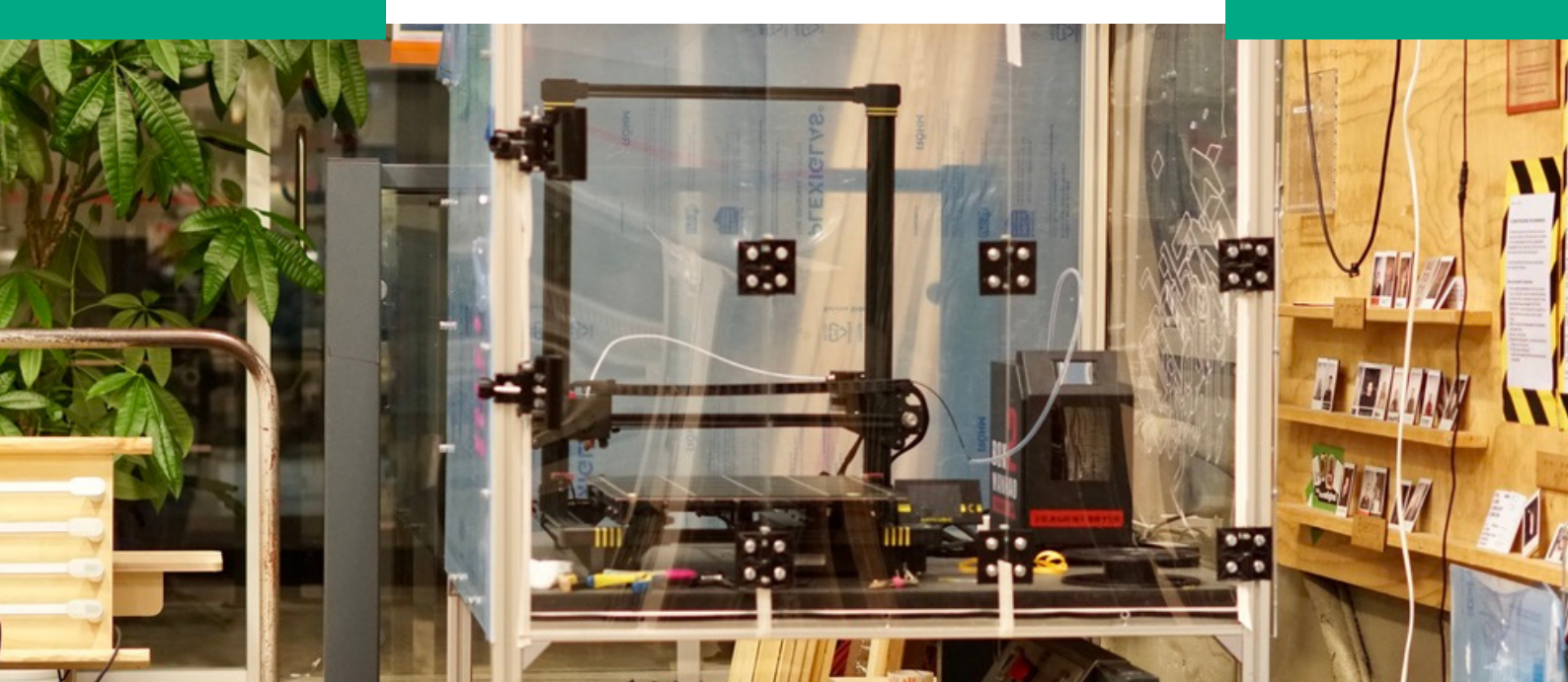


»»» NEWSLETTER «««

CIRCULAR SPACES

Transforming makerspaces to circular economy principles



TOP NEWS OF THE PROJECT

WEBINAR TO PRESENT CIRCULAR SPACES



The first webinar of the project was held on Dec 11, 2023, with more than 30 participants, bringing together different interested parties. The meeting focused on the project's goal of making makerspaces more circular and sustainable. The collaborative nature of the project was highlighted, with partners from different countries and sectors working together to promote sustainable development and circular economy.

Project partners met in Luckenwalde, Germany, for the 2nd General Assembly meeting. During the two days, project partners discussed how to put the prepared solutions into practice and pilot them in order to offer ready-made solutions and products at the end of the project in early 2025. First day's meeting ended with experience sharing workshop during which hosting partners showed their makerspace, utilities and equipment.



PARTNERS MEET IN LUCKEN- WALDE

SURVEYS FOR TARGET GROUPS TO FIND OUT THEIR VIEWS AND NEEDS

»»» MAKERSPACE COMMUNITIES

In October 2023, Circular Spaces project partners Lithuanian Innovation Centre prepared a survey to find out the needs and preferences of makers in applying circular economy principles to their activities. The results of this survey paved the way for a clearer understanding of how the Circular Makerspaces training program should look like.

