

C I R C U L A R S T E M – B U I L D I N G A S U S T A I N A B L E F U T U R E T H R O U G H E D U C A T I O N

As the **Circular STEM project** reaches its conclusion, it leaves behind more than a set of **tools or results**—it offers a transformative vision for education. Funded by Erasmus+, Circular STEM set out to strengthen circular economy competencies among secondary school teachers and students aged 13 to 18. Today, it stands as a model of how education, when designed with purpose and inclusivity, can drive systemic change toward sustainability.

Born from the awareness that environmental challenges require new mindsets, **Circular STEM combined STEM education, circular economy principles, digital tools, and entrepreneurial thinking into a single, integrated approach.** From the very beginning, the project's ambition was not only to inform, but to inspire. It aimed to show teachers how to turn their classrooms into laboratories of the future, and to provide young people with the tools to become active, responsible citizens in a circular society.

What made Circular STEM particularly strong was the richness and diversity of its Consortium. Partners from Italy, Portugal, Germany, Spain, Latvia, and Serbia brought together schools, universities, digital innovators, and sustainability experts. This cross-sector and cross-country collaboration allowed for a variety of perspectives and teaching practices, but always with a shared mission: to make sustainability a central pillar of education.

The project's main achievements reflect this shared ambition. **Among the key outputs are the Circular STEM Academy, an interactive Moodle-based platform offering engaging educational materials; a comprehensive Toolbox and methodology** to help teachers embed circular topics into STEM subjects; and a **Policy Paper** aimed at influencing local and national education policies. All these resources are accessible, practical, and designed to be used and adapted by teachers across Europe.

Beyond the platforms and documents, **Circular STEM also created a series of didactic tools that made learning dynamic and experiential.** From puzzle games and sustainable treasure hunts to hands-on workshops and interactive infographics, these tools brought circular economy concepts to life in the classroom. They proved that teaching sustainability does not mean adding more content, but rethinking how and why we teach.

Throughout the project, **various stages allowed for testing, exchange, and co-creation.** It all began with the kick-off in Portugal, followed by a “Train the Trainers” session in Serbia. Local workshops and testing phases engaged teachers and students directly, while focus groups with over 60 educators gathered invaluable feedback. These activities ensured that the final outputs were not just theoretically sound, but tested and validated in real educational contexts.



Now, at the end of its journey, Circular STEM is more than a completed project.

It is a call to action. It has shown that sustainability can—and must—become an integral part of education. The resources are ready, the evidence is clear, and the community is growing. What is needed now is continued commitment: from policymakers, from schools, and from educators who believe in the power of teaching to shape a better world.

The future is circular. And with Circular STEM, it starts in the classroom.

For more information, visit www.circularstem.eu or follow the project on Facebook and LinkedIn at Circular STEM Project.

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