

Module 1. Introduction to Place-Based Missions in the Circular Transition

MODULE SYLLABUS

Module Purpose

This module establishes the foundational perspective for the programme by reframing circular economy transitions as systemic, place-based missions. It introduces the core principles of mission-oriented and transformative innovation, and supports learners in shifting from project-based problem solving to systemic, territorial sensemaking – preparing the ground for mission design and implementation in later modules.

Estimated Workload

Total: 6 hours (self-paced)

- 2 hours: new knowledge
- 4 hours: practical reflection and application
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Learning Outcomes

Overarching Module 1 Learning Outcome: Understand circular economy challenges as place-based missions and the basic principles of mission-oriented and transformative innovation.

By the end of Module 1, learners will be able to:

- 1A. Explain why circular economy transitions are complex and why linear, project-based approaches are insufficient.
- 1B. Apply a systemic lens to analyse a circular economy challenge in the learners' regional context.
- 1C. Differentiate between generic policy approaches and place-based strategies shaped by territorial conditions.
- 1D. Articulate how mission-oriented approaches provide strategic direction for systemic circular transitions.

Module Structure

1. **Conceptual Framing and Guided Reflection:** From Linear Problems to Systemic, Place-Based Missions. Introduction to complexity, systems thinking, place-based innovation and mission-led approaches for circular transitions, interwoven with short reflection moments that connect each concept to the learner's own regional context.

2. **Applying the Systemic Lens:** Applying a Systemic Lens. A self-guided Iceberg exercise to analyse a circular economy challenge in the learner's own regional context.
3. **Mission Logic in Practice:** Seeing Mission Logic in Action. A case example illustrating how mission-oriented, systemic, and place-based approaches are applied in practice, in Flanders.