

Circular economy | Digitalisation | Industry 4.0 | Social economy

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH RESOURCE EFFICIENCY!

EREK International Conference

<https://www.resourceefficient.eu/en/conference>

BEL Conference Centre, 86 C Avenue du Port 1000 Brussels.

Home of Brussels' Environment & Energy Agency and one of the largest passive buildings in Europe

The European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre - EREK, along with its 70 members and 10 key partners from 23 EU countries will welcome businesses, industries, business support organisations, and policy actors for a two-day **EREK International Conference on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy** on the 25-26 September 2019 in Brussels, Belgium

The EREK international conference will demonstrate how successful businesses and industries seek resource efficiency solutions, collaborate in a circular and social economy, and pursue digitalization to gain a competitive edge.

From **keynote speeches** to **practical sessions**, the conference aims to gather the Resource Efficiency community by promoting exchanges between all actors, from newcomers to front runners, from SMEs to Business intermediaries, raising awareness of existing and upcoming opportunities to make the Circular Economy a reality.

At the **Market Place** you will be able to meet different organisations and projects at their stands. Do not miss this opportunity to meet them!

- The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)
- [Digital Cities Challenge](#)
- CINDERELA Horizon 2020
- C – Voucher
- Zero Brine
- ECOBOX and Resource Potential Certification
- LIFE Programme
- FKA Public Benefit Non – Profit Ltd. For the Development of the Industry
- European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)
- And, of course, the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre (EREK)

Our **dialogue corner** will open informal discussions on hot subjects during the breaks of the conference. You will also be able to visit **Brussels' Circular Economy Champions**.

[Gordon Sutherland](#) offers a fantastic **Photo exhibition on Resource efficiency & Energy efficiency in industry**. Come and chat with the artist!

9 key reasons why you should attend:

1. **European Green Deal:** The new European Commission will deliver it in the first 100 days. This conference is the first opportunity to put upfront your ideas for Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent
2. **Tried, tested, trusted.** Resource efficiency works not just in theory, but also in practice, and can help you grow your business. EREK's members have worked successfully with companies across the EU. Come and learn from the companies we've already helped.
3. **Increase profits.** What are the solutions to your business problems? This conference is your chance to ask some of the world's top experts about resource efficiency's real-world applicability and impact.
4. **Bespoke service.** From our [Self-Assessment Tool](#) to a [database](#) of almost 500 tips, techniques, and technologies, EREK offers tailored hands-on solutions to your energy, material, water and waste problems.
5. **Top-class talent.** Don't have the right skills or solutions in-house? No problem. We can match you with your local business support organisation, who can bridge that gap!
6. **Fast & furious.** How can your business gain a foothold and increase profits by doing business in the world's fastest growing economic sector? The conference will inspire you while giving you all the good reasons to go circular, digital, and resource efficient.

7. **Leading edge.** Develop a reputation as an indispensable ‘go-to’ expert among your peers and clients. Position yourself as a changemaker, ahead of the curve, and on top of trends that are going to change the face of environmental, economic, and social policy.
8. **Resource efficiency rocks!** Have you ever wondered how [a music festival can be sustainable?](#) The conference will open your mind to some very surprising examples.
9. **Expand your network.** Meet, mingle, and enjoy discussions with other businesses and business intermediaries. Thanks to our discussion corners you will discover new ideas that spark inspiration once you get to know other people and practices.

This is not just another conference. It’s a step towards the first climate-neutral continent in the world!

The conference will leave you energised and confident to put into action new ideas and practical knowledge.

AGENDA

Wednesday 25 September 2019 - Conference & discussion corners

Time	Sessions	Speakers
13:00	Registration	
	<p><i>Discussion corner 1: Discussing current Resource Efficient and Circular Economy policies</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ruslan Zheckov, Senior Associate Consultant at Technopolis Group EREK coordination team</i></p> <p><i>With the participation of Fabien Porcher, policy officer for the circular economy, European Commission</i></p>	
13:30	Opening address Moderator: Conny Czymoch	
13:35	Welcome address Joanna Drake , Deputy Director General for DG Environment, European Commission	
13:45	Inspirational talks	Janez Potočnik , Co-Chair, UNEP IRP – United Nations Environment Programme International Resource Panel Bianca Dragomir , European Cluster Manager of the Year 2016-2018, Director of AVAESEN
14:50	What do business support organisations say about resource efficiency? Is the industry ready for a climate-neutral EU? And our SMEs? Business support organisations share with us the insights of their daily job.	Bettina Gilbert , Programme Manager at WRAP – Waste and Resources Action Programme Ander Elgorriaga , Project Manager at Ihobe – Environmental Management Agency of the Basque Country Izabela Ratman-Klosinska , Manager at IETU Kristiina Jokelainen , representative of the Arctic Industry and Circular Economy Cluster
16:00	Coffee break	

