

CAPITALISATION WORKSHOP

Boosting Knowledge and Competitiveness in the Danube Region

EUSDR - Priority Area 8
Working Group - Circular Economy & Bioeconomy

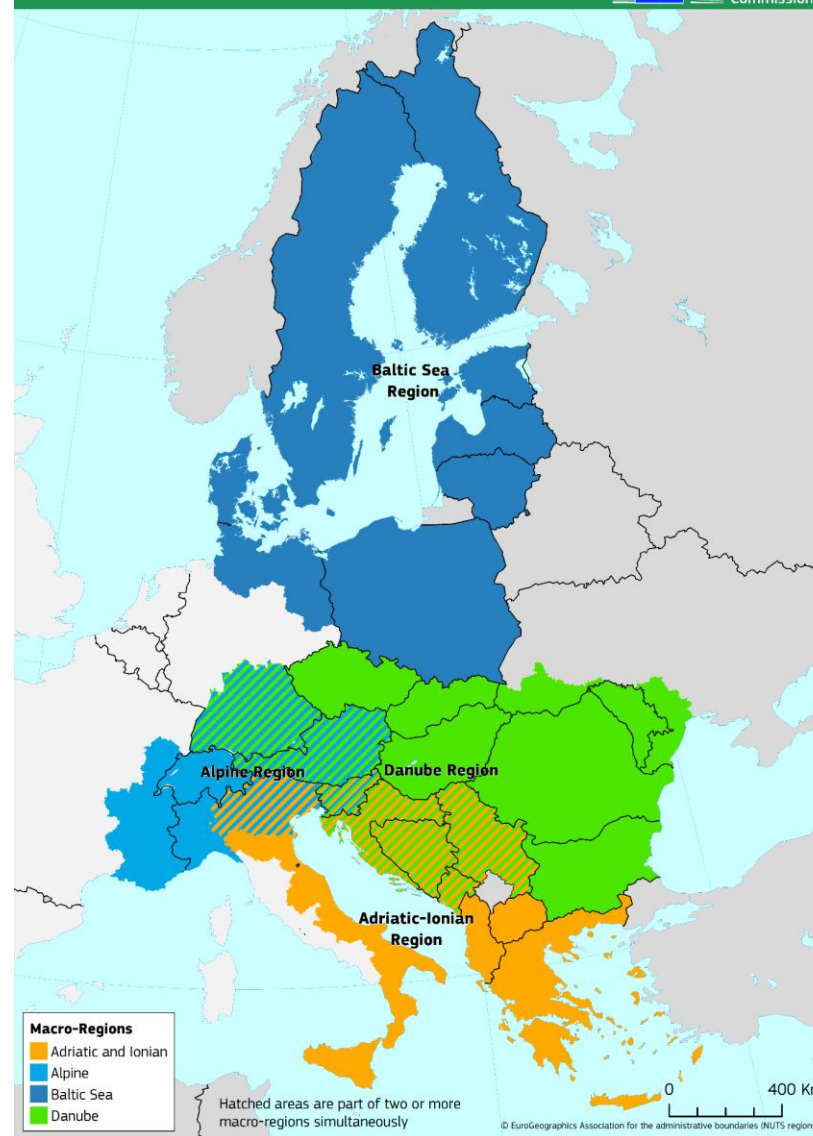
Bratislava, Slovakia
26 and 27 March 2025

