

THE KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE OF KATCH_E IS NOW IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS OF COMPANIES AND COMPARING IT TO THE EDUCATIONAL OFFER ON CIRCULAR AND SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN | MARCH

All partners of the Alliance are now working in their respective countries to identify the training necessities of companies and to analyse the educational offer and needs on circular and sustainability design, new model businesses, entrepreneurial skills, required to promote the transition to CE.

This identification is fundamental to design an educational programme and higher education training materials suitable to encourage cross-curricular learning connecting mainly with designers and engineers and other relevant stakeholders.

The KATCH_e partners are therefore currently carrying out a comprehensive review of several aspects related to CE, sustainability, design and education sources such as:

- Training offers and materials, technical papers, tools, innovative learning approaches and methodologies regarding CE, sustainability, new model business, industrial symbiosis, entrepreneurship;
- Policy trends at European and national level.

Circular economy (CE) is a relatively new concept which is receiving increasing attention worldwide as a way to overcome the current production and consumption models based in so-called “linear economy” or “take, make and dispose”.

In this new transition towards CE, the role of the designers is crucial but there are still some limitations and barriers in its implementation. There is not a systematic approach for its implementation and CE is not already a well-established and mature concept. On the other hand, this situation represents an opportunity and a challenge to prepare future generations of designers through the embedding circularity in the design high education system, because CE design must not continue to be left behind or added as a last minute thought.



ESTABLISHMENT OF STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN PORTUGAL, DENMARK, SPAIN AND AUSTRIA | MARCH

Stakeholder networks are currently being established in each of the participating countries of the KATCH_e Alliance. The networks actors in the major target groups in KATCH_e, that is Higher Education Institutions, Business community, Knowledge centres and Experts, sector relevant product chains, NGO's, sector organisations, experts, Special Interest Groups, relevant authorities, university teachers, etc. The sectors of study are the Construction and Furniture sectors.

Through the development of these structures the partners will conduct activities to actively involve relevant stakeholders and their knowledge throughout the project phases and after the project period.

This is a two-way process. Circular economy thinking is complex, and the concept is dynamic. Therefore, the inputs from the stakeholders help defining the multidisciplinary training needs to be covered by the training materials and learning approaches. Moreover, the involved stakeholders may bring knowledge on circular economy back to their organizations and thus promote the understanding of the potentials and challenges related to the circular economy. Close relations between students, companies and other students will be actively encouraged and supported during the project to further develop the two-way process. Contact us if you want to join the stakeholders' networks!



KATCH_e @ ENVIBUILD 2017 | APRIL

The Austrian KATCH_e project partners – the Institute of Ecology (AIE) and the TUV Ecodesign Research area (TUV) - are participating at the international conference enviBUILD. The conference will take place on September 7 and 8 at the Technical University Vienna. Topics include Building Materials and Structures, Energy Performance of Buildings, Sustainable Buildings and Environmental Assessments and much more. The TUV and the AIE have been invited to submit a full paper to the conference. The publication with the title “Is the Austrian building sector ready for Circular Economy?” will provide a first overview of the status analysis regarding circularity in the building sector and will point out current knowledge gaps in the tertiary educational landscape regarding the implementation of a “circular building economy”. The partners will also take this opportunity to get to know other experts in the field and widen the existing stakeholder network.

Link to the conference website: <http://www.bpi.tuwien.ac.at/envibuild/>

PLATE 2017 CONFERENCE

8-10 NOVEMBER 2017

DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS | MARCH

PLATE (Product Lifetimes and the Environment) is an international conference that aims to address product lifetimes in the context of sustainability. The second edition will be soon, in 8th to 10th of November of 2017 in Delft (Netherlands). The conference invites assistants to share their experiences and debate the implications of product longevity for environmental, economic and social sustainability. The congress' topics cover a diversity of perspectives on product lifetimes, including design, geography, history, anthropology and culture, technology, business, economics, marketing, consumer behaviour, law and public policy. Within these topics, the circular economy is one of the most interesting points that will be discussed in the conference.

The deadline for workshop proposals is 31 March, 2017. The deadline for final paper submissions is 9 June, 2017.