	<p>Discussion corner 2: Assessing risks and opportunities of resource efficiency strategies for SMEs</p> <p>Moderator: Ffion Batcup, International Project Manager, WRAP – The Waste and Resources Action Programme, EREK partner</p> <p>With the participation of Océane Peiffer-Smadja, policy officer for low carbon and resource efficiency support initiatives for SMEs at the European Commission</p>	
16:15	<p>How does circular economy and resource efficiency pay off?</p> <p>Pitching session from resource efficiency and circular economy champions selected by EREK members. Exploring hard cases of businesses using circular economy business models, as well as SMEs implementing resource efficient measures.</p>	<p>Selected SMEs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nasos Makios, Marketing and Environmental Manager at Klimis (Greece). - Quentin Mercier, CEO at MODS (Belgium). - Sarah McCartney, CEO at 4160 Tuesdays (United Kingdom). - Nikolaus Obermayr, representative of SEG Umwelt - Service, (Germany).
<p>17:00 Resource Efficiency at work – parallel sessions</p>		
<p>Session 1: Boosting Resource Efficiency in the real economy</p> <p>Room: Auditorium</p> <p>Capacity: 400 participants</p> <p>This parallel session will focus on how companies can finance resource efficiency in the real economy, and which are the circular business models that work best. <i>Co-organised by KÖVET Association for Sustainable Economies – EREK Network Member</i></p> <p>Moderator: Katlin Herner, Managing Director, KÖVET Association for Sustainable Economies and Gergely Tóth, Secretary-General of KÖVET Association, EREK Network Member.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pierre Gaudillat, Scientific Project Officer, Circular Economy and Industrial Leadership, Joint Research Centre. - Felix Kaup, Director of Industrial Technologies at Hessen Trade and Investment, EREK network member. - Armando Melone, Policy officer for COSME financial instruments at the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission. 		
<p>Session 2: What do Game of Thrones, Tomorrowland and Carnival have in common? A waste management challenge</p> <p>Room: Aqua</p> <p>Capacity: 25 participants</p> <p>This parallel session will focus on how large-scale events such as movies, music festivals and cultural events can be more resource efficient and how they can implement good practices when it comes to waste management. <i>Co-organised by OVAM Public Waste Agency of Flanders – EREK Network Member</i></p> <p>Moderator: Lieze Clots, Head of the European Team at OVAM Public Waste Agency of Flanders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martijn Vandewalle, organiser of the Ieper Hardcore Fest. - Jeroen Vereecke, Director at Boomtown Festival and project leader of several sustainable and circular concepts for festivals, on behalf of the City of Ghent. - Tim Wagendorp, Sustainability coordinator at VAF – Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds. 		

Session 3: Social businesses & resource efficiency

Room: Terra

Capacity: 25 participants

This parallel session will focus on how the social economy can contribute to use resources more efficiently and can support the implementation of a more circular economy.

Moderator: Karel Vanderpoorten, Policy Officer for Social Economy at the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission

Speakers:

- **Mathieu Rama**, Police Officer – Environment, [RREUSE](#).
- **Suzanne Wisse -Huiskes**, Executive Director at Euclid Network.

Session 4: Digitalisation and Industry 4.0

Room: Silva

Capacity: 50 participants

This parallel session will focus on how technologies of the digital transformation can support and trigger the implementation of resource efficiency in operation practice.

Moderator: Igor Kalinic, Head of Sector for Competitiveness and Internationalisation at EASME, European Commission.

Speakers:

- **Joseba Bilbatua**, Senior Manager Advanced Manufacturing at [MONDRAGON Corporation](#).
- **Marek Wasilewski**, Member of the board of the Polish Cleaner Production Movement Society, EREK Network Member.
- **Sigrid Linher**, Director – Energy, Climate and Environment at [Orgalim Europe’s Technology Industries](#).

18:30

Cocktail

Come and have a chat with the artist! Exhibition on Resource efficiency and Energy efficiency in industry by [Gordon Sutherland](#)

Discussion corner 3: Digital transformation: how to combine it with resource efficiency and circular economy

Moderator: Maximilian Müller, Project Manager EU & International Affairs, VDI ZRE – VDI Centre for Resource Efficiency, EREK Partner.