The results of the survey reflected the initial need for it, with more than half of the respondents (55.9 %) stating that one of the primary barriers to adopting circular economy practices in makers' activities is the lack of knowledge and training. When thinking about potential training, the most popular topics to be learned were circular design / life cycle thinking (52.5 %), circular innovations and latest achievements (45.8 %), circular value chains and ecosystems (39 %).

WHAT IS A MAKER-SPACE?

A makerspace is a collaborative workspace that provides individuals with access to tools, equipment, and resources for creating, designing, and building. These spaces are designed to encourage exploration and experimentation across various disciplines, including electronics, woodworking, 3D printing, and more.

»»» DIGITAL TOOL FOR CIRCULAR MAKERSPACES

One of the project's activities is creation of the digital circular collaboration tool. Ventspils High Technology Park (VHTP) created and all the project partners distributed a survey about the possible functionality of the digital tool to take into account the needs of makers, makerspaces, suppliers and other relevant stakeholders. Project's team concluded that there is a need for such digital tool.

Most necessary functionality includes need for a network of the makerspaces, opportunity to access their facilities and services easily, network of makers for exchange of information, network of material suppliers and need for e-shop for products and services created by makers and entrepreneurs.



FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS IN MAKERSPACES

»» MEETING IN GEWERBEHOF LUCKENWALDE, GERMANY

Participants in the focus group value the makerspace premises and acknowledged that the facilities are modern with good equipment. They suggested to organize design competitions. Meeting participants said that they would like to participate in sharing good examples and ideas, cooperation projects with makers and other makerspaces, and training programmes about circular economy in general. To sum up, people seemed to be very unfamiliar with the concept of circularity in makerspaces, but they are willing to learn and build their knowledge in this field.

»» MEETING IN CREATOR, NORWAY

Everyone at the meeting suggested to set up a material recovery station, have a person who can help fix a machine or provide workshops e.g. 'How to fix the 3D printer', share resources, share the ideas and examples and lastly, have cooperation projects with makers and other makerspaces. Lastly, most of the participants said that they would be interested in having practical knowledge on how to work with specific equipment, how to reuse materials and learn about material alternatives.

»» MEETING IN CIRCULAR MAKERSPACE KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

Circular Makerspace Kaunas operates in 3 rooms at Kaunas University of Technology and is well organized and established. This makerspace has a collaboration with some large manufacturing companies that provide leftover materials. Focus group discussed that digital collaboration tool should have e-shop for circular products and services to encourage the adoption of circular economy practices. Also, the tool could include such features as project collaboration platform and educational hub.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit project's website, where you will be able to find out more about drafted solutions and possibilities to participate interreg-baltic.eu/project/circular-spaces/



»» MEETING IN MAKERSPACE KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

Makerspace Kaunas forms a solid foundation for a makerspace, by operating 3D printers, CNC, laser machines, tools for metal, plastics, woodworking. Manufacturing companies provide leftover materials to the makerspace, some makers use the space with their own materials. Participants suggested that the digital tool could have an international online challenge or competition tool. This feature would encourage makers to come up with creative circular solutions.

»» MEETING IN MAKERSPACE RADE IN VENTSPILS, LATVIA

Makerspace in RADE is well appreciated among makers in Ventspils as it provides ergonomic workplace with good equipment. Participants concluded that makerspaces should have training programmes about circular economy, tutorials on the use of open data platforms, material recovery stations and other services. Training should include material options and reusing them, opportunities of open data platforms and how to make your product more sustainable and eco-friendlier. They found that e-shop and supplier network would be most useful function in the digital tool.

»» MEETINGS IN MAKERSPACE DARE IN VALMIERA, LATVIA

Two focus group meetings were held in DARE. In the first meeting participants acknowledged that the space is limited and could be expanded. Everyone agreed that there are a lot of things that you can do in the makerspace already, but there is a lack of smaller things that are needed – various type of glue, etc. Makers shared that DARE could provide circular economy services like furniture restoration workshop, training un eco-design, corner of reusable materials and more ideas. When introduced with digital collaboration tool idea, participants said that they would find contacts and information for more successful reuse of available materials useful, as well as, e-shop. In the second focus group meeting participants admitted that the function of the currently planned digital tool are fulfilled by Facebook and free programs, but they emphasized that the information on local opportunities for companies to cooperate would be very useful.

»» MEETING IN MAKERSPACE LINKMENŲ FABRIKAS, VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

This makerspace mostly focuses on a few areas of activity: electronics, metal and wood processing, 3D printing, thermoplastics, laser cutting, and media production. General agreement within the focus group was to have different types of materials that would support the makerspace in its more sustainable transformation – general guidelines for waste free events and daily work of makerspaces, practical tips, topic specific workshops, and canvas for circular design guidelines. Overall, the use of the digital tool was positively received in the focus group. A database of suppliers that would be able to provide recycled raw materials was mentioned as a potentially major benefit. Also, a platform where contacts of service providers could be found (e.g., for prototype part production) would be beneficial.