co-coordinator WG CE&BE
Goran M. Vasić PhD

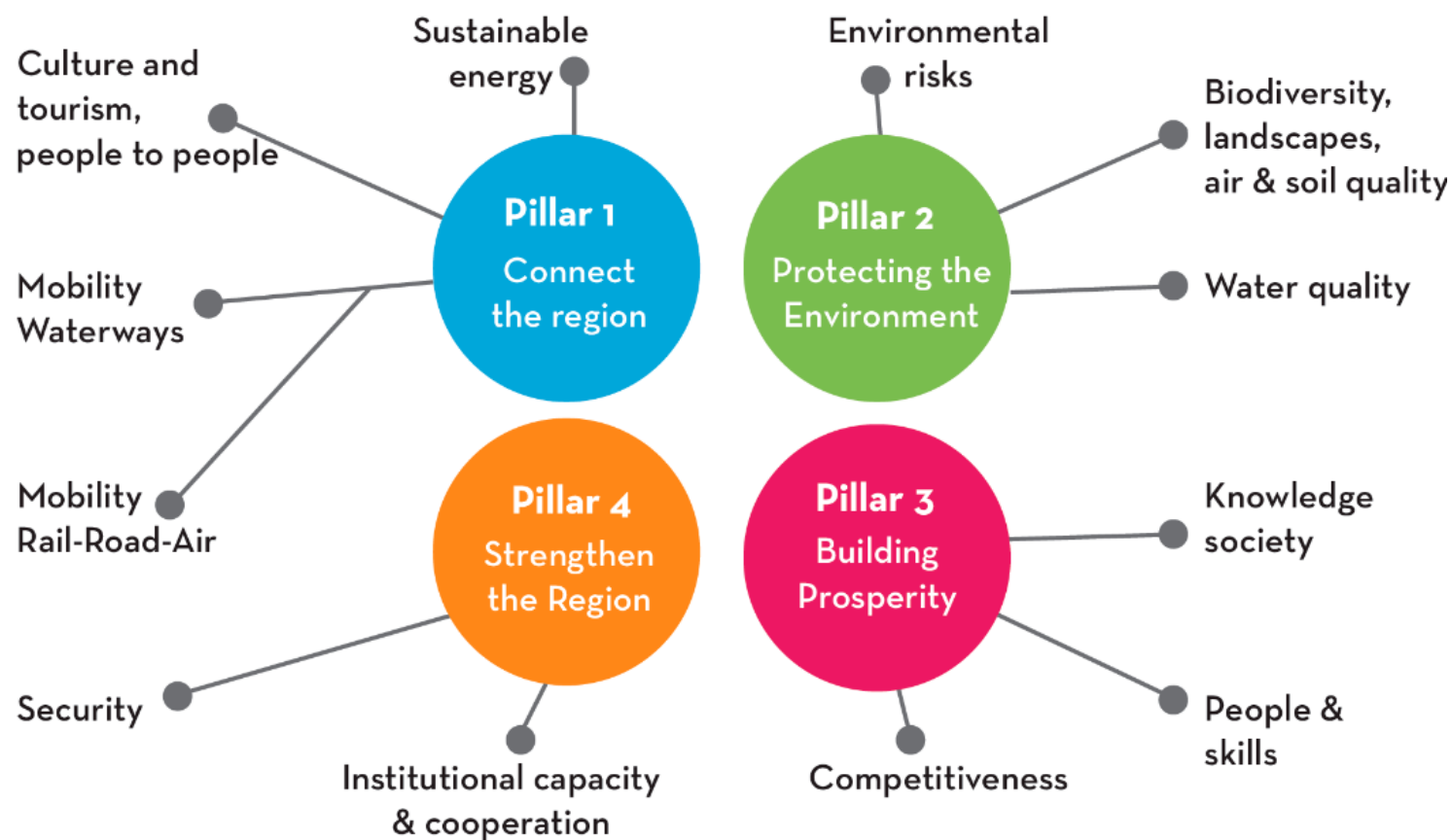
EU Strategy for Danube Region

- 9 EU member states
- 3 EU candidate countries
- 2 EU neighbour countries
- 115 million people





One Strategy – 12 Priorities



Priority Area 8 – Competitiveness of Enterprises

For each Priority Area (PA) the Action Plan will present the issue and indicate main problems.



