



Dear reader,

In the past few months, the partnership of CSS has created the foundation for the self-scan and platform. Partners from Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands have performed an in-depth research among the target group, to define most important indicators to include in the self-scan and platform. Moreover, several online meetings were organized to discuss important matters regarding the project's progress and how create the most valuable results for entrepreneurs.

In this second newsletter, we will give you all the latest updates and information about our progress and future plans.

What is Circular SME Scan about?

CIRCULAR SME SCAN (CSS) connects digitalisation with a circular economy. Circular, sustainable and environment-climate friendly operation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) results in a competitive advantage and simultaneously contributes to a better environment.

The project started in April 2021 and will run for two years to produce the deliverables which are needed to equip SMEs with circular related materials. The mission of CSS is to upskill SMEs and equip them with useful information & practical materials to apply circularity in their business strategy and contribute to a green economy.





RESEARCH

During the first phase of the project we have been working hard to set the foundation of the (to-be-developed) self-scan and CSS platform. Before we wanted to elaborate on the circular self-scan, we wanted to be sure about the needs and desires of (micro) SMEs in changing their strategies towards a more circular one. The research exists out of different elements;

- Desk research - scoping background information and regional initiatives regarding circularity for SMEs
- Survey - Distribution of survey among different entrepreneurs to find out needs and desires
- Focus groups - a set of 3 focus groups in Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands to discover the real needs of local entrepreneurs and to set the basics for the self-scan; what is needed, where should we focus on, what would be the level of circularity, etc.

Want to read more about our findings and results of this comprehensive research? Download the full and consolidated report [HERE](#).

BEST PRACTICES

To support and encourage entrepreneurs to take advantage of circular opportunities, the partnership has collected several best practices in circular strategies entrepreneurs can exploit. Entrepreneurs want to be inspired in order to be convinced that a circular approach can work for them too. This is, among others, one of the main results from the focus groups. Therefore we want to highlight these best practices and examples and give them a prominent place on our CSS platform.

WHAT'S NEXT?

At the end of March 2022, a physical meeting in Leeuwarden will be organized. so the partnership can brainstorm about the main characteristics of the self-scan and platform, and how to design the scan in order to make it suitable and of value for entrepreneurs. After almost one year of solely online meetings, the partnership will meet each other in real life. How an effective and fruitful meeting it will be!

More news will follow soon!

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