DELIVERABLE 4.2

Guide for circular consumption biographical interviews

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Statement of originality

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CircEUlar

Developing circular pathways for a EU low-carbon transition

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1	03.08.2023	Eoin Grealis, Henrike Rau	First draft	n/a
2	29.08.2023	Eoin Grealis, Henrike Rau	Second draft	Revised based on internal review comments
2.1			Revised final version	Revised based on feedback from EU Project Officer.

Executive Summary

This document provides a set of guidelines for conducting a qualitative investigation of Circular Consumption Practices (CCPs) based on semi-structured interviews following the conceptual framework outlined in *Grealis, E. & Rau, H., (2023) Circular Consumption conceptual framework and research design (CircEUlar Deliverable 4.1)*

The investigation focuses primarily on (i) past and current engagement in CCPs, (ii) life events and socio-economic circumstances that impact the adoption of CCPs, and (iii) considerations concerning future engagement in CCPs. Adopting a retrospective approach to biographical interviewing facilitates the collection of longitudinal qualitative data at one point in time (cf. (Jaeger-Erben 2013, Müggenburg, 2021)). Importantly, the interviews focus on CCPs in CircEUlar's three Focus Areas (FAs): FA1 - Mobility, FA2 - Buildings and household services, and FA3 - Digitalisation.

While respondents will be given the opportunity to expand on their personal narrative histories of engagement in selected CCPs, a semi-structured approach to interviewing was chosen to balance the need for structure, focus (i.e., on 'promising practices') and semantic equivalence[1] across countries with the benefits of maintaining high flexibility to respond to interviewees' contributions.

The latter will likely be particularly important in terms of CCPs that have not been identified previously. The interviews will feed into the investigative framing for the nationally representative surveys (CircEUlar deliverable D4.3) assessing survey participants' willingness to engage in certain CCPs under certain circumstances across the three FAs mentioned previously.

Keywords

Circular Consumption, practice theory, consumption biographies, digitalisation, mobility, buildings, household services, biographical interviews

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[1] i.e. to achieve a common understanding from data collected in different linguistic and cultural contexts

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Abbreviations

FAs	Focus Areas
CCPs	Circular Consumption Practices
CircEUlar	Developing circular pathways for a EU low-carbon transition
EU	European Union
IAM(s)	Integrated Assessment Model(s)
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
PIK	The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WP	Work Package

Guide for circular consumption biographical interviews

1. Note for Interviewers

A key strength of qualitative interviewing is its inductive approach, which enables us to generate fresh insights into CCPs. It is thus of utmost importance to keep the process reasonably flexible.

Furthermore, it is important to include people in the sample whose economic situation means that they have to engage in some CCPs out of necessity in addition to those who engage in CCPs for reasons other than economic pressures. Here, we need to find out what practices they might sustain and what practices they would be happy to substitute in the future (in either direction, e.g. carless households who would buy a car if this was economically possible or households who might disengage with second hand purchases if their material conditions changed e.g. through an increase in income).

In each FA, interviews should investigate the following aspects where relevant:

1) people's general engagement in CCPs including their stated reasons for (not) doing so
2) the actual/perceived time costs
3) personal competences & perception of agency/self-efficacy
4) cultural acceptance and social norms (second hand clothes vs. second hand electric toothbrush)
5) aspects of sufficiency (i.e. consuming only what is needed), **including practices people don't do** and;
6) has engagement in the CCP resulted in replacement or simply additional consumption?

The purpose of the interviews is not to evaluate interviewees' contribution to circularity but to record different facets of their (lack of) engagement in practices, which on the balance of probability lend themselves to circularity, while, at the same time, recognising potential rebound effects and the potential for additional consumption (as opposed to replacement). Research teams should note that all information in this document is intended to assist interviewers in conducting an open-ended qualitative interview following the **Interview Structure** described below.

Additionally, all guidance contained in the square italicised brackets *"[….]"* in the **Interview Structure** are included for the benefit of the research team. They do not need to be read out to the interviewees but serve as possible examples to stimulate conversation. While in a qualitative interview it is good practice to minimise efforts to direct the interviewee, participants may not immediately be able to articulate their reasons. Describing initial hypothetical scenarios/examples of the practices of others in the form of vignettes can help interviewees to self-reflect on their own practices.

