



## Towards Circular Flow Land Use Management

### The CircUse Compendium

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## Special: The CircUse Compendium



# The CircUse Compendium

## Newly published: The CircUse Compendium



Figure 1: Students in Trnava working on brownfield revitalisation.



Figure 2: Brochure to the first land management agency in Austria.



Figure 3: Pupils learning the principle of circular flow land use management in school.



Figure 4: CircUse training course for professionals in municipalities and other stakeholder.



Figure 5: The data management tool for professional land management in municipalities.

The CircUse Compendium with the title "Towards Circular Flow Land Use Management" is a collection of outputs, findings and recommendations of the CircUse project- active from March 2010 until August 2013. With the contribution of all CircUse project partners the project now presents a structured collection of ideas and practice examples for professionals in the municipalities and regions in Central Europe. The printed version of the compendium includes a CD ROM with the software for the CircUse data management tool.

In the following an overview of the content presented in this compendium is given.

### Chapter 1 "Introduction: Towards Circular Flow Land Use Management"

includes a preface of the CircUse lead partner, an executive summary and a description of the compendium.

### Chapter 2 "Why is Land Management Important"

describes the reason why circular flow land use management is an object of the Central Europe project. This includes the purpose and concept of the project as well as basic project information e. g. partners and regions involved.

### Chapter 3 "The Approach of Circular Flow Land Use Management"

describes the principle, targets and space oriented potentials of a circular flow land use management approach and introduces the fields of activity.

### Chapter 4 "How to Implement"

describes the fields of activity in detail and highlights available and new potential instruments for implementing a circular flow land use management. This includes issues such as information, data management, planning processes, financing, marketing, organisation, management and co-operation, participation and awareness raising.

### Chapter 5 "CircUse Pilot Projects"

describes the action plans for a sustainable land use in the City of Piekary (Poland), Micro-region of Trnava (Slovakia), Region of Middle Saxony (Germany), Region of Voitsberg (Austria), City of Asti (Italy) and Region of Usti (Czech Republic).

### Chapter 6 "Recommendations"

includes a final conclusion and a section which summarizes the lessons learnt from the project for national and European levels of governance. This chapter also refers to the CircUse strategy including recommendations with transferable findings.

### Chapter 7 "CD-ROM – Data Management Tool"

introduces into the handling of the CD-ROM to start working with the CircUse Data Management Tool in six languages.

### Where you can find the CircUse Compendium?

[www.circuse.eu](http://www.circuse.eu)

## The CircUse Compendium

### Lessons learnt from CircUse

The CircUse approach presents a holistic adaptation of land use management that aims at enhancing social, environmental and economic sustainability. To achieve it, work has to be done in various fields of activity as described before. But the question remains, how can this best be carried out in the differing contexts of different nations, regions and municipalities?

The CircUse project was set up to answer this question. Therefore a lot of innovative solutions towards sustainable land use management have been developed in the CircUse pilot regions during the last 42 months, among others:

- ▶ The advancement of the existing EkoPark Ltd. as a local operator for circular land use management in Piekary (PL).
- ▶ The introduction of an innovative planting compensatory model by modification of the existing procedure by means of precisely indicating the place and type of compensation planting, ensuring sustainability of re-greening measures on the pilot area in Piekary Śląskie (PL).
- ▶ The innovative approach of involvement of stakeholders in the planning procedures and the set-up of multidisciplinary working groups in the Usti region (CZ).

- ▶ The development of a regional brownfield reuse management plan for innovative planning coordination at the micro-regional level in Trnava in connection with an intensive promotion of available brownfields (websites, real estate agencies) in Trnava (SK).
- ▶ The development and testing of InViTo (Interactive Visualization Tool) providing visual interactive support to large scale planning processes in Asti (IT).
- ▶ The set-up and implementation of a new land management agency in the Voitsberg region (AT).
- ▶ The realisation of a CircUse pilot training course for local and re-gional professionals in the Voitsberg region (AT).
- ▶ The presence of a Saxon wide inter-ministerial working group for reduction of land consumption that supports activities on a regional level in Middle Saxony (DE).
- ▶ The combination of ERDF funds and funds of a Saxon wide brownfield programme to realise brownfield revitalisation measures in Middle Saxony (DE).
- ▶ The development of a new data base tool to support municipal land management in Middle Saxony (DE).