To foster cooperation and exchange of knowledge between SMEs, creative industry, academia, the public sector and civil society in areas of competence in the Danube Region



Establishment of an Innovative Digital Ecosystem in the Danube Region in order to support SMEs when tackling the challenges of a digitalised world



Improvement of framework conditions, support programs and capacity building of stakeholders, to enhance the collaboration between cluster initiatives and regional innovation strategies, with an accent on rural areas



To improve business support to strengthen the innovative and digital capacities of female-led-SMEs



Enhance the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in the Danube Region SMEs

EUSDR PA8 - Coordinators



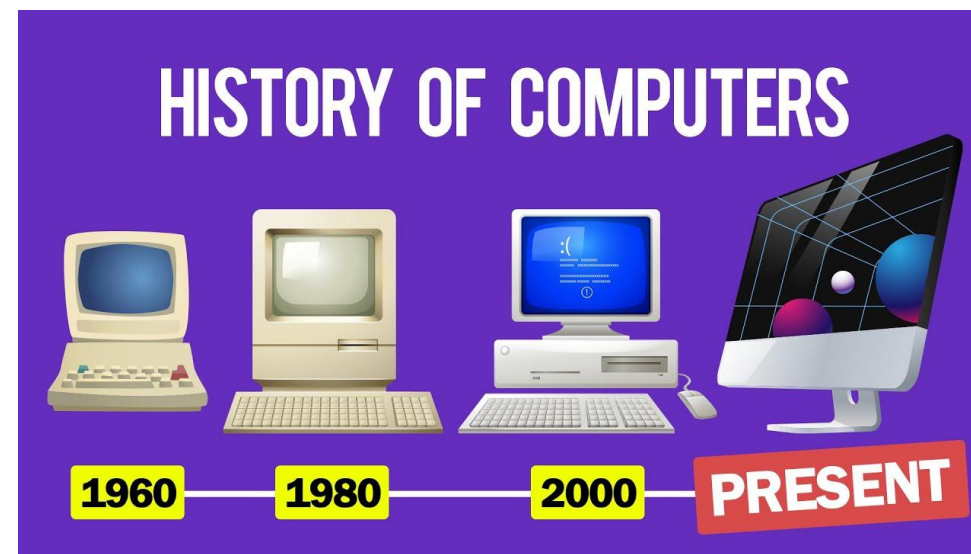
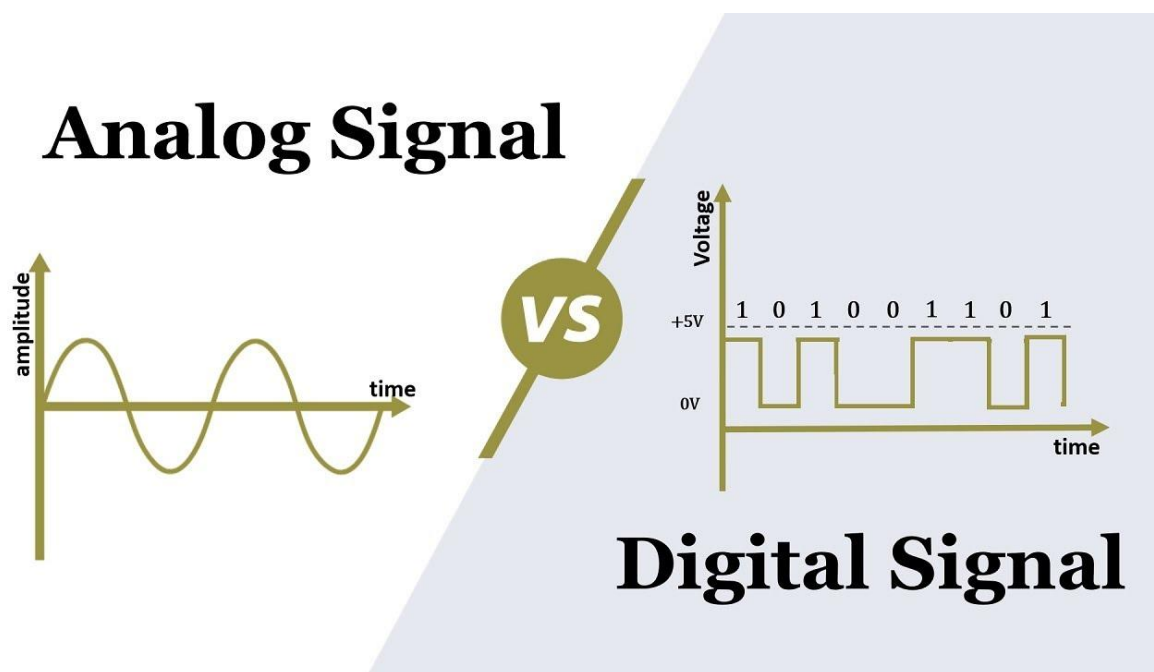
8	To support the competitiveness of enterprises	DE (BW)	Ms Carmen Hawkins, PAC Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg	carmen.hawkins@wm.bwl.de
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Three important transitional processes that affect our life and economy