Some specific examples included in the interview structure are not part of the interview questions, rather they are used as examples of areas the interviewer might wish to follow up on e.g., when asked would they be willing to share space the interviewee says "No", then the interviewer may ask "Is this the case for all potential shared spaces? Are there any more specific circumstances in which they would be prepared to share? e.g., a garden or work shed or laundry area." If the interviewee then says yes, then we want to hear their explanation of why.

2. Interview Objectives

The primary purpose of conducting the interviews is to understand

1. The reasons behind participants' engagement and non-engagement in **three pre-selected sets of CCPs in the three Focus Areas:**
   a. carless-ness (households which do not own a car),
   b. sharing or commoning of spaces,
   c. second-hand trading using online platforms.
2. The circumstances (if any) under which interviewees perceive they would (not) be willing to engage in the CCPs selected for analysis as well as their personal reasons and motivations.
3. To identify any other "high potential" Circular Consumption Practices **across the three FAs** which should be considered for further investigation (e.g., not flying)

In establishing the reasons behind engagement, we seek to understand the nature or quality of interviewees' engagement in CCPs, i.e., hear them describe how they practically do things, and why. Whether or not they did things differently in the past and why they changed (e.g., the impacts of life stage/course changes) for all targeted CCPs across the three FAs.

We are particularly interested in their perceived barriers to CCPs and the extent of their willingness to change as well as phases of voluntary and involuntary engagement such as in the case of mobility where an interviewee may be part of an involuntarily carless household (FA1) due to economic reasons rather than being voluntarily carless. We also want to establish the different reasons and differential boundaries behind participants' willingness to engage in such activities such as in the case of commoning/sharing practices (FA2). Why are some people perhaps willing to share tools or common gardens, sheds, laundry rooms, garages and not willing to share more intimate spaces such as living rooms, kitchens or bathrooms? We want to investigate and assess people's perceptions in terms of their boundaries to their engagement in second hand trading practices (FA3). Why are people willing to buy and sell certain items, and not others (e.g., Wallner et al. 2022, Mugge et al. 2017).

3. Sampling Strategy

Purposive sampling will be of utmost importance here, given its capacity to improve the rigour and trustworthiness of qualitative data collection and interpretation (Campbell et al., 2020). For that purpose, biographical interviews in WP4 should necessarily involve interviewees in each country that have experience with CCPs in all or some of the FAs (e.g. voluntary carless-ness and car sharing; use of shared spaces; use of platforms and apps that facilitate trading and consumption of second hand goods etc.) as well as interviewees who have not engaged in the selected CCPs previously.

The **focus on both "engagers" and "non-engagers"** is intended to generate insights that will optimise survey design (e.g., identification of both enablers and barriers to engagement in certain CCPs). With 20 interviews to be conducted by the data collection partners, further sampling quotas have not been defined, as to do so could make the recruitment process unduly onerous and time-consuming without the benefit of the capacity to generalise. **However, data collection partners should attempt to canvas as diverse a sample as is practically possible having regard to key variables as age, sex, household size, presence of children, tenure status, and location (i.e., rural/urban).**

Given the practical challenge of recruiting a willing interview sample, which can reach saturation for both engagers and non-engagers for the selected CCPs across the three FAs, a balance must be struck between feasibility and completeness.

To achieve this, three basic sampling criteria questions will be used to ensure a balance of engagers and non-engagers across the three focus areas, which are displayed in Table 1.

FA	CCP Description	Selected CCP Engager	Selected CCP Non-Engager
FA1 Mobility	Carless-ness - Is your household carless? (A carless household is a household which does not own a car and does not have permanent exclusive access to a car such as through a permanent leasing agreement or through some other financial arrangement)	Yes	No
FA2 Buildings	Experience of shared spaces - Other than with immediate family (e.g. in childhood) have you ever experienced a shared living situation e.g., shared kitchen, living area, laundry room, garden	Yes	No
FA3 Digitalisation	Engagement in online second-hand trading - do you regularly* engage in online second-hand trading? *Once every two months or more	Yes	No

Table 1. Sampling Criteria CCPs

Rather than targeting a minimum of interviewees across all engagement and non-engagement categories, data collection partners will be asked to ensure a minimum number of responses across the sampling categories, which are displayed in Table 2.