- ▶ The development of actions plans for a circular flow land use management in all pilot regions.
- ▶ The realisation of CircUse training courses for secondary schools in all pilot regions.

The variety of innovative approaches show that each region both developed their own adequate solution and transferable concepts and instruments. All innovations have been incorporated in the CircUse strategy. On the one side, the strategy was created to help guide with the implementation. On the other side this strategy has been an integral part of the overall orientation of the project to implement circular flow land use management in Central Europe. Furthermore, the strategy also communicated the progress achieved thus far and the course of actions being undertaken in the partnership regions. At the same time the CircUse strategy is the result of a learning process on the sound implementation of a new land use management approach in Central Europe – reflective of the project approach against the backdrop of European land use problems and relevant EU policies.

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## Lessons learnt from CircUse (cont.)

The CircUse lessons learnt can be expressed in the form of nine recommendations:

### Recommendation 1:

Common problems of land use and diversity of national and regional frameworks should be faced by a common strategy of circular flow land use management.

### Recommendation 2:

Actions towards implementation of a circular flow land use management strategy in urban regions cannot be driven by the actions of a single primary stakeholder. Instead, this can only be achieved through the coordinated efforts of the various public and private stakeholders who, as planners, property owners and land developers, influence or govern how land is used.

### Recommendation 3:

The setting of quantified and qualified targets is a necessary requirement for successful implementation of a management strategy according to circular flow land use management.

### Recommendation 4:

Circular flow land use management requires a comprehensive information based on a clear definition of land types (incl. greenfield and brownfield areas).

### Recommendation 6:

Implementation also requires an integrated course of action which encompasses a wider spectrum of policies and activities in the form of an instrument package (policy mix). To create these action plans, established and newly developed instruments should be pooled according to regional differences in framework conditions.

### Recommendation 7:

The implementation of action plans need the selection of an applicable policy mix, stakeholder institutions and financing sources that meet the regional demands.

### Recommendation 8:

In general, new forms of organization need to be implemented by the stakeholders of a circular flow land use management strategy. For this, institutional solutions within the EU provide ample opportunities.

### Recommendation 9:

Permanent knowledge acquisition and awareness of circular land use management are crucial preconditions for the successful implementation of the strategy.

The CircUse project defines a new approach to sustainable land use management and aims at implementing the defined concept in municipalities within Central Europe.

This implementation requires the effective co-operation of stakeholders from the national, regional, and local levels in order to properly embed the process of circular flow land use management in terms of concept, organisation and practice. Therefore the existing framework and its mosaic of instruments and tools to steer land use has to be applied in a consequent manner. Furthermore there is a need for economic incentives to stimulate stakeholders and decision makers to reduce land take and to strengthen inner development.

All in all – the strategy of the CircUse project includes the individual pilot regions' approaches to a circular flow land use management and a reflection of the project's approach against the backdrop of European land use problems and relevant EU policies.

# The CircUse Compendium

## Looking Forward – What has to change and what is to be done?

On the **European level** the importance to reduce urban sprawl and to defend the compact model of urban development in Europe have been highlighted by the European Union „Cities of tomorrow“ strategic paper in perspective of the discussion on ERDF priorities in the period 2014–2020. It refers to reducing urban sprawl by recycling land and implementing compact city planning as one of the main challenges for policy and practice in European cities. One of the targets of the EU Strategy 2020 is to decouple economic growth from the use of resources. Therefore one of the EU Commission’s tasks is to develop a strategic research agenda focused on challenges related to resource efficiency and land management, among others.

The Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe Map sets a specific policy target to reduce the future land take the European with “no net land take by 2050”, and a reduction of annual land take to an average of 800 km<sup>2</sup> per year in the period 2000- 2020. This is a very important step towards a considerable reduction of future land take and prior reuse of abandoned land.

The new targets and strategies need now to be integrated in the European structural funding policies from 2014–2020 e. g. by including land management in the programs that influence the urban dimension.

Furthermore, regional operation programs can directly contribute to urban investment and brownfield redevelopment as

shown by the Saxonian practice of tackling inadequate land consumption.

On the **national and regional level** governments have taken the first steps towards realizing sustainable land use. Circular flow land use management can contribute to an integrated approach to urban development and governance. Even if national frameworks are different in the EU, member states need to revise the traditional planning system by including elements of land cycle management.

