

»» NEWSLETTER ««

Edition #2

October 2025

ECO4ALL COST Action CA22124

Welcome to  **ECO4ALL**
EU Circular Economy Network for All
Consumer Protection through reducing, reusing, repairing

42

COUNTRIES

25

ICT COUNTRIES

76

MC MEMBERS

510

WG MEMBERS

ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS 2025

The Grant Period 2 (2024/2025) marked a new phase of growth for the ECO4ALL COST Action (CA22124), strengthening its role in advancing circular economy practices across Europe. Through impactful conferences, collaborative workshops, and inclusive training activities, ECO4ALL continued to connect researchers, policymakers, and consumers in building sustainable solutions for a greener and fairer economy. This newsletter showcases the main achievements of the year, focusing on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and cross-border cooperation.

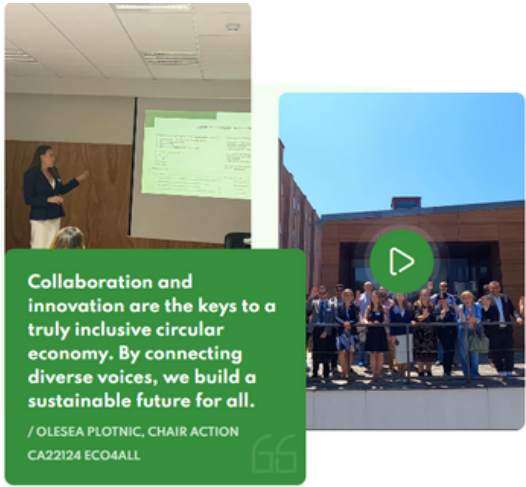


GP2: A Year of Growth and Collaboration

As ECO4ALL entered its second year of activity, 2025 became a defining chapter of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation. Across Europe, members of the network joined forces to turn research into action — from developing policy insights and engaging in thematic discussions to empowering young researchers and promoting sustainable practices among consumers.

Milestones that Defined 2025:

- **Conferences:** Open Air Cities (Athens) & Mid-Term International Conference (Iași) brought together 100+ experts to discuss sustainable urban development, consumer empowerment, and circular economy practices.
- **Meetings:** Multiple Core Group & Management Committee meetings in Porto, Chișinău, Athens, Iași, Kos, advancing Grant Period 2 initiatives.
- **Workshops & Training Schools:** 2nd PhD student workshop (online) and 1st Training School in Athens on empowering sustainable consumption.
- **Webinars:** 3 online sessions with 200+ participants, exploring circular economy, sustainability, and practical actions.
- **Growing Network:** Now active in 42 countries and 25 ITC countries, connecting researchers and stakeholders across Europe.



In this newsletter you can expect:

A journey through ECO4ALL's key events and achievements of 2025

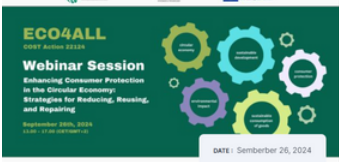
Highlights from international conferences and strategic meetings

Snapshots from the first Training School and workshops that inspired change

Webinars connecting experts and participants across Europe

Stories of mentorship, community growth, and collaboration

A look ahead — upcoming activities and opportunities to stay engaged



Looking forward, ECO4ALL remains committed to strengthening interdisciplinary dialogue and supporting new generations of researchers in shaping a circular future — one that values people, resources, and resilience.

GP2 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ECO4ALL organizes regular Management Committee (MC) meetings to coordinate activities across its network, monitor progress, and ensure effective implementation of circular economy principles with a strong focus on consumer empowerment.



COST ACTION CA22124 ECO4ALL – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (MC2 / GP2) – ONLINE

The second Management Committee meeting of Grant Period 2 was held online on 2 October 2025, gathering Management Committee members, Working Group leaders, and Core Group participants.

The session reviewed progress since MC1, discussed strategic goals and the work plan for Grant Period 3, and covered financial updates as well as reporting obligations towards the COST Association.