Sampling Categories	Description	Minimum number of interviewees
A. "Engagers" (3)	Household that engages in all 3 Sampling Criteria CCPs	5
B. Casual "Engagers" (1-2)	Household that engages in 2 or less of the Sampling Criteria CCPs	5
C. Non-"engagers" (0)	Household that does not engage in any of the Sampling Criteria CCPs	5

Table 2. Minimum Interviewee Sampling Criteria

The purpose of the interviews is to expand our knowledge of the reasons behind why people do (not) engage in the selected practices and the circumstances under which they might consider doing them in the future as well as to identify any other CCPs in the FAs that may come up. It is not an assessment of their sustainability or circularity of consumption as the potential for rebound effects is always present. Rather, it is an attempt to **broadly** categorise participants across a hypothesised spectrum of propensity to engage in CCPs, using the three selected CCPs as indicative of their engagement more generally

4. Reporting

While partners will not be expected to provide full transcripts of the interviews, they will be required to provide summaries of each interviewee's responses and proofed and publishable translations into English of selected excerpts (short 3-4-line quotes) that illustrate core concepts, e.g., willingness to share. This will be facilitated thorough the completion by the data collection partners of **a reporting form, in English, for each interview (see Annex 1).** In addition, basic summary statistics are to be collected from interview participants in order to assist the interpretation of responses in context and to provide a summary picture of the participant profile.

5. Interview Method

While interviews need not necessarily be conducted physically face-to-face, they do need to be conducted live in order for there to be an exchange between interviewer and interviewee. This is so that both the research team and participants are able to follow up on and clarify both the questions and responses. Ideally interviews would be conducted face-to-face however interviews may also be conducted digitally (via video link) or if necessary through telephone. When planning and scheduling the interviews it should also be kept in mind that interviewee responses need to be recorded, (best practice would be to record on two devices with one acting as a backup). Where interviews are conducted in person, the researcher team should adhere

to the general data collection and health and safety protocols **(see Annex 2) as well as adhering to the health and safety regulations of their parent institution related to conducting field research.** Participants should be fully informed as to the nature and purpose of the data collection **(see Annex 3).** Consent to the data collection must be acquired **(see Annex 4)** and the recordings should be taken and stored in accordance with your institution's data protection guidelines and in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation)

6. Interview Structure

*All navigational instructions are highlighted in bold square brackets e.g. **[skip to section X.Y]**.*

Guidance on topics and areas of potential interest for the interviewer to follow up on are highlighted in square brackets and italicised e.g. [e.g., Lack of social cohesion, risk aversion]

*It should be noted that this guidance is given for the benefit of the research team to stimulate self-reflection in situations where interviewee responses to certain questions may be minimal. (See section 1. **Note for Interviewers**)*

The following information should be collected for all household members and returned in the reporting form: age, sex, household size, household type, main activity, no. of dependent children, tenure, and level of urbanisation i.e. urban/semi-urban/rural (self-reported)

Before starting, the interview the interviewer should reassure the interviewee that there are no right or wrong answers, and that they should just try to reflect on the questions and answer them as fully and as openly as they can.

START [Commence recording]

[Introductory text for interviewer] "The purpose of this interview is to ask about your experience with certain activities and ways of living which may or contribute to a more circular economy by avoiding unnecessary consumption, extending the useful life of the things we use and avoiding waste. In particular, we are interested in hearing the reasons behind whether or not you identify with these activities as part of your daily life as well as the circumstances under which you feel you might, or might not, be able to participate in these activities in the future. The interview is in three sections and focuses on three different areas of daily life. Each section will be introduced with a short story on each activity, which you will be asked to reflect on.

SECTION (FA) 1: Mobility (Carless-ness)

Introductory Vignette:

Ashley lives about 20 km from his/her[2] workplace and drives to work every day, which takes about 20 mins including morning traffic. Ashley takes the bus occasionally which takes 5 mins longer, but only when their partner needs the car for the day. There is a cycle lane most of the way to work and on very rare occasions

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[2]Where the language of the data-collecting partner allows, the use of a gender-neutral name and follow up description may be beneficial.

Ashley cycles; but only in good weather. Ashley has a very high-quality bike which he/she also cycles occasionally on the weekends, but the bike spends most of the year in their garage.

- How close/far away is Ashley's life from your own?
- Which of the activities covered in Ashley's story do you do also? And which ones would not fit into your everyday life?
- Is there something else that you do regularly in this area of life that is **not** covered in Ashley's story?

