

Newsletter II

JULY 2025



PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER 101139912



:: About the Work Package 2 deliverables of the project...

From September 2024 through the end of May 2025, CIRCOLIVE partners were deeply engaged in desk and field research under Work Package 2 (WP2).

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:: Interim Consortium Meeting in Poreč, Croatia

The first Interim Consortium Meeting of the CIRCOLIVE project took place in January 2025 in the coastal town of Poreč, Croatia, marking a crucial step in advancing the project's shared vision for circularity in the olive oil sector. Held over two days at the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism, the meeting brought together partners from across Europe for intensive knowledge exchange, strategic discussions, and collaborative planning.

[+ INFO](#)



:: Participation in dissemination events



FOODEXPO 2025
(Greece)

[+ INFO](#)



Zagreb Olive
Festival (Croatia)

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150th Anniversary
Conference (Croatia)

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Beja Romana
Festival (Portugal)

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Sips of Science
2025 (Italy)

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:: About the Work Package 2 deliverables of the project...

From September 2024 through the end of May 2025, CIRCOLIVE partners were deeply engaged in desk and field research under Work Package 2 (WP2). This phase focused on identifying circularity needs in the olive oil sector and mapping the emerging skills and professional profiles required to support the transition to a circular economy across the project's five participating producer countries: Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Croatia.

Therefore, five country-specific reports were produced, analysing the current status of circular practices and technological gaps within the olive oil value chain. These reports also evaluated the potential for developing tailored vocational education and training (VET)

programs aimed at building circular business skills in the sector.

In October 2024, the Comparative Research Report on the Current Situation in Olive Oil was delivered, consolidating findings from all partner countries.

In the following months, all partners involved worked hard in a new report: *National Report on current and future skill levels for transition of the olive oil sector to circular economy*, regarding each of the 5 countries involved, which provided insight into the challenges, opportunities and key competences needed for a sustainable transition to a circular economy in the olive oil sector.

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By March 2025, a second Comparative Research Report was completed, focusing on the current and future skill levels required for a successful circular transition. The research highlighted both the growing awareness of circular economy principles and the shared challenges in their implementation across the Mediterranean olive oil sector.

During April 2025, the consortium's efforts centred on deliverable – *Guidelines for Revising and/or Developing Professional Profiles and Qualifications*. This milestone aimed to address skill gaps identified in the earlier research phase. By May 2025, the National Guidelines (five country versions) were finalised, offering detailed insights into national contexts and

outlining professional profiles critical for advancing circular practices in the olive oil industry.

With the conclusion of WP2, Work Package 3 (WP3) has officially started. This new phase focuses on the analysis and development of holistic circular business models for olive waste and by-product valorisation, paving the way for innovation and sustainability in the olive oil sector.

Updates on this work will be shared soon – stay connected through the CIRCOLIVE website and social media channels.

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:: Interim Consortium Meeting in Poreč, Croatia



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Held over two days at the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism, the meeting brought together partners from across Europe for intensive knowledge exchange, strategic discussions, and collaborative planning.

DAY 1 began with a comprehensive project review by George Vardangalos (Vakakis and Associates - Greece), aligning all partners on progress and future directions. This was followed by an insightful session on the current status of the olive oil sector in each participating

country, within Work Package 2. Speakers included Rosalba Roccatello (UNIBO - Italy), Georgia Moschopoulou (AUA - Greece), Joana Galvão (Check-IN - Portugal), Esther Garcia (CCI Lleida - Spain), and Iva Pastor (Institute of Agriculture and Tourism - Croatia), who shared national perspectives and identified sector challenges and opportunities. The day concluded with presentations of National Reports, addressing essential skills - both existing and emerging - that are critical for a sustainable and innovative olive oil industry.

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:: Interim Consortium Meeting in Poreč, Croatia



DAY 2 focused on implementation strategies and practical tools. George Vardangalos led the session on the 2025 activity roadmap. Chiara Dell'Amico (IFOA - Italy) presented guidelines for revising and developing vocational profiles, while Kostas Hatziyannis (Vakakis and Associates) outlined the framework for circular business models tailored to the sector, within Work Package 3. Mark Sagarra (Eurecat - Spain) unveiled the structure of the upcoming digital platform, designed to support learning and collaboration. António Gomes (Check-IN) closed the technical sessions with a summary of the 2024 dissemination achievements and future strategies, within Work Package 6.

