



Circular Innovation Hub (CI-Hub)

Project Duration: January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026 (30 months)

Project Budget: 2.351.006 € (1.880.805 € Interreg Funds)

Project Description:

The CI-Hub project addresses the issues faced by small and medium sized enterprises SMEs in the Karlovy Vary region, such as a lack of knowledge about the circular economy and low innovation activity. The goal is to establish an international acceleration program for transitioning to circular principles in supply chains. Project activities will focus on the following sectors of the manufacturing industry: electronic products, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, metals and metal products, plastics and rubber products, machinery and equipment, construction materials, and furniture.

The project will be implemented through three work packages, including building an international partnership ecosystem, setting up a circular transformation model, and testing circular transformation accelerator services.

Project consortium:

13 partners from 13 countries in the Danube region.

Lead Partner: **Slovenia** - Pomurje Technology Park (Slovenia)

Other Partners:

- **Hungary** – IFKA Public Benefit Nonprofit Ltd.
- **Czech Republic** – Business Development Agency of Karlovy Vary Region
- **Romania** – Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
- **Bulgaria** – Foundation Cluster Information and Communication Technologies
- **Serbia** - Science and Technology Park Čačak
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** – Digital Innovation Hub ONEX
- **Germany** - bwcon research
- **Slovakia** - Technical University of Kosice
- **Austria** - Carinthia UAS - non-profit limited liability company
- **Croatia** – Croatian Chamber of Economy – County Chamber Varaždin
- **Moldavia** - Organization for Entrepreneurship Development
- **Montenegro** - Science and technology park Montenegro

Associated partners: Representatives from cities, regions, and academic institutions in the partner region.

Key Project Outputs:

1. Development and Implementation of Sustainable Solutions:

The CI-Hub project develops and implements various methods, systems, and programs that help organizations effectively transition to circular economic models. These include assessment applications for supply chains, progress monitoring systems, and circular value creation toolkits.

2. Support and Education for SMEs:

The project includes the development of an academic program and shared e-community platforms that provide educational materials and facilitate knowledge and resource sharing among participants. This helps strengthen the capacity of businesses and accelerates their adaptation to the circular economy.

3. Sustainability Strategy and Transnational Cooperation:

The project develops a transnational sustainability and transferability strategy that ensures the long-term impact of project results and promotes wide cooperation across different regions. This includes new transnational service accelerators and strategies that facilitate the transition to more innovative and sustainable industrial practices.

You can read more about the project on [the official project website](#).