



DESICE

ENHANCING CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH INNOVATIVE DESIGN



DESICE project aims to improve regional and local policies in the field of circular economy, enhancing the capacity of product designers to implement innovative practices. The project involves collaboration among 8 partners from 7 EU countries, focusing on a multi-step approach to identify good practices and facilitate policy changes. The initiative sought to empower stakeholders through knowledge sharing and capacity building to ensure a successful transition towards a circular economy.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Anatoliki SA - Organisation for local development (Greece)

Economic Council of East Flanders (Belgium)

BSC, Business Support Centre Kranj, L.t.d., Kranj (Slovenia)

Thessaloniki Municipality (Greece)

Public Institution Lithuanian Innovation Centre (Lithuania)

South Muntenia Regional Development Agency (Romania)

Association of Municipalities of Tartu County (Estonia)

UPI Emilia-Romagna (Italy)

Creativity, Collaboration & a Touch of Ice: DESICE Meets Tartu

What happens when innovation, creativity, and a bit of Estonian winter magic come together? You get an unforgettable DESICE interregional learning event in Tartu!

On 17–18 February 2026, partners from across Europe gathered in Tartu County, Estonia, for a dynamic mix of learning, sharing, and hands-on experiences. From the very first moments (and even an optional evening city tour!), the event set the tone: this wouldn't be just another meeting—it would be an experience.

Where Creativity Meets Policy

The first day kicked off with a seminar at Pallas University of Applied Sciences, offering insights into how Tartu County supports creative industries through targeted mechanisms and financial incentives. It was a reminder that behind every thriving creative scene, there is smart policy and strong local support.

But the real magic happened outside the meeting room.

Participants explored the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries, stepping directly into the studios of designers, jewelry makers, and fashion innovators. From Fragment Jewelry to the Estonian Fashion Festival, creativity wasn't just discussed—it was experienced.

A highlight? Discovering how circular design principles are being applied in real studios—proving that sustainability and creativity can go hand in hand.

Learning by Doing (and Sharing)

Day two shifted focus to collaboration and exchange. Partners shared good practices, discussed communication strategies, and reflected on mid-term results—turning individual experiences into collective knowledge.

Innovation... on Ice

And because no DESICE meeting is complete without a twist—participants had the chance to go ice skating at Town Hall Square! A perfect reminder that informal moments often spark the best ideas.

From Ideas to Impact

The event concluded with a visit to the Lindström Group, where partners explored real-world sustainable business solutions. It was a fitting ending: from creative studios to industrial innovation, the message was clear—sustainability is not just a concept, but a practice.



THE DESICE PROJECT AIMS TO
EMPOWER EDUCATION IN THE FIELD
OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY
FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE, POLICY IMPROVEMENTS,
AND CAPACITY BUILDING AMONG
STAKEHOLDERS.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE TRANSITION
TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY
MODEL IN THE PARTICIPATING
REGIONS.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GOOD PRACTICES - NR. 4

PRECIOUS PLASTIC TARTU - TURNING WASTE INTO OPPORTUNITY



In Tartu, Estonia, plastic waste is no longer just a problem—it's a resource.

Through the initiative Precious Plastic Tartu, discarded plastic is collected, processed, and transformed into new, functional products, giving materials a second life while reducing environmental impact.

What makes the initiative stand out is its strong community focus. Through workshops and collaborative activities, citizens, designers, and organisations actively participate in the recycling process. This hands-on approach not only raises awareness but also empowers people to understand and apply circular economy principles in their everyday lives.

Precious Plastic Tartu demonstrates how local, small-scale actions can lead to meaningful change. By combining creativity, sustainability, and community engagement, it offers a practical and inspiring example of how regions can move towards a more circular future.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the website: <https://koidukeskus.eu/precious-plastic/>

Good practice owned by:
Association of Municipalities of Tartu County

SCCE: Slovenia's Hub for Circular Change



What if businesses, municipalities, and innovators could all find circular economy support in one place?

That's exactly what the Slovenian Centre for Circular Economy (SCCE) offers—a national platform helping Slovenia move towards a more sustainable, low-carbon future.

Launched as a coordinated initiative, SCCE connects companies, public institutions, researchers, and communities through a network of regional entry points and a central digital platform. This “one-stop-shop” approach makes it easier for organisations to access expert advice, training, and tools for developing circular solutions.

What sets SCCE apart is its ability to bring people together. By linking different stakeholders, it supports the creation of new circular value chains, encourages collaboration, and helps turn ideas into real projects. It also tackles common barriers—like fragmented knowledge and lack of coordination—by offering structured, nationwide support.

