PubCirEco

Critical Role of Public Employees in Circular Economy Implementation

2025 December, Vilnius, Lithuania

IN THIS eLEAFLET

Study Visit Highlights

Three-day international study visit and intensive training on Circular Economy in Vilnius.

Learning, Policy & Teaching Innovation

European CE policy, sustainability in higher education, and modern teaching methods.

Employers, Careers & Green Cities

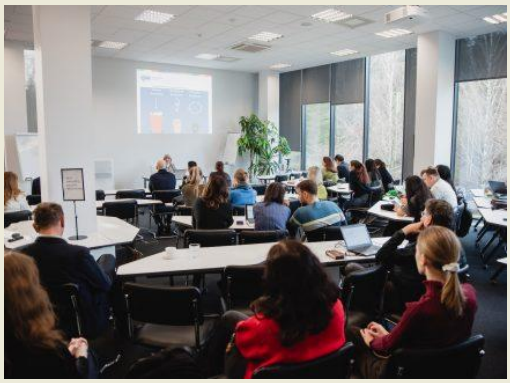
Employer meetings and conference at Vilnius City Municipality

Study Visit Highlights

The PubCirEco Study Visit and Intensive Training in Vilnius brought together students, PhD researchers, academic staff, and public-sector practitioners from partner countries for an intensive three-day international learning experience hosted by Mykolas Romeris University. The programme combined policy discussions, innovative teaching approaches, and practical examples of Circular Economy implementation, creating a dynamic environment for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The study visit aimed to strengthen Circular Economy competences, promote international and interdisciplinary cooperation, and demonstrate how higher education institutions and public authorities can jointly support the transition from linear to circular systems. Through lectures, interactive workshops, institutional visits, and meetings with employers and municipal representatives, participants explored how Circular Economy principles can be embedded into education, public-sector practice, and future professional pathways.

Co-funded by the European Union



Learning, Policy and Teaching Innovation

The first two days of the study visit focused on Circular Economy policy, content, and education. Participants explored European and national Circular Economy priorities, sustainability challenges in higher education, and the role of public-sector institutions in driving systemic change.

Interactive sessions introduced modern teaching and learning methods, including problem-based learning, 3-dimensional learning, and debate-based approaches. Separate sessions for students and teaching staff allowed participants to actively engage with new pedagogical tools and discuss how Circular Economy principles can be embedded into university curricula and public-sector practice.

The programme also included an educational visit to the Energy and Technology Museum, linking theoretical discussions with real-life examples of sustainability, innovation, and energy transition.

Employers, Careers and Green Cities

The final day of the study visit focused on employer engagement and future career opportunities and was hosted at Vilnius City Municipality within the framework of Vilnius – European Green Capital 2025. Participants met with representatives of Avia Solutions Group and the OBT Talent Program, who shared insights into how Circular Economy principles are applied in international business, highlighted emerging green skills, and discussed sustainability-oriented career pathways.

The programme concluded with an international conference that brought together academia, public authorities, and business representatives to discuss Circular Economy implementation, urban sustainability, and the role of higher education in supporting the green transition.

What is the Circular Economy (CE)?

After the study visit, participants left with a shared and much deeper understanding of what the Circular Economy (CE) is—and what it requires in practice.

They explored CE as a shift away from the linear "take–make–waste" model toward systems that keep materials, products, and value in use for as long as possible. Through the presentations and discussions, CE was unpacked as a life-cycle approach—from design and production to use, maintenance, reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling—aimed at reducing waste and pollution while preserving natural resources.

A key takeaway was that for the public sector, CE goes far beyond sorting waste. Participants learned how circularity is enabled through policy choices, public procurement, infrastructure and service planning, and citizen engagement, especially when scaling solutions in cities, energy systems, and digital transformation. The sessions also highlighted the role of higher education in building circular economy competences and the potential of Green IT to support circular solutions—both by making digital systems more resource-efficient and by using technology to optimise processes and reduce environmental impacts.