URL: <http://www.plateconference.org/second-plate-conference/>

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES, LIVELIHOODS AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

27-29 JUNE 2017

BRIGHTON, UK | APRIL

The third Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption theme this is "Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and the Circular Economy," hosted by the Institute of Development Studies and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex.

Join us in Brighton, UK (27-29 June) for our research conference on Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and the Circular Economy featuring keynote speakers from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, GIZ, the International Resource Panel, and Utrecht and Oregon State Universities, in which SCORAI Europe is a key partner.

The conference convenes researchers, development practitioners, policymakers and representatives from business, government and civil society to explore paths to sustainable production and consumption through the synergies and tensions among the circular economy, sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods, and their implications for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Keeping with GRF's emphasis on global perspectives, we explore these questions across different regions and communities, in both industrialized and developing countries.

The Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF) brings together individuals and organizations engaged in research and its applications on the transition towards sustainable production/consumption systems from various regions of the world. It builds on more than twenty years of research tradition on sustainable production and consumption by numerous researchers, institutes, and networks around the world, and on many successful attempts to apply research findings into policy, civil society, and business.

GRF's third international conference will explore critical links between the circular economy, sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Conference organiser: Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption

Hosted by: Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex

Co-organiser: Tearfund UK, EU SWITCH-Asia Programme, SCORAI Europe, MORE-SL Initiative of the 10YFP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme, and Aalborg University

Contributing partners: Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), Earth System Governance Project, World Resources Forum, Future Earth

Catch the early bird rate (until March 31) of £200.

Registration includes all three days of the conference, reception drinks on Day 1 and conference dinner on Day 2.

Register here: <http://grf-spc.weebly.com/brighton-2017-registration.html>

The conference programme can be found here and will be updated next month with the paper and session presentations: <http://grf-spc.weebly.com/brighton-2017-programme.html>

Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and the Circular Economy

27-29 June 2017, University of Sussex, Brighton



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES TO STRENGTHEN WASTE LAWS TO SUPPORT CIRCULAR ECONOMY | MARCH

Members of the European Parliament voted in plenary today to strengthen resource efficiency in the EU by 2030 – a move that signals strong political support for the transition towards a circular economy.

The text approved today includes:

- 70% target for the recycling of municipal waste, as opposed to 65 percent – with a five percent of that waste to be prepared for reuse;
- 80% target for the recycling of packaging waste
- A landfill limit of 5%
- Mandatory separate collection for the main waste streams, including biowaste, waste oils and textiles;
- Increasing use of economic instruments such as landfill and incineration taxes and deposit-return schemes, and
- More clarity on the decontamination of hazardous components in waste.

The Council of the European Union is expected to take a position on the Circular Economy strategy in the coming months, before the Parliament, Commission and Council can all agree on the final text.

During the debate, European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans promised to do his best to keep the final text as close as possible to the Parliament's proposal throughout the inter-institutional negotiations. Although waste management in the EU has improved considerably in recent decades, almost a third of municipal waste is still landfilled and less than half is recycled or composted, with wide variations between member states.

Improving waste management could deliver benefits for the environment, climate, human health and the economy. As part of a shift in EU policy towards a circular economy, the European Commission made four legislative proposals introducing new waste-management targets regarding reuse, recycling and landfilling. The proposals also strengthen EU provisions on waste prevention and extended producer responsibility, and streamline definitions, reporting obligations and calculation methods for targets.

URL: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170308IPR65671/waste-boost-recycling-cut-landfilling-and-curb-food-waste-parliament-says>

UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO RECEIVES FIRST INTERNATIONAL "CORK IN SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS" CONFERENCE | MARCH

This conference will happen on the 7 and 8 of September and aims to be a forum for the discussion of ideas and the generation of contacts between industry and the academy in order to promote the search for new applications for this material. The KATCH_e project will participate in this event, as a part of its dissemination plan throughout academic and business communities.



URL: <http://corkscience.cf/>

THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL ENVIBUILD 2017 CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA, ON SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8 2017 AT THE TU WIEN | MARCH

We expect cutting edge research papers addressing recent progresses and future directions in the field of building physics, sustainability, healthy built environments, building materials, building envelope systems, integrated building design, design and evaluation indoor environmental conditions, optimization of energy use, and mitigation of environmental impact of buildings.