Focus group meeting in makerspace DARE, Latvia

MEET PROJECT PARTNERS



➤➤➤ VALMIERA MUNICIPALITY GOVERNMENT

As of July 2021, Valmiera City has merged with the surrounding territories to form the second largest region in Latvia. Valmiera City is the second leading city in the country in terms of per capita output and exports, twice exceeding the Latvian indicator. Valmiera region is a growing and development-orientated area committed to continuing to promote business development and creating a dynamic business environment.



➤➤➤ VENTSPILS HIGH TECHNOLOGY PARK

Ventspils High Technology Park (VHTP) is a foundation based in Ventspils, Latvia. VHTP contributes to the economy of the Kurzeme region by promoting the development of emerging industries. Foundation works in different fields - providing the park's infrastructure and utility services, providing support for new businesses, promoting digital transformation of companies, providing business owners with equipment of design workshop, and offering educational technologies.



➤➤➤ VALMIERA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Valmiera Development Agency is an active member of the regional innovation and development ecosystem. Our activities include developing the business environment, supporting digital transformation projects, cooperating with the education sector to provide career development support. The makerspace DARE becomes circular, incorporating the principles of the circular economy everyday. Here, concepts and ideas transform into tangible prototypes in thriving and ambitious startups!



➤➤➤ KAUNAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

Tech-Park Kaunas is a science and technology park that creates the best experience for startups. At present, it hosts more than 100 deep-tech related companies operating in the fields of urban-tech, med-tech, green-tech, crea-tech, and space-tech. Through various initiatives, such as sustainability workshops, networking events focused on eco-innovation, and partnerships with environmental organizations, Tech-Park Kaunas is dedicated to advancing sustainability and circular economy practices in the tech sector.



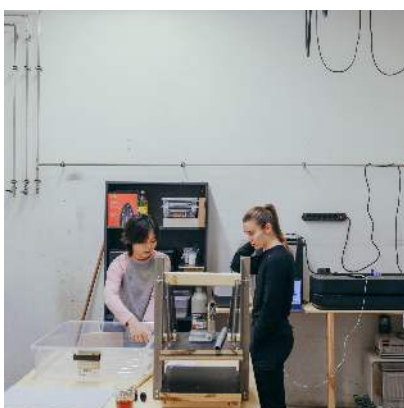
»»» LITHUANIAN INNOVATION CENTRE

Lithuanian Innovation Centre is a non-profit organization, providing innovation support services to enterprises, research institutions, industry associations, business support organisations, and public authorities. The oldest organization of its kind in Lithuania is proud to have accumulated more than 27 years of excellence by implementing dozens if not hundreds of both national and international initiatives. At LIC people are driven by the purpose of fueling the growth of innovative businesses.



»»» CREATOR MAKERSPACE

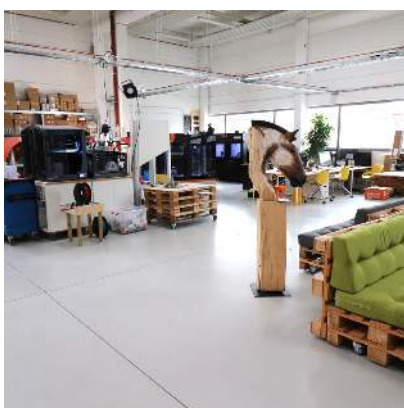
Creator is a non-profit makerspace in Stavanger, Norway. Our users are both individuals and businesses. Our makerspace is a prototype workshop where people with common interests meet to work on projects and share ideas, equipment and knowledge. Everyone is welcome here. Our members are makers, hobbyists, innovators, specialists, businesses technologists, inventors and hard workers. Some use Creator as a place to work with hobbies, others have a professional need. Creator's goal is to help create workplaces in the region.



»»» MAKER

Welcome to Maker V-10, a shared workshop facility filled with creativity and innovation dedicated to physical entrepreneurship and sustainable product development. This is a place where designers meet engineers and architects meet artists, where ideas become inspirational projects, physical products, and new businesses.

Perhaps it's something for you?



»»» TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES WILDAU

TH Wildau with approximately 3,300 students is a modern campus university situated in the Berlin-Brandenburg region, offering a compact and excellently equipped campus in Wildau. Specializing in engineering, natural sciences, computer science, management, law, administrative, and economic sciences, TH Wildau focuses on practical and forward-looking education and research. The university is committed to reflecting on the impact of its activities on society and the environment.

Receive the next project's newsletters via email by signing up [HERE](#)