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ICCEE

Newsletter

Madrid

ICCEE 2026: Circular Economy in Education Takes Centre Stage in Madrid

On 30 September, the European Parliament Liaison Office in Spain hosted the International Conference on Circular Economy in Education – a full day of dialogue, results and inspiration marking the culmination of the EDU.CIRCULAR project.

The International Conference on Circular Economy in Education (ICCEE) brought together educators, students, families, researchers, experts, public institutions and European organisations for a full day of exchange, reflection and discussion.

For EDU.CIRCULAR, it was a particularly meaningful milestone. After two years of cooperation across seven European countries, the conference was the moment to bring together the experiences, results and lessons of the project – and to place them in a wider European conversation about the future of education.

Opening the Conversation

The day opened with a welcome from **Bárbara Quílez Moreno**, Head of Youth, Education and Values at the European Parliament Liaison Office in Spain.

The MAD for Europe team – **Katia Maccarone, Roberta Nasta and Ramon Dedeurwaerder** – then took participants through the EDU.CIRCULAR journey:



how seven countries worked together to bring Circular Economy into secondary education through co-creation, innovation and community engagement.

High-Level Policy Debate

“When Circular Economy could be the most transformative lever of systemic change!”

A round table bringing together research, business, local government and Climate-KIC explored how Circular Economy can drive systemic change – and what education systems, institutions and companies need to do together to make it happen.



ON THE PANEL:

- * **Aleksandra Goldys**
Policy Innovation Lead, Climate-KIC (Poland)
- * **Alvina Reihan**
Water and Environmental Engineering Research Group, University of Tallinn (Estonia)
- * **Alberto García-Peñas**
Circular Engineering, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid | IAAB (Spain)
- * **Luis Medina-Montoya Hellgren**
Business Development Director Spain, RVM Systems (Spain)
- * **José Luis Vargas Poncini**
Environmental Education, Madrid City Council (Spain)

Results & Innovation

The next block put the project’s results in the spotlight – the tools and resources schools can keep using long after the funded period ends.

01

Digital Tools

Live demonstration of the project website, the MOODLE platform and XR experiences for Circular Economy learning.

Pi-tech, Greece

02

Whole School Approach

How sustainability becomes part of school governance, teaching, student participation and community engagement.

Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

03

Circular School Guide & Repository

Official presentation of the project's flagship resources: the Circular School Guide and the Circular Thinking Repository.

Center for Systems Innovation, Hungary

04

Empowering Girls for Green Futures

Promoting inclusion, gender balance and participation in emerging green careers.

ALDA Association, Bulgaria

Impact in Schools

The most powerful moments came from the people who lived the project. In **From Lesson Plans to Real Change**, teachers from Istanbul Atatürk Fen Lisesi (Türkiye), ENGIM Piemonte (Italy) and Budapest School (Hungary) shared the challenges, lessons learned and stories behind bringing Circular Economy into their classrooms.



Student Voices

Students from participating schools shared what they learned, how their habits changed and their vision for a sustainable future.



Families as Agents of Change

Parents described how circular practices travelled beyond the classroom and into everyday life at home.



Interactive Quiz

An audience quiz on circular economy, sustainability and European cooperation closed the block on a lively note.

EDU.CIRCULAR may be reaching the end of its funded period – but its work does not end here.

Looking Ahead

In the final reflections, **Marina Gil Velasco**, Education Co-Director at Climate-KIC, drew lessons from EDU.CIRCULAR – scaling-up opportunities and recommendations for future educational policies and initiatives.



A Recognition Ceremony celebrated everyone who made the project possible, and the official closing remarks invited all participants to keep building Circular Schools across Europe.

The discussions, contributions and connections created in Madrid showed how important it is to keep building bridges between education, research, policy and practice.

Our goal now is for the resources and methodologies developed through EDU.CIRCULAR to **reach more schools, support more teachers and engage more young people across Europe** – while allowing each educational community to adapt them to its own reality.



Thank you to all speakers, teachers, students, families and partners – and to the European Parliament Liaison Office in Spain for hosting us.

The EDU.CIRCULAR project is co-funded by the European Union. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE). Neither the European Union nor SEPIE can be held responsible for them.

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30 September 2026 · European Parliament Liaison Office in Spain



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Building Circular Schools Across Europe

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