

Module 3. Shaping a Shared Mission Direction in the Circular Transition

MODULE SYLLABUS

Module Purpose

Circular economy transitions require regions to develop a shared understanding of the system they want to transform.

This module helps regional teams analyse how their circular economy system works – including key actors, value chains, barriers and opportunities – and use this understanding to explore possible future directions.

The goal is to support regions in shaping a clear mission direction that can guide collaboration, investments and policy action towards circular economy transitions.

Estimated Workload

Total: 6 hours (self-paced)

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

Learning Outcomes

Overarching Module 3 Learning Outcome (OLO3): Analyse regional systems and shape a shared mission direction for circular transitions.

By the end of Module 3, learners will be able to:

- 3A. Explore possible future developments affecting circular economy transitions in their region using foresight perspectives.
- 3B. Develop a shared vision for a future circular economy system in their region.
- 3C. Translate long-term circular economy vision into transition pathways, milestones and strategic priorities.

Module Structure

1. **Conceptual Framing and Guided Reflection: Envisioning Circular Futures.** This section introduces envisioning as a way for regions to think strategically about the future of their circular economy system.

Participants explore the basics of strategic foresight, including how to identify drivers of change, trends and emerging signals that may influence future circular economy developments. The section highlights that the future is not fixed and that regions can actively shape transition pathways through the choices they make today. Guided reflection moments invite learners to consider different possible futures for their region and reflect on what a successful circular economy system could look like in the long term.

2. **Exploring the Current System through a Causal Loop Diagram.** This section provides a structured, self-guided exercise where learners explore the current system of their region and challenge, through the a step-by-step exercise of drawing feedback loops in the system. This exercise enables to understand the internal reinforcing dynamics of the system and identify potential leverage points to unlock change.
3. **Envisioning in Practice: Building Regional Transition Pathways.** This section presents a case example illustrating how a region used foresight and collective vision-building to guide its transition process.
The case shows how stakeholders developed a shared vision for the future, identified transition pathways and defined milestones and targets to guide implementation. It highlights how envisioning processes can help regions align actors, clarify priorities and guide long-term circular economy strategies.