

## **P16 - Inter-organisational collaborations for a better and “circular” future**

### **5. INNOVATION for SUSTAINABILITY**

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**Track summary:** This track calls for papers investigating the relationship between inter-organisational collaborations and circular economy (CE) initiatives. The papers should address how inter-organisational collaborations (e.g., open innovation initiatives, ecosystems, platforms) can influence the implementation of CE initiatives and how CE initiatives can favour or hinder inter-organisational collaborations. Progress in implementing CE initiatives has been slow so far, with the global economy becoming less rather than more “circular”. A relevant element influencing the progress toward a CE is the collaboration among the actors involved. Understanding the dynamics underlying the link between CE and inter-organisational collaboration is crucial. On the one hand, inter-organisational collaboration could be a cornerstone for implementing CE initiatives, potentially speeding up CE implementation. On the other hand, CE initiatives could trigger inter-organisational collaboration and open innovation projects, ultimately representing an opportunity to harness the related advantages, such as faster time-to-market, reduced development risks, and organisational learning. Furthermore, it would be important to understand how companies can move from bilateral collaborations to networks, and ultimately to platform and ecosystem models that promote circularity and are economically viable. Remarkably, despite the growing interest in both CE initiatives and inter-organisational collaboration by policymakers, academics and practitioners, the research about their relationship is still in its early stages. Therefore, this track invites papers investigating the link between inter-organisational collaborations and CE initiatives. The scope of this call is left open intentionally to promote comprehensive and diversified research tackling such an exciting stream of research.