

Workshop on Lighthouse Initiatives from the Danube Region Green Tech, Circular Economy and Circular Bioeconomy

as part of the EUSDR PA 8 Study IDENTIFICATION OF LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS IN THE DANUBE REGION

in the frame of the 14th EUSDR Annual Forum in Sarajevo,
November 6th, 2025

Green Tech, Circular Economy, and Bioeconomy are essential for combining environmental protection with economic success. Green Tech focuses on innovations that reduce emissions and resource use, helping companies meet regulations and tap into new markets. Circular Economy promotes reusing, recycling, and designing products for longevity, which lowers costs, minimizes waste, and creates new business opportunities. Bioeconomy uses renewable biological resources, supporting climate goals and supply chain resilience. By adopting these approaches, companies not only help the environment but also strengthen their competitiveness and future growth prospects.

The workshop as part of the 14th EUSDR Annual Forum will showcase projects/initiatives/best practices and institutions from the geographical area of the EU Danube Region Strategy, which will also provide impetus and cross-fertilization for all parts of the Danube Region. Learning from each other, discussing best practices and finding inspiration for own applications as well as replications in different places and on different scales is the motive that the study and this workshop follow – fully aligned with the idea of the Annual Forum of Danube Region Stakeholders in general: talking, exchanging, learning, profiting. Moreover, the Bosnia & Herzegovina EUSDR presidency rightfully stresses the accelerated green transition of the Danube Region as one of its priorities.

The projects presented were selected as part of a study commissioned by Priority Area 8 of the EU Danube Region Strategy, which is being implemented by Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, Pannon Business Network (Hungary) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia. The study aims to make lighthouse projects in the Danube Region visible and thus contribute to the exchange of best practice. The finalized study document as a result of this process will be published in the frame of the event.

During the workshop, three representatives from selected projects will present their findings and then discuss with attendees what is key to applying circularity and green technologies in a way that creates impact. The projects will also be awarded prizes as part of the study. We cordially invite you to a pinch of innovation and fresh ideas for your program on the second day of the 14th EUSDR Annual Forum!

Agenda:

- 09.30** Introduction by moderation and greetings by EUSDR Priority Area 8
Grit Ackermann, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia
Carmen Hawkins, Coordinator of EUSDR Priority Area 8
- 09.35** Presentation of the EUSDR Priority Area 8 Identification of Lighthouse Projects Study
Robin Schenk, Steinbeis Europa Zentrum
- 09.45** Presentations: Danube Region Lighthouses in Green Tech, Circular Economy and Circular Bioeconomy
Speaker 1: Paulina Leiman, CCU_{BIO} Baden-Württemberg
Speaker 2: Roman Bahnaru, e-Circular Moldova
Speaker 3: Mathieu Morival, Neo-Eco Ukraine
- 10.35** Panel discussion with the speakers and audience questions
Moderation: Grit Ackermann
- 10.55** Closing words and handing out certificates “EUSDR Priority Area 8 Lighthouse”
by EUSDR Priority Area 8
- 11.00** End of Workshop