With the participation of **Marta Batalla Masana**, policy officer for artificial intelligence and advanced technologies at the European Commission

Students – European Commission dialogue

Students attending the conference will have the opportunity to meet European Commission officers to discuss visions, concerns and initiatives to accelerate resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe.

Ulla Engelmann, head of unit for advanced manufacturing, clusters and social economy will head the group of Commission officers participating in this dialogue.

Thursday 26 September 2019 - Conference & Side visits

Time	Sessions	Speakers
8:30	Registration	
	<p>Discussion corner 4: Business models for the future: what works, what could young people do when they start working? What should they study for?</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ruslan Zheckov, Senior Associate Consultant, Technopolis Group, EREK coordination team</i></p> <p><i>With the participation of Andre Richier, Principal Policy Officer for skills at the European Commission.</i></p>	
09:00	Welcome by the moderator, Conny Czimoch	
09:05	<p>Welcome address</p> <p>Ulla Engelmann, Head of unit for advanced technologies, clusters and social economy at the European Commission</p>	
09:20	<p>Global outlook conversation</p> <p>Interview by Julien Guerrier, Director General, the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – EASME.</p> <p>Véronique Willems, Secretary General at SMEUnited.</p> <p>Ismo Ulvila, European Commission’s lead UNFCCC negotiator on climate finance and chairman of the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance for the period 2020-2021</p>	
09:50	Debrief of the discussion of the first day	Moderators of the parallel sessions to present the highlights
10:10	<p>Industrial cluster collaboration for Resource Efficiency uptake</p> <p>Discussion on how green industrial clusters can enhance the use of clean technologies and promote more resource efficient activities</p>	<p>Presentation of the results of the study 'Implementation of the circular economy in Europe: The perspective of industry clusters and regional policy makers', Lisanne Saes, Senior Consultant, EREK coordination team, Technopolis Group.</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mirjana Kranjac, Cluster Manager of the EcoPanonia Cluster. - Kaspar Nielsen, project manager and ECEI Assessor at Cluster Excellence Denmark.
10:45	Coffee break	
	<p>Discussion corner 5: Discussing support programmes and funding opportunities</p> <p><i>Moderator: Pavel Ruzicka, Environmental Expert, Enviros, EREK partner</i></p>	

	With the participation of Astrid Geiger , Head of Sector LIFE Climate Action, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for the European Commission.	
11:10	<p>Business & policy debate</p> <p>Hand-in-hand or on opposing teams? From business model blueprints for resource efficiency to green public procurement and circular economy: why do policies matter and how do they drive business and eco-innovation?</p>	<p>Policy perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ilektra Papadaki, Policy Officer for Clean Technologies and Products, DG GROW, European Commission - Eva Revilla, Policy Officer for internationalisation of EU industry clusters, expert on low carbon and resource efficiency support measures, DG GROW, European Commission. <p>Start-up + established entrepreneur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anne Lenearts, Sales, Marketing & Corporate Social Responsibility Director, NNOF - Arthur ten Wolde, Executive Director of Ecopreneur
11:55	The challenges and opportunities ahead	<p>Inspirational talk:</p> <p>Martina Fromhold - Eisebith, Professor and Chair of Economic Geography at RWTH Aachen University <i>“How can digitalisation support more sustainable, resource efficient economies and societies? Insights from the WBGU Flagship Report ,Towards our Common Digital Future”</i></p> <p>Thomas de Romagnoli, Project Manager Circular Economy at Bruxelles Environment. <i>“Circular Economy : Challenges and opportunities”</i></p>
12:55	Wrap - up	Ulla Engelmann , Head of Unit for Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy, DG GROW, European Commission.
13:30	<p>Side events (with a light lunch)</p> <p><u>Visit to Brussels’ Circular Economy Champions</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Recy-K Departure - 14:00-16h00 20 participants Team: Camille, Anabelle Meeting point: N°1 - Back of the Atrium (near the elevators) More information: https://www.arp-gan.be/en/Recy-K.html</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Greenbizz: Departure – 13:30 -15:00 50 participants Team: Chloé, Maialen Meeting pont: N°2 - Main Entrance (Atrium) More information: http://www.greenbizz.brussels/en/</p> <p><u>Visit to the BEL Conference Centre</u></p> <p>Departure: 13:30 -14:30 30 Participants</p>	

Team: Margaux

Meeting Poing: N°3 - Brussels Environment Welcome Desk (Atrium)

More information: <https://bel.brussels/en/content/eco-friendly-building>