Part 1. Auto mobility history

Do you have or have you ever held a driver's licence[3]? If so, when did you take your driving test? What was the main reason for taking it then? When you were a child, did your household have a car?

Part 2. Current car use

Do you (or your household) own a car? **[if no skip to Part 2.B]**

> *Part 2.A* What are the main reasons you have for owning a car? Have you always owned a car? What kind of car is it? How often do you use it? What are the main reasons for taking your car as opposed to alternative modes of transport? How often do you use other modes of transport? Under what circumstances would you consider giving up your car in the future? **[Skip to Part 3]**

> *Part 2.B* What are the primary reasons for you/your household not to own a car? Have you ever owned a car in the past? If so, what were key reasons for selling your car? Do you occasionally use a car by borrowing or engaging in short term rentals and if so, typically for what purposes? What do you consider to be the most likely reasons for you choosing to own a car in the future?

Part 3. Other CCPs regarding mobility

Are there any other changes in your general mobility that you believe has reduced your private car use? E.g. reducing from a 2 to 1 car household, engaging in short term car rentals rather than owning a car (not holiday rentals abroad), engaging in informal car-sharing or car-pooling, use of e-mobility? If not would you consider any of these changes and if so under what circumstances?

Have there been any other changes in mobility frequency for different modes such as public transport, e-mobility, cycling etc.. that you believe have resulted in less resource use? If not would you consider any of these changes and if so under what circumstances?

Under what circumstances would you be willing to fly less or not at all? What would you consider the most likely scenario under which you might fly more?

Section (FA) 2: Buildings and Household Services (Commoning)

Introductory Vignette:

Billie/Billy lives in a quiet suburban street in a relatively large four-bedroomed house with their partner. Their two grown up children now live quite far away from home and only visit occasionally. Billie/Billy feels that

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[3] Acquired a licence required for driving motorised vehicles on public roads

the house is now too big for the two of them but is unsure about moving. Downsizing would not result in any financial savings since their rent is similar to two-bedroom apartments, which are currently available in their area. Instead, they have discussed renting out one of the children's rooms but they are unsure about having to share their kitchen and living areas.

- Can you relate to any of the issues that are facing Billie/Billy and his/her partner?
- Which of the options available to Billie/Billy and his/her partner would you choose and why?
- Is there something else that you have experience of in this area of life that is **not** covered in Billie/Billy's story?

Part 1. Commoning History

Experience of shared spaces - Other than with immediate family, have you ever experienced a shared living situation? e.g., when first leaving the family home? What areas were shared? When you were growing up did you share items with your neighbours such as tools or other occasional use items? e.g., leisure equipment such as a tent?

Part 2. Current Space Commoning Practices

Are you currently in a shared-living situation, e.g., common kitchen, living area, toilet, bathroom, garden etc.? **[If no skip to Part 2.B]**

> **Part 2.A** What facilities/areas do you share? What would you consider the most likely reason for you to discontinue a shared living arrangement? Would you be open to sharing more? **[then skip to Part 2.C]**

> **Part 2.B** Would you be open to shared living situations? What are the primary reasons that would make you resist a shared living arrangement? Under what conditions would you be prepared to share or reduce the amount of space per person used by your household, e.g., by renting/sub-letting rooms (or taking in vulnerable people in need of accommodation)

> **Part 2.C** Under what circumstances would you be willing to downsize? *[e.g., better availability, if it was a good financial option, or 'empty nesters'[4] moving house/apartment to reduce m2 or downsizing to single level residence in late life].*

Part 3. Current Sharing/Lending Practices

Do you regularly share with or lend things to other people such as friends, neighbours or others? e.g., tools/car/(cargo) bike…etc? **[If no skip to Part 3.B]**

> **Part 3.A** If yes, what sort of items do you share? What's the primary motivation for sharing? *[e.g., aspirations of neighbourliness, environmental concerns, social cohesion, self-satisfaction i.e., does it make you feel good?]* **[skip to Part 3.C]**

> **Part 3.B** If not, what are the primary reasons for not sharing? [*Lack of social cohesion? Value led (purely dictated by the replacement cost of the item?), emotional attachment? e.g. I love my bike and*

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[4]Term used to describe family households where the children have grown up and moved out while the parent(s) remain(s).

don't want it to be damaged by another cyclist, the level of perceived risk of financial loss. Risk aversion? Will I be held responsible if something goes wrong?]