Participants also focused on the Young Researchers Programme, the foundations of the Gender Equality Plan, and synergies with other COST Actions, ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, and continued advancement of consumer rights and sustainability within the circular economy framework.

COST ACTION CA22124 ECO4ALL – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (MC1 / GP2) – IAȘI, ROMANIA

The ECO4ALL COST Action CA22124 proudly held its first Management Committee meeting of Grant Period 2 in a hybrid format at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași on 10 May 2025.

The meeting brought together experts, researchers, and national representatives from across Europe to assess the Action's progress and plan the next steps for implementing circular economy principles, focusing on empowering consumers to reduce, reuse, and repair.

Chaired by Prof. Olesea Plotnic, the session included updates on the Action's structure, strategic goals, Working Group progress, and the launch of the Young Researchers Programme. With 39 out of 41 COST countries participating and plans to expand to Malta, Belgium, and a Cooperative Member from South Africa, the meeting reinforced ECO4ALL's vision of a pan-European and global network promoting sustainable and inclusive circular practices.



CONNECTING RESEARCH, POLICY, AND ACTION

ECO4ALL PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN TWO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN 2025, BRINGING TOGETHER EXPERTS, POLICYMAKERS, AND RESEARCHERS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCE CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS. THESE EVENTS REFLECTED THE ACTION'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION ACROSS EUROPE.

ECO4ALL MID-TERM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IAȘI (ROMANIA), MAY 9–10, 2025



Over 100 researchers, experts, and policy advocates from across Europe gathered at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași on 9–10 May 2025 for the ECO4ALL Mid-Term International Conference, held under COST Action CA22124. With the theme “Challenges, Processes, and Policies for a Circular Economy That Works for Consumers,” the hybrid-format conference brought vibrant discussions and bold ideas to the forefront of Europe’s circular transition.

Hosted by Romania’s oldest university, the event was more than a conference—it was a collective commitment to co-creating a fair, inclusive, and sustainable circular future for all.

CO-ORGANIZATION OF THE OPEN-AIR CITIES CONFERENCE AT HAROKOPIO, ATHENS (GREECE), FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

From 14 to 16 February 2025, the Open Air Cities Conference at Harokopio University of Athens brought together experts and policymakers to explore sustainable urban development. ECO4ALL co-organized sessions on consumer empowerment and circular economy practices. Prof. Olesea Plotnic delivered a keynote on legal frameworks and consumer protection, while an in-person session with twelve speakers discussed circular economy practices, consumer awareness, and policy roles. The final online session connected international experts to share strategies for enhancing consumer protection within the circular economy.



ECO4ALL CG& WG MEETINGS



5th Core Group Meeting – Athens, 14 February 2025

The 5th Core Group meeting, held in a hybrid format at Harokopio University, brought together key members to plan Grant Period 2 activities. Participants approved participation lists for the upcoming MC1/GP2 meeting and the Mid-term Conference, reviewed progress on the State-of-the-Art Book, and discussed strategies to strengthen collaboration and outreach. The meeting highlighted ECO4ALL's commitment to circular economy innovation and sustainable development.



7th Core Group Meeting – Iași, 10 May 2025

The 7th Core Group meeting took place at Casa Universitarilor, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, in a hybrid format. Chaired by Olesea Plotnic, members reviewed Working Group progress, coordinated upcoming activities, approved a second grant call, and planned conference publications and certificates. The meeting highlighted ECO4ALL's collaborative approach to advancing consumer protection and the circular economy across Europe.



Day 1 – ECO4ALL WG1 & WG2 Hybrid Meeting, Kos, 04 September 2025

The first day of the hybrid meeting opened at the Kos International Convention Centre, inaugurated by Action Chair Prof. Olesea Plotnic and local organizer Prof. Dimitris Lekkas. Sessions focused on data-driven approaches for circular economy analysis, with presentations on variable structuring, measuring circular economy, and implementing the SDGs in cities. The day concluded with Deliverable D3: a list of variable analytical needs to guide coordinated research across the ECO4ALL network.



