

“CHANGE is just around the CORNER”: creating a transformative space for engaging society in a circular economy

The European Green Deal targets both social and ecological issues, promising that no individual or region is left behind while striving for economic growth without exhausting resources. Circular economy is one solution put forward in order to reach optimal resource efficiency. In order to reach a circular economy, collaboration across different phases of the supply chain is needed. As such, engagement of stakeholders, including civil society, is necessary for this transition to be successful.

The 'Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions' (E³UDRES²) consortium created the Change Corner¹. The Change Corner is a transformative space for engaging the community in circular economy, starting from students, teachers and researchers. In the Change Corner, inspiring good practices from circular economy are presented to the community of students, teachers and researchers. The aim of the Change Corner is to create awareness and support action in the face of climate change.

Research methods from implementation science, citizen science, participatory action research and Human Centered Design (HCD) are integrated in the Change Corner to provide a safe space for exploring barriers and needs concerning the transition to circular economy. Starting from these needs and barriers, the desired impact of participants concerning circular economy in their regions is envisioned in co-creation sessions.

In this workshop, the audience is invited to experience the methodology used in the Change Corner. Regional good practices are presented during the session. Photovoice is used to explore the specific good practices and barriers that audience members experience in their daily life. Afterwards the audience is engaged to co-create a vision of the impact they want to see in their ideal circular region and how each of them can contribute by changing individual behavior.

¹ <https://eudres.eu/changecorner>