- Transition of analog processes to digital ones
- Transition of energy based on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources
- Transition of linear economy to circular economy and bioeconomy



Transition of analog processes to digital



PA 8 Working Group Digital Danube

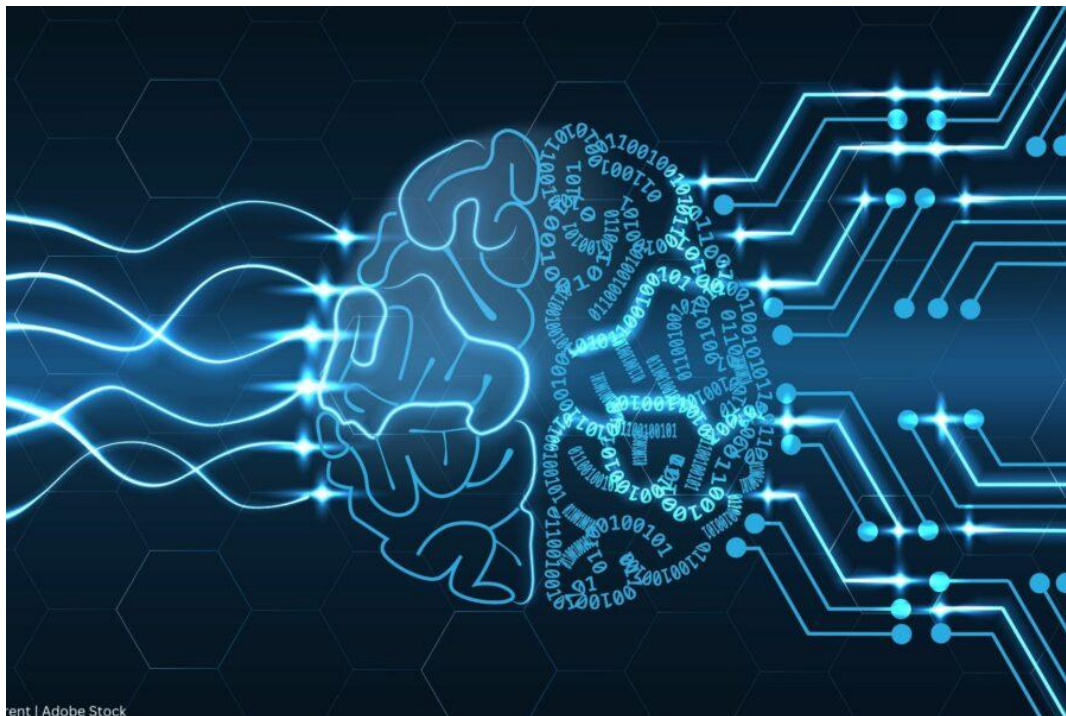


Contact

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Zentrum für Digitalisierung Landkreis Böblingen

WG – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



rent | Adobe Stock



Contact

Balázs Barta

Pannon Business Network

Transition of energy based on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources



The Energy Priority Area (PA2)

