

## Circular and Dynamic Manufacturing Supply Chain Orchestration and Optimization

### D6.6 Open Calls Report

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## Abbreviations

Acronym	Description
EOI	Expression of Interest
OC2	Open Call 2
OC3.1	Open Call 3.1
DIH	Digital Innovation Hub

MWCB	Mobile World Capital Barcelona
ED	European Dynamics
F6S	F6S Network
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprise
EU	European Union

## Executive Summary

This deliverable provides a comprehensive overview of the outcomes of Open Call 2 (OC2) and Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1) of the CIRCULOOS project, which are central instruments in fostering new and improved circular supply chains across Europe. These open calls aimed to support SMEs, technology providers, and other relevant actors in implementing circular strategies. Open Call 2 had a broader scope, fostering new circular value chains across the wider manufacturing industry, while Open Call 3.1 specifically targeted solutions for the project's three existing pilot sectors (plastics, wood, and leather). The report covers application statistics, eligibility analysis, geographic and sectoral reach, and insights gained from the matchmaking efforts and submission processes.

Beyond supporting individual SMEs, a fundamental objective of these Open Calls was to validate the CIRCULOOS technological ecosystem. By mandating the use of project-specific digital tools, the selected demonstrators will serve as critical 'beta-testing' environments to refine the project's core concepts.

OC2 focused on forming small consortia of 2 to 4 partners to propose circular value chains. It received 84 applications, of which 80 were deemed eligible, representing an impressive eligibility rate of 95.24%. These applications showed a healthy geographic distribution, particularly from Southern and Western Europe, and included a broad mix of manufacturers, technology enablers, and service providers. The open call attracted strong interest, with most submissions concentrated around key communication milestones.

OC3.1 targeted single applicants aiming to join and enhance existing pilot value chains. It received 39 applications, 33 of which were found eligible, resulting in a lower eligibility rate of 84.62%. Applicants proposed projects aligned with the wood, plastic, or leather pilot lines, and the selected entities included a diverse mix of SMEs, startups, and non-profit institutions. This report also briefly revisits the Expression of Interest (EOI) phase and provides an update on matchmaking activities hosted on the RAMP platform.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) phase played a useful role in mobilizing applicants, with 62 matchmaking requests posted on the RAMP platform. Activity grew sharply in the weeks before the OC2 deadline, as many entities used the tool to find manufacturers and complete consortia.

**Promotion and Outreach:** The Expression of Interest and subsequent calls were promoted through multiple channels, including social media, newsletters, and direct outreach via RAMP. Engagement grew steadily over time, with matchmaking requests on the platform rising to 62 by the close of OC2. The webinars held in May also contributed to heightened awareness and submission activity in the final weeks of both calls.

## 1. Introduction

The present deliverable reports on the outcomes of the second cycle of open calls within the CIRCULOOS project, namely Open Call 2 (OC2) and Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1). OC2 was launched on 04 of April 2025 and closed on 30 of May 2025, and OC3.1 was launched on the 30 of April and closed on the 11 of June 2025. The launch of both calls was strategically scheduled for April 2025 (shifting from an initial plan of February). This adjustment was made to avoid the winter vacation period and conflicting deadlines from other EC calls, thereby maximizing applicant engagement and proposal volume. Both of them represent the first competitive selection processes of the project. While the initial Expression of Interest (EOI) phase played a supporting role in identifying early stakeholders, this report places its focus on the implementation and results of OC2 and OC3.1.

The design and execution of the open calls falls under **Work Package 6 (Project Impact)**, which is led by **MWCB**. The specific management of the open call process (Task 6.3) and this deliverable is led by **F6S**, with support from **INCL** in managing the evaluation. The technical and industrial framing for the calls was provided by the project's core pilot partners: **Thermolympic** and **Contenedores Solo** (Plastics Pilot), **KHO/MOTO** and **B&A** (Leather Pilot), and **FICT/CRLR** and **PLE\_CR** (Wood Pilot). These partners provided the technical context and ensured applicant alignment with the pilot line objectives. Dissemination of the calls was led by **MWCB** (as WP6 leader) and supported by all consortium partners, while the **RAMP platform**, managed by **ED (European Dynamics)**, served as the central hub for matchmaking and partner search.

Open Call 2 (OC2) targeted small consortia of 2 to 4 partners, with at least one mandatory manufacturing SME and additional partners fulfilling key enabling roles, such as technology providers, service providers, recyclers, or RTOs. Each partner could request up to €60,000, with a maximum consortium budget of €240,000. The objective was to stimulate the creation of new or improved circular supply chains in the manufacturing sector, integrating refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurposing, and recycling strategies.

In parallel, Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1) focused on single applicants who wished to join one of the three pilots (Leather, Wood or Plastic) value chains already established within CIRCULOOS. Selected entities could receive up to €60,000 to contribute a targeted technology, service, or process improvement, enhancing the integration, scalability, and impact of the pilot lines. Unlike OC2, where consortium building was key, OC3.1 streamlined the process by connecting one applicant directly with a pilot leader, thereby accelerating implementation.

Together, OC2 and OC3.1 represented a significant step in broadening the CIRCULOOS ecosystem. They enabled the project to move beyond preliminary engagement into the practical phase of funding and integrating external actors, with clear roles for F6S in coordination, the pilot leaders in technical alignment, and other partners in dissemination, communication, and support. Crucially, the Open Call process was designed to serve as the primary validation mechanism for the CIRCULOOS technical architecture. The fundamental task was to identify real world industrial scenarios where the project's digital tools, such as the RAMP platform and GRETA LCA tool, could be deployed and stress tested. Consequently, the calls were structured not just to fund circular business models, but to generate user feedback and performance data essential for the maturity of the CIRCULOOS solution.

## 2. Open Call Design and Management

### 2.1. Development of Open Call Guidelines

A crucial step in the OC2 and OC3.1 phase was the development of comprehensive guidelines (Available In the Annex of this document) to provide potential applicants with a clear understanding of the CIRCULOOS project, its objectives, and the application process. The guidelines for both Open Calls were designed to be clear, structured, and accessible to a diverse audience.

The development process involved:

- **Collaboration and Input:** F6S worked closely with partners from the CIRCULOOS consortium, including **European Dynamics**, **INCL (Inclusinn)**, and **MWCB (Mobile World Capital Barcelona)**, as well as technical partners linked to the pilots (**HER, FICT (Fiction Factory)**, **CON (Contenedores Lolo)**, **CAN (Canonical Robots)**, **THER (Thermolympic)**, **KHO (KHOANI)/MOTO (Mototextil)**, **PLE (Plennid)**, and **B&A**). Through co-creation meetings, partners helped fine-tune the offer for Open Call 2 and Open Call 3.1.
- **Information Accuracy:** All eligibility criteria, funding details, application procedures, and key dates were **carefully reviewed** to minimize confusion and ensure a smooth application process.
- **Content Organization:** The guidelines were structured with clear headings, concise explanations, and visually engaging formatting to ensure readability, as it can be seen in the next figure.

## CIRCULOOS Open Call 2 summary

<b>Title</b>	OC2: Building Novel Circular Value Chain Demonstrators
<b>When?</b> <i>Timeframe</i>	New Deadline: 30 of May 2025
<b>Who?</b> <i>Target entities</i>	<p>2-4 entities from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing European mid-caps, and MSMEs (as defined in EU law – EU recommendation 2003/361<sup>1</sup>) with a commercial activity in the manufacturing industry as a producer, or a technology/ service supplier for applications in the manufacturing industry</li> <li>• Circular economy enablers (e.g., recyclers, upcyclers, material processors)</li> <li>• Technology Providers (AI, automation, robotics for circularity)</li> <li>• Academic institutes (Universities), research institutes and other not-for-profit research entities.</li> <li>• Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) &amp; Business Support Entities</li> </ul>
<b>How?</b> <i>Application pages</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OC2 Link: <a href="https://circuloos.eu/open-calls">https://circuloos.eu/open-calls</a></li> </ul>
<b>What?</b> <i>Supporting activities</i>	<p><b>Open Call 2 (OC2) - For Consortia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective: To develop new circular economy supply chains.</li> <li>• Funding: Up to €60,000 per partner (max €240,000 per consortium).</li> <li>• Duration: 12 months.</li> </ul>
<b>Informational Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar 1 – 9th of April <i>Topic: CIRCULOOS Open Call 2 objectives, open call guidelines, information about RAMP &amp; Ask me Anything.</i></li> <li>• Webinar 2 – 7th of May <i>Topic: CIRCULOOS Open Call 2 objectives; role of DIHs.</i></li> <li>• Continuous Matchmaking Activities – 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuous request for service tool of RAMP: the objective is to help applicants to find partners to team up in a consortium, and apply for CIRCULOOS open call #2</li> <li>○ Search for a matching partner from the available entities in RAMP, among those who have already applied and published their interest.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Figure 1 OC2 Guidelines

### CIRCULOOS Open Call 3.1 summary

<b>Title</b>	OC3.1: Enhancing CIRCULOOS Pilot Cases
<b>When?</b> <i>Timeframe</i>	Deadline: 11th of June 2025, 17:00 Brussels Time
<b>Who?</b> <i>Target entities</i>	<p><b>Individual entities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing European mid-caps, MSMEs (as defined in EU law – EU recommendation 2003/361<sup>9</sup>) with a commercial activity in the manufacturing industry as a producer, or a technology/ service supplier for applications in the manufacturing industry</li> <li>• Recycling &amp; Processing Companies that add new recovery solutions to existing CIRCULOOS pilot lines</li> </ul> <p>Any necessary technical role for integration or technical development to offer automation, sorting, or data management solutions, etc. should be assumed by the entity above with or without external support via sub-contracting, which has to be clearly justified.</p>
<b>How?</b> <i>Application pages</i>	OC3.1 Link: <a href="https://www.f6s.com/circuloos-open-call-3.1/apply">https://www.f6s.com/circuloos-open-call-3.1/apply</a>
<b>What?</b> <i>Supporting activities</i>	<p><b>Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1) - For single entities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To enhance existing CIRCULOOS pilot lines with innovative solutions.</li> <li>• <b>Funding:</b> Up to €60,000 per entity.</li> <li>• <b>Duration:</b> 9 months.</li> </ul>
<b>Informational Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar – 7th of May <i>Topic: CIRCULOOS Open Call 2 &amp; 3.1 objectives</i></li> </ul>

Figure 2 OC3.1 Guidelines

## 2.2. Accessibility and Dissemination

To ensure broad access, the **CIRCULOOS Open Call guidelines** were made publicly available on the **project website**: <https://circuloos.eu/open-calls/>, with a **dedicated webpage section** containing all relevant documentation.

Beyond making the guidelines accessible, the **CIRCULOOS team provided procedural and clarificatory support to applicants, ensuring equal access to information**. The official **CIRCULOOS email (circuloos.eu@gmail.com)** remained open throughout the **EOI and matchmaking phases**, allowing interested participants to seek clarifications on **eligibility, consortium formation, and the RAMP matchmaking process**. Many potential applicants contacted the consortium with questions of a general or technical nature. Where further clarification was required, responses were provided via email or applicants were referred to relevant webinars and specific sections of the guidelines, ensuring that all information shared was factual, publicly available, and equally accessible to all interested parties.

These actions ensured transparency and a common understanding of the call conditions, enabling applicants to act independently and objectively when preparing their submissions. Further details on dissemination efforts can be found in Section 5: "Promotion & Outreach".

## 2.3. Application Submission Process and Platform

To ensure a clear, fair, and streamlined application process for all participants, CIRCULOOS established a centralized submission system managed by F6S. The entire process was designed to be transparent, with all necessary information and documentation readily accessible from the project's official website.

### Central Information Hub: The CIRCULOOS Website

The primary access point for all information related to the open calls was the CIRCULOOS project website, under the dedicated "Open Calls" tab:

- <https://circuloos.eu/open-calls/>

This page served as the central repository for all critical documentation, including the detailed Guidelines for Applicants, application form templates (Annexes), and other essential documents such as the Sub-Grant Agreement and Declaration of Honour templates. From this page, applicants were directed to the F6S platform to officially begin their submission.

### Submission Platform: F6S

All applications for both Open Call 2 and Open Call 3.1 were managed exclusively through the F6S platform. Dedicated pages were created for each call, providing an overview of the opportunity and a direct link to the application form.

