



CirBioWaste

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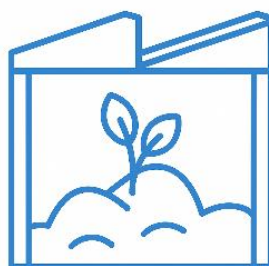
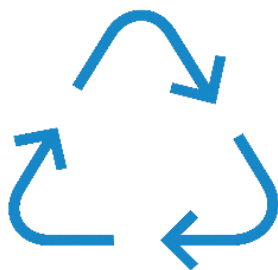
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CirBioWaste Newsletter №5

September 2026

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Fostering innovative and sustainable bio-waste management and circular bio-economy in
the Mediterranean area



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About the project

The [CirBioWaste project \(Fostering innovative and sustainable bio-waste management and circular bio-economy in the Mediterranean area\)](#) aims to support the improvement of environmental resilience and foster the transition to an efficient and circular bioeconomy in the Euro-MED area. The project promotes the implementation of sustainable bio-waste management to reduce environmental impact and create social and economic benefits in the Euro-MED area.

CirBioWaste is transferring existing innovative and validated solutions for sustainable bio-waste management, adapted to different contexts. Strategies and action plans, including policy recommendations and practical guidelines to deploy proposed solutions, are jointly created with and for the targeted entities (and related key local stakeholders).

This project aims to tackle the challenges identified across partner experience and different EU projects, on the fulfilment of the obligation of member states to separately collect and recycle the municipal biowaste and meet the EU-related targets. The project is reaching this goal by supporting the public administrations in the Euro-MED area in the implementation of existing innovative bio-waste management solutions adapted to their local context.

The activities of the project are related to fostering awareness to ensure proper quality of

the bio-waste separated at source and proper use of the recycled products.

The work plan of the project consists of 3 Work Packages (WP). These are:

- WP 1: Support the implementation of strategies and action plans to improve bio-waste management.
- WP 2: Sharing knowledge and raising awareness by providing supporting tools and capacity building.
- WP 3: Dissemination and capitalisation of project outputs to achieve the widest impact in the EU MED area.

As a result, CirBioWaste is creating a transnational and collaborative space among the 10 Euro-MED local territories, project partners, and associates where to jointly assess, design, and implement, together with local stakeholders, the best technical solutions (and complementary instruments) to be adopted.

The project is co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme and has a duration of 27 months, from April 2025 to July 2027.



Total budget
€ 1.381.630,50



Project duration
27 months



Interreg Funds
€ 1.105.304,40

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CirBioWaste Second Online Training (OT2)

OT2: PAYT Schemes for Improved Bio-Waste Management



Date: 7th July 2026
Location: Online

The Second Online Training, “How to implement PAYT in the Euro-MED project regions – a trigger to increase bio-waste collection rates”, organised within the frame of the CirBioWaste project, took place on 7 July 2026. The event continued the project’s capacity-building activities, focusing on innovative policy instruments to improve bio-waste management.

The online meeting brought together 70 participants, including municipal representatives, waste management professionals, project partners, and key stakeholders from Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, and Bulgaria, as well as from other remote regions. The training focused on the

implementation of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) schemes as an effective tool for increasing bio-waste collection rates and quality, as well as citizens' waste awareness.

The event opened with a welcoming speech by the lead partner of the project, the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). The project CirBioWaste was introduced in detail, including its main goals, project partnerships, and the tools developed so far to support the implementation of effective bio-waste management solutions.



The event continued with a presentation from the Spanish partner (Fundació ENT), which introduced the PAYT concept within the European context, showcasing its benefits, implementation models, and contribution to improving separate collection systems.

The Italian project partner (CIC) followed with a discussion on the key preparatory steps before implementing PAYT schemes, highlighting the importance of the social aspect and the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) approach in promoting citizen awareness and participation.

