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October 2020 Newsletter

It has been a surprisingly busy summer for the CIRCUIT project partners. Despite the on-going restrictions on traveling and gatherings, we held a number of networking and hackathon events across the four cities – Copenhagen, Hamburg, London and Helsinki region.

Each of the cities has established an urban decision-maker forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges of implementing circular construction at a city level. Work has continued looking at how we can improve data capture in the built environment sector, and exploring appropriate indicators to tell us how we're doing.

Excitingly, we're making real progress too in setting up our 36 demonstrator projects that will explore innovative approaches to reusing and recycling demolition materials, extending the life of existing buildings, and designing for future adaptability. If you've got an idea for a great demonstrator in one of the partner cities, please do [get in touch](#).

Over the next 3 months, we will hold our first City Network event – read more in the update below – and we'll be looking in detail at how Circular Economy can be built into the urban planning policies of the four cities. We'll report back on progress in the next few newsletters.

Please share this newsletter with others in your network who might be interested in how circular building practices can help tackle the climate emergency and [invite them to sign up](#).



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Project updates



CIRCuiT publishes first formal report

Following an extensive mapping of each of the four CIRCuiT cities' material data ecosystems, a new report, *State of the art on material flow data in the built environment*, has been published.

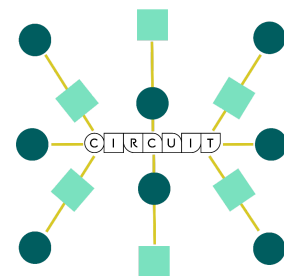
Ensuring a robust understanding of the current climate in terms of the existing stocks and flows of built environment materials is a crucial first step for the CIRCuiT project. Identifying and harnessing data is therefore essential. At scale, this kind of data will allow analyses on which methodologies, digital tools, policies, and key performance indicators can be based.

To read the full report, [click here](#)

The CIRCuiT City Network is launching!

The CIRCuiT City Network is a forum of 12 cities external to CIRCuiT's main city regions; Copenhagen, Hamburg, Helsinki Region and Greater London. The network will create a two-way flow of information, allowing the project to hear about best practice from a wider range of cities and make project results available and sharing our experiences with other beyond the immediate project team.

If you are interested and would like to find out more please do not hesitate to contact the CIRCuiT City Network co-ordinator, Andrea Charlson: andrea.charlson@lwarb.gov.uk



Copenhagen launches circular economy decision-making network

On 30th October, our CIRCuiT partners, GXN held the first Urban Decision Maker Forum: 'Cross-city kick-off' networking



event in Amsterdam.

Key stakeholders from each city met to build an in-depth understanding of barriers and accelerators for circular economy and construction, sharing knowledge and best practices across the partner cities.

To read the full article, [click here](#)

Hamburg hosts their first hackathon on recycled concrete

At a hackathon wrestling with both the challenges and opportunities associated with recycling concrete, 21 participants generated some innovative and actionable ideas worth pursuing further. They identified and prioritised the weaknesses, strengths, and potential of recycled concrete, recommending a number of measures and actions to increase and improve its use in new buildings.

Findings from this event will feed into the project's Urban Mining focus area, including two upcoming workshops on reuse and recycling of materials in Hamburg on a regional scale.

To read the full article, [click here](#)

To keep in touch with upcoming activities in Hamburg [sign up to our newsletter](#)



Helsinki host their first networking event

On September 9th the first annual local stakeholder event in Helsinki Region took place online attracting over 90 experts from 40 different organisations. Organised in collaboration with two other EU-projects, WOOL2LOOP and HYPPY, the webinar aimed to gather a diverse group of construction, demolition, and circular economy experts to discuss a number of challenges for circular construction.

Henna Teerihalme, Project Manager at HSY said;

“It’s great to see that even in an online webinar it’s possible to

have lively discussion and network effectively.”

To read the full article, [click here](#)

To to keep in touch with upcoming activities in Helsinki [sign up to our newsletter](#)



CIRCulT events

3rd November 2020

CIRCulT City Network, Copenhagen

The inaugural CIRCulT City Network meeting will be hosted online by the City of Copenhagen on 3rd November 2020. This will be an engaging event where representatives from 16 cities across Europe can meet to share ideas, learnings, and experiences in driving the circular economy in the built environment. The focus of this initial meeting will be on policies and other tools that cities can use to drive this agenda. We will have a number of inspiring presentations on this topic as well as time for discussions about the opportunities and challenges within your cities.

For further information, please contact andrea.charlson@lwarb.gov.uk

12th - 20th November 2020

Camp Circular Construction hackathon | BloxHub, Copenhagen

Our CIRCulT partners, GXN, City of Copenhagen, BLOXHUB, and Maker are hosting a 60-hour hackathon that will focus on the different elements that make up a building, focusing on ways to develop new construction processes that enable the disassembly of building components.

With a focus on reflection, collaboration, and challenges from leading experts in circular construction we aim at translating ideas and challenges into practice.

To get involved and for further information, please contact [Nichlas Moos Heunicke](#)



Latest blogs

Building for the future: Design for disassembly and flexible construction

Nicholas Moos Heunicke from GXN discusses the concept of circularity in the built environment; in particular, how does the process of deconstruction and use of transformation play a key role in ensuring circularity? He examines various initiatives working to accelerate the use of sustainable practices within the sector and considers how these contribute to the future of circular construction.

[Read here](#)

Changing attitudes towards circular construction

The construction sector is slowly starting to adapt to the idea of a circular economy. For faster progress, we must take a multi-sectoral approach to address the various challenges. In this blog, Tiina Haaspuro and Henna Teerihalme from HSY look at how this might be achieved, shedding light on some of the many barriers.

[Read here](#)



Related news

Copenhagen initiates pilot project on the recycling of building materials

The City Council decided in September 2019 to test a policy intervention designed to drive systemic change, by introducing new requirements around reuse and recycling of building materials into the procurement of municipal construction projects. The first results show that the total expenditure of two of the pilot projects is expected to increase by 5% to 10% while the total expenditure of a third project is expected to be unchanged or marginally smaller. The potential for reducing the city's built environment is therefore promising.

For more information, [click here](#)

CIRCUIT partner Grimshaw Architects host World Green Building Week panel

discussion

It is critical that architects and designers work with clients and the wider industry to accelerate adaptive re-use developments. This was the topic of the Grimshaw-hosted webinar on 22nd September. Will Hurst, Managing Editor at Architects' Journal, Lorna Walker, COO and Head of ESG at Modomo, and David Cheshire, Regional Sustainability Director at AECOM focused on three themes:

- Net-zero agenda - The discussion highlighted the need to consider embodied carbon. By considering embodied carbon, the uptake of adaptive reuse (and deep refurbishment) will increase in new buildings, meeting the "Paris proof" carbon intensity targets.
- COVID-19 - Lockdowns and working from home will drive demand for improved spatial standards and access to green space. This will need to be addressed by developers to prevent people from leaving London to find larger homes with access to more external space.
- Legislation - Current policy gaps and a lack of incentives for developers are the biggest obstacles to increasing the uptake over new build developments.

To hear the full discussion, you can find a recording of the webinar [here](#)

For more information, please contact [Peter Swallow](#) or [Andrea Charlson](#)

Please share with your networks using the links below



CIRCuiT - Circular Construction in Regenerative Cities - is a collaborative project involving 29 ambitious partners across the entire built environment chain in Copenhagen, Hamburg, Helsinki Region and Greater London. Funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, the project will support the creation of regenerative cities by implementing sustainable and circular construction practices.



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