

# Manifesto

## OF COLLABORATION FOR A CIRCULAR FUTURE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

### Preamble

In recognition of the urgent need to address environmental degradation, economic disparities, and social challenges, we, the undersigned representatives of civil society, businesses, governments and academia from the Western Balkans (WB) region, commit to a transformative approach towards a circular economy. This manifesto serves as our collective pledge to foster a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future through collaborative efforts and shared responsibilities.

### Vision

We envision the Western Balkans as a pioneering region in the global transition to a circular economy. This vision embraces sustainable development, environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and social equity. By redefining our relationship with resources, we aim to create a thriving ecosystem that supports prosperity for current and future generations.

### Principles of Collaboration

<b>Sustainability and Stewardship</b>	Prioritize environmental sustainability by adopting practices that reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote biodiversity.
<b>Innovation and Adaptation</b>	Encourage innovation and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies that facilitate the transition to a circular economy.
<b>Inclusivity and Equity</b>	Ensure that the benefits of a circular economy are shared equitably among all segments of society, including marginalized and vulnerable groups.
<b>Partnership and Cooperation</b>	Foster cross-sectoral and transnational partnerships to leverage collective expertise, resources, and influence.
<b>Transparency and Accountability</b>	Commit to transparent practices and hold ourselves accountable for our actions and their impacts on the environment and society.

**ACTION PLAN**

**POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Develop and implement comprehensive policies and regulations that support circular economy principles at local, national, and regional levels.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Launch awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to inform and engage citizens about the benefits and practices of the circular economy.

**FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND INVESTMENTS**

Mobilize financial resources and provide incentives for businesses and initiatives that contribute to the circular economy.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Promote research and development in circular economy technologies, processes, and business models.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Establish mechanisms for monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of circular economy initiatives, ensuring continuous improvement and adaptation.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

**RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND WASTE REDUCTION**

Develop and implement comprehensive policies and regulations that support circular economy principles at local, national, and regional levels.

**SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION**

Launch awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to inform and engage citizens about the benefits and practices of the circular economy.

**CIRCULAR DESIGN AND INNOVATION**

Mobilize financial resources and provide incentives for businesses and initiatives that contribute to the circular economy.

**GREEN JOBS AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Invest in education and training programs to equip the workforce with the skills needed for green jobs and the circular economy.

**REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION**

Strengthen regional cooperation to address common challenges and opportunities in the transition to a circular economy.

**COMMITMENT TO ACTION:** We, the undersigned, pledge to actively collaborate and support the implementation of this manifesto. We recognize that achieving a circular future requires concerted efforts and shared responsibilities. By working together, we can transform the Western Balkans into a model region for sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity.

**SIGN THE MANIFESTO**

This manifesto represents our collective commitment to fostering a circular future for the Western Balkans. Together, we can build a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive region for generations to come.