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## CircThread Project Summary

CircThread is a €10 million-euro European Union funded H2020 project to support the shift to a Digital Circular Economy. The project will deliver new insights and digital means to enable exchanges of information across the life cycle of a product. Information that can improve decision making and business models to increase product recycling, increase product lifespan, and enhance product re-use. We will work on this together with 31 project partners from 2021 to 2025.

The chosen approach is to deliver an open-source platform - the CircThread platform - that empowers organisations to exchange product data, built upon product life cycle traceability systems. The platform will form a trusted digital brokerage environment for information linkages across the product life cycle, resulting in a **Circular digital Thread (CircThread)**. The vision is to enable manufacturers to setup their own platform environment, where they can invite supply chain partners, repairers and recyclers, or other organisations they want to exchange information with. Linked both digitally and physically via tags on individual products for product life cycle traceability.

The CircThread platform will include a services or APP marketplace to enable integration of new innovative digital services from SME's to turn product data into circular economy decision information. CircThread will thus be service agnostic, so that many services can be pooled within a software as a service pricing model.

## CircThread Stakeholder Journeys

The CircThread project will enable joint learning and specific activities with a wide range of stakeholders from Europe. To leverage projects impacts also for parties that are outside of the project consortium, as part of the model of European open innovation and open science. To guide conversations and joint activities with interested stakeholders in a **structured and focused manner**, **four stakeholder journeys** have been setup that will start in January 2022:

1. Journey for **companies** that want to evaluate the benefits of product life cycle information exchanges and associated circular economy services.
  - a. (incl. **manufacturers, repair companies, producer responsibility organisations, and recyclers**).
2. Journey for **innovative SME's** offering circular economy services for learning and potential linkage to the CircThread platform marketplace.
3. Journey for **network organisations, sector organisations, and policy consultants**, that are working on circular economy legislative initiatives. To work together on policy recommendations to the EU commission and standardisation needs.
4. Journey for **researchers from Universities and RTO's** that work on digital circular economy, product traceability and data spaces, for research exchanges.

The overview of conversations and activities for each route are shown on the next pages. All activities will be held under Chatham House Rule. Anyone who comes to a meeting is free to use information from the discussion, but is **not allowed to reveal who made any particular comment**.

**There is no cost involved in becoming a CircThread stakeholder and initiating a journey, beyond the organisations own efforts spent to participate in CircThread activities.**

Registration for the stakeholder journeys will open late November 2021 on the project website [www.circthread.com](http://www.circthread.com). Stakeholders that register will receive specific activity announcements and quarterly updates. A **limited number of active stakeholders places** will be made available across these journeys, on a first come first serve basis, given the available CircThread partner resources.



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**1. CircThread Stakeholder Journey for companies (manufacturers, repair companies, producer responsibility organisations, and recyclers)**

The journey is for **manufacturers, repair companies, producer responsibility organisations, and recyclers**, with where needed **variations specific to these groups**. The expected effort is ~ 15 hours per year from a stakeholder expert to participate in this journey. All proposed activities are virtual.

Stakeholder journey Activity & type	Type of participation	Approx. effort	Indicative timing
Roundtable workshop to exchange insights about <b>information needed to improve product circularity and unlock circular economy business models</b> . (Different workshops tailored to manufacturers, repair companies, PRO's and recyclers).	Active participation	4 hours	Q1 2022
Roundtable workshop on requirements and digital options for <b>trusted exchanges of information about products</b> to other organisations across the full life cycle.	Active participation	4 hours	Q2 2022
Webinar on <b>options and benefits of Digital Product Passports</b> for circular economy.	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q2 2022
Webinar on new <b>approaches and options available to measure Circular Economy for products and materials</b> .	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q3 2022
Webinar on state of the art in <b>circular and sustainable product design decision making &amp; emerging tools</b> .	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q1 2023
Individual engagements upon demand with CircThread circularity service providers of relevance to <b>learn about and influence their digital service developments</b>	Active participation	3 hours	Q1 2023 – Q4 2023
Webinar on approaches to utilise a <b>product bill of materials</b> and advances needed to <b>measure Circular Economy product performance</b> across the product life cycle	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q2 2023
Live demonstrations of the <b>CircThread platform and its circularity services in use</b>	Passive participation	2 hours	Q1 2024 – Q2 2024
Webinar series on CircThread results showcasing the <b>potentials for product and material circularity using trusted information exchanges</b> and digital product passports	Passive participation + anonymous survey	4 hours	Q2 2024
Free trainings to setup and use a CircThread platform environment to become a <b>CircThread platform early adopter</b>	Active participations	5 hours	Q3 2024 – Q4 2024



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## 2. CircThread Stakeholder Journey for innovative SME's

Journey for **innovative SME's** offering circular economy services for learning and potential linkage to the CircThread platform marketplace. The expected effort is ~ 10 hours per year from a stakeholder expert to participate in this journey. All proposed activities are virtual.

