

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY AWARDS

## About the initiative

The Western Balkans Circular Economy Hub is envisioned as a focal point that connects various stakeholders across the region to foster communication, collaboration, and networking, with the goal of accelerating the transition to a circular economy. Among its activities, the Hub aims to support businesses, organisations, and individuals who have already implemented circular practices, fully transitioned to a circular business model or developed circular products and services, as well as assist those who are planning to do so.

The Circular Economy Awards is one of the initiatives through which the Hub aims to **recognise and reward leaders and pioneers** who have achieved outstanding results in promoting the circular economy by implementing such initiatives, projects, designing circular products and services, or inventing entirely new business models that have circularity embedded in their core. The initiative will honor stakeholders in seven different categories.

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## AWARD CATEGORIES

### **1. Circular Economy Pioneer Award**

Recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advancing circular economy concepts through leadership, advocacy, or entrepreneurship.

### **2. Corporate Leadership in Circular Economy**

Honors companies that have seamlessly integrated circular economy principles into their core business strategies, demonstrating significant resource efficiency, reductions in waste and resource consumption.

### **3. Innovative Circular Design Award**

Celebrates professionals and organisations that create innovative products or services, emphasising resource efficiency, longevity, reparability, and recyclability. These efforts support sustainable consumption and help shift markets toward circular economy principles.

### **4. Municipal Circular Leadership Award**

Acknowledges municipalities ambitions implementing effective circular economy initiatives that enhance sustainability and community engagement.

### **5. Civil society Circular economy Award**

Awarding NGOs working to accelerate the transition to CE, raising awareness, supporting policy implementation.

### **6. Circular Economy Education and Research Award**

Acknowledges educational and research organizations that have significantly advanced knowledge or technology in support of circular economy objectives through research, projects, curriculum development and similar.

### **7. Circular Start-Up Award**

Rewards start-ups that have developed innovative solutions for circular products, services and business models.

## Why should you apply?



- Reflect on your achievements, results, and refine your communication by going through the entry process.
- The process of applying can motivate your team and stakeholders to see the benefits of the organisation's circularity efforts.
- The application process itself can be educational, helping you identify areas for future improvement.

## Benefits for finalists and winners

- Showcase your success and be recognised as a circular economy leader.
- Gain visibility and attract attention from potential investors, partners, and customers who prioritise efforts for transitioning to circularity.
- Ensure your staff and team are rewarded and recognised for their efforts and contribution.
- Access a vibrant community of like-minded individuals and organisations, fostering connections and collaborations.

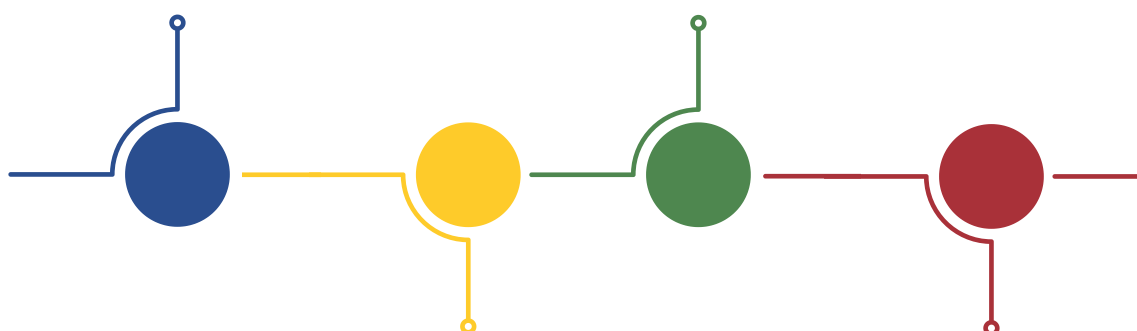
## TIMELINE

**2nd of June**

Applications open

**September - October**

Review process and selection of best applicants



**10th of September**

Applications close

**15h of October**

Circular Economy Awards Ceremony  
Annual conference of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro in Budva

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- To participate in the initiative, interested parties must **complete the application form** which is a separate Google form for each category. Each category application consists of several sections that represent different criteria such as integration of circular economy principles, measurable outcomes, demonstrated leadership and similar. At the end of the application you have the option to submit supporting material in the form of documents, reports, photos, links from social media posts and PR texts etc. which is highly recommended in order to substantiate your application;
- To be **eligible**, an entrant must demonstrate their effort and activities related to circular economy within the last 1-3 years, as well as tangible results and outcomes. While the initiative's results should fall within this time frame, the initiative itself may have been running for a longer duration.

## APPLICATION LINKS

[Circular Economy Pioneer Award](#)

[Corporate Leadership in Circular Economy](#)

[Innovative Circular Design Award](#)

[Municipal Circular Leadership Award](#)

[Civil Society Circular Economy Award](#)

[Circular Economy Education and Research Award](#)

[Circular Start-Up Award](#)

## SELECTION PROCESS

- The selection of winners will be done by a **jury of 5-10 members** from the Institute for research in environment, civil engineering and energy, Helvetas North Macedonia and the Chambers of Commerce from the Western Balkan Six;
- One winner from each category will be selected. Winners will be publicly announced on the **Circular Economy Awards ceremony** which will take place during the Annual conference of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro on the 15th of October 2025 in Budva. Winners will additionally be announced on our social media and website;
- You are allowed to submit an **entry for multiple categories** if you can ensure that the results and impact align with the specific category criteria.

## CONTACT



For any questions regarding the application process, selection criteria or the final ceremony, please contact us at **regionalcehub@gmail.com**

<http://wbcirculareconomy.com/>

The Western Balkans Circular Economy Hub is led by the Institute for research in environment, civil engineering and energy, and supported by Helvetas and Sida within the RECONOMY programme.