Day 2 – ECO4ALL WG1 & WG2 Hybrid Meeting, Kos, 05 September 2025

The second day focused on implementing and promoting Deliverables D3 and D8, linking research outputs with citizen awareness and policy impact. Morning sessions addressed citizen engagement, tourism's environmental footprint, and plastic pollution, while afternoon sessions covered consumer-centered strategies, gender equality, circular economy education, and sustainable farming. The day concluded with a stakeholder meeting, reinforcing connections between ECO4ALL initiatives.



Day 3 – ECO4ALL WG1 & WG2 Hybrid Meeting, Kos, 06 September 2025

The final day focused on forward-looking perspectives, intersectoral modelling, and translating data into policy recommendations. Sessions covered sustainable tourism, circular economy impacts, reusing and repairing products, legal and socio-economic frameworks, and digital tools. An interactive workshop enabled participants to develop local circular economy guidelines, linking research findings to actionable strategies. The day concluded with a roundtable, reinforcing ECO4ALL's interdisciplinary network and practical impact.



ECO4ALL Core Group Meeting (CG11) – Kos, 07 September 2025

On 7 September 2025, the ECO4ALL Core Group held its 11th hybrid meeting in Kos, chaired by Prof. Olesea Plotnic. Participants reviewed progress, approved key decisions including the Routledge book title, upcoming webinars and workshops, and prepared for the 2026 International Conference in Rome. The meeting reinforced ECO4ALL's commitment to consumer rights and sustainability in the circular economy.



ECO4ALL 1ST TRAINING SCHOOL ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY – ATHENS, GREECE | 12-14 FEBRUARY 2025

The ECO4ALL COST Action (CA22124) hosted its 1st Training School on “Empowering Sustainable Consumption: A SWOT Analysis of Circular Economy Strategies in Consumer Protection” at Harokopio University, Athens. The three-day event brought together trainers and trainees from COST member countries to explore practical strategies for sustainable consumption and circular economy policies.

Program Highlights:

Day 1:

Community-based circular economies, urban policies, and macroeconomic circularity (Gerry Aiken, Agisilaos Economou, Isidora Milošević).

Day 2:

Industrial Symbiosis, SDGs, and a SWOT workshop on consumer empowerment (Merim Kasumovic, Apostolos Michopoulos).

Day 3:

Poster presentations, collaborative roadmap development, and closing reflections (Olesea Plotnic, Isidora Milošević).



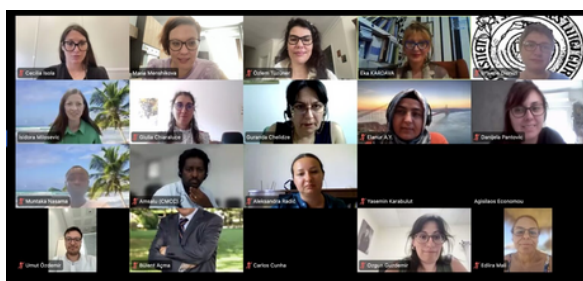
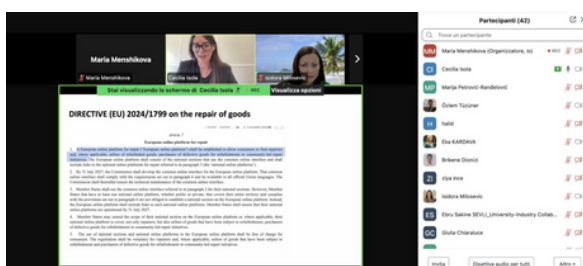
Organized in collaboration with COST Action LIAISE, the program featured 6 trainers and 19 trainees, combining lectures, interactive workshops, and collaborative sessions to provide practical tools for implementing circular economy strategies.

Key Outcomes:

- Practical tools for circular economy analysis and policy planning.
- Insights from European case studies and cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- Strengthened international network for sustainable research and innovation.

