Circular Economy in action: where changes in thinking and attitude start
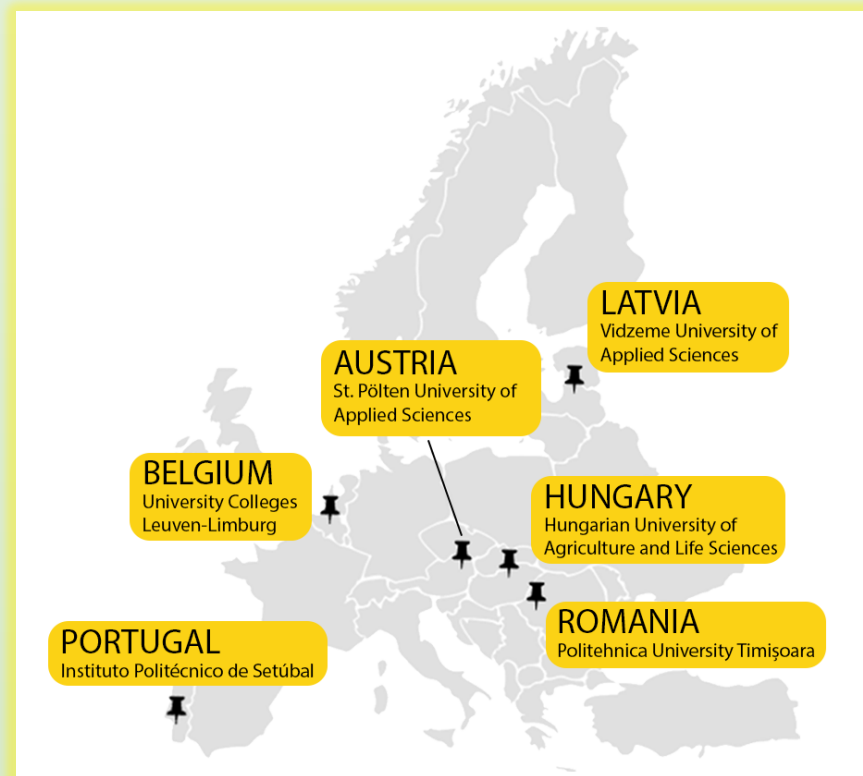
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E³UDRES²
Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions

E³UDRES² is a European University Alliance - a network of higher education institutions (HEIs) located in Europe, that have decided to closely work together and collaborate in the fields of research, teaching, innovation and beyond.

LATVIA Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences
AUSTRIA St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences
BELGIUM University Colleges Leuven-Limburg
HUNGARY Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences
PORTUGAL Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal
ROMANIA Politehnica University Timisoara

Innovative cooperation in **research**, **teaching**, **knowledge transfer** and **innovation**. Despite geographical, economic and cultural diversity, European regions face many common challenges due to:
- **Social distances & Spatial distances**
- **Technological distances**
- **Structural distances**

Change is just around the **cornEr**

WP4: Researchers

E³UDRES² Work Packages:

WP 1: General Management & Coordination (Lead: St. Pölten UAS)	WP 2: Future Universities (Lead: Vidzeme UAS)	WP 3: Learners & Educators (Lead: UC Limburg)	WP 4: Researchers (Lead: IPS Sétubal)	WP 5: Innovators & Entrepreneurs (Lead: MATE Gödöllö)	WP 6: Dissemination & Sustainability (Lead: St. Pölten UAS)

- Creation of R&D networks
- E³UDRES² postdoctoral fellowships
- Development of i-research projects
- E³UDRES² citizen science projects

3 main focus groups:
CE: Circular Economy
WB&A: Well Being and Ageing
HCtAI: Human Contribution to AI

Circular economy (CE)

