



Welcome to our 1st WE.Circular Newsletter

Thanks for signing up to receive the WE.Circular Newsletter. We're delighted to give you a quick update on our progress towards helping more women increase their capacity and skills towards digital and circular transition of their businesses, and to support policy makers to better understand the problems and solutions to be found in supporting women entrepreneurs.

Enjoy reading!

WE.Circular team

WE.Circular launched!

WE.Circular - Boosting digital and industrial capacity for sustainable circular transition of women entrepreneurs in the Danube Region is joint project, co-financed by Danube Regional Programme 2021-2027 aiming to foster economic growth and environmental sustainability, making a tangible impact on the region. Through collaborative efforts, we strive to bridge the gender gap, empower women entrepreneurs, and propel the smart and circular economy forward.

Our support will be provided by an innovative training programmes for to equip women in business with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital and circular economy and establishing of a vibrant community dedicated to continuous learning and support – WE.Circular Learning Network. We are driving the transition to a circular economy for women entrepreneurs in the Danube region by co-creating and piloting 3 innovative circular business models and 12 established WE.Circular Labs as hubs for experimentation and innovation. We are also committed to increasing the capacity of public authorities to design effective policy tools that support women entrepreneurs in their transition to a circular economy.

Find out more about the project: <https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/wecircular>

Latest news and events:

On March 19-20, 2024, RAPIV proudly hosted the **Launch Dissemination Event and Learning Event** for the WE.Circular project in the beautiful sea capital of Bulgaria, Varna.

During the events, partners and participants had the opportunity to share experiences and insights on several key topics:

- Women's Entrepreneurship in the Danube Region through the sight of PAC 8 Coordinators of EUSDR
- Interreg Danube Region Programme: Updates on the results of the 1st call, application details for the 2nd call, and project implementation insights from the Joint Secretariat of the Danube Region Program.
- EU Industrial Policy of Bulgaria
- Support for Women Entrepreneurship.

During the afternoon session of the first day, selected good practices were presented by Bulgarian partners RAPIV and Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar", as well as the Romanian partner, Ropot Botique (Impact Hub Bucharest).

More about the events: [LINK](#)

National Stakeholders Meetings were organized in parallel in the countries involved in WE.Circular project. More than 70 stakeholders learnt more details about the project. The main members of the Advisory Board were nominated to represent the Groups on transnational level during the project events. We are so honored to have them on board and to benefit from their knowledge and expertise!

The learning process continued on June 12th-13th, 2024, when the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA) successfully hosted the **2nd Transnational Learning Event in Chisinau, Moldova**. This dynamic event brought together over 45 participants from partnering organizations and stakeholders, eager to explore Moldavian and Czech initiatives supporting the digital and circular transition. On the second day, the members of the **Transnational Stakeholders Group** met for the first time. Project partners were excited to learn more about the members of the Advisory Board, nominated by each national stakeholder group and associated strategic partners. Preliminary results from the National Skills Needs and Gaps Analysis were presented and discussed.

More about the events: [LINK](#)

At the [Business Club Meeting in Belgrade](#), organized by the Association of Business Women in Serbia on 24.05.2024 and attended by ABW members, the project was introduced briefly by Dušica Semenčenko, long-time member of the ABW Steering Committee, as a part of the other various ABW initiatives in 2024. Lija Stojković, ABW project manager, presented the objectives, as well as the on-going and planned activities within the framework of WE.Circular project. She emphasized the importance of identifying needs and challenges of women entrepreneurs as a first step on the path towards CE and digital transformation of their businesses.

Calendar

On **10th and 11th of September 2024 Association of Business Women (ABW) will host the 3rd Transnational Learning Event** where the good practices for skills and business support of women entrepreneurs from Serbia and Slovakia will be presented by ABW. and Slovak Business Agency (SBA) The members of the Advisory Board and Associated Strategic Partners will discuss the results from the Transnational Skills Needs and Gaps Analysis and the Policy Framework Analysis.

Keep an eye out for the next Newsletter

Our next update will be focused on the **results from National Skills Needs and Gaps Analysis**: main training needs for digital and circular transition of women entrepreneurs, challenges faced and motivation to succeed, available and needed support for them.

Be ready for announcing of the Innovation Contest for Women Entrepreneurs!

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