (CIRCOMOD), SystemIQ (CIRCOMOD) and CRES (CO2NSTRUCT).
- Jointly organize a joint-circular economy session/workshop at conferences (e.g., IAMC)/side events at for example the COP, or public events such as the Vienna Biennale.
- Develop joint communication channels for external outreach such as organisation of joint meetings to establish a strong platform of regular communication.
- Clustering outreach activities, e.g., common campaign about activities and results in the interest of stakeholders or a wider public. One example is a common session at the European Week of Regions and Cities; or a common activity for the Green Week.

Joint research framework development and data dissemination

- Collaborate in the development of cross-country survey quantifying behavioural change/plasticity, if the respective partners in charge find an alignment on the scope and methodology for the survey.
- Include CIRCOMOD and CircEULAR model teams to ongoing model comparison work on for example buildings in the projects SHAPE and NAVIGATE .
- Sharing the burden of data collection.
- Creation of Zenodo profiles for all three projects.
- Developing joint modelling and analytical frameworks across the projects.
- Collectively upload project scenarios to the IIASA Scenario Explorer.

Internal communication

- Organizing back-to-back consortium meetings with the concrete proposal for a joint next consortium meeting between CircEULAR and CIRCOMOD in April at CMCC (see details below).
- Develop channels for internal communication such as a joint SharePoint folder, and eventually the development of a SharePoint subsite where all three projects can share publications, materials, etc.

The coordinators will assist with the organization of joint meetings each year for information exchange between projects depending on relevance. In between these meetings, brief conference calls are planned between the project coordinators approximately every three to four months. A first physical joint meeting is planned to take place in Venice, Italy between the CircEULAR and CIRCOMOD consortia from April 17-19, 2023. This event will provide a chance for in-depth introductions among project coordinators and an exchange of knowledge about project goals and plans.

In addition, coordinators and partners of each project have their own networks of contacts, and efforts are planned to leverage these networks among projects for synergistic purposes. The agreed upon process for leveraging stakeholder networks is that each project will first contact their own networks to determine who is interested in participating in that project. These contacts could



then be invited to joint outreach and capacity building events or to events held by the related projects.

In addition, CircEULAR will contribute to networking activities of the related projects in Clusters 4 (Digital, Industry and Space) and 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) to generate synergies and to maximise the impact of all projects.

3. Plan for Coordination and Synergies-Other relevant projects and initiatives

The coordination with the wider research community in CircEULAR rests upon three pillars, (i) specific collaboration opportunities with individual researchers and institutions such as the ones emerging from the discussions with the sister projects (see Section 2) but also other institutions that opt to become *external partners* of CircEULAR, (ii) CircEULAR researchers engaging in networking and community activities, for example under the EDITS initiative or the IAMC, and (iii) traditional outreach activities at scientific conferences and workshops to generate visibility for CircEULAR activities, thereby opening doors for collaboration with other research projects and initiatives. The sections below describe the different activities planned within CircEULAR, partly in collaboration with the sister projects.

External partners

In addition to the consortium and the associated partners the formally submitted the project proposal, already at the proposal preparation stage, CircEULAR involved research institutions that were not able to become a formal part of the consortium but had an interest in contributing to CircEULAR's research agenda. These *external partners* that were involved from the start of the proposal preparation include the OECD's International Transport Forum (ITF) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, both of which provided support letters at the proposal preparation stage.

The list of external partners has been expanded since then with the Mobility and Energy Transitions Analysis (META) Group at Oak Ridge National Laboratories, USA, indicating interest in collaborating with the CircEULAR consortium.

All external partners have the possibility to get involved in project meetings and activities of the CircEULAR consortium and participated virtually in the kick-off meeting in September 2022.

EDITS network

Collaboration with the *Energy Demand changes Induced by Technological and Social innovations* (EDITS) network¹, jointly coordinated by IIASA and RITE in Japan, offers an opportunity to coordinate with the wider research community, including many non-EU institutions, on the research agenda relevant for CircEULAR. The EDITS network brings together experts of various disciplines to regularly discuss about and engage in the multi-faceted energy demand research. The EDITS community works together based on common interest in interlinked topics, on transferring methodological knowledge, and on exploring modelling innovations across demand-side models. With the CircEULAR project also having demand side and service provision focus with emphasis in the three focus areas, this makes EDITS an ideal partner for collaboration.