- **Open Call 2 Page:** <https://www.f6s.com/circuloos-open-call-2>
- **Open Call 3.1 Page:** <https://www.f6s.com/circuloos-open-call-3.1>

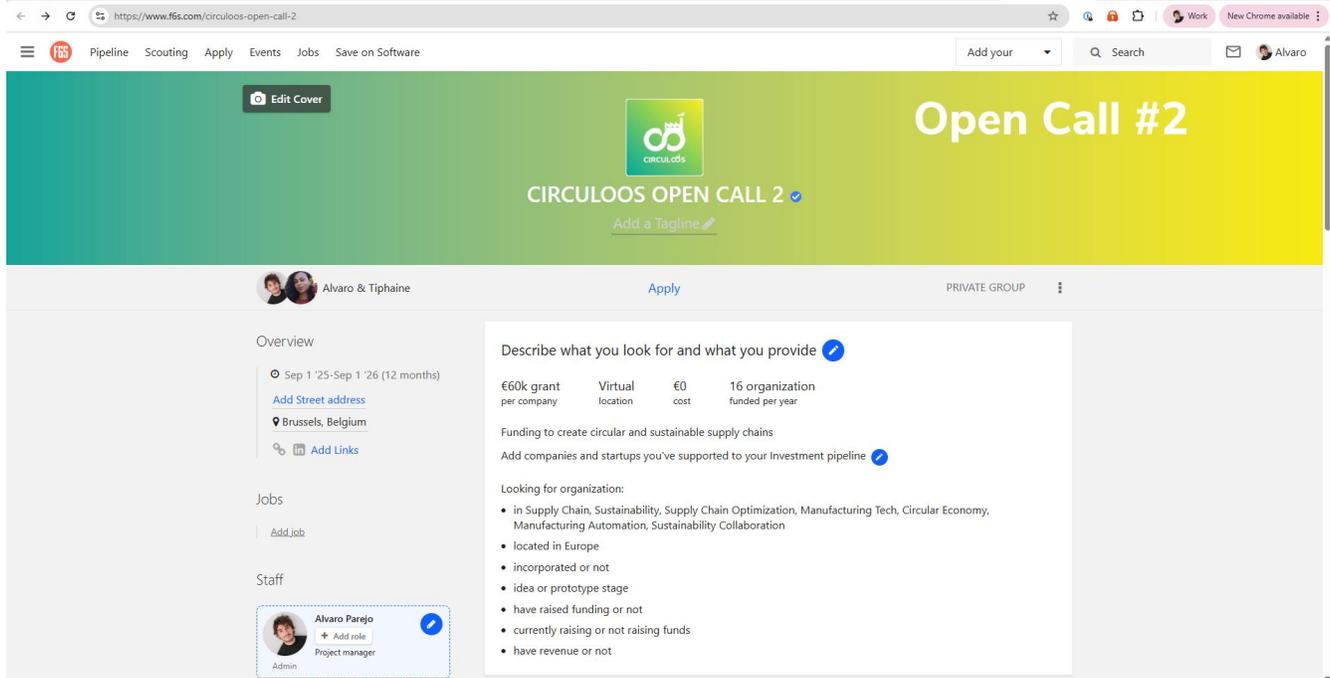


Figure 3 OC2 F6S Platform

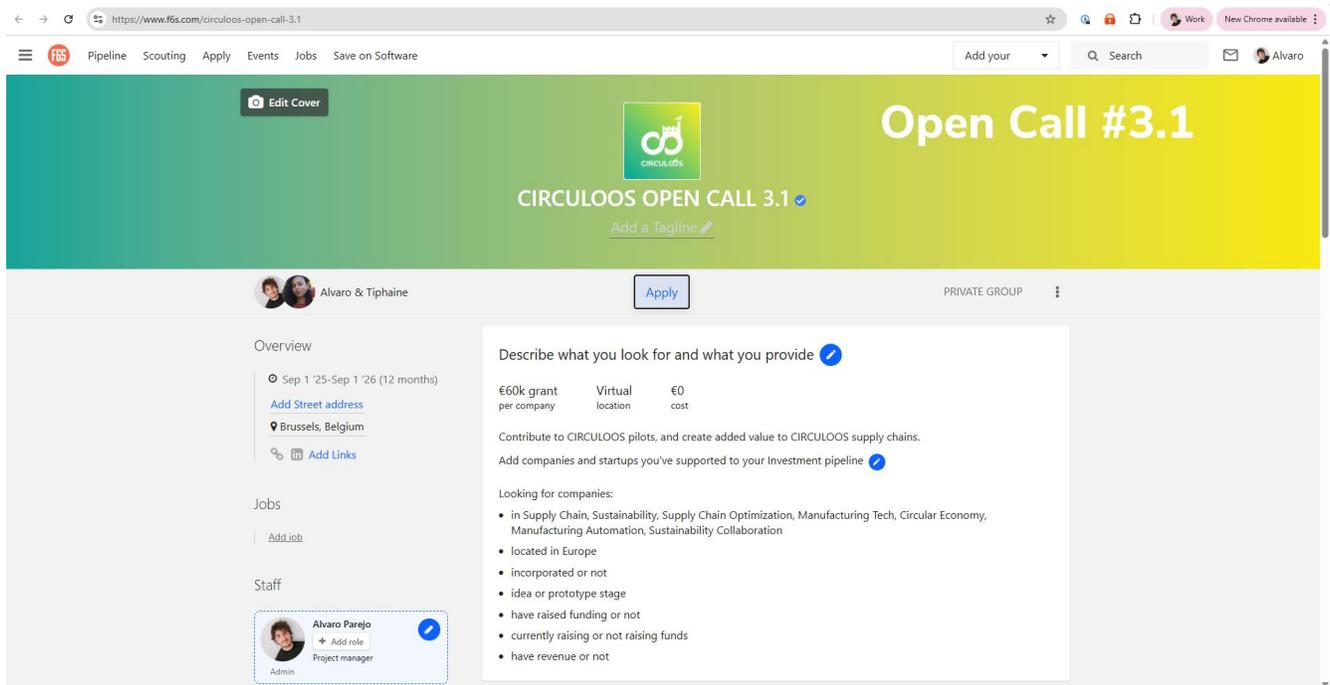


Figure 4 OC3.1 F6S Platform

The online application forms were available during the following periods:

- **OC2 Application Form:** Opened on **April 4th, 2025**, and closed on **May 30th, 2025**. Due to a high number of incomplete applications close to the deadline, the CIRCULOOS consortium granted a two-day extension to allow applicants additional time to finalise their submissions.
- **OC3.1 Application Form:** Opened on **April 30, 2025**, and closed on **June 11, 2025** (no extensions)

### The Applicant Submission Journey

The process was structured to guide applicants from initial document preparation to final online submission. An applicant had to follow these key steps:

1. **Download the Application Form:** The first step was to download the official application template from the CIRCULOOS website.
  - For OC2: [Annex II – OC2 Application Form](#)
  - For OC3.1: [Annex III – Application Form – Open Call 3.1](#)
2. **Complete the Form Offline:** Applicants were required to complete the downloaded Word document in detail. This form captured the core of the proposal, including the work plan, budget breakdown, project objectives, and consortium roles (for OC2) or pilot line contributions (for OC3.1).
3. **Prepare for Submission:** Once completed, the document had to be converted to a PDF file and named according to a specific format to ensure proper identification:
  - For OC2: [\[Lead\\_Applicant\\_Name\]\\_OC2\\_Application.pdf](#)
  - For OC3.1: [\[Entity\\_Name\]\\_OC3.1\\_Application.pdf](#)
4. **Complete the F6S Online Form:** With the main application document prepared, applicants would navigate to the F6S "apply" page. The online part of the submission was deliberately kept simple and focused on final compliance checks. Here, applicants were required to:
  - **Upload the completed PDF application form.** This was the main mandatory upload (max file size 30MB).
  - **Confirm Declarations:** Applicants had to agree to a series of declarations by ticking checkboxes, confirming their acceptance of the call conditions, Declaration of Honour, conflict of interest policy, and data sharing terms.

Instructions for Applicants – CIRCULOOS Open Call 2 (OC2)

Before You Begin Your Application:

To ensure a structured and efficient submission process, applicants must download, complete, and upload the required application form as a PDF via CIRCULOOS webpage. Follow the steps below carefully to avoid any issues with your submission.

Step-by-Step Application Process

1. Download the Application Form:

Annex II – OC2 Application Form can be found in the "Documents" section CIRCULOOS webpage: [circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-II-Application-Form-%E2%80%93-Open-Call-2-OC2.docx](https://circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-II-Application-Form-%E2%80%93-Open-Call-2-OC2.docx)

2. Complete the Form:

Fill in all required sections, ensuring clarity and completeness.  
Provide a detailed work plan, budget breakdown, and project objectives as requested.  
Define the roles of each consortium member (2-4 entities) and clearly explain how the proposed value chain demonstrator will contribute to circular manufacturing.

3. Convert to PDF Format:

Once the form is completed, save it as a PDF document before submission.  
Ensure the file name follows the format:  
[Lead\_Applicant\_Name]\_OC2\_Application.pdf

4. Upload Your Application to F6S:

Click on the "Submit" button on this page.  
Upload your completed Annex II – OC2 Application Form in PDF format.  
Ensure the required document is attached before finalizing your submission.

 Important Deadlines:

-  Submission Deadline: May 28, 2025
-  Evaluation Period: June 2025
-  Project Execution Start: September 2025

 Need Help?

If you have any questions regarding the application process, eligibility, or documentation, please contact us at [circuloos.eu@gmail.com](mailto:circuloos.eu@gmail.com)

Figure 5, Application Form on F6S Platform

**Need Help?**  
If you have any questions regarding the application process, eligibility, or documentation, please contact us at [circuloos.eu@gmail.com](mailto:circuloos.eu@gmail.com)

1 Upload your completed application form in PDF format following the required file naming format: [Lead\_Applicant\_Name]\_OC2\_Application.pdf ⚠️ Only submissions using the official template will be considered. (Max file size 30MB.) \*

Download the template here: [circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-II-Application-Form-%E2%80%93-Open-Call-2-OC2.docx](https://circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-II-Application-Form-%E2%80%93-Open-Call-2-OC2.docx)

[Choose a File](#)

Section 2 - REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE CIRCULOOS PROGRAMME

2 Declaration of Honour: I confirm that I accept all conditions in Annex VI Consortium Declaration of Honour, and information contained therein and that it will be provided signed and stamped should this proposal be accepted for funding. \*

[circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-VI-Consortium-Declaration-of-Honour-template.docx.pdf](https://circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-VI-Consortium-Declaration-of-Honour-template.docx.pdf)

I confirm

3 I confirm that all information provided in this proposal is true and correct. \*

I confirm

4 Conflict of interest - To the best of our knowledge, there is no conflict of interest Beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the sub-project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest. \*

I confirm

5 Acceptance of CIRCULOOS Open Call conditions: The terms and conditions of the programme are defined in the CIRCULOOS Open Call Guidelines for Applicants \*

[circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/CIRCULOOS-OC2-Guidelines-for-Applicants-Final-Version.pdf](https://circuloos.eu/wp-content/uploads/CIRCULOOS-OC2-Guidelines-for-Applicants-Final-Version.pdf)

Yes, I have reviewed and accept all the conditions of CIRCULOOS Open Call Guidelines for applicants

6 Acceptance that the information provided and submitted in this proposal can be shared by F6S with the project consortium for the purposes of managing the programme. \*

I accept

Recommendations ⓘ

Ask for new Recommendations ⓘ

[Request](#)

Are you done? Click below to finalize

[APPLY](#)

Figure 5 Application Form on F6S Platform

## Key Submission Rules and Guidelines

To ensure fairness and transparency, a strict set of submission rules was communicated in the guidelines and on the F6S platform for both calls:

- **Completeness:** Only complete proposals submitted with the official, fully-filled template were considered for evaluation.
- **Timeliness:** A strict deadline was enforced. Applicants were strongly encouraged to submit well in advance to avoid last-minute technical issues, as late submissions were not accepted under any circumstances.
- **Resubmission:** Applicants could request to correct an error before the deadline, but requests made within 48 hours of the closing time were not guaranteed to be processed.
- **Deadline Extensions:** Extensions would only be considered in the event of a major technical failure of the F6S platform, with any such decision communicated to all applicants.
- **Contractual Obligations:** Applicants were advised to review all contractual documents, such as the Sub-Grant Agreement ([Annex IV](#)) and the relevant Declarations of Honour, before applying, as these would be mandatory for successful projects.

### 2.4. Eligibility Screening Process

The eligibility screening for both Open Call 2 and Open Call 3.1 was a structured and transparent process designed to ensure that all applications were evaluated fairly against the established criteria. The process was coordinated by **F6S**, with validation and support from consortium partners where necessary.

- Open Call 2: Consortium Requirements. For OC2, the screening focused on verifying the consortium's structure and compliance. The key eligibility criteria were:
  - **Consortium Size:** Each proposal had to include between 2 and 4 legal entities.
  - **Mandatory Partner:** The presence of at least one manufacturing SME was a strict requirement.
  - **Eligible Countries:** All partners had to be legally established in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country.
  - **Budget Compliance:** Funding requests could not exceed the €60,000 cap per partner.

The process proved effective, with OC2 achieving a high eligibility rate of 95.24%. The few applications deemed ineligible were typically rejected for failing to include a mandatory manufacturing partner or for having an incomplete submission.

- Open Call 3.1: Single-Entity Requirements The eligibility check for OC3.1 was stricter due to the specific nature of the call. Reviewers focused on these key points:
  - **Single-Entity Rule:** Only applications from a single legal entity were permitted.
  - **Pilot Alignment:** The proposal had to clearly state its alignment with one of the three CIRCULOOS pilot lines (wood, plastics, or leather).
  - **Budget Compliance:** The funding request could not exceed the €60,000 cap.