Under what circumstances would you be willing to share?

Part 3.C Are there any facilities or customs in your house/street/apartment block that encourage sharing/reusing? e.g., an area where neighbours know they can leave items they wish to discard but allow others the opportunity to take them before they finally dispose of them?

Section (FA) 3: Digitalisation (Second-hand online trading)

Introductory Vignette:

Riley does all of his/her shopping, banking and administration online. In particular, Riley regularly buys second hand clothes, books, and small electronics and spends a lot of time online looking for second hand goods available in their local area. Buying second hand items online occasionally stops Riley from having to buy things new. However, (s)he often gets items that (s)he could easily do without.

- Do you see any similarities with Riley's activities and your own?
- Which of the activities covered in Riley's story do you also do?
- Which ones would not fit into your everyday life?

Part 1. Second-hand trading[5]

Do you buy or sell previously used second-hand items? (this includes items that are given away or acquired for very little money or even for free) **[If not skip to Part 2.D]** What kinds of items do you usually buy/sell second hand? Are there any kinds of items, which you would never buy/acquire or sell/give away second hand? *[E.g. personal care items such as electric toothbrush example provided by Mugge et al. 2017, power tools or certain electronic goods such as smartphones]*. Are those things different i.e., are there some things you wouldn't buy but would be happy to sell second hand?

Part 2. Current online trading practices

Do you or have you previously used online platforms to buy or sell things second hand? **[If not skip to Part 2.C]**

If so, when did you start doing this and why? How often do you buy/sell (acquire for free or give away) second-hand items? Do you browse second-hand digital trading sites? *[i.e., does the interviewee regularly look to see what's available or do they only look when you really need to buy something. Give relevant examples of online second hand trading platforms in your country]*

Part 2.A How much time do you think you spend trading per week or per item and what is your perception of how much time/effort the different steps take? e.g., preparing items by cleaning/washing etc., taking pictures, writing descriptions, transferring funds, collecting items, messaging buyer/seller.

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[5] for the purposes of this interview, second hand-trading includes situations where people sell/buy certain items directly for free.

Part 2.B Can you remember the last item you bought second hand and if so, would you have bought that item new if you were unable to buy it second hand? Is this usually the case?

Part 2.C [For those who engage in second-hand trading but not online]

Do you feel that using digital second-hand trading platforms might be helpful when trying to find second-hand items or when looking for buyers or people to buy/sell or give away a good/product? If not, why not?

Part 2.D [For those who do not engage in second-hand trading]

What are the primary reasons that you do not engage in second-hand trading? How do you generally dispose of your used items? Do you feel that using digital second-hand trading platforms might be helpful when trying to find second-hand items or when looking for buyers or people to buy/sell or give away a good/product? If not, why not?

Part 3. Digitalisation: Perceived contribution to circular consumption

[For both questions other areas of life may include areas such as health & fitness, diet/nutrition, leisure/entertainment, administration, social relations etc.]

In other areas of life (other than second-hand trading), could you describe any way in which you feel some aspect of digitalisation or online activity has resulted in slowing or lowering your overall resource consumption? In what way do you feel it reduced your consumption? (i.e. by avoiding unnecessary consumption, extending the useful life of something or avoiding waste) Could you describe any way in which you feel digitalisation has increased your consumption?

END (stop recording)

ANNEX 1 - Interview Feedback Form

This feedback form is designed to capture the primary data reported by interviewees in each data collection partner country with the goal being to achieve as close as possible to a saturation of experiences and perceptions of circular consumption practices with a particular focus on the selected practices in the three focus areas of mobility, buildings and household services, and digitalisation.

The data submitted should form a summary of each of the key points of inquiry in the interview guide – which was designed based on the previously published conceptual framework in WP4 (D4.1). The data will contribute to our understanding of the reasons behind people's engagement and non-engagement. At a minimum, summary information based on the key questions from the interview guide (first column below) should be included for each relevant entry. In addition, we also ask for direct citations translated into English that are the most illustrative of the main points.

It should be noted that in practice, conversational interviews may not follow the prescribed sequence from the guide and the form may prove useful in terms of simultaneously tracking responses and information in real time, moving back and forward through the feedback form and marking responses gleaned.

