

PORTUGUESE STRATEGY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 2020

The Portuguese Strategy of Environmental Education 2020 is going to be launched soon. It is organized around three thematic axes: decarbonizing the economy, circular economy and land valorization. One of the proposed measures is the inclusion of related themes in the academic curricula. KATCH_e is for sure one of the first and most important initiatives to the implementation of the strategy in the field of circular economy.



THE 1ST NATIONAL WORKSHOPS OF THE KATCH_E PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FOUR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

- Portugal: 9th June, University of Aveiro, Aveiro. Besides the presentation of the project and its consortium, breakout groups will debate the priority, challenges, products and services for circular economy in the target sectors and the competence needs for design and development teams.
- Spain: 20th June, Universitat Jaume I, Spain. Discussion and prioritization of circular economy training needs across the organizations in the furniture and construction sectors. The participants will identify specific cases for students to work on as well as new problem and practice based learning approaches. Topics for the discussions will be based on the outputs from interviews made to experts in circular economy topics from both and related sectors.
- Austria: 7th June, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna. In cooperation with the Austrian Institute of Ecology. After the presentation of the project and its consortium, external inputs from architects, design researcher, re-use and resource experts will open the discussion on the challenges of circular economy in construction & furniture sector in Austria.
- Denmark: 7th June, Aalborg University, Aalborg, in cooperation with the Network for Sustainable Business in Northern Denmark. The overall theme is CE Business models in the furniture sector and the related need for competences.



KATCH_e IN THE 5TH CRADLE TO CRADLE EXPERT TALKS, VIENNA

Rainer Pamminger our KATCH_e project partner from the Technical University of Vienna (<http://www.ecodesign.at>) attended the 5th Cradle to Cradle Expert Talks which took place at the 16th May in Vienna.

About 100 experts and pioneers meet to exchange their views and experiences on circular economy and specifically on cradle to cradle.

After the opening Dr. Hugo-Maria Schally, from the Directorate General Environment, European Commission presented that in December 2015, the European Commission adopted an ambitious action plan on the transition towards a circular economy. The measures intend to keep the value of the products as high as possible, to minimise waste, to foster innovations and in there for to support European businesses. In addition to the proposed measures at EU level, however, Member States, the economy and consumers must also be active in order to create this transition. Per definition Circular economy covers the entire life cycle of the products: from production and consumption (including reuse) to waste management (including recycling). This transition is financially supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds, which comprise € 5.5 billion for waste management. In addition, 650 million are funded projects within the scope of Horizon 2020 and for investments in circular economy at national level.

Next Albin Kälin, Managing Director of the EPEA Switzerland, further said that we need a paradigm shift in production towards cradle to cradle. Shortages of raw materials, vast amounts of garbage and toxins in everyday products demand a rethinking of industry and the economy. "Products were not developed for a closed loop. They contain composites which are difficult to separate and which are loaded with toxic substances. Today almost always a "downcycling" takes place, were the raw materials lose their quality during the recycling process.

Also Mag. Georg Kapsch, President of the Federation of Austrian Industries, confirms the interest of industry in a paradigm shift to secure the quality of raw materials for the coming generations. In the second part the experiences and views of the experts have been discussed within specific areas like textiles, building materials, plastics, design, etc.

URL: <https://epeaswitzerland.com/event/5-cradle-to-cradle-expert-talks-vienna-a/>

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Two project partners' will present KATCH_e in the 19th International Congress on Project Management and Engineering that will be held at the facilities of the Faculty of Engineering from the University of Cádiz, Spain, from 12th to 14th of July of 2017 (<http://www.aeipro.com/index.php/en/home-2015>). The communication describes KATCH_e progress about Spanish designers' knowledge needs on CE and it is included in the conference topic "ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES".



URL: <http://www.aeipro.com/index.php/en/home-2015>

THE LIFE CERSUDS PROJECT CONGREGATES THE REGIONAL WORK GROUP TO DISCUSS ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN THE CITIES

LIFE CERSUDS, funded by the European Union's Environment and Climate Action Program 2014-2020 (Ref: LIFE 15 CCA / ES / 000091) uses ceramic material in an innovative drainage system for the improvement and rehabilitation of the urban space, through a pilot demonstrator that will be located in the municipality of Benicàssim.

More than 20 representatives of city councils, universities, research centers, companies and public bodies have gathered at the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia (UPV) in the frame of the LIFE CERSUDS project, to promote a model change in Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions.

The main objective of the project LIFE CERSUDS Ceramic Sustainable Urban Drainage System, coordinated by the Instituto de Tecnología Cerámica (ITC) is to enhance the city capability to adapt to climate change and to promote the use of green infrastructures in urban planning by developing and implementing a demonstrator in a town. A sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) is involved that produces low carbon emissions and refurbishes urban areas.



URL: www.lifecersuds.eu

FINANCIAL TIMES CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT - LONDON, 25 MAY 2017

The circular economy is taking business sustainability to a whole new level. The re-use and recycling of resources is nothing new, but with more cross-industry collaboration and increasingly advanced enabling technologies, a truly waste-free economy is achievable

The Financial Times Circular Economy Summit will examine how businesses are transforming product lifecycles and organisational infrastructure to become more sustainable, with a dual focus on environmental responsibility and commercial value.



URL: <https://live.ft.com/Events/2017/FT-Circular-Economy-Summit>

NEW ERA. NEW PLAN

The Ex'tax Project* brought together fiscal experts of Deloitte, EY, KPMG Meijburg and PwC. The group developed a plan to significantly decrease labour taxes in the European Union, while increasing taxation of natural resource use, pollution and consumption (in this case: carbon emissions, water, fossil fuels, electricity and VAT). Cambridge Econometrics modelled the impacts in 27 EU Member States.

The results, published in the 2016 study New era. New plan, show that switching taxes from labour to pollution and resource use could:

- increase GDP levels by 2%
- create 6.6 million more jobs
- cut carbon emissions by 8.2% by 2020 and
- save € 27.7 billion on the energy import bill over a 5-year period.



URL: <http://www.neweranewplan.com/>

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE BUILDING SECTOR

26TH MAY 2017

BARCELONA (SPAIN)

Barcelona's Building Construmat is an international congress, with the Circular Economy Foundation (<http://economicircular.org/>), as main curator and organized by Fira de Barcelona, to become one of the most important events in Europe, helping professionals from the whole continent, in both private and public areas, to connect, to expose, to meet and to talk about the new perspectives of the building sector in the new paradigm of CE. To reach this goal, it is divided in 4 Arenas:

Industry: Main exhibition space representing the sector's entire value chain.

Future: A dynamic and experiential format where visitors can access the sector's main international advances.

Talks: A discussion forum for understanding the future as an opportunity for growth.

Meetings: New networking formats to promote new business opportunities and internationalization.



URL: <http://www.construmat.com/>