- **Eligible Countries:** All entities had to be legally established in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country.
- **Budget Compliance:** Funding requests could not exceed the €60,000 cap per entity

The eligibility rate for OC3.1 was 87.9%, notably lower than that of OC2. This was primarily due to procedural errors, such as applications being submitted by informal consortia, exceeding the budget, or failing to provide the required documentation in the correct format. These findings suggest that for future single-entity calls, additional emphasis should be placed on communicating these core rules.

## 2.5. Evaluation and Selection Process

Following the eligibility checks, all compliant proposals underwent a rigorous qualitative evaluation. This process was designed to ensure transparency, equal treatment, and the selection of the most impactful solutions for the CIRCULOOS ecosystem. The evaluation took place remotely, managed via the EasyChair platform to ensure full traceability of the process.

**Expert Review Panel:** Each eligible proposal was assessed by a dedicated evaluation committee composed of three experts: **two external independent evaluators** and **one internal expert** from the CIRCULOOS consortium. This hybrid approach ensured a balanced assessment, combining impartial market/technical expertise with specific alignment to the project's pilot lines and technical objectives. The evaluation involved a total of 18 external independent experts and 14 internal reviewers from the CIRCULOOS consortium. Strict background checks were conducted for all external evaluators, and conflict-of-interest rules were rigorously applied to ensure impartiality.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Proposals for both OC2 and OC3.1 were evaluated against three core criteria, each weighted equally:

- **Excellence (5 points):** Assessed the clarity of objectives, the novelty of the proposed circular value chain or R-strategy, and the technical approach for integrating CIRCULOOS tools (e.g., RAMP, GRETA).
- **Impact (5 points):** Evaluated the potential environmental, economic, and social impact, including the target audience, business opportunities, and quantified improvements in circularity (e.g., reduced raw material use).
- **Implementation (5 points):** Reviewed the feasibility of the work plan, the competence of the team/consortium, and the cost-effectiveness of the budget allocation.

**Scoring and Ranking:** The maximum possible score was 15 points. To be considered for funding, proposals had to meet the following thresholds:

- **Individual Criterion Threshold:** Minimum 3 out of 5 points.
- **Overall Threshold:** Minimum 10 out of 15 points.

**Consensus and Ranking** Each proposal was scored by two external experts and one internal expert. To finalize scores and ranking, formal consensus panel meetings were held on **July 22, 2025 (for OC2)** and **July 24, 2025 (for OC3.1)**. Proposals were ranked based on their total score out of 15 (Threshold: 10/15).

### Selection Logic:

- For OC2 (Consortia): Proposals were ranked in descending order of their total score. Priority was given to the highest-ranking consortia until the budget was exhausted. In cases of tied scores, priority was given to proposals with higher circularity impact and consortium diversity.
- For OC3.1 (Single Entities): To ensure a balanced enhancement of all project pilots, the selection aimed to fund the top two proposals per pilot line (Wood, Plastic, and Leather). If a pilot line lacked sufficient high-quality proposals, the consortium reserved the right to reallocate slots to the next highest-scoring proposals from other pilots to maximize impact. In an exceptional case, one selected entity (connected to the Wood pilot) filed for bankruptcy prior to contracting and was disqualified, resulting in 3 final projects

Further information about evaluation criteria can be found in both OC2 and OC3.1 guidelines attached in the annex.

### 2.5.1. Notifications of Results

Following the conclusion of the evaluation and consensus phases, the CIRCULOOS consortium proceeded with the formal notification of all applicants. To ensure a unified communication process, notifications regarding the outcome of the eligibility checks (successful or unsuccessful) were communicated at the same time as the notifications regarding the final evaluation results (successful or unsuccessful).

- **OC3.1 Notifications:** Sent on **August 7, 2025**.
- **OC2 Notifications:** Sent on **August 12-13, 2025**.

All applicants were notified directly via email to the addresses extracted from their submitted proposals. Each notification included the final status of the proposal and the **Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)**, detailing the experts' feedback and scores.

### 2.5.2. Redress Process

In accordance with the *Guidelines for Applicants*, a formal redress procedure was available to applicants who believed there had been a shortcoming in the evaluation process or an incorrect application of the eligibility checks. The redress period remained open for **three (3) working days** following the notification of results.

- **Requests Received:** The project received a total of **two (2) formal redress requests** (related to proposals "Clic Hairphon" and "NEXARIS").
- **Review Process:** An internal review committee from the CIRCULOOS consortium analyzed both requests to ensure coherent interpretation and equal treatment.
- **Outcome:** Both requests were **rejected**. The committee determined that the complaints questioned the scientific and technical judgment of the qualified independent evaluators rather than identifying procedural errors or eligibility shortcomings, which falls outside the admissible scope of the redress procedure. The applicants were formally notified of this final decision.

## 3. Overview of the Open Call Process

### 3.1. Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Expression of Interest (EOI) phase served as the initial soft-launch of CIRCULOOS's engagement with potential applicants and ecosystem actors. Although not a formal funding opportunity, the EOI was instrumental in mapping the demand landscape and initiating early matchmaking efforts through the RAMP platform. By inviting organizations to outline their interest in participating in future calls, the EOI helped the consortium understand what types of entities were most actively seeking collaborations and which roles or technologies were underrepresented in the ecosystem.

During the EOI period, the project gathered over 60 matchmaking requests through the RAMP platform. These requests were publicly visible, allowing for open partner searching and matchmaking. The majority of entities used the platform to express interest in collaborating within the leather and plastic sectors, with significantly fewer targeting the wood pilot. Many participants also indicated challenges in finding manufacturers, a key requirement for consortia formation under OC2, and this insight shaped subsequent communication and matchmaking strategies.

Although the EOI is not the core focus of this deliverable, it represents a critical stepping stone between initial awareness-raising and the execution of OC2 and OC3.1. The lessons learned from this early activity informed the design and outreach strategy for the formal calls, particularly in terms of supporting applicants to build strong, eligible partnerships.

### 3.2. Open Call 2 (OC2)

Open Call 2 was designed to support small consortia consisting of 2 to 4 partners collaborating to form or enhance **new circular value chains across the wider manufacturing industry**. While the project's core pilots are in plastics, wood, and leather, OC2 was explicitly open to **new sectors**, including metal, electrical, furniture, machinery, and vehicles. Each partner could receive up to €60,000 in funding, with a maximum of €240,000 per consortium. Crucially, at least one manufacturing SME was required in each consortium, reflecting the project's ambition to support industrial transformation and not only service development. To ensure the selected consortia served as effective validation testbeds, the OC2 guidelines strictly mandated the adoption of specific CIRCULOOS tools (e.g., RAMP, GRETA, Data Platform). Applicants were required to demonstrate how they would integrate these tools into their value chains, prohibiting the use of external software for these specific functions to ensure consistent validation data for the project. OC2 was open between 4th of April 2025 and May 30, following a series of matchmaking events and webinars aimed at helping entities connect and apply together.

In total, 84 applications were submitted to OC2. Of these, 80 were declared eligible after thorough internal checks, resulting in a high eligibility rate of 95.24%. This strong rate suggests that the documentation, guidelines, and applicant support mechanisms were effective in clarifying the criteria and helping entities comply. Ineligible applications were typically rejected due to missing mandatory partners (e.g., absence of a manufacturer), not being in an eligible country or incomplete documentation.

The applications showed a well-distributed geographic profile, with lead applicants coming from over 20 countries. Southern and Western Europe were strongly represented, with particularly high numbers from Spain, France, Italy, and Germany. Most proposals featured a balanced mix of technology providers, SMEs, and enablers, with varying levels of maturity in terms of proposed circularity impact. The volume and quality of applications reflected the growing interest in circular economy mechanisms across sectors and regions.

### 3.3. Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1)

Open Call 3.1 was launched in parallel with OC2 but targeted a different kind of participation. While OC2 supported multi-partner consortia, OC3.1 was designed for single entities aiming to join and enhance one of the **three existing pilot value chains** already established within the project, specifically within the wood, plastic, or leather sectors. The goal of OC3.1 was to plug in specialized expertise, technologies, or complementary solutions into **these core pilots**, thus strengthening their implementation potential. Consistent with the project's validation goals, OC3.1 applicants were also subject to the mandatory adoption of CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA, etc.), ensuring that even single-entity experiments contributed data to the technical ecosystem. Each selected entity was eligible to receive up to €60,000 in funding.

The call was open from 30 of April to 11 of June, 2025. Application guidelines were published in advance and disseminated through a targeted outreach campaign that included 2 webinars, mailing lists, and direct engagement with participants from the earlier EOI and OC2 phases. This setup helped ensure that applicants understood the scope of the pilot activities and how their proposed solutions could align with **them**.

OC3.1 received a total of 33 applications from across Europe and associated countries. Of these, 29 applications were found eligible, while 4 were declared ineligible, yielding a **high overall eligibility rate of 87.9%**. The few ineligible applications faced specific procedural challenges, reflecting the strictness of the call's requirements. These rejections were primarily for exceeding the €60,000 budget cap or for being submitted by informal consortia, which disqualified them from a call that only allowed single applicants.

Despite these minor procedural issues, the **29 eligible** applicants offered a broad and diverse sample of circular innovations. Many proposed clear, targeted interventions to enhance the pilot lines — from AI and traceability solutions to materials recovery and product reuse strategies. The applications revealed a strong level of alignment with the CIRCULOOS objectives and a willingness of SMEs and innovators to engage with real-world value chains in a flexible, collaborative framework.

## 4. Open Call Results and Analysis

This section presents a comprehensive analysis of the applications received for Open Call 2 (OC2) and Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1). Together, the calls attracted a total of 117 submissions, demonstrating significant

interest from the European circular economy ecosystem. After a thorough eligibility screening, a total of 105 applications—80 from OC2 and 29 from OC3.1—were advanced to the evaluation stage.

The following analysis is structured into three parts. It begins with a detailed breakdown of the OC2 results, examining the applicant profiles and consortium structures. This is followed by a similar examination of the single-entity applicants from OC3.1. The section concludes with an analysis of submission trends observed across both calls.

Each analysis explores key characteristics of the applicant pool, including geographic distribution, the diversity of entity types, and the primary industrial sectors represented, providing a complete picture of the community engaged by the CIRCULOOS project.

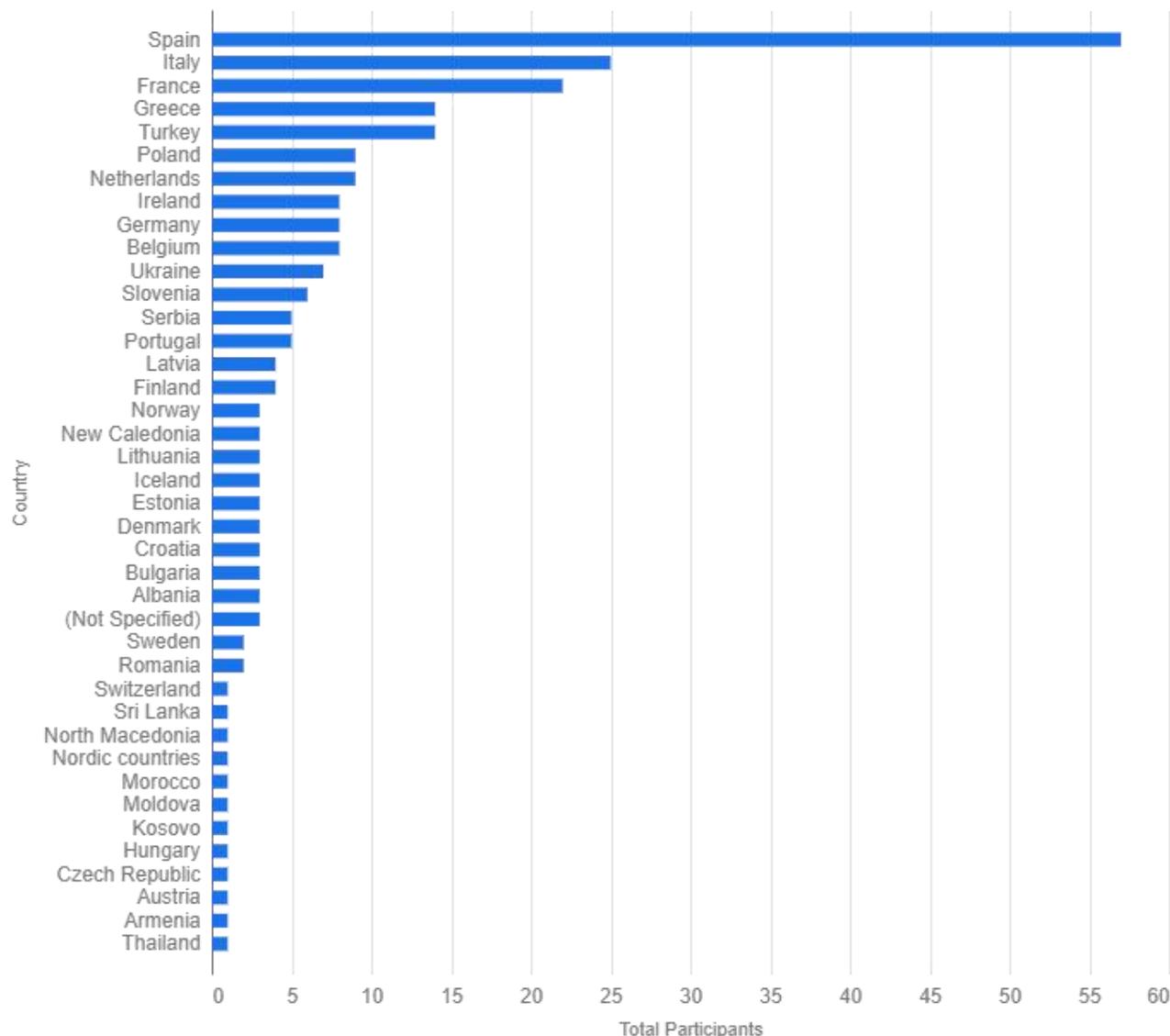
#### **4.1. Overview of Open Call 2 (OC2) Applications**

Open Call 2 received a strong response from the circular economy community, with a total of 84 applications submitted by the deadline.