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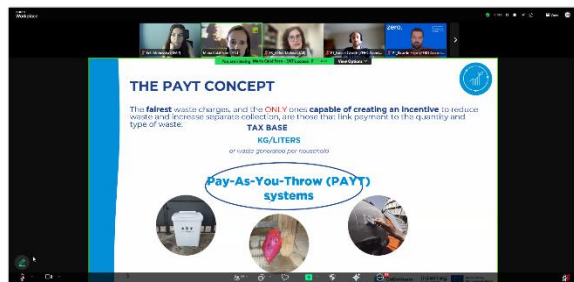


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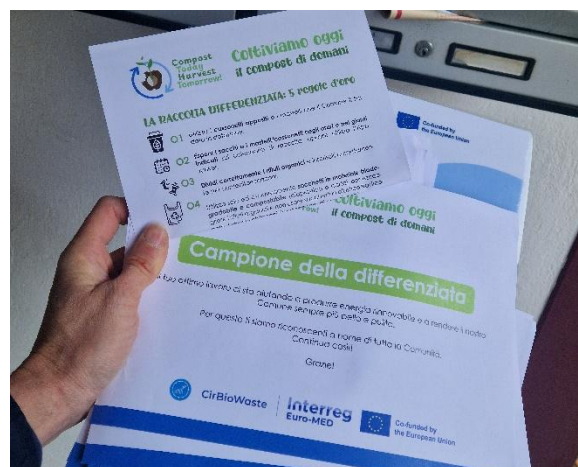
The training also included parallel break-out sessions in the partners' national languages, where participants exchanged experiences, discussed local challenges, and shared good practices related to bio-waste management and PAYT implementation in their regions.

**Better Communication for Better
Collection: Lessons from the
CirBioWaste Project**

**Over 850 inspections and awareness
activities in Canelli, Castagnole delle
Lanze, and Scurzolengo to improve
organic waste collection**

The awareness-raising campaign conducted under the European project CirBioWaste has concluded. Promoted by the Consorzio Italiano Compostatori (CIC) in collaboration with GAIA Spa, and supported by the Asti Waste Management Consortium (CBRA), ERICA Soc. Coop., and the municipal administrations of Canelli, Castagnole delle Lanze, and Scurzolengo, the initiative aimed to enhance the efficiency of the organic waste recycling

value chain. Focusing on door-to-door collection, the campaign involved approximately 860 household users through a dual strategy: waste collection inspections combined with personalised information outreach.



The results were highly satisfying. While the analysis initially revealed a gap in public knowledge regarding organic waste sorting rules (organic waste was often disposed of with unsorted waste), citizens responded positively to the information provided. This demonstrated that clear, timely and ongoing communication is a fundamental tool for encouraging correct behaviours and ensuring high-quality waste separation over time.

The Awareness Campaign

The campaign, titled “Compost Today, Harvest Tomorrow - Coltiviamo oggi il compost di domani,” consisted of two monitoring phases evaluating organic and residual unsorted waste bins, conducted by designated technical staff.

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Following each inspection, operators attached a color-coded tag based on a triage system:

Green: Correct disposal

Yellow: Minor, easily correctable errors

Red: Non-compliant disposal



After the first inspection, residents received printed guidance featuring practical tips to improve sorting quality. The follow-up inspection made it possible to measure how effective this direct, personalized outreach was in encouraging better habits. In total, 859 inspections were conducted: 239 in Canelli, 229 in Castagnole delle Lanze, and 391 in Scurzolengo.

Findings: 30% of Organic Waste Sent to Unsorted Trash and Use of Non-Compliant Bags

Field monitoring and material analysis of organic waste performed at the GAIA Spa plant highlighted a widespread lack of knowledge

regarding organic sorting rules - an awareness gap with a twofold negative impact:

1. Impedes Resource Recovery:

Roughly 30% of organic waste continues to end up in unsorted trash, mirroring national averages. When properly collected and recycled, this material turns into compost, enriching soil organic matter, boosting fertility, and strengthening agricultural resilience. This process is increasingly critical given international fertilisers market volatility and the need to maximise local resources.

