



DESICE

ENHANCING CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH INNOVATIVE DESIGN



DESICE project aims to improve regional and local policies in the field of circular economy, enhancing the capacity of product designers to implement innovative practices. The project involves collaboration among 8 partners from 7 EU countries, focusing on a multi-step approach to identify good practices and facilitate policy changes. The initiative sought to empower stakeholders through knowledge sharing and capacity building to ensure a successful transition towards a circular economy.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Anatoliki SA - Organisation for local development (Greece)

Economic Council of East Flanders (Belgium)

BSC, Business Support Centre Kranj, L.t.d., Kranj (Slovenia)

Thessaloniki Municipality (Greece)

Public Institution Lithuanian Innovation Centre (Lithuania)

South Muntenia Regional Development Agency (Romania)

Association of Municipalities of Tartu County (Estonia)

UPI Emilia-Romagna (Italy)

DESICE Project Partner Meeting & Study Visits – Belgium

On June 4–5, the DESICE team hit the road through Aalst, Sint-Niklaas, and Ghent, discovering how circular ideas come to life in Flanders.

At Walstroom, creativity met sustainability — from ROVER's furniture made of industrial leftovers to the energy of Broeikas' student hackathon and The Keet's community-driven circular projects.

In Sint-Niklaas, COCON and Waas Circulair showed how collaboration can turn an old industrial site into a vibrant hub for changemakers.

We were inspired by Baby On The Move and Re-Sound, proving that smart design and sustainability go hand in hand.

A sunny city walk and a delicious short-chain dinner in Ghent wrapped up a day full of ideas and connections.

The next morning, partners gathered to share good practices in circular design, discuss future goals, and plan the road ahead — toward more innovation, more impact, and a more circular tomorrow. 🌱



THE DESICE PROJECT AIMS TO
EMPOWER EDUCATION IN THE FIELD
OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY
FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE, POLICY IMPROVEMENTS,
AND CAPACITY BUILDING AMONG
STAKEHOLDERS.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE TRANSITION
TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY
MODEL IN THE PARTICIPATING
REGIONS.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GOOD PRACTICES - 3RD PART

KTU DESIGN CENTRE – REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR CIRCULAR DESIGN INNOVATION - LITHUANIA



Circular design meets innovation at the KTU Design Centre, a regional hub for applied design research and sustainability at Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania). The Centre bridges design, engineering, and circular economy, helping companies, students, and institutions rethink how products are created, used, and reused.

Focusing on eco-design, sustainable materials, and lifecycle thinking, the Centre provides open-access design tools, interdisciplinary training, and prototyping programs that empower businesses and future innovators alike. By working closely with municipalities, business support organizations, and agencies like MITA, KTU Design Centre builds strong local networks that accelerate circular transitions.

Main results: 18+ SMEs supported, 2 design patents, open-source tools, interdisciplinary education, and integration into regional circular strategies. Collaboration between academia, business, and policy proves that circular design is both possible and powerful.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the website: <https://fmed.ktu.edu/dc/>

Good practice owned by:
Public Institution Lithuanian Innovation Centre
Sostinės regionas (Lithuania)

EcoDesign practices with natural fibres for the sustainability of territories and communities – ITALY



The initiative focuses on reviving and innovating natural fibre supply chains in a sustainable way. By addressing issues such as unsustainable resource use, rural decline, and the loss of craft skills, it seeks to unlock the potential of fibres like hemp, bamboo, cork, and basalt within modern design and production. The goal is to connect traditional craftsmanship with new technologies and circular models while preventing greenwashing.

The project combines historical and territorial research with collaboration between designers, engineers, agronomists, and social scientists. It develops pilot projects and biocomposite prototypes with European universities and research centres, and promotes knowledge exchange through conferences, publications, and academic cooperation.

Its impact is threefold: environmentally, it promotes circular use of natural resources; socially and economically, it supports artisans and small producers; and culturally, it preserves and renews craft traditions by linking them to contemporary design and education.