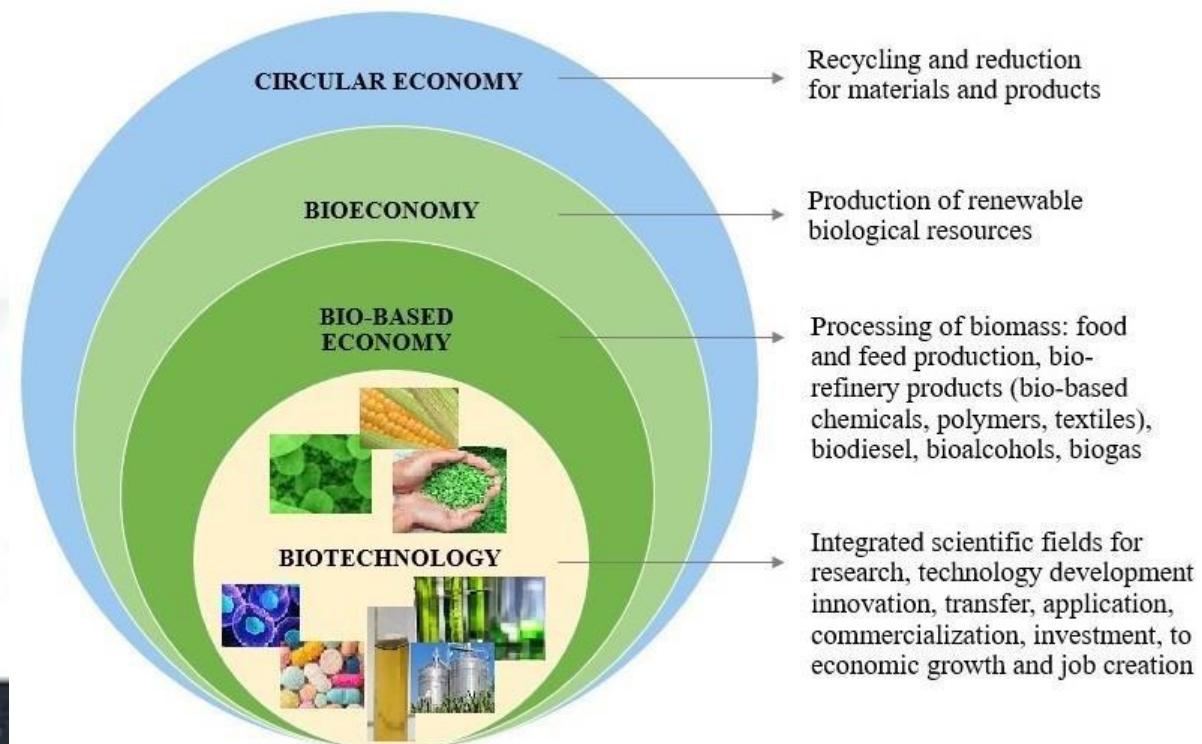


Czech coordination:

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tomáš Vondra

Transition of linear economy to circular economy and bioeconomy



Initiative for constitution of WG CE&BE

The initial moment and confirmation of stakeholders on the need to establish WG CE&BE in **September 2023** coincides with the organization of a survey on the topic of circular bioeconomy. Ana Dijan presented the results of this research at the steering group meeting, as well as at the bioeconomy conference on **September 21, 2023 in Zagreb**.