Conference Topics:

- Building Materials and Structures
- Energy Performance of Buildings
- Smart Buildings, Smart Cities
- Sustainable Building and Environmental Assessments
- Hygrothermal Performance of Buildings
- Indoor Climate, Thermal Comfort and Ventilation
- Daylighting and Insolation
- Acoustics and Noise Protection
- Building Monitoring and Automation



URL: <http://www.bpi.tuwien.ac.at/envibuild/>

UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO DESIGN STUDENTS WIN WOOD FURNITURE CONTEST | APRIL

The Guilherme Awards are promoted by the Association of Industries of Wood and Furniture in Portugal (AIMMP). These awards were funded to encourage professionals, industries and students to develop and streamline the design of new products for the home space. It aims to challenge the development of new projects with a strong investment in the three main key areas: Innovation, Technology and Design.

The students of the BA degree in Design, monitored by Profs. Teresa Franqueira, Alexandre Kumagai e José Leite, won first and third prizes of the Higher Education Students category, also receiving an honorable mention.



More on the award winners here: <http://associativedesign.com/guilherme-award/vencedores-16/>
<http://uaonline.ua.pt/pub/detail.asp?c=49451&lg=pt>

MILAN DESIGN WEEK 2017: WASTE NO MORE | APRIL

Designers are reinvigorating the conversation around “circular” production, reassessing their materials while continuing to produce affordable, innovative, and high-quality products.

British designer Max Lamb collaborated with Danish company Really to launch their first design collection, Solid Textile Board, which is a collection of 12 benches. The collection uses upcycled end-of-life textiles, in this case cotton and wool, and turns the material into solid textile boards.

The sustainable material feels and functions like wood, and can be used in architecture and furniture design. The patented process to create solid textile boards allows the boards to be regranulated and formed into new material without use of additional chemicals.

Really was recently acquired by Danish textile brand Kvadrat, in a sign that the wider design industry intends to bring material sustainability to the forefront.

American furniture manufacturer Emeco launched 1 Inch Collection at Salone Del Mobile this week. The collection of chairs, stools and tables, which was designed by British designer Jasper Morrison, uses recycled aluminum for the chair and table frames and reclaimed or recycled materials for the surface. Ecopixel, a company that specializes in recycled plastic materials, collaborated with Italian designer Alessandro Mendini for the Alex lounge chair, shown at Milan Design Week. The recycled plastic material can be re-melted repeatedly without losing its properties.

Swedish furniture giant Ikea continues to explore strategies for sustainable growth. In February, the company launched a new circular collection called Ikea PS 2017, which aims to eliminate waste at every step of the production process. In Milan, the collection was shown at the Ikea Festival and included vases by Finnish designer Iina Vuorivirta. “Being circular means eliminating waste at every step of the way,” said Malin Nordin, development leader for Circular Ikea, in a press release. “Designers have been kept in the loop closely as they are key in building a circular Ikea, they need to have a deep understanding of how to make products circular.”

Earlier this year we reported on Ikea’s new Kungsbacka collection of kitchen fronts made from recycled plastic bottles. See [here](#) and [here](#) for more of our ongoing coverage from Milan Design Week.



URL: <https://www.jwtintelligence.com/2017/04/milan-design-week-2017-waste-no/>

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED AN ADVISORY BOARD ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY | APRIL

The 12 Board members represent on CEO level a variety of Danish companies and their role is to come up with recommendations on, how the government can create and support the transition towards a circular economy.

The Advisory Board is expected to launch their recommendations in the beginning of June this year. On a conference hosted by the Federation of Danish Industries on March 23rd, more than 200 participants debated a number of the preliminary recommendations, including:

- Establishing of a market for different types of waste
- Promotion of circular economy through public procurement
- Focus on Life Cycle costing instead of costs of Investment
- Introduction of circular building regulations no later than 2025
- Strengthening the principles of circularity in product policies like the Eco-Design directive