RAW MATERIALS · DESIGN · PRODUCTION, PROCESSING · DISTRIBUTION · USE, RE-USE, REPAIR · COLLECTION · RECYCLING · WASTE REMAINS · CIRCULAR ECONOMY
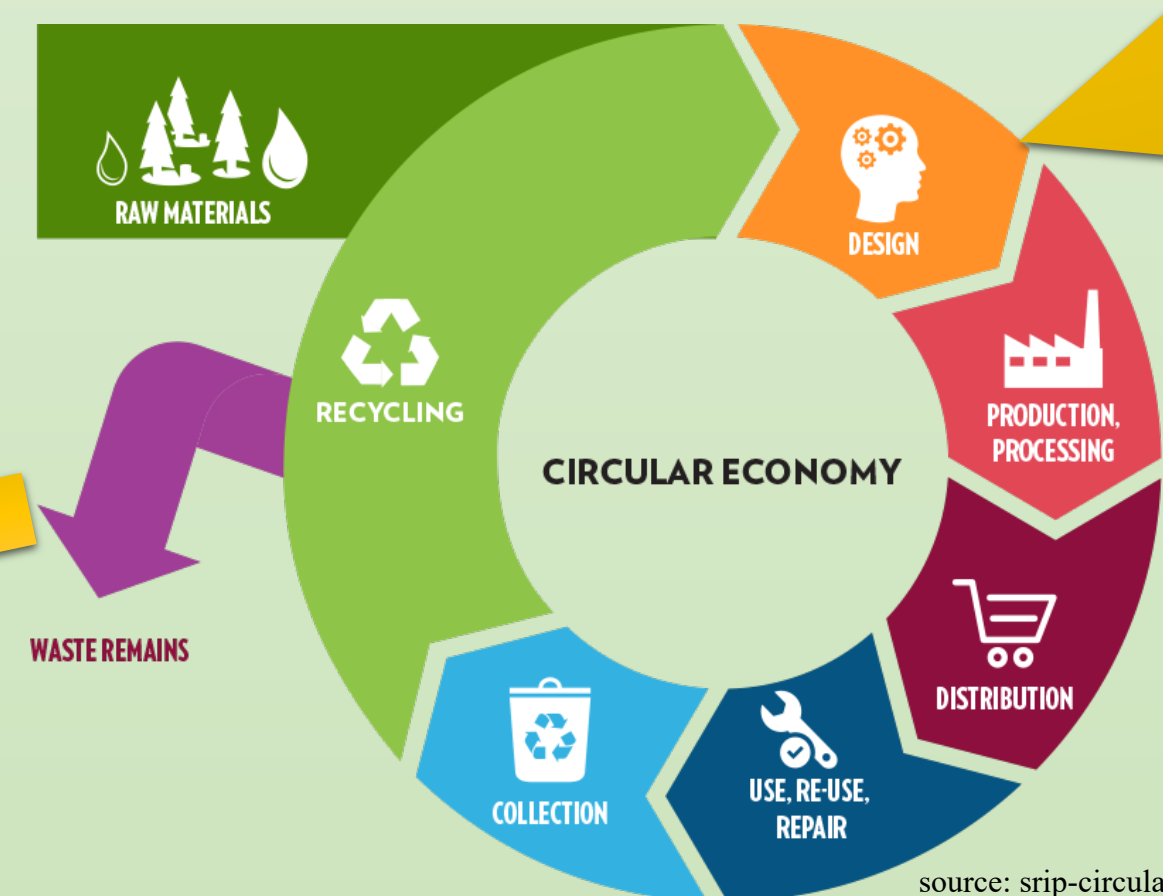
source: srip-circular-economy.eu

During the implementation phase, an additional internal project called **Change CornEr** was established. This project has several important missions and aims, and one of them is to enable future students in helping to change society's attitude towards the environment and sustainability.

