



## Innovation Ecosystems for Circular Economy Entrepreneurs

Climate change is here, and we all need to take urgent actions to mitigate it and support the sustainability transition!

This is exactly why during the last few months we have been really busy with some important activities within the **ECO-CENT** project, which helps bridge the gaps between VET providers and businesses and facilitates both parties' contribution to the **green transition** of Europe.

### The progress so far!

- We began the elaboration of the **Circular Economy Business Modelling Curriculum**, which will help companies introduce circular practices in their processes and products.
- The ECO-CENT [website](#) and all its contents are now available in all partner languages: English, Bulgarian, German, Greek, Portuguese, and Slovenian
- We also made the first steps for the development of a **Community of Practice** – it will be an essential part of the ECO-CENT **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)**, in which various stakeholders will freely interact with each other, share experiences, get advice.
- An essential step was the conduct of the first **meeting of multi-stakeholder forums** in all partner countries. Representatives of businesses, VET providers, and other stakeholders participated in the focus groups, where various topics were discussed: existing cases of innovation in VET provision, current initiatives and gaps in the cooperation between enterprises and organisations for VET, best practices, etc.



*Participants in the first meeting of the multi-stakeholder forum in Ireland are talking about what could be done to help local companies adopt circular practices.*

## First physical meeting of the partners!



The **first physical meeting** of the ECO-CENT Consortium took place on 21 September in the beautiful and amazingly green town of **Virginia**, Ireland. All partners were represented in the event, where the current progress in the implementation of the project was discussed, and the future tasks and initiatives were planned. Of course, we also had a lot of fun!

- We will develop training resources for companies for **five widely acknowledged circular economy business models**. The materials will encompass the topics of resource recovery, circular supplies, product life extension, sharing platforms, and the product as a service model. All materials will be available in the six project languages.
- The ECO-CENT **MOOC** will be tested and launched. It will provide access to various materials elaborated within the project, as well as other available open resources. The **Community of Practice** will also be incorporated in the MOOC.
- The **framework to facilitate 'skunkworks'** by teams of educators and business owners working together will be finalised and tested.
- The **next meetings of the multi-stakeholder forums** will be held by the end of the year.
- The **next physical meeting of the partners** will take place in Greece, early 2023.

## What to expect next?

Make sure you follow the ECO-CENT [website](#) and [Facebook page](#), where you could find all the important news and information regarding the project!