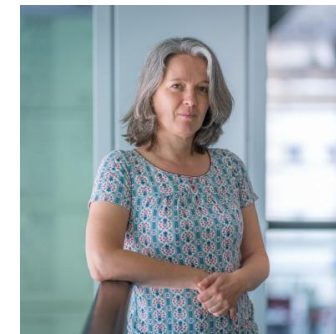
Coordinators of WG CE&BE

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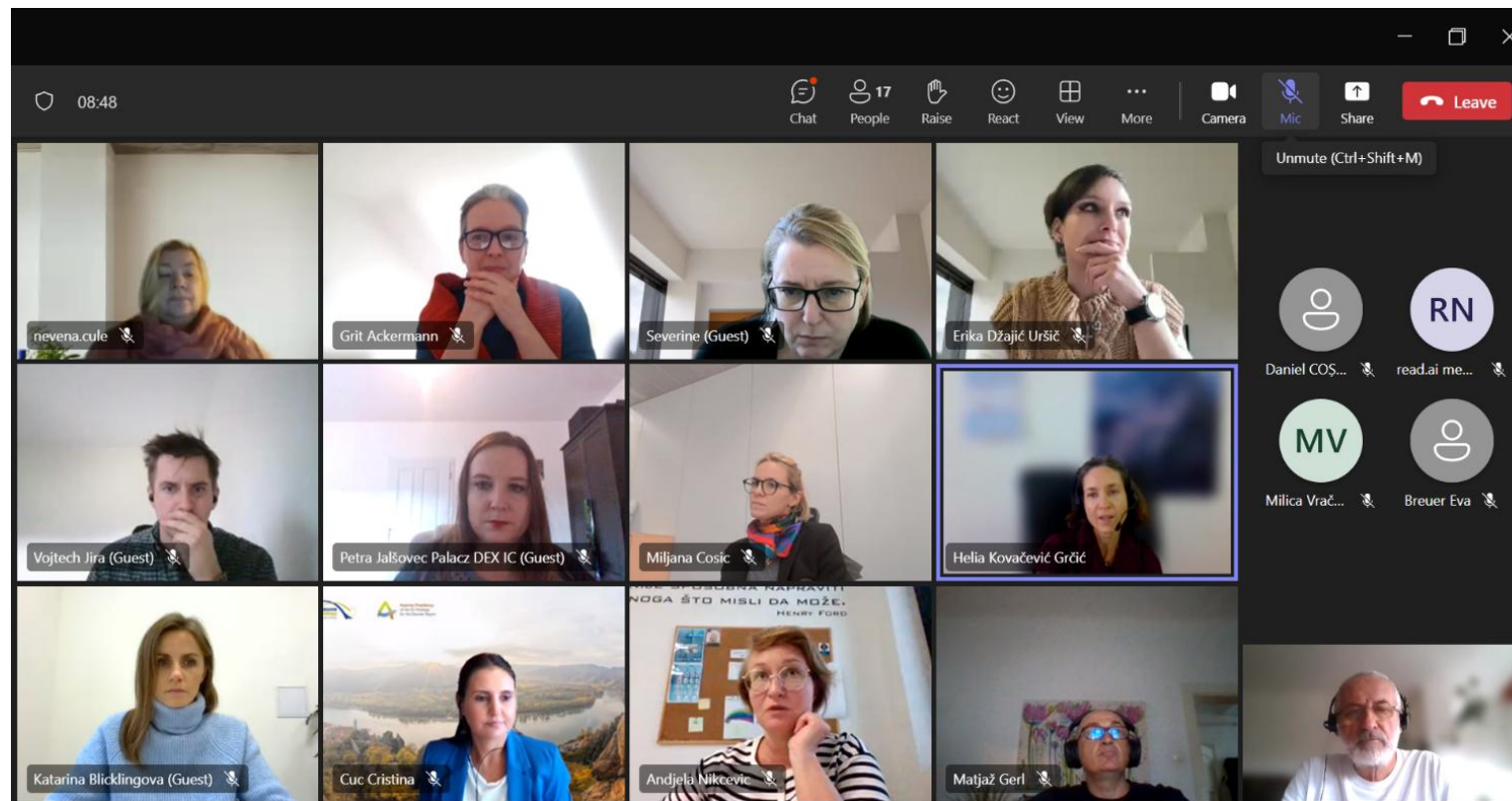


Activities since June 2024

- Activation of former members
- Acquisition of new members → cover the entire Danube region
 - Presentation at events, direct contact
 - 11 out of 14 countries represented
- Drafting a work programme
- Discussing objectives
- Planning of the first working group meeting (24.11.2024)

Establishment of the WG - Circular Economy and Bioeconomy

24 November 2024



Action plan - WG CE&BE for 2025

- First quarter - WG online meeting and agreement on organizing an online meeting (topic, participants, agenda, time and place) and other organizational issues.
- Second quarter - online meeting dedicated to the presentation and cross-fertilization of PA8 flagship projects with the theme of CE & BE.
 - *DECIDE – Digital Services for the Circular Economy – a Toolbox for Regional Developers & SME*
 - *The Plan-C project boosts the transformation of the plastics value chain in the Danube countries towards circularity through the transnational cooperation of plastics processors/producers and the machine industry.*
 - *WE.Circular – Boosting digital and industrial capacity for sustainable circular transition of women entrepreneurs in the Danube Region*
- Third quarter - onsite meeting on the sidelines of the 14th EUSDR Annual Forum – Bosnia and Hecegovina, Sarajevo 5 & 6 November 2025.
- Fourth quarter - preparation of the plan for 2026 and other organizational issues