2. Reduces Recycling Efficiency and Increases Costs:

Impurities multiply operational impacts during treatment, generating nearly three times as much waste as the initial contaminant introduced by dragging along recoverable organic matter. The economic toll is significant: every kilogram of organic waste thrown into unsorted trash results not only in a lost recyclable resource, but also in **disposal costs 102% higher** than the cost of processing it for recovery in compost.

Additionally, the analysis revealed a common challenge across Italy: approximately **30% of bags used for organic collection are made of traditional plastic** rather than certified compostable materials. This error complicates processing, degrades final compost quality and increases disposal residue.

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Results: Targeted, Continuous Communication is Key to the Circular Economy



Reversing this trend is achievable, and targeted public communication is a proven tool. Results from the two-stage monitoring approach show that residents who received personalised information between the first and second checks made positive changes:

- In one municipality, sorting quality improved with an **8% increase in “green tags”** and a **20% rise in organic waste collected**.
- In another municipality, gains were primarily quantitative, yielding an extraordinary **30% increase in collected organic waste**.

These figures prove that timely communication paired with active monitoring and feedback can rapidly raise both the quality and volume of sorted waste. Maintaining a continuous approach remains essential to solidifying

positive habits and maximising the efficiency of the whole value chain.

Exploring Synergies with Other Interreg Projects

CirBioWaste Meets MEDWISE to Explore Synergies and Joint Actions Across the Mediterranean

Fostering sustainable biowaste management and driving the transition toward an efficient circular bioeconomy in the Mediterranean requires strong cooperation, continuous knowledge sharing, and capitalisation across European regional programmes.



Date: July 2026
Location: Online

In this spirit, representatives from the **CirBioWaste** project (Interreg Euro-MED) held an online meeting with partners from the **MEDWISE** project (Interreg NEXT MED) to exchange insights, explore potential synergies, and lay the groundwork for future joint initiatives across the region.

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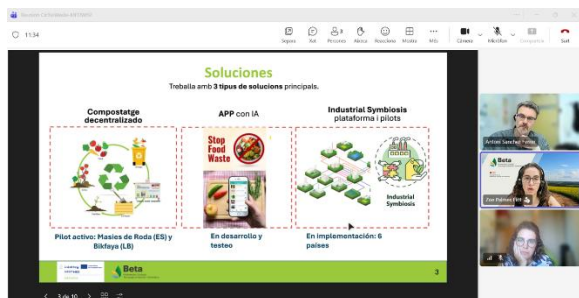
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During the meeting, **CirBioWaste** presented its overall strategy, which focuses on supporting public administrations in adopting adapted, high-impact biowaste management solutions. Discussions centred on transferring proven practices to local contexts, covering key areas such as optimizing separate collection systems, decentralised composting, quality assurance of source-separated organic waste, and returning high-quality organic matter to local soils.



In parallel, the **MEDWISE** team introduced their project's objectives, which focus on fostering resource efficiency and sustainable waste governance in Southern Mediterranean territories.

Despite operating under different Interreg frameworks, both projects identified strong common priorities. Both initiatives tackle shared regional challenges: reducing organic waste generation, preventing landfill disposal, and actively engaging local communities and public authorities.

The meeting concluded with planned joint steps including sharing project outcomes and exploring joint dissemination opportunities to

amplify the visibility of sustainable biowaste solutions throughout the Mediterranean.

Support Our Colleagues at MEDWISE: Community of Practice (CoP)

As part of their ongoing efforts to build a multi-stakeholder network across the Mediterranean, the **MEDWISE** team has launched a survey to map expertise and gather input for their CoP. If you wish to join their network and follow their developments, we invite you to check their questionnaire:

👉 [CoP MEDWISE – FILL IN the survey](#)

Participation of CirBioWaste in External Events

CirBioWaste at the Soils for Europe Conference 2026



Fundació ENT represented [CirBioWaste](#) at the **Soils for Europe Conference 2026**, held from **7–11 September in Coimbra, Portugal**. The event brought together researchers, policymakers, land managers, industry representatives, civil society and European projects to exchange knowledge and innovative approaches to improving soil health across Europe.