Following a thorough eligibility check, 80 proposals were approved to advance to the evaluation stage. This resulted in an exceptionally high eligibility rate of 95.24%. This strong rate suggests that the comprehensive guidelines, well-structured documentation, and proactive applicant support were effective in clarifying the call's requirements. The four applications deemed ineligible were disqualified due to missing mandatory consortium components (such as the required manufacturing SME) or failure to comply with submission requirements.

### 4.1.1. OC2 Geographic Distribution

Applications per Country



**Figure 6 OC2 Geographic Distribution of applicants**

The analysis of the eligibility Data reveals a highly concentrated pattern of applications, with a clear geographic clustering of participants. This distribution is characterized by a dominant contribution from Spain, followed by a set of well-represented nations, and a "long tail" of applicants from a diverse range of countries. There were a total of 249 different applicants, from at least 40 countries represented between all OC2 applications.

**Spain** demonstrates exceptional engagement, leading all applications with approximately 56 participants. This single country accounts for over a quarter (~22,49%) of all applications, a figure more than double that of the next-closest nation. This strong concentration can be directly attributed in part to the powerful

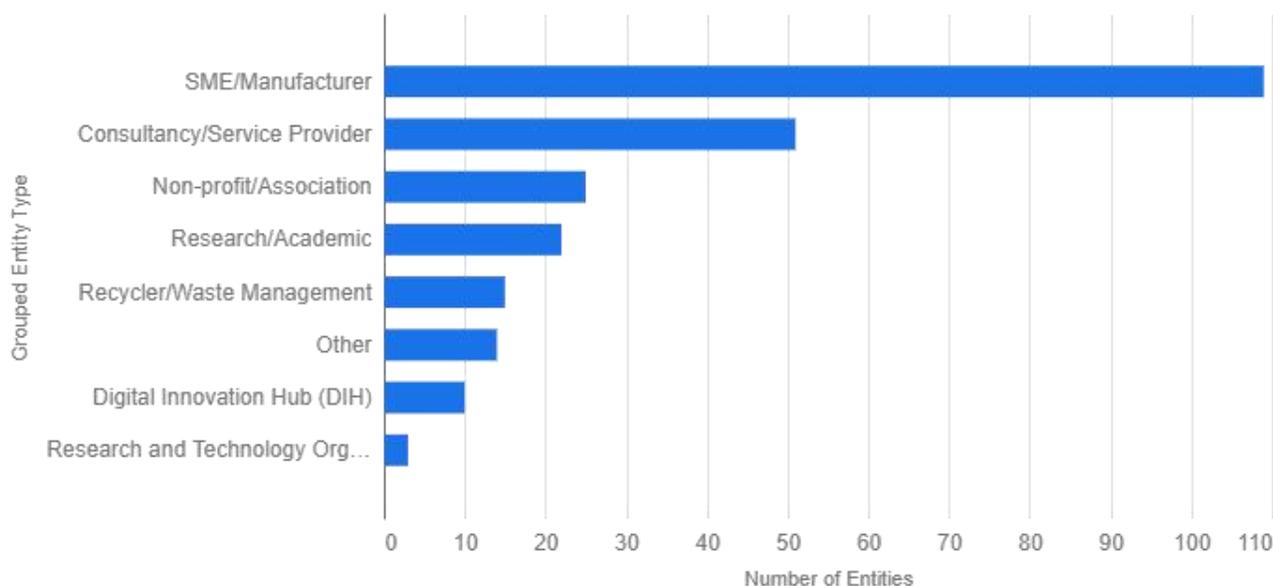
local networks of the CIRCULOOS consortium partners. Dissemination partners like Mobile World Capital Foundation (MWCB), along with several Spanish pilot-affiliated partners (ThermOlympic, Canonical Robots, Contenedores Lolo), are based in Spain and effectively leveraged their extensive local ecosystems to promote the call.

Following Spain, **Italy** (approx. 25 participants, ~**10.5%**) and **France** (approx. 21 participants, ~**8.43%**) show significant involvement. Together, these top three countries represent nearly half (~**41.42%**) of all participants. A second tier of strong participation is visible from **Greece** (approx. 15 participants, ~**6.2%**) and **Turkey** (approx. 14 participants, ~**5.62%**). The notable showing from Greece, which includes 6 lead applicants, can be linked to a similar, though less pronounced, network effect, as it is home to the project coordinator (ED) and other partners like INCL. While significant efforts were made for pan-European outreach, this regional clustering around key partners is a common and effective outcome of strong consortium networks.

Beyond this leading group, a cluster of countries shows moderate engagement, generally falling between five and nine participants. This includes nations such as **Poland**, the **Netherlands**, **Germany**, and **Belgium**, indicating a solid breadth of interest across Western, Eastern, and Northern Europe. Finally, the data is marked by a long tail of over 20 countries with five or fewer participants. This wide geographical spread, encompassing nations from **New Caledonia** and **Thailand** to **Morocco** and **Latvia**, suggests that the open call successfully achieved extensive international visibility, even if the application volume from these individual regions remained low

### 4.1.2. OC2 Breakdown by Applicant Type

Number of Entities by Grouped Type



*Figure 7 OC2 breakdown by entity Type*

The distribution of applicant entities reveals that the open call has successfully engaged its primary target audience and attracted a consortium of actors essential for building new circular value chains. The dominance of **SME/Manufacturer (109 entities, 43.8%)** is a key indicator of the call's success, as the CIRCULOOS project is specifically designed to equip these manufacturing MSMEs with the digital tools needed to adopt circular practices. This strong industrial turnout is critical, as these entities are the ones who will ultimately pilot, validate, and scale **their own 'R-strategies' (Repair, Reuse, Recycle, etc.) using the project's digital ecosystem.**

The second largest group, **Consultancy/Service Provider (51 entities, 20.5%)**, is equally significant. These actors are not just peripheral applicants; they represent the technology providers, circular economy experts, and platform integrators that the open call sought to attract. Their role is to provide **complementary expertise** (e.g., in circular business modelling, specific technical integrations, or value chain orchestration) **that enhances the capabilities of manufacturing SMEs.** This strong pairing of 'problem-owner' (SME/Manufacturer) and 'solution-provider' (Consultancy) is the ideal foundation for the collaborative consortia the open call aimed to fund.

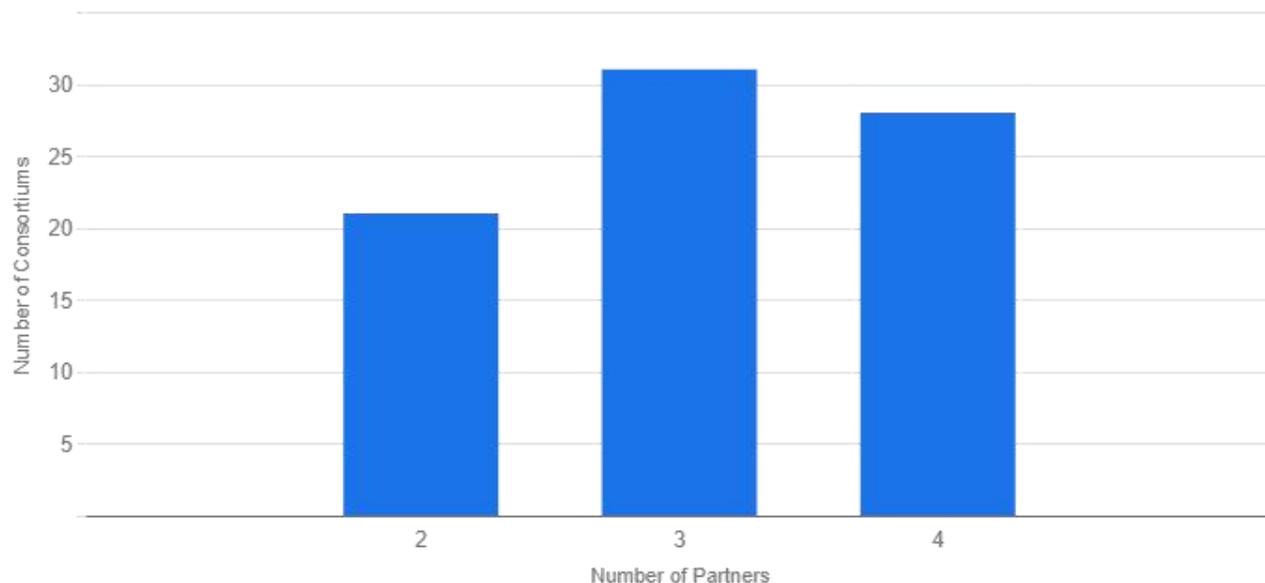
Furthermore, the data shows a robust supporting ecosystem. The presence of **Research/Academic** institutions (22) and **Non-profit/Associations** (25) ensures that the proposed projects are grounded in the latest research and aligned with broader industry standards. The inclusion of **Recycler/Waste Management** companies (15) is particularly vital, as these entities are the practical backbone of the

circular economy, closing the loop by providing the reclaimed materials that feed back into the manufacturing process.

When combined with the project's target sectors (such as plastics, wood, leather), this distribution of entities is highly strategic. For example, a successful consortium might feature an SME manufacturer from the "Machinery" sector, a "Recycler" providing reclaimed "Basic metals," and a "Consultancy" to implement the CIRCULOOS digital platform for tracking the new circular flow. This mix of applicants demonstrates that the call has not only reached a high volume of relevant entities but has also attracted the complete, multi-disciplinary ecosystem required to build the novel, end-to-end circular supply chains that are at the very core of the CIRCULOOS project's mission.

### 4.1.3. Distribution of consortium by number of partners

Number of Consortia by Number of Partners



*Figure 8 OC2 Number of Consortia by Number of partners*

The open call successfully attracted 80 consortia, with the distribution of partners aligning well with the call's requirements (which stipulated consortia of 2 to 4 partners). The data shows a clear preference for medium-sized collaborations.

The most common structure was the **3-partner consortium**, with 31 applications, accounting for **38.75%** of the total. This was closely followed by **4-partner consortiums**, which numbered 28 (or **35%**). Together, these two larger consortium types represent nearly three-quarters (73.75%) of all applications, suggesting that applicants frequently sought to build comprehensive partnerships, likely combining multiple entity types such as an SME, a technology provider, and a recycler, to address the call's objectives.

**2-partner consortiums** were the least frequent, with 21 applications, representing the remaining **26.25%**. While less common, this still constitutes a significant portion, indicating that a more focused, bilateral partnership was a viable and attractive option for many applicants. Overall, the data reflects a healthy distribution across all allowed consortium sizes.

#### 4.1.4. OC2 Analysis of Submission Trends

A time-based analysis of submission trends shows three key milestones:

Evolution of Submissions (Cumulative)

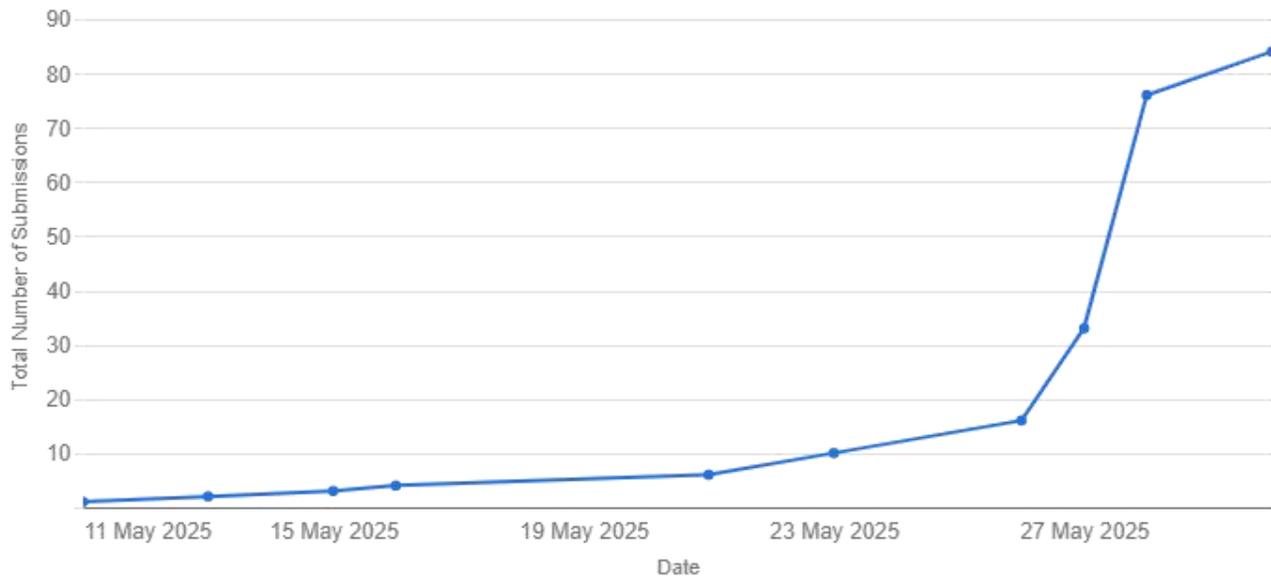


Figure 9 OC2 Evolution of Submissions

The evolution of submissions follows a classic "hockey stick" curve, a pattern characteristic of competitive open calls where most applications arrive just before the deadline. The call was launched on April 4th, with all 84 applications received exclusively via the F6S platform. Applicant engagement was supported by two public webinars (on April 9th and May 7th), which provided clarity on the call's objectives.