Project budget: €15,000 (from private, partner, and university sources)

Main results: creation of sustainable prototypes such as the Emiliano project, which transformed rice husks and straw into sound-absorbing, thermo-insulating panels; development of interdisciplinary cooperation; and strengthened regional circular supply chains.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the website: <https://sfera.unife.it/handle/11392/2531413>

Good practice owned by:
University of Ferrara (Italy)

INNOVATIVE PEACH YARN (NEW THREAD OF LIFE) – GREECE



This innovative practice tackles the challenge of finding sustainable raw materials for the textile industry. With cotton limited by land-use pressures and synthetic fibres relying on petroleum, the project turned to an unexpected local resource — peach waste. Greece, a leading global producer of peaches, generates nearly 95,000 tons of waste each year from juice and canning industries. This agricultural residue became the foundation for creating an eco-friendly peach-based yarn.

The project brought together public institutions, a fashion designer, and a civil engineer, supported by regional authorities and European funding. ELGO DIMITRA processed peach residues into cellulose powder, which was then transformed into yarn using the Lyocell method at the University of West Attica. The material was woven with silk in Soufli and used by a Thessaloniki designer to create an experimental clothing line.

Local and regional authorities played a key role in facilitating cooperation, funding access, and dissemination, demonstrating how governance can connect agriculture, research, and the creative industries. The innovation was patented at the European Patent Office in 2023 and internationally in 2024, showcasing a model of circular innovation and sustainable fashion.

Project budget: €810,000 (80% European funding)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the website: <https://newthreadoflife.com/>

Good practice owned by:

ANATOLIKI SA – Organisation for Local Development (Greece)

DESICE PARTNERS STRENGTHEN LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY NETWORKS ACROSS EUROPE

September 2025 was a busy month for the DESICE project, as partners across Europe hosted their third Local Stakeholder Meetings to exchange ideas, showcase good practices, and strengthen regional collaboration in the circular economy.

In Thessaloniki (Greece), ANATOLIKI S.A. brought together local authorities, academics, and designers to discuss innovative policies and projects advancing circular design. Highlights included presentations from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Region of Central Macedonia, and TETRAGON S.A., showcasing sustainable initiatives like the Green EOT Pavilion and the MINEV project on waste reduction at large events.

In Ghent (Belgium), twelve circular experts gathered for a thought-provoking session on tackling waste at its roots. Guest speaker Stefaan Verhamme from POM West-Flanders shared insights into how regional clusters—such as new materials, sustainable construction, and blue energy—are driving innovation through collaboration and policy support.

Meanwhile, in Romania, the South-Muntenia Regional Development Agency hosted a meeting featuring both international and national best practices. From Saint-Gobain Glass Romania's glass recycling initiative to SILCOTUB's RETROFEED industrial modernization model, participants explored how circular principles can transform production and design.

Across all three meetings, a common vision emerged: collaboration between industry, research, and local government is key to building resilient, circular regions. Each event strengthened the DESICE network's shared mission—to design a more sustainable future, one region at a time. 🌍

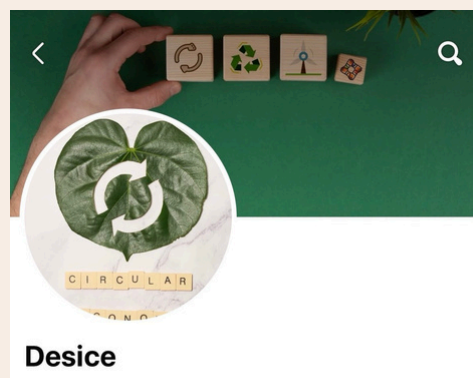
Thank You for Joining Us!

We sincerely appreciate your interest and support in our journey toward a sustainable and innovative future.

Stay connected with us for more updates, insights, and opportunities to get involved. Together, we can make a meaningful impact!

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