Presentation of Flagship projects – EUSDR PA8

- DECIDE (Garfond, Goran M. Vasić) – (<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/decide>)
- PLAN C (Biz-up, Iris Reingruber) – (<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/Plan-C>)
- WE.Circular (RAPIV, Ralitsa Zhekova) – (<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/wecircular>)

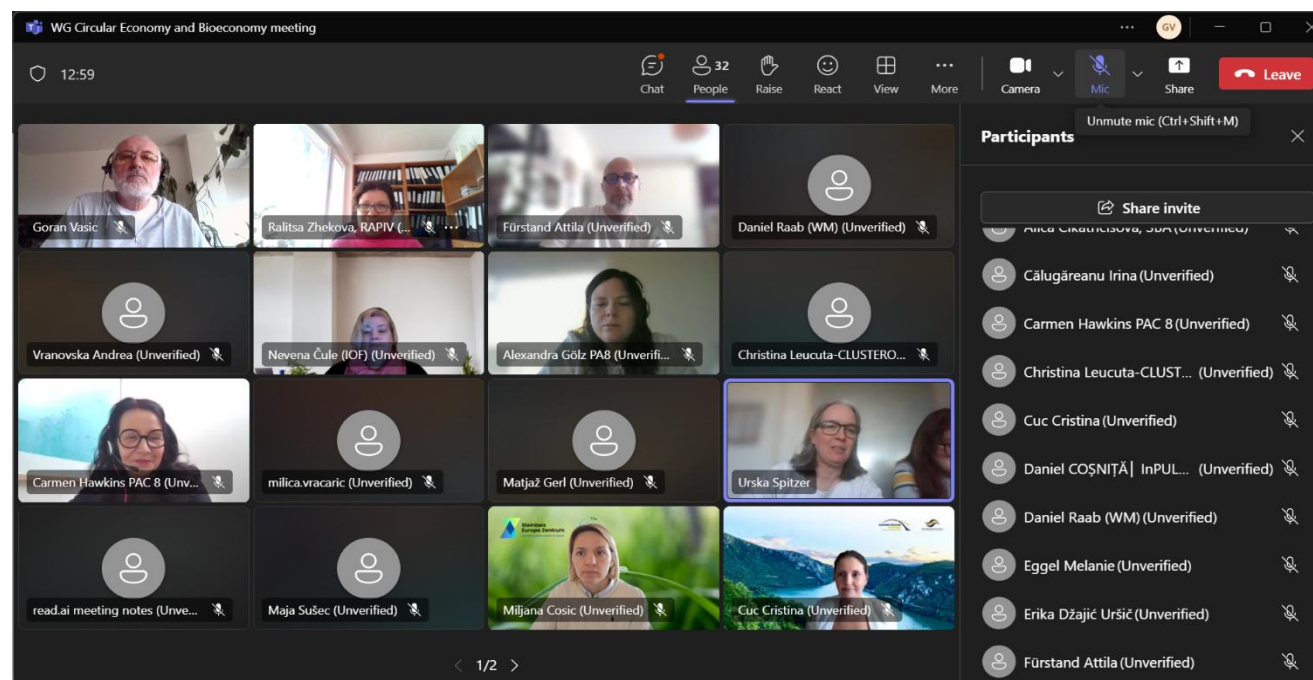


Foto : Members of WG CE&BE
March 7, 2025

Study trip - first half of 2026

A few basic settings:

- The study trip will be organized on the territory of the member states of the Danube Macroregion
- Thematically, we will focus on the goals highlighted in the priorities of the working group such as: electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, **textiles**, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients
- From the fund at our disposal, the costs of the hotel stay at the place of organization, catering and the costs of catering and local transport are covered. The costs of travel expenses to the place of the study trip are borne by the participant.
- Each member state has the possibility to register a delegation of two members: one who is a member of the working group and the other who is a representative of the SME sector who is interested in implementing examples of good practice and cooperation with the companies that will be visited during the study trip.

Thank you for you attention!



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