As the cumulative chart illustrates, submissions remained slow and steady for the first several weeks of the call. By May 26th, with just days remaining before the original deadline, only 15 of the 84 total applications had been submitted (17.9%).

The trend shifted dramatically on May 27th, which saw 16 new proposals. This was immediately followed by an unprecedented surge on May 28th, the original deadline, on which **47 applications were submitted**. This single 24-hour period accounted for **56%** of all submissions.

Even with a late extension of the deadline to May 30th, the final 48 hours of the original call window (May 27th-28th) saw 63 of the 84 total applications, representing **75%** of the entire call volume. The remaining 6 applications were received on the new extended deadline day. This behavior underscores the critical importance of deadline-oriented communication and providing robust helpdesk support during the final days, as this is when the highest volume of applicant activity occurs.

## 4.2. Overview of Open Call 3.1 Applications

Open Call 3.1 was launched in parallel with OC2 but targeted a different participation model. It was designed for single entities (SMEs, startups, etc.) aiming to join and enhance one of the three existing CIRCULOOS pilot value chains (wood, plastics, or leather) with a specialized technology or service, receiving up to €60,000.

A total of **33 applications** were submitted to OC3.1 from across Europe and associated countries.

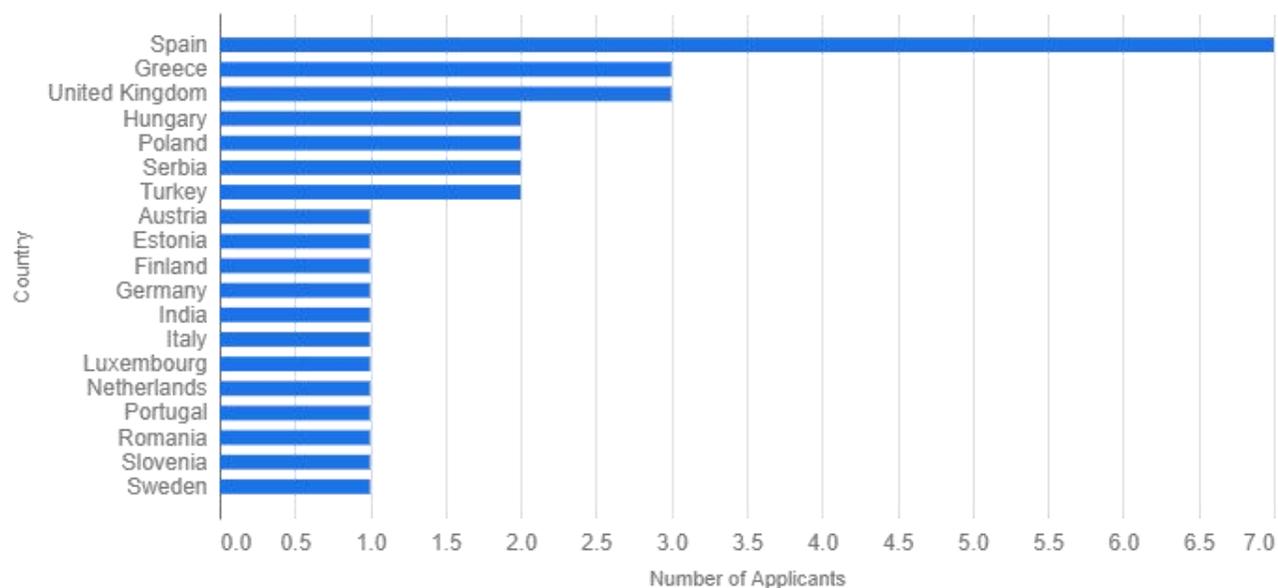
Following the eligibility screening, **29 applications** were approved, while 4 were declared ineligible. This resulted in an **eligibility rate of 87.9%**. This rate is notably lower than that of OC2 and reflects the specific challenges applicants faced. The primary reasons for ineligibility were procedural:

- **Wrong Entity Type:** Several applications were submitted by informal consortia, which was not allowed in this single-entity call.
- **Budget Violations:** Some proposals exceeded the €60,000 funding cap.
- **Pilot Alignment:** Other applications failed to clearly link their proposal to one of the three defined pilot sectors.

Despite these issues, the 25 eligible applicants represent a broad and diverse sample of circular innovations. Many proposed clear, targeted interventions to enhance the pilot lines—from AI and traceability solutions to materials recovery and product reuse strategies—demonstrating strong alignment with the project's objectives.

### 4.2.1. OC3.1 Geographic Distribution

Number of Applicants by Country



*Figure 10 OC3.1 Number of Applicants by Country*

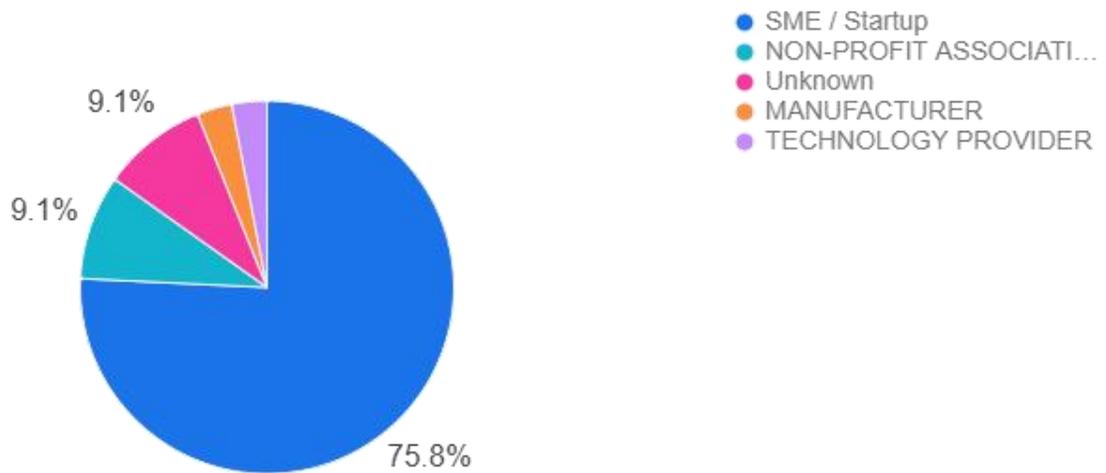
A total of **33 applications** were submitted from 19 different countries. Following the eligibility screening, **29 applications were approved**, and only 4 were declared ineligible. This resulted in a high **eligibility rate of 87.8%**. The few ineligible applications faced procedural issues, such as being submitted by informal consortia (which was not allowed in this single-entity call), exceeding the €60,000 funding cap, or failing to clearly link their proposal to one of the three defined pilot sectors.

The geographical distribution of the 33 applicants, as shown in the normalized data, once again highlights the strong influence of the consortium's local networks. **Spain** was the clear leader, submitting 7 applications (21.2% of the total). This was followed by **Greece** and the **United Kingdom**, each with 3 applications. A second tier of interest was seen from **Hungary, Poland, Serbia, and Turkey**, each providing 2 applicants.

The remaining 12 applications came from 12 different countries, creating a "long tail" that demonstrates the call's broad international reach across Europe and associated countries (including one application from India). The strong showing from Spain and Greece, in particular, demonstrates the success of the partners and pilot leaders in mobilizing their local ecosystems in communication and dissemination activities of the open call.

### 4.2.2. OC3.1 Breakdown by Applicant Type

Applicant Count by Entity Type



*Figure 11 OC3.1 Number of Applicants by Country*

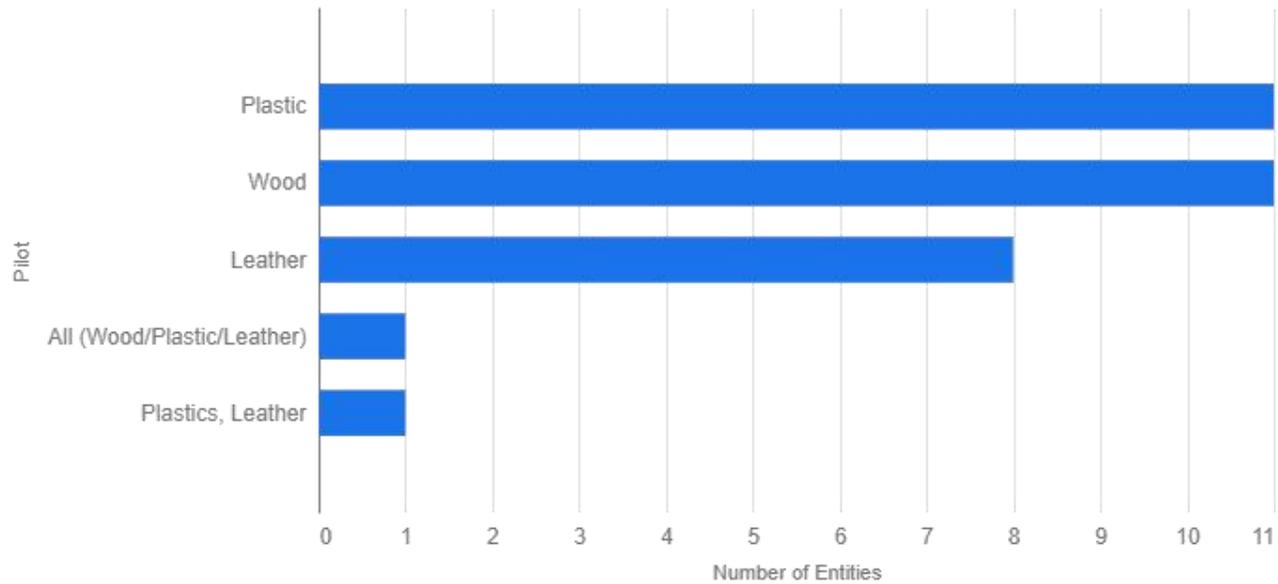
The breakdown of applicant entity types for Open Call 3.1 clearly reflects the call's specific design. The call was structured to attract single, agile innovators, such as startups and specialized SMEs, that could "plug in" solutions to the project's existing pilots.

The data shows the call was overwhelmingly successful in reaching this target. **SME / Startup** was the dominant category, accounting for 25 of the 33 applications, or **75.8%** of the total. This strong response indicates that the call's scope and €60,000 funding model were highly attractive to its core audience.

The remaining applications were spread across a few other categories. **Non-Profit Association** and **Unknown** entities each submitted 3 applications (9.1% each). Critically, the call also attracted one **Technology Provider** and one **Manufacturer**. While small in number, the presence of these entities is significant, as they represent exactly the type of specialized actors capable of providing the targeted technological enhancements (e.g., in AI, traceability, or material recovery) that the pilot value chains require.