ECO4ALL 2ND WEBINAR

On February 20, 2025, a dynamic exchange of ideas unfolded as the COST Action ECO4ALL (CA22124) and COST Action GRADE came together to host an insightful webinar on Sustainability and the Circular Economy. Under the expert moderation of Mihaela Tofan, Vice-Chair of ECO4ALL, the event attracted up to 50 participants, creating a vibrant platform for interdisciplinary dialogue. From the outset, the discussion underscored the urgent need for collaborative solutions in sustainability, bringing together experts from diverse fields to share their perspectives, research, and strategies for a more circular and resource-efficient future.



ECO4ALL 4TH WEBINAR

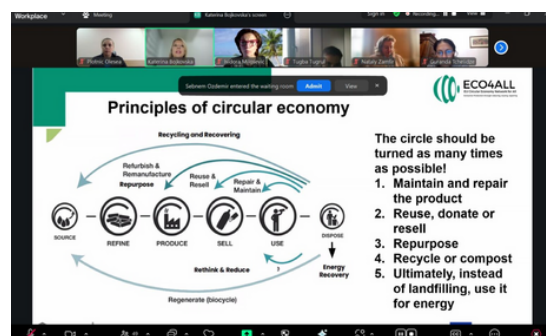
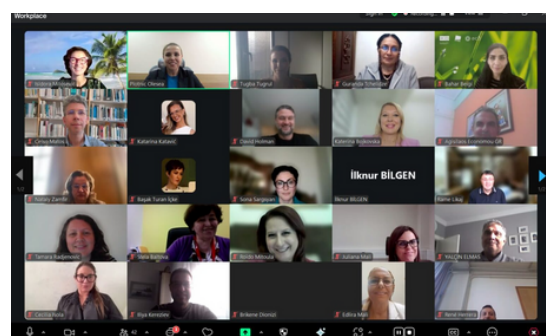
On 02 October 2025, the ECO4ALL Action hosted its WG2 Webinar “Practical Guide to Circular Economy: Benefits and Actions through Reduce, Reuse, Repair”. The event took place online from 14:00 to 16:00 (Brussels time), bringing together researchers and practitioners from across Europe.

The session was opened by the Action Chair, Prof. Olesea Plotnic, and the WG2 Leader, Prof. Dr. Isidora Milošević, who welcomed participants and introduced the objectives of the webinar.



ECO4ALL 3RD WEBINAR

On July 14, 2025, the ECO4ALL COST Action CA22124 hosted an engaging online webinar titled “Possible Models of People Empowerment in the Circular Economy.” The event brought together experts and researchers from Working Group 3 (WG3) to explore legal, social, and economic mechanisms that can empower individuals and communities within the circular economy framework. The webinar welcomed approximately 50 participants and offered two hours of rich presentations, discussions, and interactive exchanges. Comparative approaches and cross-national insights were at the heart of the debate, fostering a lively environment for dialogue and shared learning.



ECO4ALL PhD Students Workshop – 17 October 2025 Successful Online Session!

On 17 October 2025, the **COST Action CA22124 – ECO4ALL** held a virtual PhD Students Workshop titled “From Idea Generation to Academic Impact: A Practical Guide for Early-Career Researchers in Circular Economy.”

The event gathered early-career researchers and mentors from across Europe to explore:

- **Idea and problem generation** for impactful research
- **Network building** and international collaboration
- **Academic publishing** and effective communication

Inspirational talks were delivered by Prof. **Susanne Durst (Iceland)**, Prof. **Sakdirat Kaewunruen (UK)**, and Prof. **Hanna Lehtimäki (Finland)**.

The Workshop was leaded and moderated by **Dr. Tarlan Ahmadov**, ECO4ALL Young Research Mentor and MC member of CA22124.

The workshop successfully encouraged **knowledge sharing, mentorship, and innovation** among the next generation of circular economy scholars.



Deliverable D7 – Scientific Publications for GP2

Deliverable D7 gathers the scientific publications produced under the COST Action CA22124 – ECO4ALL during 2025. In total, over 40 research papers, book chapters, and conference proceedings were authored by ECO4ALL members from more than 25 European countries, showcasing the Action's strong interdisciplinary collaboration.