¹ <https://iiasa.ac.at/projects/edits>



The aim of the experts and researchers forming the EDITS network is to identify gaps and potentials to enhance modelling, analysing, and communicating the demand-side solutions for climate mitigation and the SDGs which CircEULAR can benefit from. At the same time, EDITS is primarily a network that focuses on coordination and dialogue, with only limited resources dedicated to conducting original research. CircEULAR in turn has resources for conducting original research which, when shared and coordinated with the broader research community can lead to synergies and increase the visibility and impacts of the project.

Many of the research institutions involved in CircEULAR are also partners of the EDITS network and key researchers in CircEULAR also coordinate activities in EDITS. From the institutional perspective, the CircEULAR partners – including associated and external partners – IIASA, BOKU, CMCC, MCC, University of Groningen, University of Oxford, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory are members of the EDITS networks¹.

Regarding the role of individual researchers in CircEULAR, Bas van Ruijven (IIASA) is the overall coordinator of the EDITS network. Dominik Wiedenhofer (BOKU) who is leader of WP2 is a co-chair of the EDITS Industry working group and Alessio Mastrucci (IIASA) who is the leading buildings modeler at IIASA and in this capacity contributing to CircEULAR, is a co-chair of the EDITS Buildings working group.

Finally, with several of the researchers (e.g., Oreane Edelenbosch, Stefan Pauliuk) and institutions (e.g., Utrecht University, University of Freiburg) from the CIRCOMOD project consortium also being part of the EDITS network, the partnership with EDITS can also help increasing the collaboration across sister projects.

Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium (IAMC)

With the goal of CircEULAR to generate circular economy-driven net-zero pathways, the integrated assessment modelling community is a relevant research community to coordinate and collaborate with in CircEULAR. The community organizes itself in the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium (IAMC) that is central to sharing information within the community and coordinate research efforts of broader relevance to the community. Multiple mechanisms are suitable for coordination with the research community under the umbrella of IAMC, including (i) sharing information on ongoing research in presentations at the annual meeting, (ii) co-organizing parallel sessions at the annual meeting on relevant research topics, and (iii) engaging in the IAMC scientific working groups.

At the 15th IAMC annual meeting in 2022 at the University of Maryland², CircEULAR was represented, along with the sister project CIRCOMOD and eleven other activities, in the session on community projects that allows bringing new and ongoing activities to the attention of the wider research community. In addition, researchers from the CircEULAR and CIRCOMOD consortia have, for the first time, co-organized a parallel session on circular economy at the IAMC annual meeting.

The IAMC annual meeting will in the future also be an important venue for presenting results of CircEULAR, in particular those related to developing climate change mitigation pathways with a circular economy focus. Building on the successful circular economy session in 2022, the involved researchers from CircEULAR and CIRCOMOD are planning to also co-organize a session on the same topic at the IAMC annual meeting in 2023 which will also provide an incentive for the consortia to submit abstracts for presentation at the meeting.

² <https://www.iamconsortium.org/event/fifteenth-iamc-annual-meeting-2022/>



The growing interest in and research on circular economy strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions also requires expanding the collection of data about this dimension as part of transformation pathways. In the context of the IAM community this means expanding and revising the standardized data template³ that is used to collect pathway data when comparing models and in the last two cycles of the Special Reports and Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Getting involved in the activities of the IAMC Scientific Working Group on Data Protocols and Management will ensure that the needs of the CircEular project get picked up when defining community standards and at the same time help the community to make progress on reporting information relevant for the evaluation of circular economy strategies in the context of climate change mitigation.

³ <https://www.iamconsortium.org/scientific-working-groups/data-protocols-and-management/iamc-time-series-data-template/>

For more information:

<http://circeular.org>



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