Each interview participant feedback form will require a unique participant identifier comprising of the data collection identifier "INT_" for interview, a two-character country code, e.g., "NL" for the Netherlands, and a participant number, e.g., "01".

Summary Household Statistics: Participant Identifier *INT_NL01*

HH Member #	*Year of birth*	*Sex*	*Main Activity (See Annex 5)*
1			
2			
3			
4			
.			

Household Size (numeric)	
Household Type[6]	

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[6] See Annex 5

No. of dependent Children	
Tenure Status (Owner/Tenant)	
Urban/Semi-Urban/Rural (self-defined)	

Interview Participant Feedback Form: *INT_NL01*[7]		
	Summarise the interviewee's responses in relation to the interview objectives in each of the three FAs. Try to avoid over-interpreting the data, simply provide a summary of what you heard noting the interviewee's tendencies towards (away from) circularity.	**Provide key quotations which support the summary of the interviewee's response. Include a timestamp e.g. (NL_01:5m20s) and make note of any terms that are problematic in terms of translation (linguistic and cultural)**
Focus Area	**Summary**	**Direct Citations**
FA 1 Mobility	Summary of extent to which interviewee engages in carless-ness **and** the reasons behind participant's engagement/ non-engagement:	

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[7]Used to signify in this example that this is the feedback form for the Dutch interview participant number 1.

	Circumstances (if any) under which interviewee perceives they would/ (would not) be willing/able to engage in carless-ness:	
	Any other promising CPPs identified in the area of mobility:	

FA 2 **Buildings and Household Services**	Summary of extent to which interviewee engages in shared living/commoning arrangements and the reasons behind participant's engagement/ non-engagement	

	Circumstances (if any) under which interviewee perceives they would/ (would not) be willing/able to engage in commoning/sharing practices, reducing floor space:	
	Any other promising CCPs identified in the area of buildings and household services i.e. (level and degree of willingness to lend/share items/resources/costs with others)	

FA 3 Digitalisation	Summary of extent to which interviewee engages in second-hand trading (please also include a summary profile of items traded), whether they do it online or offline and reasons behind participant's engagement/non-engagement	

	Circumstances (if any) under which interviewee perceives they would/(would not) be willing/able to engage in 2nd hand trading online or offline:	

	Summary of interviewee's perception of the (potential[8]) contribution of digitalisation to second-hand trading	
	Summary of interviewee's general engagement with digitalisation and their description of any other CCPs they view as being enabled by digitalisation.	

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[8] i.e. Section 3 Part 2.D including summary responses from those interviewees who do not engagement in second-hand trading

Details of any other CCPs	Summarise any other high potential CCPs mentioned by the interviewee	

ANNEX 2 - General Data collection and health and safety protocols

The researchers of each CircEUlar data collection partner will enter the field to conduct 20 interviews between the start of M13 and the end of M15. In order to ensure that all risks are minimal, the researchers will adhere to and comply with all **health and safety regulations outlined by their parent institution related to conducting field research.**

In the event that interviews are conducted face-to face in a participant's home, in addition to informing their line-manager of the planned interview schedule, the researcher will discuss with their line-manager the following before undertaking interviews in a participant's home:

- What to do before the interviews in a participant's home.
- What to do during interviews in a participant's home.
- How to check in with a line-manager / work-package leader/ another team member before and after interviews in a participant's home.

Researchers will be required to confirm the details of the interview with the participants the day before undertaking the interview. Researchers are required to contact the participant the day before or on the day of the appointment to confirm the arrangements and check that the participants are still receptive to the interview being undertaken. If the researcher is being accompanied by another researcher, they are required to inform the participant of who will be accompanying them and confirm that they are happy to have them both in their home.

Before interviewing participants in their own homes, researchers must first obtain permission from their line-manager/ work-package leader. Once approval has been obtained, researchers must inform their line-manager/ work-package leader of the time when they intend to visit the participant's home and confirm the time when their interview is expected to end. In addition, researchers are requested to take the following precautions when conducting interviews at participants' homes:

- Park where to avoid being obstructed from leaving or being parked in;
- Be aware of potential slip/trip hazards;
- Ensure that the researchers have a fully charged phone on them during the fieldwork;
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear;
- The researchers will not enter any area which poses a risk to either themselves or the participants;
- If appropriate check pets are restrained or kept separate during the visit;
- Carry ID (without address or phone number);
- Check consent remains valid;
- Introduce the second researcher (if one is present);
- Clarify who else is at the premises;
- Identify exit routes;
- Keep doorways clearly in sight and the exit doors easily reachable;
- Before sitting, check it is safe to do so e.g., no needles or sharps left on/near the seat;
- Keep personal documents, mobile, personal possessions secure at all time

Annex 3 - Participant Information and Rights Declaration

Research Aims:

The purpose of this research is to expand our knowledge of the reasons behind why people do or do not engage in certain activities that may lend themselves to a more circular economy and the circumstances under which they might consider to do so in the future.