### 4.2.3. OC3.1 Breakdown by pilot

Entities by Pilot to Join



*Figure 12 OC3.1 Entities by Pilot to Join*

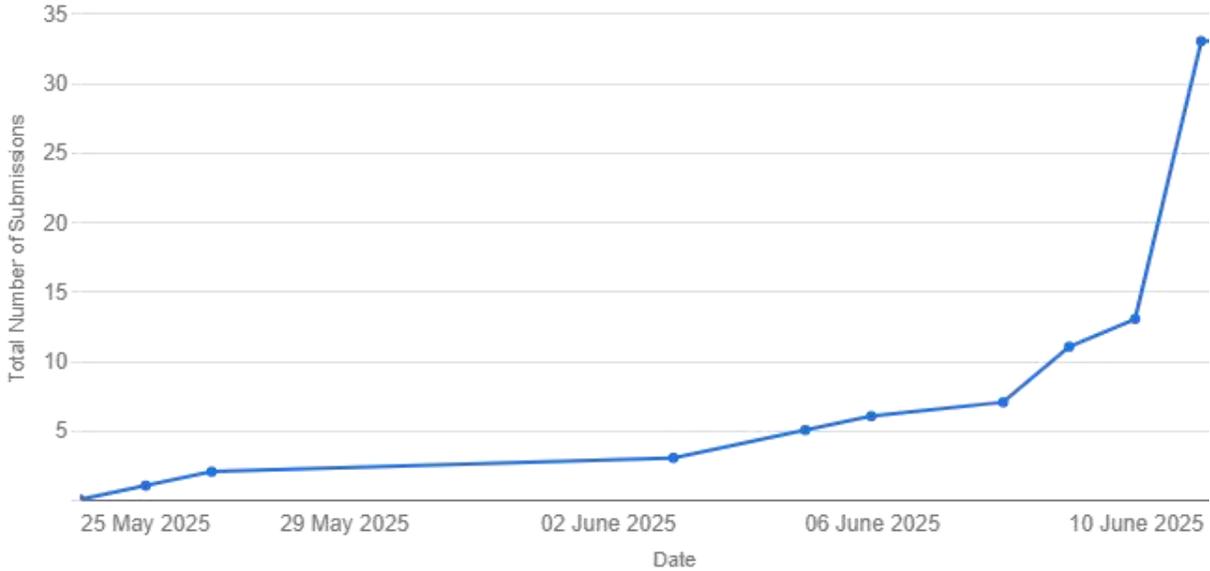
The distribution of applications for Open Call 3.1 shows a strong and evenly balanced interest across the project's three main pilot value chains. The **Plastic** and **Wood** pilots emerged as the most popular targets, with each attracting 11 applications (representing **34.4%** each).

The **Leather** pilot was also a popular choice, securing 8 applications (**25%**). Together, these three clearly defined pilots accounted for 30 of the 32 applications (93.75%), demonstrating that the applicants had a clear understanding of the call's objective to enhance these specific value chains.

A very small minority of applicants (2) proposed cross-pilot solutions, with one applicant targeting "All (Wood/Plastic/Leather)" and another targeting both "Plastics, Leather." This indicates that while most innovators focused on a single-sector solution, there was a niche interest in developing technologies with broader, multi-sector applicability.

#### 4.2.4. OC3.1 Analysis of Submission Trends

OC3.1: Evolution of Submissions (Cumulative)



*Figure 13 OC3.1 Evolution of Submissions*

The submission trend for Open Call 3.1 exhibits an even more pronounced "hockey stick" curve than OC2, with applicant activity heavily concentrated in the final days of the call.

For the majority of the application window, the submission rate was minimal. The call launched on **April 30, 2025**, but as the cumulative chart illustrates, by June 8th—over five weeks into the call and just three days before the deadline—only 7 of the 33 total applications (21.2%) had been received.

Activity began to increase slightly in the 48 hours leading up to the deadline, with 4 applications submitted on June 9th and 2 on June 10th. However, the deadline day itself, **June 11, 2025**, saw a massive surge of **20 new submissions**.

This single 24-hour period accounted for **60.6%** of all applications. In total, 26 of the 33 applications (**78.8%**) were submitted within the final 72 hours of the call. This extreme last-minute trend reinforces the conclusion that the deadline itself is the single greatest driver for submissions and highlights the critical need for helpdesk support and system monitoring during the final 24-48 hours.

## 5. Winners

### 5.1. OC2 Winners

Following a rigorous evaluation process, 15 consortia were selected for funding under Open Call 2. These projects represent a diverse range of innovative circular value chains across the target sectors. The selected (number of) proposals exhaust the total budget allocated for OC#2 (approx. 2,8M€). Below are summaries of the selected demonstrators:

- **PLASMIX-Road: Plastic and Asphalt Synergies for MIXtures in low-carbon ROAD infrastructure**
  - **Lead:** GENERAL DE POLÍMEROS, S.L. (Mid-Cap, Spain)
  - **Partners:** EXTRACO CONSTRUCCIONES E PROXECTOS, S.A (SME, Spain), FUNDACION CENTRO TECNOLOGICO DE INVESTIGACION MULTISECTORIAL (CETIM) (RTO, Spain), ASOCIACIÓN PARA LA DIGITALIZACIÓN DE LA INDUSTRIA DE GALICIA (DIHGIGAL) (Non-profit, Spain)
  - **Summary:** PLASMIX-Road focuses on revalorizing LDPE rejects from plastic recycling processes, currently landfilled or incinerated. This waste will be chemically and mechanically treated to enhance its compatibility with bitumen, creating a novel additive for asphalt mixtures used in road construction. The project aims to integrate this additive with reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP), reducing reliance on virgin bitumen, diverting plastic waste, and creating a circular, digitally traceable value chain for sustainable road infrastructure, validated using CIRCULOOS tools like RAMP and GRETA.
- **LeafCycle: Recycling Leaves into Sustainable Cat Litter**
  - **Lead:** LLC FAT CAT LEAVES (SME, Latvia)
  - **Partners:** LLC Rīgas Meži (Municipal company, Latvia), Rīgas Tehniskā universitāte (Academic, Latvia), Eesti Rohetehnoloogia Liit MTÜ (Cleantech for Baltics) (Non-profit, Estonia)
  - **Summary:** LeafCycle aims to transform fallen urban tree leaves, currently treated as waste, into a sustainable, biodegradable clumping cat litter. The project establishes a local circular supply chain involving municipal green waste collection, processing by the SME manufacturer, R&D support from the university for product optimization, and circular business model expertise from the non-profit. By repurposing organic waste and leveraging CIRCULOOS tools for traceability and LCA, the project extends the lifecycle of leaves and provides an eco-friendly alternative to conventional cat litters.
- **ISLOPOL: Island Loop for Polystyrene Circularity**
  - **Lead:** Logimade (SME, Portugal)
  - **Partners:** ARDITI (R&I/DIH, Portugal), Águas e Resíduos da Madeira S.A. (ARM) (Public Utility, Portugal), Esferolight Lda (SME, Portugal)
  - **Summary:** ISLOPOL creates a circular supply chain for Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) waste on the island of Madeira, currently shipped off-island for disposal. The project integrates smart waste bins with AI-powered computer vision (Logimade) to classify EPS waste by cleanliness. Clean EPS is collected by the waste authority (ARM) and remanufactured by a local SME (Esferolight) into new insulation and packaging products. The system uses

CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA, Data Platform) via ARDITI for digital orchestration, traceability, and LCA, reducing transport emissions and reliance on virgin materials in an insular setting.

- **ECOFFEE: Circular value chain for the valorisation of spent coffee grounds as an ingredient for animal feed and biocide production**
  - **Lead:** AZTI Foundation (Non-profit, Spain)
  - **Partners:** EUSKOVAZZA (SME, Spain), FINNOVAREGIO FOUNDATION (Non-profit, Belgium), FUMIHOGAR (SME, Spain)
  - **Summary:** ECOFFEE establishes a circular value chain to transform spent coffee grounds from HORECA and vending machines into high-value bio-based products: animal feed ingredients and biocidal/phytosanitary products. Using reverse logistics integrated with existing coffee delivery routes (EUSKOVAZZA), the waste is collected, processed, characterized (AZTI), and developed into prototypes (AZTI, FUMIHOGAR). CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA) are used for traceability, marketplace integration, and LCA validation, extending the lifecycle of coffee waste and creating a scalable model aligned with EU green policies, supported by FINNOVA's policy and dissemination expertise.
- **LOOP-E: Lifecycle Optimization through Operational Digital Product Passports and Embedded intelligence**
  - **Lead:** Simtera Bilişim İletişim Tek. Ltd. Şti. (SME, Türkiye)
  - **Partners:** The Data Cooks B.V. (SME, Netherlands), Elettrotecnica Rold SRL (Industrial, Italy), Beko Europe Management srl (Industrial, Italy)
  - **Summary:** LOOP-E implements a circular value chain demonstrator for white goods (washing machines) using real-time Digital Product Passports (DPPs) integrated with IoT and AI. The system captures operational data from component manufacturing (ROLD) through assembly (Beko) and links it via Simtera's platform and TDC's DPP software. This data enables lifecycle traceability, supports refurbishment and recycling strategies by providing verified material composition and usage history, and allows automated environmental impact scoring via integration with CIRCULOOS tools (CDP, GRETA), fostering data-driven circularity.
- **SHINE AGAIN: Sustainable Handling of Industrial Non-recyclables through Eco-design/Aesthetics Generated from Altered Industrial New-materials**
  - **Lead:** The New Raw (SME, Netherlands)
  - **Partners:** Better Future Factory / Upstream Trophies (SME, Netherlands)
  - **Summary:** SHINE AGAIN creates a closed-loop supply chain repurposing metallized polypropylene caps (currently incinerated industrial waste) into high-value design products across multiple lifecycles. Better Future Factory / Upstream Trophies (BFF/UT) collects and pre-processes the caps. The New Raw (TNR) uses robotic 3D printing to transform the material into customisable retail furniture. Production offcuts from TNR are returned to BFF/UT, which reprocesses them into circular trophies and medals. This dual-cycle reuse model, tracked via CIRCULOOS tools, demonstrates micro-scale circular manufacturing between SMEs.
- **RECONCRETE: Recycled concrete for sustainable urban furniture manufacturing**
  - **Lead:** Aridditive S.L. (SME, Spain)
  - **Partners:** Parastruct GmbH (SME, Austria), Go Bridge the Gap S.L. (SME, Spain)

- **Summary:** RECONCRETE develops a circular value chain for manufacturing 3D printed urban furniture using waste slag from Electric Arc Furnace steelmaking and construction waste as substitutes for cement. ParaStruct provides the innovative material formulation based on recycled slag, while Aridditive uses its patented 3D concrete printing technology for manufacturing. Bridge the Gap supports the business model design and validation. The project aims to reduce CO2 emissions and material waste compared to traditional concrete casting, leveraging CIRCULOOS tools for data management, LCA (GRETA), and process analysis.
- **GRANULAR: GRANite waste to advanced resources through circuLARity**
  - **Lead:** KYKLOS (NPO, Spain)
  - **Partners:** GRANIT PIERRES SIDOBRE (GPS) (NPO, France), 3D MINERALS (3DM) (SME, France)
  - **Summary:** GRANULAR transforms granite sawing sludge, an industrial by-product currently stored in ponds, into high-performance building elements like bricks, panels, and urban furniture using 3D printing. GPS, representing the granite sector in Occitanie, supplies the sludge and acts as end-user. 3DM develops the material formulations (using granite sludge, local clays, or geopolymers) and manufactures products using its Slurry Deposition Modeling 3D printing technology. KYKLOS provides circularity expertise, coordinates the project, and integrates CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA, SCO) for digital orchestration, traceability, and LCA.
- **EVOP: Energy Valorisation of Olive Pits: Traceability, Circularity and Industrial Sustainability in Olive Mills**
  - **Lead:** Cámara Oficial de Comercio Española en Italia (CAMACOES) (Non-profit, Italy)
  - **Partners:** Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias Extremadura (Non-profit, Spain), Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Badajoz (Non-profit, Spain), Mercado Biomasa S.L. (SME, Spain)
  - **Summary:** EVOP creates a circular value chain by transforming olive pits, a by-product from olive oil mills (almazaras), into renewable biomass fuel for thermal energy. Olive cooperatives in Extremadura collect, dry, and crush the pits for use onsite or in nearby facilities. Mercado Biomasa provides technical expertise and system design. The project uses CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP for traceability/marketplace, GRETA for LCA, SCDT/SCO for optimization) to monitor and optimize the process. Led by CAMACOES and supported by the Badajoz Chamber, the model promotes local energy autonomy and reduces fossil fuel reliance in the agri-food sector.
- **RE-PLAY: Circular and Data-Driven Revalorization of Plastic Waste in the Toy Manufacturing Value Chain**
  - **Lead:** Building Blocks (SME, Spain)
  - **Partners:** AIJU (R&I, Spain), Juguetes Molto (Manufacturer, Spain), Plasnovi SL (Recycler, Spain)
  - **Summary:** RE-PLAY develops a digital platform using blockchain-based Digital Product Passports (DPPs) to enable traceability and circularity for plastic components in the toy industry. The platform tracks plastic toy parts from manufacturing (Juguetes Molto) through use, collection, and recycling (Plasnovi SL). Building Blocks develops the platform, integrated with CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA, SCO) for data sharing, process

orchestration, and automated LCA. AIJU provides sector expertise. The project aims to facilitate reuse, repair, and recycling, reduce virgin plastic use, and ensure compliance with upcoming EU regulations.

