

Present and future of circular plastics in Europe

April 16th 2026. Oyonnax, France. Hybrid event.



INCIRCULAR

Cross-regional networking

INTERACTIVE ROUND TABLE

The role of cluster networks, OEMs and industry in scaling circular plastics

Moderated Discussion Framework | 16 April 2026

Objective of the discussion

The 45-minute moderated exchange aims to gather leading regional plastics clusters from France, Spain and Slovenia, together with relevant industrial players, to demonstrate how cooperation between clusters at an EU level can accelerate technology transfer, support the replication of successful pilot projects and improve access to funding and investment opportunities. It will foster a strategic dialogue across the European circular plastics ecosystem.

The discussion will focus on:

- **Identify the potential of EU plastics clusters** as key enablers and innovation orchestrators across the circular plastics value chain.
- **Addressing barriers for technology transfer**, cross-regional collaboration and integration of circular materials and technologies into real production environments moving from circular pilots to industrial-scale deployment.
- **Exploring concrete and actionable collaboration opportunities.**

Speakers are kindly invited to keep their interventions concise and strategic in nature (approx. 2 minute per intervention when requested), to allow space for interaction and cross-organisation exchange.

1. Clusters as Innovation Orchestrators

Guiding question:

What role do clusters play in accelerating the scaling of circular plastic processes? (primary targeting cluster representatives)



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Possible dimensions for reflection:

- **Clusters as networks for collaboration:**
 - How can clusters help identify and connect specialized technical hubs across Europe?
 - In what ways can clusters bridge the gap between small innovators and large-scale industrial requirements?
- **Clusters supporting financial innovation:**
 - How can clusters provide financial support for innovation in circular plastics?
 - Examples of funding initiatives like FSTP (e.g., as seen in Incircular and other Eurocluster projects).
- **Clusters raising awareness of technologies:**
 - How can clusters contribute to disseminating and sharing the results of innovative projects?
 - Ensuring that innovations are fully exploited and applied at the end of the project lifecycle.

The objective is to identify potential collaboration and synergies among clusters and common gaps and structural weaknesses affecting the ecosystem as a whole.

2. From Pilot to Real Production Environments

Guiding Question:

What are the primary hurdles in transferring circular technologies from successful "lab pilots" into daily industrial manufacturing? (primarily targeting industrial panellists, but not only)



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Possible dimensions for reflection:

- Identifying the **barriers in technology transfer** from pilot to full-scale manufacturing.
- Understanding the **risks** involved in scaling up the recycling processes for industrial use.
- Examining **cross-regional collaboration issues** and the lack of interconnection between pilots in different European regions.
- Overcoming the **material qualification challenges** and ensuring that new materials meet the strict performance and stability standards required by OEMs and end-users..

The objective of this segment is to identify the main barriers preventing the transition from successful circular plastic pilots to large-scale industrial deployment.

3. Concrete and Actionable Collaboration

Guiding Question:

What specific, realistic action can we commit to today to strengthen cross-regional integration? (targeting all participants)

Possible dimensions for reflection:

- Identifying **realistic, impactful actions** to improve connections between clusters, industry, and joint efforts.
- Addressing **coordinated policy positioning** to influence EU-level regulatory frameworks on plastics.
- Exploring **actionable collaboration opportunities** that allow companies to test technologies across different regional markets.



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The objective of this final segment is to identify practical next steps and realistic collaboration models that can be implemented immediately to strengthen cross-regional integration and long-term ecosystem sustainability.

Event details

- **Date:** 16 April 2026
- **Venue:** SISE site - Voie Romaine, 01100 Groissiat (Oyonnax, France)
- **Format:** Hybrid (in-person and online participation)
- **Full agenda and registration:** <https://incircular-project.eu/incircular-cross-regional-networking-event>

For any questions you may have, please contact Jorge Contreras Ubric (j.contreras@onprojects.es) .

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