Stakeholder journey Activity & type	Type of participation	Approx. effort	Indicative timing
Webinars series on <b>circular digital information management</b> (incl. Digital Product Passport, Bill of Materials, Data Spaces & Federations).	Passive participation + anonymous survey	8 hours	Q1 2022 – Q4 2022
Individual engagements for your service with <b>CircThread partner manufacturers, repair companies, producer responsibility organisations, or recyclers</b> , who upon demand want to learn about your digital service.	Active participation	3 hours	Q1 2023 – Q4 2023
Webinar on approaches to utilise a <b>product bill of materials</b> and advances needed to <b>measure Circular Economy product performance</b> across the product life cycle.	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q2 2023
Live demonstrations of the <b>CircThread platform and its circularity services in use</b> .	Passive participation	2 hours	Q1 2024 – Q2 2024
Trainings for <b>linking your digital service to the CircThread platform marketplace</b> for services using a sandbox setup.	Active participation	8 hours	Q2 2024 – Q3 2024
Webinar series on demonstrated CircThread and circular economy services benefits showcasing the <b>potentials for product and material circularity using trusted information exchanges</b> and digital product passports.	Passive participation + anonymous survey	4 hours	Q2 2024– Q3 2024
Hackathon in Ireland to <b>develop new Circular Economy Services</b> or advance existing services linked to a CircThread Platform sandbox.	Active participations	48 hours	Q1 2025

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### 3. CircThread Stakeholder Journey for sector organisations and policy consultants

Journey for **network organisations, sector organisations, and policy consultants**, working on circular economy legislative initiatives. To work together on policy recommendations to the EU commission and standardisation needs. For all activities the context is from an information exchange and circular economy perspective. The expected effort is ~ 30 hours per year from a stakeholder expert to participate in this journey including hours to review policy briefs. All proposed activities are virtual.

It is intended in this route that organisations **only join activities that are relevant to them**, and thus not to **partake in all activities (e.g repair focused policy activities will not be as relevant to recycling bodies and vice versa)**

Stakeholder journey Activity & type	Type of participation	Approx. effort	Indicative timing
Roundtable workshop to co-develop policy recommendations for feedback on the <b>Sustainable Products Initiative, associated digital Product Passports and their information systems</b> . Outputs will be leveraged into a policy brief.	Active participation	4 hours + 8 hours to review brief	Q2 2022
Roundtable workshop to co-develop policy recommendations for <b>improving chemicals traceability</b> across the product life cycle. Outputs to be leveraged into a policy brief.	Active participation	4 hours + 8 hours to review brief	Q3 2022
Series of roundtable workshops to <b>co-evaluate circular economy industry standardisation requirements</b> (topics to be determined).	Passive participation + anonymous survey	3 hours x 4 workshops	Q1 2023 – Q4 2023
Roundtable workshop to co-develop policy recommendations for <b>re-use and repair organisation information requirements</b> and management. Outputs will be leveraged into a policy brief.	Active participation	4 hours + 8 hours to review brief	Q1 2023
Roundtable workshop to co-develop policy recommendations for <b>recyclers information requirements and management</b> . Outputs will be leveraged into a policy brief. Outputs will be leveraged into a policy brief.	Active participation	4 hours + 8 hours to review brief	Q2 2023
Roundtable workshop to co-develop policy recommendations for <b>advancing European circular economy targets and measurements</b> . Outputs will be leveraged into a policy brief.	Active participation	4 hours + 8 hours to review brief	Q3 2023
Webinar series on CircThread research insights in relation to <b>on-going legislative initiatives including the EU Green New Deal, Sustainable Products Initiative &amp; Eco-design regulations</b> .	Passive participation + anonymous survey	6 hours	Q1 2023 – Q4 2023
Roundtable workshop to co-develop policy recommendations for <b>circular economy dataspace for product life cycle information management</b> . Outputs will be leveraged into a policy brief.	Active participation	4 hours + 8 hours to review brief	Q1 2024



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#### 4. CircThread Stakeholder Journey for Universities and RTO researchers

The journey is for **researchers from Universities and RTO's** that work on digital circular economy, product traceability and data spaces, as well as product environmental and social sustainability, for research exchanges and as potential starting points for informal research collaborations. The expected effort is ~ 15 hours per year from a stakeholder expert to participate in this journey. All proposed activities are virtual.

Stakeholder journey Activity & type	Type of participation	Approx. effort	Indicative timing
Roundtable workshop on <b>barriers and solutions for product traceability and information exchanges</b> across the product life cycle, within the context of circular economy.	Active participation	4 hours	Q1 2022
Webinar series on <b>manufacturer suppliers' and life cycle digital information management services</b> for environmental and social sustainability and circular economy.	Passive participation + anonymous survey	4 hours	Q2 2022
Webinar on <b>options and benefits of Digital Product Passports</b> for circular economy.	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q2 2022
Webinar on new <b>approaches and services available to measure Circular Economy for products and materials.</b>	Passive participation + anonymous survey	2 hours	Q3 2022
Roundtable workshop on <b>ontologies and information infrastructures for product data and meta-data exchanges</b> , within the context of circular economy.	Active participation	4 hours	Q4 2022
Roundtable workshop on <b>manufacturing information management services &amp; software and information management protocols</b> and standards.	Active participation	4 hours	Q1 2023
Roundtable workshop on <b>services for measuring a Circular Economy for Products and Materials.</b>	Active participation	4 hours	Q2 2023
Roundtable workshop on utilising a <b>product bill of materials</b> and further advances needed to <b>measure Circular Economy product performance</b> across the product life cycle.	Active participation	4 hours	Q3 2023
Webinar series on CircThread results showcasing the <b>potentials for product and material circularity using trusted information exchanges</b> and digital product passports.	Passive participation + anonymous survey	3 hours	Q1 2024 – Q2 2024