- **RECLAIM: AI-PoweRed Decision-Making Platform for Circular Lifecycle Extension of Machine Tools and components within Manufacturing industry**
  - **Lead:** E-DEAS srl (SME, Italy)
  - **Partners:** SCORTA srl (SME, Italy), TRECCANI ENGINEERING srl (SME, Italy), SPEEDHUB (DIH, Italy)
  - **Summary:** RECLAIM aims to extend the lifecycle of industrial machine tools through an AI-powered decision-support platform (AIRSTRAT). This tool predicts the Remaining Exploitable Life (REL) of components, recommending optimal R-strategies (Reuse, Remanufacture, Recycle). The circular value chain connects machine users (SCORTA), upcyclers (TRECCANI), and the technology provider (E-DEAS), supported by the DIH (SPEEDHUB). By integrating with CIRCULOOS tools (Data Platform, GRETA, RAMP), the project enables data-driven lifecycle management, reduces waste, and creates a secondary market for machine tools and components.
- **BIO.CO.R.N.ER: BIO-waste for a Coordinated and Regenerative New supply chain of eco-sustainable building materials in Emilia-Romagna region**
  - **Lead:** Centro di Ricerche Europeo di Tecnologie Design e Materiali - CETMA (RTO, Italy)
  - **Partners:** Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia - UNIMORE (University, Italy), Agrifood Cluster (Non-profit/Cluster, Italy), NTC&R Srl (SME, Italy)
  - **Summary:** BIO.CO.R.N.ER establishes a regional circular value chain in Emilia-Romagna, transforming bio-waste (agri-food residues, mussel shells, marine waste) into eco-sustainable mortars for construction. CETMA and UNIMORE develop bio-based formulations, Agrifood Cluster coordinates bio-waste supply, and NTC&R manufactures the mortars. The project aims to reduce cement use, lower carbon footprint, and divert waste from landfill, using CIRCULOOS tools (Data Platform, RAMP, GRETA) for traceability, stakeholder connection, and LCA validation.
- **SEARCLE: Circular Waste-Based Ceramics for Washout 3D Tooling**
  - **Lead:** Laboratoire des technologies innovantes, Université de Picardie Jules Verne (LTI UPJV) (Research Lab, France)
  - **Partners:** INPT/CIRIMAT (Research Lab, France), CONCR3DE (SME, Netherlands)
  - **Summary:** SEARCLE creates a circular supply chain for producing recyclable ceramic powders for binder jetting 3D printing, using waste materials like seashells, recycled glass, and industrial byproducts. CIRIMAT formulates powders, CONCR3DE uses them to print sacrificial washout tooling for composite manufacturing, and LTI UPJV validates the process and material reusability after water-based dissolution and recovery. Integrated with CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA, Data Platform), the project demonstrates a regenerative, closed-loop process for sustainable tooling in aerospace and automotive sectors.
- **REQ: REboot Equality**
  - **Lead:** Social Enterprise Epanekkinisis (MSME, Greece)
  - **Partners:** Lesvos Solidarity (Recycler/NGO, Greece)

- **Summary:** REQ establishes a decentralized circular supply chain for refurbishing and reusing laptops and desktops, extending their lifecycle while promoting digital inclusion for vulnerable groups (refugees, NEETs, low-income women). Lesvos Solidarity collects devices through community networks, Epanekkinisis performs technical refurbishment and quality control, and devices are redistributed via regional hubs and partner CSOs. The model uses CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, Data Platform, GRETA) for tracking, data management, and LCA, reducing e-waste and bridging the digital divide through localized, circular ICT reuse.
- **YEAST2VALUE: Circular Value Chains for Upcycling Brewer's Spent Yeast into High-Value Proteins**
  - **Lead:** VCG.AI (SME, Germany)
  - **Partners:** ProteinDistillery (SME, Germany), Lobik Brewery (SME, Slovenia)
  - **Summary:** YEAST2VALUE develops a circular value chain to upcycle brewer's spent yeast (BSY), an industrial by-product, into high-value protein ingredients for food, feed, and biotech sectors. Lobik Brewery supplies BSY, ProteinDistillery uses its patented technology to extract proteins, and VCG.AI provides an AI platform for value chain design, optimization, and market intelligence. The project uses CIRCULOOS tools (RAMP, GRETA) for collaboration, LCA, and scaling. It aims to replace virgin protein sources, reduce waste, and create a replicable model for the brewing and protein industries.

## 5.2. OC3.1 Winners

Open Call 3.1 focused on integrating single entities into the existing CIRCULOOS pilot lines to enhance their circularity and impact. The total budget allocated to the qualified proposals of OC#3.1 is approximately 180k€. Three projects were selected:

- **RePlastAuto: Digital Circular Economy for Plastic Injection Molding in the Automotive Industry**
  - **Applicant:** ELVEZ d.o.o. (SME, Slovenia)
  - **Pilot Line:** Plastic
  - **Summary:** RePlastAuto aims to improve the recycling of post-industrial plastic waste (scrap, rejects) generated during the injection molding of automotive components. ELVEZ will integrate an AI-powered, vision-based sorting system (using hyperspectral imaging) directly into its production line to automatically classify and separate plastic scrap by polymer type and color. This creates high-purity, mono-material streams suitable for internal reuse or high-grade recycling, enhancing traceability and material recovery within the plastic pilot's value chain. The project uses CIRCULOOS tools for digital material passports and LCA monitoring.
- **Multifelt: Circular Wool Felt and Leather Waste Integration**
  - **Applicant:** Multifelt Factory Kft (SME, Hungary)
  - **Pilot Line:** Leather
  - **Summary:** Multifelt Factory joins the leather pilot line by introducing 100% wool felt production waste as a complementary circular material stream. Multifelt will reuse its felt offcuts as acoustic panel filler and test the integration of leather waste (from existing pilot partners Mototextil/B&A) into hybrid felt/leather products like bags. Additionally,

Multifelt will test hybrid wool/leather acoustic fillers. The project extends the pilot's scope by demonstrating cross-sectoral material reuse (textile/leather) and integrates its waste stream data into the pilot's digital marketplace using CIRCULOOS tools.

- **CIRCUPRINT: CIRCular manufacturing of recycled thermoplastics using intelligent 3D PRINTing**
  - **Applicant:** Fundación Idonial (RTO, Spain)
  - **Pilot Line:** Plastic
  - **Summary:** CIRCUPRINT contributes to the plastic pilot by demonstrating the direct reuse of thermoplastic waste (post-industrial/post-consumer) as feedstock for Big Area Additive Manufacturing (BAAM) without extensive reprocessing. Idonial will use its BAAM platform, integrated with a customized process monitoring system (sensors for temperature, energy, flow), to produce large-format items like urban furniture from recycled thermoplastics. The project validates the technical and environmental viability of using non-standard plastic waste in AM, providing process data to the CIRCULOOS digital ecosystem (RAMP, GRETA) for performance validation and LCA.

## 6. Matchmaking Process & Outcomes

### 6.1. Live Matchmaking Events

In addition to the asynchronous matchmaking provided by the RAMP platform, the CIRCULOOS consortium organized two dedicated live online events during the Open Call period. These sessions were specifically designed to address the challenge of consortium formation for Open Call 2, providing a real-time forum for manufacturing MSMEs, circular enablers, and technology providers to connect.

**Event Overview** Two one-hour sessions were hosted via Zoom, strategically timed to support applicants at different stages of the proposal preparation:

- **Event 1 (January 15, 2025):** Held early in the year to jumpstart partner searches.
- **Event 2 (March 12, 2025):** Held closer to the deadline to assist applicants finalizing their consortia.

**Format and Structure** Both events followed a structured agenda designed to maximize interaction and efficiency:

1. **Open Call Overview:** A briefing on OC2 eligibility (consortium requirements), funding structure (€120k-€240k per consortium), and key deadlines.
2. **Participant Pitches:** Attendees were given one minute each to present their organization, highlight their capabilities, and specify the type of partner they were seeking.
3. **Breakout Networking:** Participants were divided into focused breakout rooms—separating "Manufacturers" (MSMEs seeking partners) from "Circular Enablers" (recyclers, repairers) and "Technology Support" (DIHs, RTOs)—to facilitate targeted discussions.

**Participation and Outcomes** The events attracted approximately 15 active participants per session, including a diverse mix of manufacturers and service providers. Feedback collected via post-event

questionnaires indicated that the "matchmaking opportunity" and the ability to "present my business" were the most valuable aspects of the sessions.

Crucially, these sessions served as a primary driver for platform adoption. The RAMP platform was actively publicized throughout the events, with participants explicitly redirected to the platform to open formal "requests" for partners. This strategy yielded immediate results: following these targeted interventions, the number of active matchmaking requests on the RAMP platform **doubled**, significantly expanding the visible pool of potential consortia for Open Call 2.

## 6.2. RAMP as a Matchmaking Tool

Following the successful use of the **RAMP platform** during the Expression of Interest (EOI) phase, the tool remained open and active throughout the preparation and implementation of **Open Calls 2 and 3.1**. Its purpose during this new phase was to **support applicants in identifying potential partners** to form eligible consortia for OC2, which required two to four entities per proposal.

Unlike in the EOI phase, where RAMP served as the main vehicle for gathering initial collaboration interests, its role during OC2 was **more complementary and facilitative**. The matchmaking space was maintained to **help applicants who had not yet secured consortium partners**, allowing them to publish or respond to matchmaking requests, explore collaboration opportunities, and build connections before submitting their proposals.

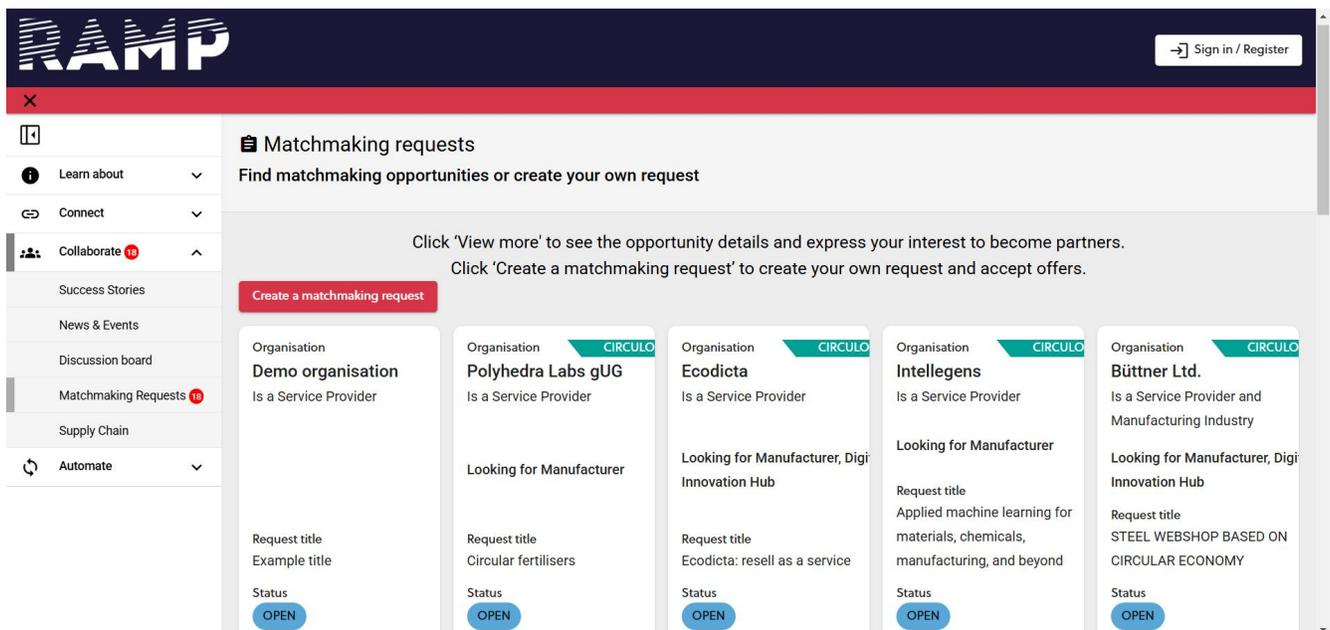


Figure 14 RAMP Platform

### 6.3. Platform Overview

RAMP's effectiveness as a matchmaking tool stemmed from its user-friendly interface and a suite of strategically designed features that streamlined the partner search and engagement process. These features empowered applicants to navigate the platform with ease, identify potential partners with precision, and initiate meaningful collaborations. Some of the key functionalities that facilitated this process include:

- **Partner Search:** A powerful search tool enables applicants to identify potential partners based on criteria such as industry sector, technological expertise, and desired collaboration type, facilitating efficient identification of compatible entities.
- **Matchmaking Requests:** Applicants could directly express their collaboration needs and aspirations through targeted matchmaking requests, fostering a more efficient and targeted partner search process.
- **Collaboration Profiles:** Detailed collaboration profiles allowed entities to showcase their unique capabilities and resources, promoting transparency and informed partner selection.
- **Communication Tools:** Integrated communication tools, including messaging and forums, facilitated direct interaction between applicants, fostering a collaborative environment for exploring potential partnerships.

The matchmaking process on RAMP typically involved applicants exploring potential matches using the search tool, submitting targeted requests to find specific types of collaborators, reviewing profiles to evaluate potential partners' suitability, and engaging in direct communication to discuss opportunities and move towards forming partnerships. This streamlined approach fostered a proactive and efficient matchmaking experience, maximizing the potential for successful collaborations within the CIRCULOOS project.