Period of interview data collection:

The CircEUlar Project runs from September 2022 to August 2026. Between September and December 2023, participating consortium partners will conduct interviews investigating circular consumption practices (CCPs) that is, actions that people take that lend themselves towards circularity. . The interviews focus primarily on (i) past and current engagement in circular consumption practices, (ii) life events and socio-economic circumstances that impact the adoption of CCPs, and (iii) considerations concerning future engagement in CCPs.

Research Results

All interview participants will be informed about key results of the CircEUlar research project. In addition, the results will be shared with interested researchers, policy makers or others in the form of research reports, scientific publications, handbooks and policy briefs. Results are also disseminated through press releases, social media and public events.

Project Information:

CircEUlar is a four-year European Research and Innovation Action that seeks to develop new modelling approaches for analysing circularity from a systems perspective accounting for:

- dematerialisation and the transition to a service-based economy to limit material stock growth
- lifetime extension of material stocks through repair, maintenance and reuse
- waste treatment and material recycling

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Project Research Partners

- The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA, AT) - Coordinator
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU, AT)
- Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici (CMCC, IT)
- Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München (LMU, DE)
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU, NO)
- University of Groningen (RUG, NL)
- T6 Ecosystems (T6, IT)

- Technische Universität Berlin (TUB, DE)
- Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC, DE)
- INEGI - Institute of Science and Innovation in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Porto (INEGI, PT)

Associated Research Partners

- Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA, CH)
- University of Oxford (UOXF, UK)

Right of refusal or withdrawal

Participants are not required to answer all questions during their CircEUlar interview. No reason needs to be given for this. Participants can change or withdraw their consent at any time by contacting the local research team without having to give any reason. However, the consent to participation in the interview itself cannot be revoked retrospectively and therefore only affects the future processing of the data.

Participants have a right to request access to all the data they have provided and request that the processing be deleted or restricted at any time, even after the project has been completed, without giving reasons. In addition, if participants discover inaccuracies in the data collected, they have the right to correct these inaccuracies.

Contact Information:

You can contact the local research team at the following address: _____

Project Website
https://circeular.org/

Annex 4 - Participant Consent Form

I would like to participate in the CircEUlar research project, and I understand that my participation is fully voluntary and is based on the principle of consent. I have read the participant information and the rights declaration (Annex 3) or it was read to me by the research team. I had the opportunity to ask questions about it and all questions I asked were answered to my satisfaction. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

In particular, I agree to:

-the use of my contact details (name, email address and contact phone number) to be contacted by the local _____ CircEUlar research team

-the collection and storage of personal data and the recording of the interview as well as the transfer of personal data in an anonymised form within the CircEUlar research team for the purpose of analysis.

-the use of personal data in an anonymised form including summary responses and direct quotations for the purposes of research publications.

I am aware that I can request access to the data collected about me and my household at any time and that I can revoke my consent at any time without the requirement to give a reason for the withdrawal of consent.

Name of the participant in block letters _____

Signature of the participant_____

Date_____

(Day/Month/Year)

Annex 5 Summary Statistics Variable Categorisation

Household Type

1 One-person household
2 Lone parent with at least one child aged less than 25
3 Lone parent with all children aged 25 or more
4 Couple without any child or children
5 Couple with at least one child aged less than 25
6 Couple with all children aged 25 or more
7 Other type of household
.Not stated

Main activity status (self-defined)

1 Employed
2 Unemployed
3 Retired
4 Unable to work due to long-standing health problems
5 Student, pupil
6 Fulfilling domestic tasks
7 Compulsory military or civilian service
8 Other
. Not stated
99 Not applicable

(as per the European Unions published implementation guidelines for standardised key social variables) available at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/54431/1966394/Standardised-key-social-variables.pdf

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For more information:
http://circeular.eu

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