The regional level should play an important role in the integration of European and national policies with municipal land strategies. Regarding national, regional and local land management frameworks in CENTRAL EUROPE, the CircUse experiences confirmed that one of the major obstacles in achieving circular flow land use management is the complexity and the multitude of forces and factors that influence the decision-making process in all countries. Planning and permission procedures result in being long and complex, many stakeholders have to participate in the process and lack of co-operation and co-ordination among different competent authorities is slowing down the process significantly. This long process has a negative impact on the global image of brownfield redevelopment and drives many developers towards greenfield development.

For sustainable land management it is essential to improve this decision-making process in order to make

brownfield redevelopment competitive to greenfield development. This comprises of the simplification of relevant planning and permission procedures, better co-operation and co-ordination between the different competent authorities and a pro-active attitude of the public sector in order to attract investors and developers to brownfield sites.

Actions within the scope of modernisation of the public sector and the delivery of better governance need to be undertaken. The CircUse partner experiences highlight the general need for new institutional solutions of land management either by formal or informal structures

Finally the transnational exchange of experiences and cooperation on these topics is strongly needed in the future. Transnational cooperation will create synergies between actors with different experience of land use management and who are influenced by different local/ regional and national frameworks and government strategies. The CircUse partnership has developed strong and ongoing links between scientific and technical institutions responsible to local and regional/ national institutions involved in the implementation of the project results e. g. under ERDF mainstream funding 2014–2020. The CircUse partners are committed to supporting sustainable land use change through the further development of the CircUse concepts and informational tools and will continue to promote the CircUse concept in the future.

# The CircUse Compendium

## Stakeholder Feedback on CircUse Outputs and Activities

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**„Diligent use of our soil resources and efficient use of built-up land are the key challenges for the future.“**

*Franz Voves (Governor of Styria in Austria)*



**“Our participation in the CircUse project allows the local residents to discuss issues common to all of Europe: the restoration of brownfield sites and the revitalisation of derelict lands.“**

*Davide Arri (Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Asti)*



**“With the help of CircUse a data management tool was realised which helps municipalities all over Europe to implement the idea of circular flow land use management.“**

*Bernd Siemer (Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology)*



**“In addition to the internal networking inside the administration projects such as CircUse are substantial approaches for a regional policy.“**

*Karl Petinger (Representative of the Styrian parliament)*

# Upcoming events

## InterGEO 2013

*Conference and Trade Fair for Geodesy, Geoinformation and Land Management in Essen (Germany)*

October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

INTERGEO is the world's leading conference trade fair for geodesy, geoinformation and land management. It covers a wide variety of fields, ranging from surveying, geoinformation, remote sensing and photogrammetry to complementary solutions and technologies. Processing, using and analysing geodata on the Internet.

## Global Soil Week

*2<sup>nd</sup> Global Soil Week 2013 "Losing Ground"? in Berlin (Germany)*

October 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Conservative estimations state that we are losing 24 billion tons of fertile soil each year. What does "losing ground" imply for food, water and energy security? How do we manage soils for this nexus and what are the pathways towards more sustainable soil management? What are the triggers for change? The Global Soil Week 2013 contributes to these questions.

## Euregia 2014

*Conference and Trade Fair on Regional Development in Europe in Leipzig (Germany)*

October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Euregia brings together experts from all parts of the continent and is an ideal platform for developing new solutions to cope with future challenges. It is a unique opportunity for the international transfer of know-how that benefits all parties involved.

### CircUse in a nutshell

#### Funding

CENTRAL EUROPE Programme  
Project No: 2CE174P4  
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#### Duration

3/2010-8/2013

[www.circuse.eu](http://www.circuse.eu)

### Impressum

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Asti's Municipality



Telepark Baernbach Corporation Ltd.

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S T U • • •  
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Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, SPECTRA Centre of Excellence



City of Trnava



Istituto Superiore sui Sistemi Territoriali per l'Innovazione

Higher Institute on Territorial Systems for Innovation

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

umweltbundesamt<sup>U</sup>

Environment Agency Austria Ltd.

IURS



Institute for sustainable development of settlements

City of Piekary Śląskie

LANDESAMT FÜR UMWELT, LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND GEOLOGIE



Saxon State Office for the Environment Agriculture and Geology



The Usti Region



German Institute of Urban Affairs