### 6.4. Platform Activity Impact

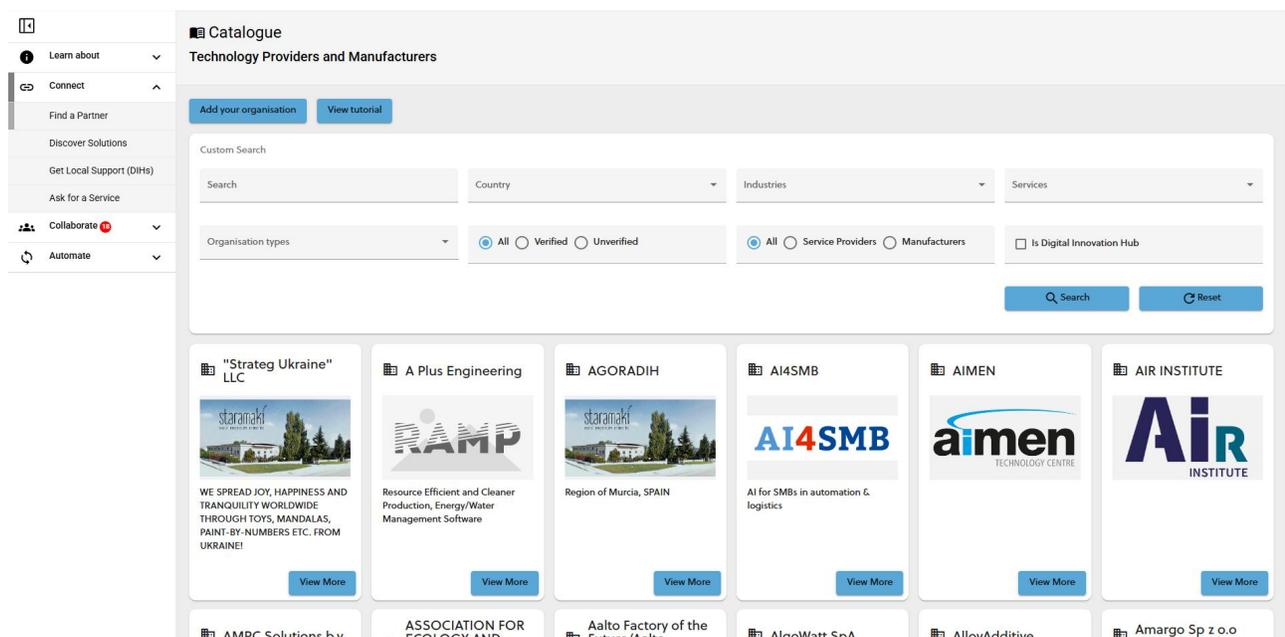
Between **December 2024 (end of EOI)** and **May 2025 (OC2 deadline)**, the number of **matchmaking requests increased from 33 to 62**.

This steady growth demonstrates that RAMP continued to be used actively by potential applicants as a collaboration hub. Importantly, this figure **surpasses the Key Indicator target of 32 MSMEs to be matched** as defined in the project's Grant Agreement, confirming that CIRCULOOS has exceeded its matchmaking objective.

### 6.5. Expanding the Network: Accessing RAMP's Broader Community

Beyond the matchmaking event, RAMP provided additional ways for applicants to network. By accessing the "Connect" tab and navigating to the "Find a Partner" section, participants could explore a directory of

**more than 285 registered entities** on RAMP. This feature allowed users to filter by sector, location, and expertise, making it easier to identify and directly contact potential partners.



*Figure 15 Top 8 Industry Sectors*

## 7. Promotion & Outreach

The promotion and outreach of the Expression of Interest was done as a collaborative effort between F6S and Communication and Dissemination WP Leader MWCB, with the support from all consortium partners. In preparation of the OC2 and OC3.1 and during its 8-month run, many activities were carried out on several channels to promote this Open Call.

The Open calls were promoted by MWCB, in collaboration with F6S through:

- **Social media campaigns** (LinkedIn, website, Youtube)  
The targeted audiences on social media, on the website and in the newsletters are :
  - Manufacturing SMEs (MSMEs) and micro-SMEs. MSMEs and micro-SMEs with a commercial activity in the manufacturing industry as a producer, or a technology/ service supplier for applications in the manufacturing industry. Entities that can adopt the role of: Recyclers, up-cyclers, repairers, waste collectors, or other entities enabling the circular loop.
  - DIHs or eDIHs.
  - Academic institutes (Universities), research institutes and other not-for-profit research entities.

Below are a few examples of LinkedIn organic (unpaid) posts promoting the Open calls OC2 and OC3.1, related activities such as webinars, and promotion of the project's newsletters activities carried out were also uploaded on Youtube.



Figure 16 LinkedIn Post 1 OC2

**CIRCULOOS**  
996 seguidores  
5 meses • 🌱

🚀 The CIRCULOOS Open Call 3.1 is your opportunity to join an existing circular supply chain and scale your innovation in the wood, plastics, or leather sectors.

🔍 Open to individual SMEs, mid-caps, recyclers, and tech providers working on automation, sorting, circular sourcing, or lifecycle extension.

🌱 Selected applicants will integrate into real pilot value chains and receive up to €60,000, technical mentoring, and access to CIRCULOOS digital tools.

📅 Apply before June 11, 2025 (17:00 Brussels time): <https://lnkd.in/d-kZEack>

👉 Swipe to see how to get started!

#CIRCULOOS #OpenCall3 #CircularEconomy #SustainableManufacturing #EUfunding #HorizonEurope #Innovation #DigitalTransformation

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**CIRCULOOS**

**CIRCULOOS Open Call 3.1 is now live!**

Swipe to see how to get €60,000 to join and strengthen CIRCULOOS circular supply chains. ➔

👍 14      4 veces compartido

Figure 17 LinkedIn Post 2 OC3.1

**CIRCULOOS**  
996 seguidores  
6 meses • Editado •

1 week to go 🗓️  
It's the final countdown to learn about CIRCULOOS's Open Calls!  
Webinar- April 9th, 2025 📍

CIRCULOOS's Open Call 2 is targeting specific challenges in the circular value chain :

- OC2 facilitates the establishment of new circular supply chains by supporting consortia of 2-4 entities to develop and implement innovative circular value chain demonstrators 📄

📅 April 9th, 2025  
🕒 11.00 AM CET

NB: If they meet the eligibility requirements, applicants are welcome to apply to both open calls at the same time 🌱

If you're working in these areas, our webinar is a must-attend! Discover how to leverage our funding and support to bring your solutions to market ✨

Save the date and register now:  
<https://lnkd.in/e5afvjeU>

#CircularEconomy #FundingOpportunity #Sustainability #Innovation #EUProjects

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Open Calls #2 and #3

**CIRCULOOS**

**CIRCULOOS WEBINAR**

📅 9. April 2025  
🕒 11.00 AM CET

Financed by the European Union  
This project has received funding from the European Union's "Horizon Europe" programme under grant agreement 101012206.

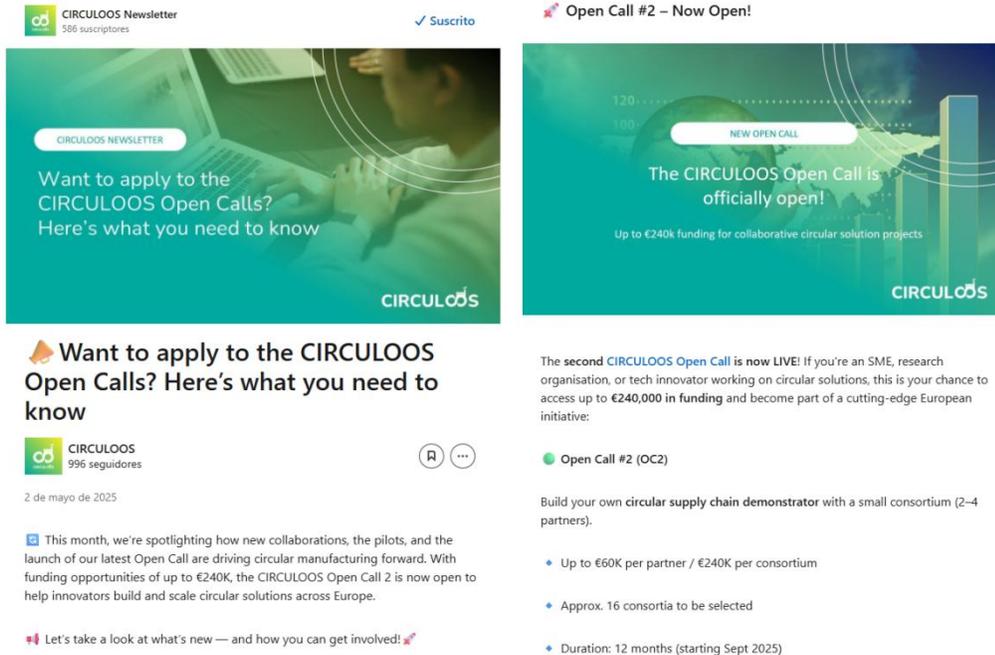
👍👍👍 15

5 veces compartido

👤 🗣️ Recomendar 🗨️ Comentar 🔄 Compartir ➡️ Enviar

Figure 18 LinkedIn Post 3 Webinars Promotion

- **Newsletters and email communications** to key stakeholders.
- LinkedIn newsletters and email communications to key stakeholders were sent to further promote the EOI, as shown below:



**Figure 19 Newsletter promoting Open Calls**

Anecdotal evidence suggests that events (such as the webinars and the matchmaking activities) and social media were particularly effective. At the proposal submission stage, applicants will be asked to indicate how they learned about the open call, allowing for a more precise impact assessment in future reports.

## 8. Key Takeaways & Lessons Learned

The execution of Open Call 2 (OC2) and Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1) provided significant insights that will be crucial for refining the project's future activities. The calls successfully generated strong interest from the target community, attracting a combined total of 117 applications (84 for OC2, 33 for OC3.1), demonstrating the resonance of CIRCULOOS's objectives.

### Key Successes:

- **Effective Targeting (OC2):** OC2 achieved an exceptionally high eligibility rate of 95.24%. The applicant pool was perfectly aligned with the call's goals, with "SME/Manufacturer" being the most dominant entity type (43.8%). This confirms the call's design and communication were highly effective in attracting the project's primary target audience.
- **Reaching the Innovator Niche (OC3.1):** OC3.1 was similarly successful in its specific aim, with "SME/Startup" accounting for 75.8% of its applicants. This shows the call's value proposition was clear to agile innovators seeking to "plug in" to existing value chains.
- **Balanced Pilot Interest:** Applications for OC3.1 were almost perfectly distributed across the project's core pilots (11 for Plastic, 11 for Wood, and 8 for Leather), indicating a balanced and healthy interest in all three of the project's industrial sectors.
- **Power of Local Networks:** The geographic distribution for both calls showed a strong concentration of applicants from countries with consortium partners, particularly Spain. This clustering validates the project's dissemination strategy, proving that the active mobilization of partners' local ecosystems is a highly effective method for outreach.
- **Matchmaking Tool Success:** The RAMP matchmaking platform proved to be a valuable asset, surpassing its Key Indicator target. It generated 62 matchmaking requests, demonstrating its utility as a central hub for consortium building.

## 9. Conclusions

Following the successful closure and evaluation of OC2 and OC3.1 in mid-2025, the CIRCULOOS project successfully completed the formal onboarding of the selected beneficiaries, finalizing the Sub-Grant Agreements and officially kicking off the demonstrator projects. Currently, the 15 selected OC2 consortia are actively executing their 12-month projects, while the 3 selected OC3.1 entities are progressing through their 9-month integrations with the project's core pilot value chains (Plastics and Leather).

Looking ahead, the consortium will begin preparations for the project's final open call: **Open Call 3.2 (OC3.2)**, which is planned for the next project period (scheduled to launch around M33).

This final call will complete the project's cascade funding strategy. Its design will be distinct from the previous two:

- **OC3.1** was designed for single entities to enhance the *internal* CIRCULOOS pilot lines.
- **OC3.2** will be designed to provide "value-chain extension/scale-up" funding. It will offer a unique opportunity for single entities (like technology providers, circularity experts, or service providers) to join and enhance the *newly established value chains* being created by the **OC2 winning consortia**.

This final call will build directly on the success of OC2, fostering a second loop of innovation and collaboration by strengthening the new ecosystems established by the project's first round of demonstrators. Lessons learned from OC3.1's procedural challenges will be applied to ensure the guidelines for OC3.2 are exceptionally clear and simple for all applicants.

## 10. ANNEXES

The following documents constitute the official framework and rules under which Open Call 2 and Open Call 3.1 were executed.

### A. Central Information Hub

All official documentation, templates (Application Forms, Declaration of Honour), and updates regarding the CIRCULOOS Open Calls are permanently hosted on the project's dedicated webpage.

- **CIRCULOOS Open Calls Webpage:** <https://circuloos.eu/open-calls/>

### B. Guidelines for Applicants

These documents detail the eligibility criteria, evaluation procedures, and strategic objectives referenced throughout this report.

- **Annex I: Open Call 2 (OC2) Guidelines:** *Title:* CIRCULOOS-OC2-Guidelines-for-Applicants-Final-Version.pdf *Link:* [Download PDF](#)
- **Annex II: Open Call 3.1 (OC3.1) Guidelines:** *Title:* VFinal\_Guidelines-for-Applicants\_OC3.1.pdf *Link:* [Download PDF](#)

# CIRCULOBS



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