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During **Poster Session 2 on 9 September**, Karin Meisterl (Fundació ENT) presented CirBioWaste's work to support local and regional authorities through **capacity building, knowledge transfer and technical assistance**. The poster showcased key project outputs and activities, including the **CirBioWaste Knowledge Hub, tailored Support Services, training activities and communication materials**, and highlighted how improved municipal bio-waste management and high-quality compost can help return organic matter and nutrients to soils across the Mediterranean.

Conference discussions covered topics ranging from soil degradation, restoration and organic carbon to sustainable land management, soil monitoring, citizen engagement and emerging technologies. The event also provided an excellent opportunity to **exchange experiences with other European projects, explore synergies and strengthen collaboration** across the European soil community.

CirBioWaste Shares Experience on Stakeholder Engagement at Interreg Euro-MED Webinar

On 10th September 2026, the CirBioWaste project participated in an Interreg Euro-MED webinar called **"Regional Ownership in Practice: Lessons From the Field and What's Coming in 2028"**, focusing on one of the key challenges for regions working towards a circular economy: **turning formal stakeholder**

participation into genuine co-ownership and long-term engagement.

The online event brought together representatives of several Thematic Projects to share practical experiences, challenges and lessons learned from working with regional and local authorities.



Date: 10th September 2026

Location: Online

Representing **CirBioWaste**, Elena Oikonomou from ECOREC, contributed to the discussion on **"When it was hard – and what you did: getting from a project deliverable to something a public authority actually uses."** Her contribution highlighted the practical challenges of moving from project outputs to their actual uptake and use by public authorities.

The webinar provided an opportunity for **CirBioWaste and other Interreg Euro-MED projects to exchange practical lessons on stakeholder engagement, ownership and the long-term use of project results**, contributing to stronger regional cooperation and circular economy action.

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Upcoming Events

CirBioWaste Third Online Training on Bio-Waste Management in October 2026

On 9 October 2026 (10 am WEST / 11 am CEST / 12 pm EEST), the CirBioWaste consortium will host the **Third Online Training on Bio-Waste Management: Closing the Loop at the Source through Community Composting.**



The CirBioWaste project includes a series of technical visits, as well as in-person and online events, aimed at disseminating information and gathering new contributions from stakeholders involved in the planned initiatives. Through these activities, the project seeks to strengthen dialogue and promote the exchange of practical experiences and solutions for more sustainable bio-waste management across the Mediterranean region.

[Registration form for the event](#)

[Agenda of the event](#)

Study Visit to Portugal within the frame of the CirBioWaste project

From 28 to 30 October 2026, CirBioWaste project partners will gather in Beja, Portugal, for an interregional consortium meeting hosted by the Portuguese partner ZERO.

The three-day event will combine a technical visit and consortium working sessions. On 28 October, partners will visit the Resialentejo Mechanical Recovery and Biological Treatment (MRBT) facility, following the treatment of residual municipal waste - from reception and mechanical sorting through biological treatment and maturation of the organic fraction to refining and Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) production.



The following two days will focus on the CirBioWaste consortium meeting, focusing on project progress, work package implementation, deliverables, reporting and upcoming activities.

The meeting will also enable partners to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation on circular and sustainable waste management across the Mediterranean region.

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CirBioWaste Partnerships and communication channels

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, NGOs, and environmental agencies. Together, we represent varied views across a range of stakeholders and interests, providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of circular economy, bio waste management, and policy design. The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering five nations and six institutions within the Interreg Euro-Mediterranean area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries.

Autonomous University of
Barcelona (UAB)- **Lead partner**,
Spain



<https://www.uab.cat>

ENT FOUNDATION (FUNDACIO
ENT), Spain



<https://ent.cat>

Consorzio Italiano Compostatori
(CIC), Italy



<https://www.compost.it>

ZERO - Association for the
Sustainability of the Earth
System (ZERO), Portugal



<https://zero.org>

Ecological Recycling Society
(Ecorec), Greece



<https://ecorec.gr>

Regional Energy Agency of
Pazardjik (REAP), Bulgaria



<https://reap-bg.eu>

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EDITORIAL

For every info or updates about the newsletter please contact:

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