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January 2021 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a good break and, despite the on-going restrictions across Europe, have had a productive start to the new year. The pandemic is certainly presenting challenges for collaborative demonstrator projects like CIRCUI T but we are continuing to make progress and are delighted to share this update on our activities with you.

Over the past three months, we've held our first CIRCUI T City Network event and have been conducting local consultations on proposals for circularity indicators (further information on this later). We've been making progress on a number of our desk-based research activities, including compiling methodologies for identifying buildings and areas that are ripe for transformation; and we've been exploring which urban planning policies could help promote circular construction. Look out for publications on these topics over the next few months.

And finally, we've been busy planning a range of engagement activities throughout 2021. We hope to announce hackathons in a number of our cities over the coming months, virtually if necessary, so keep an eye on your inbox and on social media for more on these soon. 2021 is going to be a really exciting year for our project with a number of demonstrator projects coming to life – we're so pleased that you're on this journey with us.

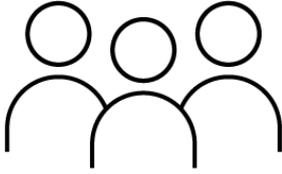
Stay safe, and we hope you enjoy this update.



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Project updates



CIRCuiT hosts inaugural City Network meeting enabling cross-city collaboration

We were delighted to hold our first City Network meeting on 3rd November 2020, hosted by City of Copenhagen (CPH), London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) and the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP). This will be the first in a series of cross-city learning events that will take place over the next three years.

It was great to welcome 32 participants from across 15 cities in Europe, to discuss the role of city governance in circular construction. Sessions explored policies and tools that cities can use to promote circularity in construction and shed light on a number of common themes including regulatory barriers and solutions that CIRCuiT could demonstrate.

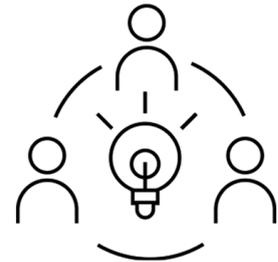
To read more, [click here](#)

Circularity indicators to show circularity at a city, material and building level

It's hard to become a circular city without having the data to define where you're going and to track the progress you're making on the journey.

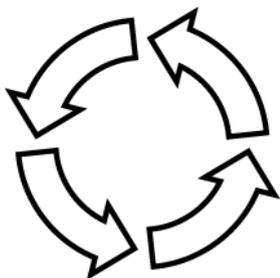
Over the last three months, CIRCuiT partners in London, Copenhagen, Hamburg and Vantaa held over a dozen Circularity Indicator workshops with over 60 participants to discuss. The chosen indicators will be tested in CIRCuiT demonstration projects and form the basis of the [Circularity Dashboard](#).

“The industry workshops really highlighted the need to have indicators to support decision making and showed us that there's a real appetite for a shift towards a more circular construction industry” ~ Dr Flavie Lowres, ([BRE](#))



To read more about the Helsinki Region workshop as well as their Urban Decision Maker Forum earlier in 2020, [click here](#).

Want to stay updated on CIRCuIT activities in each city? [Sign up to our mailing list](#)



Hamburg hosts circular economy and Green Deal event

More than 55 heads of department, architects, university lecturers, business representatives and industry experts attended a virtual event on circular economy and the Green Deal on 2nd December 2020. The event, organised by the CIRCuIT team in Hamburg, briefed attendees on the scope and impact of a wide range of circular economy initiatives already happening in Hamburg – and went on to showcase CIRCuIT as a best practice project and encourage people to join our “Circular Construction Community” in the city.

To take advantage of having so many decision-makers and experts in one (virtual) room, an Urban Decision Maker Forum was held directly after the circular economy event. The online platform, Miro, was used as a collaboration tool to visually mindmap participants ideas on the topic: "How to overcome existing barriers and how to bring forward circular construction in our city".

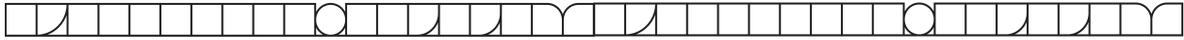
Both events were a huge success and enabled the team to inspire and convert people from across related sectors to the benefits of circular construction in Hamburg and beyond.



CIRCuIT events

We had so many events planned for the end of 2020 and into 2021 but unfortunately, lots of them have been delayed because of the various global pandemic restrictions.

Please keep an eye on the [CIRCuiT website](#) and [sign up to our newsletter](#) to make sure you never miss an event!



Latest blogs

Circular Economy – what’s standing in our way?

In short, the answer is: multiple things.

In this blog, Alexandra Jonca ([UKGBC](#)), argues that although the topic of circular economy is moving up the business and political agenda, barriers remain that prevent widespread uptake of circular principles across the built environment. She explores three key challenges that UKGBC and the CIRCuiT project have identified, and how they have started to address them.

[Read here](#)

Understanding the past, building our future.

How does our past inform the future of circular construction?

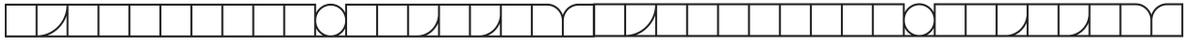
One of CIRCuiT’s aims is to extend the idea of urban mining to construction and demolition activities, reimagining cities as rich sources of reusable building materials. In this blog by Vasiliki Savvilotidou on behalf of our partners at The [University of Technology in Hamburg](#), insights are presented on how urban mining can be used to help us move beyond the current linear economic system & practices.

[Read here](#)

Providing policy toolkits for decision-makers in circular cities

Cities, as well as nations, are starting to formulate visions, create strategies, develop policies and set goals on circular economy and circular construction. And, guidance such as the EU [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) and London's circular economy statement help accelerate the transition to a circular construction industry. This blog by Frederik Fenger Petersen ([City Of Copenhagen](#)) discusses how we can integrate the circular agenda in city policies.

[Read here](#)



In case you missed it..

CIRCuiT publishes first formal report

Authors: Kaie Small Warner, Ben Cartwright, Tom Jennings, Gilli Hobbs ([BRE](#))

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](#)

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Forward



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.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821201.

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