



The NiCE Knowledge Platform: a Toolkit for Urban Circular Lifestyle Transformers

Report by Session host: *Mariann Szabó, BME*

Further actively involved people/ organisations: Gábor Ballabás, BME; Attila Buzási, BME; Fruzsina Bozsoki, BME

Number of Participants: 20

Short introduction:

The session focused on an interactive demonstration of the NiCE project's Knowledge Platform, a digital legacy designed to mainstream circular lifestyles in urban environments. Participants engaged in a hands-on workshop to explore the "NiCE Solution Box" and a Virtual Exhibition of Good Practices. The session combined expert insights with a collaborative mapping exercise where small groups were able to evaluate the adaptability of solutions, practices and actions of NiCE. By the end of the workshop, attendees learned how to translate circular concepts into concrete local actions through a guided tour, teamwork, and a concluding Q&A.

Participants:

Urban planners, practitioners, policy representative, academic staff and students participated the workshop from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia.

Summary:

The event opened with an Introduction to the NiCE project, providing participants with the necessary conceptual framework regarding circular lifestyles. This input session highlighted the project's goal of fostering resource-efficient urban environments and established the "policy vs. practice" context. Expert input was provided by Dr. Mariann Szabó.





3. From Strategy to Pilot Implementation

The final phase explored further project results and their adoptability from the Knowledge Platform including:

- NiCE Solution Box:** a practical toolkit designed to help cities, NGOs, SMEs, and citizens transform urban spaces into hubs for circular lifestyles. Based on experiences from eight pilot cities across Central Europe, it provides tested methods, tools, and case studies to reactivate vacant spaces, engage stakeholders, connect online and offline commerce, and promote sustainable behaviour. The Solution Box supports scalable, transferable solutions that make city centres more resilient, resource-efficient, and community-oriented.



- Circular lifestyle tools** including the
 - Circular lifestyle monitor tool** for cities designed to support a quick analysis of the current status, key challenges, and potential opportunities for promoting circular lifestyles in cities. It helps local and regional authorities identify priorities and guide strategic action.
 - 2. Strategy framework** to enable circular lifestyles in cities which outlines practical ways to promote and establish circular lifestyles in cities and city centres. It is designed to serve as a guidance tool for local and regional public authorities, helping them support the transition towards more sustainable, resource-efficient urban communities.
 - 3. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** for circular initiatives named **Circular Cities Project Excellence Framework (CC-PEM)**, is a practical tool designed to assess circular lifestyle initiatives by examining enabling factors such as objectives, leadership, stakeholder engagement, resources, and project processes. It also evaluates results, including environmental, social, and economic outcomes, stakeholder satisfaction, and the potential to transfer successful solutions to other cities.
- And the Pilot actions** carried out in NiCE.



The participants found all pilot projects to be highly relevant and engaging. When evaluated based on adaptability and strategic priority, the groups highlighted the following preferences:

- Group 1: Rated all pilots favourably, with a particular focus on the Multicentrum Zero Waste (Brzeg Dolny, Poland).
- Group 2: Prioritized the Co-creation for Circular Cities initiative (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary) and the Pop-up Store (Ptuj, Slovenia).
- Group 3: Focused on Circular Water Management Solutions (Bologna, Italy), the Reuse Centre (Košice, Slovakia), and the Multicentrum Zero Waste (Brzeg Dolny, Poland).
- Group 4: Highlighted the SILO Jihlava Multifunctional Resource Centre (Czechia) and the Multicentrum Zero Waste (Brzeg Dolny, Poland).

Participants evaluated the Knowledge Platform as a vital resource, offering a comprehensive pool of topics and solutions for stakeholders engaged in building circular societies. To maximize impact, future communication must clearly demonstrate how these solutions and results can be effectively exploited and scaled by diverse actors.



Links to further information:

- NiCE Circular Lifestyle Knowledge Platform: <https://circularlifestyle.eu/>
- NiCE Interreg CE website <https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/nice/?tab=home>
- NiCE LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/niceproject/posts/?feedView=all>
- NiCE YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@ProjectNiCE>
- NiCE FB: <https://www.facebook.com/NiCE.project.Interreg>
- BME Department of Environmental Economics and Sustainability: <http://kornygazd.bme.hu/en>