

ABIS

Call for Expression of Interest

H2020 Funding Opportunity

Understanding the transition to a circular economy and its implications on the environment, economy and society

Focus area: Connecting economic and environmental gains - the Circular Economy (CE)

Type of Action: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Deadline Model: two-stage

Work Programme: Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials

- Call name: Greening the economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Call ID: H2020-SC5-2018-2019-2020

Topic Description

Specific Challenge:

The transition to a circular economy entails a systemic transformation of entire value chains, covering design, production and consumption phases, so that the value of products, materials and resources can be maintained in the economy for as long as possible, while reducing environmental impact. It also aims at increasing material productivity, including de-materialisation, and exploring new representations and practices of property for individuals and collectives. Such a deep transformation is unlikely to happen suddenly and would rather follow some transition processes and pathways. Understanding, in critical and thoughtful way, the transition to a circular economy and its positive and negative implications on the environment, economy and society (including human health), will be important for the development and adoption of circular economy approaches, including the design of well-targeted transitional policy measures. Moreover, the identification and analysis of best practices of the transition to a circular economy in- or outside Europe, on a citizen, business sectorial and macroeconomic level, possibly covering different cooperation models (including B2B, B2C, P2P, etc.) will serve as an inspiration for specific projects. They also can inform new and adapted policies and policy tools including regulation, taxation and financing, incentives, strategic governance mechanisms and soft tools (e.g. communication and awareness raising tools) to further disseminating the concept of circularity.

Scope:

The research will assess the current state of transition towards the circular economy in relevant economic sectors (public, private and non-profit) and analyse possible transition scenarios, as well as their outcomes and impacts. It will identify the key factors (regulatory, governance-based, market, technological, cultural, societal, gender, etc.) that can stimulate or hinder this transition. The selected sectors should be among the ones identified in the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. Additional sectors could also be selected, considering criteria such as environmental footprint, health issues, complexities of value-chain, dependency on imported materials and relevance for European economy. Implications of the transition, both positive and negative, for the economy, the environment and the society will be assessed qualitatively and as much as possible quantified. For that reason, appropriate models for analysing and quantifying the various

implications and trade-offs and assessing the sustainability of circular economy should be developed. The implications considered should include social, economic and environmental aspects, such as trade flows, value-chains, labour demand, European industry competitiveness, regulatory frameworks, policy and governance mechanisms, public and occupational health, greenhouse gas emissions, use of energy, land, water, minerals and other resources), flows of resources at all relevant geographical scales, human health, social and territorial cohesion, and value distribution across society. The role of public awareness and acceptance and other social aspects, including gender issues, need to be considered. Where relevant, particular attention should be paid to the issue of hazardous materials in a circular economy. Policy recommendations for policy-makers at the local, national, European and global levels, including recommendations on governance issues, will be derived from the research. Involvement of relevant social sciences and humanities disciplines and expertise in behavioural economics and gender issues, is deemed important.

In line with the strategy for EU international cooperation in research and innovation (COM(2012)497), international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with Africa.

This topic is in support of the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. Selected projects under this topic as well as projects selected under other topics in H2020 supporting the Plastics Strategy are strongly encouraged to participate in joint activities as appropriate. These joint activities could take the form of clustering of projects, participation in workshops, common exploitation and dissemination etc. The proposals are expected to demonstrate support to common coordination and dissemination activities. Applicants should plan the necessary budget to cover those activities without the prerequisite to define concrete common actions at this stage.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of **EUR 3-4 million** would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact:

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- more systemic policy decisions to further facilitate the transition to a safe, environmentally friendly, efficient and effective circular economy in selected sectors;
- efficient and effective use of both primary and secondary resources in Europe, reducing waste generation, negative health impacts, environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
- new business opportunities for European industries and SMEs;
- creating new tools and methodologies oriented to companies, to consider social, environmental and economic aspects when they design circular business models;
- creating incentives and support the development of strategic governance mechanisms that enable the transition to a Circular Economy and contribute to the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe;
- supporting the achievement of climate commitments and specific quantitative targets on resources efficiency, recycling rates or waste disposal quotas.

Cross-cutting Priorities:

[Gender](#)

[Socio-economic science and humanities](#)

General description of the procedure to select the potential consortium members

Academic Institutions, corporate and other organization are invited to submit an expression of interest in accordance with the rules set out in this Call.

The Call is open mainly to ABIS members; participation of external members will be evaluated on case to case basis by the project leader together with the rest of the consortium members.

ABIS will perform an assessment of incoming applications for Project Partner every week. The applicants will be informed of the assessment outcome.

Only Academic Institutions, corporate and other organization who will fill this *call for expression of interest* will be considered for potential consortium members and invited to the next stage.

Further selection will be performed based on the excellence criteria defined once that the consortium will have a consortium leader.

Based on the information received by each institution, ABIS contact the expert and check his/her availability for a meeting with the other interested institutions in building a research consortium.

Expression of Interest form

To be filled and send back to ABIS

Profile

Type of Organisation

- Is your organization a public body?
- Is your organization a non-profit?
- Is your organization a company?

Background and experience:

Please briefly present your organization and/or your department (e.g. its type, size, scope of work, areas of specific expertise within Circular Economy topic, Network connection).

What are the activities and experience of your organization in the areas relevant for this project?

What are the skills and/or expertise of key persons involved in this project?

Which connection with your social, political and industrial ecosystem you could leverage?

Contact Details:

Title	
First Name	
Family Name	
Department	
Position	
Email	
Telephone 1	

Would your organization be interested in leading the consortium with the support of ABIS?

YES

NO