This research included focus groups, role plays, interviews and/or observations to find out how prepared schools are to get involved in enabling principles of sustainability and circularity. Different lecturing and seminar materials were used to prepare the different methodological approaches. Focus groups included teachers of primary and secondary schools, as well as pupils of secondary schools. The first results show remarkable levels of readiness to be and get involved in all necessary processes for the introduction of circularity principles in everyday life but also some lack of knowledge. The research will be continued by involving other representative groups of the society in local communities.

The first results: Just two examples

Students from 6 E³UDRES² institutions had the chance to discuss with pupils from Austria and learn about their school's good practices on sustainability and waste reduction (STPUAS, Austria).
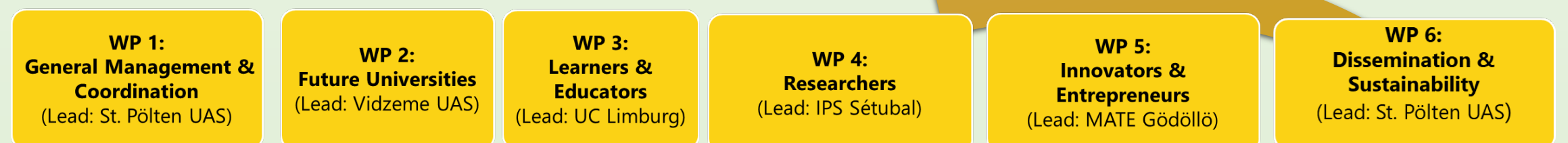

After taking into consideration their regional good practices and challenges, as well as the exchange they had with Austrian pupils, citizens, and stakeholders, they presented their "Circular Exchange" social media campaign to raise awareness on circular economy.

Ideas of Valmiera citizens to introduce circularity principles in everyday life (Vidzeme UAS, Latvia). These ideas will be passed to Eco-council of Vidzeme UAS to implement in new projects

What you would like to change to become more sustainability and circularity oriented?	Right away/ Immideately!	In a year!	In the nearest future!
All together, in the World	Change attitude to environment and sustainability questions	Use more renewable enery	to act collectively, with reason, not to fall into the traps of capitalism, to realize what the resources that we vitally need really are
	Stop wasting food	Reducing of packaging	To produce and promote long life products
	Reduce waste in general	To clean up waste waters	stop producing and using of plastic packaging
	To reduce food assortment in shops	To make more popular walking/ running	Stop polluting rivers, seas, oceans
	Usage of eletric transport in general		Stop eat meat
	To reproduce everything what is possible and impossible		
	To use sensors for lights		
All together, in Europe	Smart waste sorting	to create a single law of environmental protection and sustainability that is followed throughout Europe, or even the world	To take care about clean surroundings/ water
		Stop advertising	to show the best examples how to care for clean environment
		Reducing of packaging	To grow new generations environmentally consious
		More wooden housing, less asfalta	To promote local producers
			To have more train transport instead of busses and cars
All together, in Latvia	Introduce mandatory requirement to use renewable energy options	Learn how to cooperate and create community	to develop a sustainability plan in which we live in comfort, but without harming ourselves and the planet
	Stop buying too much staff - sales and price reductions		
	Learn how to sort waste		
All together, in Vidzeme	Introduce bio-waste sorting points and educate the local community on environment-related topics	To organize waste collection (possibly sorting) in the nature parks, popular places (Gauja)	create an application where cafes/restaurants return uneaten food to students/residents instead of throwing it away
	More velo parking spaces		More Zero waste concept shops
	To make more popular use of velo		More solar and wind energy stations
	To teach consumers to use their bags for shopping		
	More waste bins in cities		
Each individually	Use less plastic products, save water, increase the energy efficiency of buildings	To develop active lifestyle	More research in environment field
	Pick up random garbage	Buy more second/ third hand goods	To learn how to grow food
	Stop buying useless things	More containers for textiles	To use deposit possibilities
	Motivate individuals for greener approach to life		Use energy from greener sources
	Buy less cheap/low quality cloths		
	Learn how to make composts from food waste		