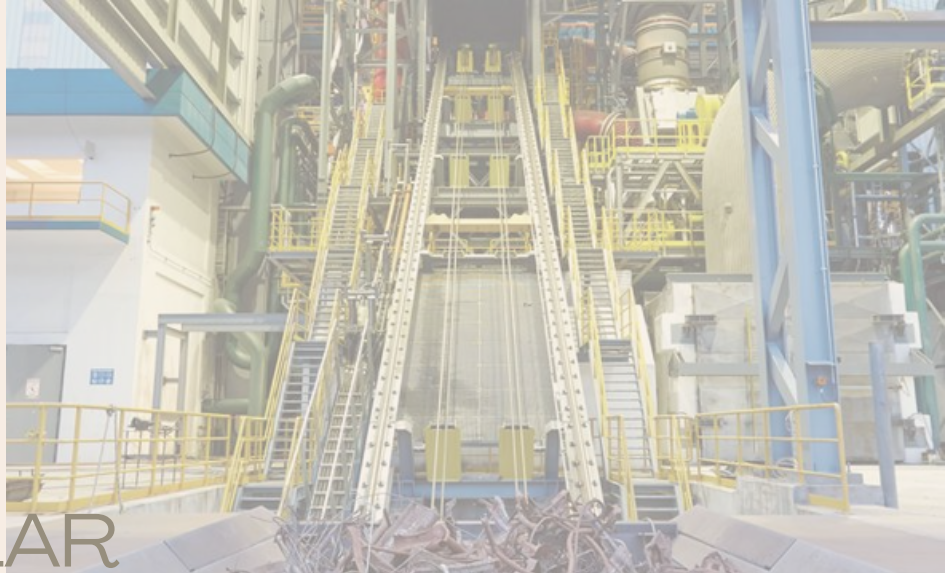
More than just a platform, SCCE is a driver of change. It strengthens skills, supports innovation, and helps shape policies—showing how a coordinated approach can accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the website: <https://www.sckg.si/en/>

Good practice owned by:
BSC, Business Support Centre, Ltd, Kranj

RETROFEED: RETHINKING INDUSTRY FOR A CIRCULAR FUTURE



What if heavy industry could adapt to use waste instead of raw materials?

The RETROFEED smart retrofitting framework shows that it's not only possible—it's already happening.

This initiative focuses on upgrading existing industrial processes so they can work with variable, bio-based and circular feedstock, such as waste and by-products. Instead of replacing entire systems, RETROFEED introduces smart retrofitting solutions—making industries more flexible, efficient, and sustainable.

A key innovation lies in combining advanced monitoring tools and decision-support systems, helping operators adjust production in real time and optimise resource use. This enables companies to reduce CO₂ emissions, improve efficiency, and move towards circular production models.

RETROFEED demonstrates that the transition to circular economy doesn't always require starting from scratch. By modernising what already exists, industries can take practical, cost-effective steps towards a greener future.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the website:<https://retrofeed.eu>

Good practice owned by:
Romania - Sud-Muntenia

GREAT NEWS! A GAMECHANGER FOR CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEMS IN EAST FLANDERS

Big changes are happening in East Flanders—and they could reshape how regions approach the circular economy.

Following regional elections, the East Flanders Circular Economy Fund (ECEF) has taken a bold new direction: focusing entirely on local food and crafts as key drivers of circular transition.

From Strategy to Action

The updated policy framework now includes four strategic goals for the local food sector and one for crafts, supported by concrete operational actions.

This shift reflects a growing recognition that food systems are central to sustainability—impacting resource use, waste generation, and local economies.

The ambition is clear: position East Flanders as a leading circular region, where production, consumption, and reuse are closely connected at the local level.

Why Food Matters?

The focus on food is not accidental. In regions like Flanders, material use is massive—over 160 million tonnes are consumed annually, with a large share linked to food systems and supply chains.

At the same time, up to two-thirds of emissions are connected to material use, showing the huge potential of circular solutions in this sector.

By prioritising local food and crafts, ECEF aims to:

- shorten supply chains;
- reduce waste and resource dependency;
- strengthen local economies;
- and support sustainable production and consumption.

This approach aligns with broader regional ambitions to become a circular frontrunner in Europe, driven by innovation, collaboration, and smart policy design.

For the DESICE project, this example highlights how policy shifts can unlock real transformation.

It shows that:

- choosing the right priority sectors matters;
- local ecosystems (like food and crafts) can drive systemic change;
- and strong policy focus can accelerate circular transition. :)

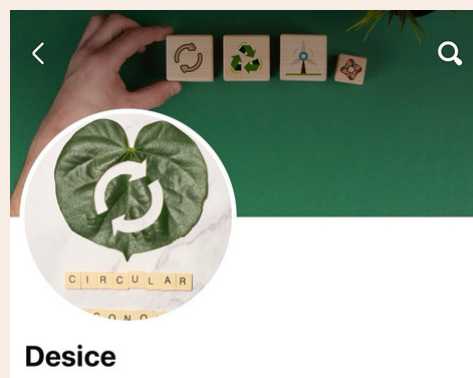
Thank You for Joining Us!

We sincerely appreciate your interest and support in our journey toward a sustainable and innovative future.

Stay connected with us for more updates, insights, and opportunities to get involved. Together, we can make a meaningful impact!

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