The publications address diverse dimensions of the circular economy, including:

- **Regulatory and legal frameworks** for innovation and consumer protection;
- **Digital transformation and Industry 4.0** applications in sustainability;
- **Corporate governance and ESG performance**;
- **Social entrepreneurship and circular ecosystems**;
- **Sectoral circularity** in agriculture, tourism, construction, and education.

ECO4ALL members also published in **special journal issues**, contributed to **international conference** volumes (such as the Mid-Term Conference in Iași and Open Air Cities Conference), and developed policy-oriented analyses under **Deliverable D7**.

This deliverable demonstrates the scientific productivity and policy relevance of ECO4ALL's network, advancing research-based approaches for a greener and more circular Europe.

D3. List of Variable Needs for Quantitative Analysis

Developed collaboratively by **Working Group 1 (WG1)** and **Working Group 2 (WG2)**, Deliverable D3 establishes a robust foundation for cross-country quantitative research on circular economy and consumer protection. The document defines and structures key variables necessary to measure the efficiency of circular practices and policy performance across Europe.

The list includes **economic, behavioral, regulatory, environmental, and market indicators** — such as GDP per capita, consumer engagement in reuse/repair, enforcement of sustainability laws, and business investment in circular innovation.

By standardizing these variables, D3 enables systematic data collection, supports empirical policy evaluation, and provides actionable insights for advancing consumer-oriented circular economy frameworks at both national and EU levels.

D8. Guideline on Circular Economy Advantages through Reducing, Reusing, Repairing

Developed by **Working Group 2 (WG2)** under **Tasks T2.6 and T2.7**, Deliverable D8 provides a comprehensive guideline for **policymakers, businesses, and consumers on implementing circular economy principles**.

The document **outlines the economic, environmental, and social benefits** of adopting the “3R” approach—**reduce, reuse, repair**—and addresses **barriers, policy solutions, and best practices** for promoting sustainable consumption.

Key sections include:

- Benefits of circular practices and policy frameworks;
- Barriers to adoption and proposed regulatory measures;
- Case studies and best practices for sustainable business and consumer engagement;
- Recommendations for policymakers and enterprises to strengthen reparability and reuse initiatives.
- The D8 Guideline serves as a strategic roadmap to foster consumer confidence, enhance product longevity, and support the transition toward a circular, low-impact economy aligned with EU sustainability goals.

Our mission

To contribute to the information, reflection and dissemination activities for youth at large, academics, young researchers, staff of the public administration, business environment and for civil society as a whole regarding the circular economy that works for consumers.

ECO4ALL aims at promoting

- the understanding of sustainable consumption, the conservation of resources and the prevention of waste;
- the responsibility of manufacturers in the design and marketing phases, as one of the most important prerequisites towards consumer protection through;
- reducing, reusing, repairing.

Our network

- Representatives of 42 countries;
- 25 ICT countries;
- 76 MC members;
- 510 WG members.

Next Events Calendar

- WG Meeting: **15-16 January, 2026** (Lausanne)
- Training School: **27-29 January 2026** (LIAISE Belgrade)
- Conference: **26-27 March 2026** (Rome)
- MC Meeting: **26-27 March 2026** (Rome)
- Training School: **10-13 June, 2026** (Protaras)
- WG Meeting: **23-24 September, 2026** (LIAISE Valetta)
- MC Meeting: **10 October, 2026** (online)

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OUR
NETWORK



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D9 NEWSLETTER N#2 – WG4

COST ACTION CA22124

EU CIRCULAR ECONOMY NETWORK FOR ALL: CONSUMER PROTECTION THROUGH REDUCING, REUSING, REPAIRING (ECO4ALL)

CA22124 Action

Acronym:

ECO4ALL

CA22124 Action full title:

EU Circular Economy Network for All: Consumer Protection through reducing, reusing, repairing

COST Action No:

CA22124

Funding Scheme:

COST

Action Chair:

Olesea PLOTNIC

CA22124 Action start date:

November 7, 2023

CA22124 Action duration:

4 years

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