To conclude, participants enjoyed a presentation and tasting of Croatian olive oils, led by Karolina Brkič Bubola (Institute of Agriculture and Tourism), highlighting the richness of local production and reinforcing the cultural value of olive oil across the Mediterranean.

The event reaffirmed the partners' shared commitment to sustainability, education, and innovation. The outcomes of the meeting provide a strong foundation for the next stages of the CIRCOLIVE project, contributing to a circular future for Mediterranean agriculture.

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:: Participation in dissemination events

FOODEXPO 2025 (Greece)

During the FOODEXPO 2025 symposium “Food Production: New Technologies, Sustainability, and Global Outreach”, on March 8, the Agricultural University of Athens showcased the CIRCOLIVE project to a wide audience of food professionals and stakeholders.

Assistant Professor Chrysavgi Gardeli presented CIRCOLIVE during a panel dedicated to olive oil innovation. She emphasized the project’s mission to equip the sector with circular business skills and digital tools, enhancing sustainability and reducing waste across the olive oil value chain.

The event highlighted the importance of bridging academic expertise with industry practices and drew attention to the role of EU cooperation in fostering sustainable agri-food models. CIRCOLIVE was well-received as a key initiative supporting innovation and resilience in the Mediterranean olive oil sector.

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:: Participation in dissemination events

Zagreb Olive Festival (Croatia)

On April 5, 2025, the CIRCOLIVE project was presented at the 10th Zagreb Olive Festival by Dr. Karolina Brkić Bubola and Iva Pastor from the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism.

This well-established event, hosted by the Zagreb Olive Institute, featured olive oil tasting workshops, cosmetic product demos, exhibitions, and educational sessions on olive cultivation and production. CIRCOLIVE's presence brought attention to its key goals: promoting circular economy practices and valorising waste and by-products across the olive oil value chain.

Festival attendees were introduced to the project's mission, ongoing activities, and early research results. The event provided an important platform to connect with the public, producers, and experts, strengthening collaboration in sustainable agri-food innovation across the Mediterranean.

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:: Participation in dissemination events

150th Anniversary Conference of Institute of Agriculture and Tourism (Croatia)

To mark its 150th anniversary, the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism - one of Croatia's oldest scientific institutions - hosted the conference "From Science to Innovation for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Tourism."

Held over two days, on May 8 and 9, the event featured nearly 100 research presentations and numerous poster and project exhibits. Among them, the CIRCOLIVE project was presented by Dr. Karolina Brkič Bubola and Iva Pastor, highlighting the project's contribution to sustainable innovation in the olive oil sector.

CIRCOLIVE's goals were showcased as part of broader efforts to promote circular economy models, focusing on waste valorisation and by-product reuse in olive oil production across Croatia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece.

The event offered a unique platform for scientific exchange and collaboration, placing olive oil innovation at the centre of discussions on the sustainable future of agriculture and tourism in the region.

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Beja Romana Festival (Portugal)

In the ancient city of Beja - once known as Pax Julia - tradition, youth, and sustainability came together on June 8, 2025, during the conference “From the Field to the Table,” held as part of the 10th Beja Romana Festival, in Alentejo Region, organised by the Municipality of Beja.

Joana Galvão, representing the Check-IN Association and the CIRCULIVE project, shared the project’s vision for transforming the olive oil sector through circular economy practices. Her presentation highlighted the importance of waste and by-product valorisation, environmental preservation, and the involvement of young people in sustainable agri-food practices.

The conference also featured contributions from professor João Dias (Polytechnic Institute of Beja), teacher Sandra Bettencourt (School n.º 2 of Beja), and João Gomes, olive oil quality consultant. Their interventions created a rich dialogue between education, agriculture, and culture, blending Roman heritage with future-facing sustainability goals.

The event stood out as a meaningful encounter between generations and sectors, reinforcing CIRCULIVE’s commitment to building a more sustainable future from the field to the table.

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During 3 days, and within the X Beja Romana Festival, dedicated to the thematic of olive oil, bread and wine in the Alentejo Region, Check-IN Association had a stand fully dedicated to the CIRCOLIVE project. It was a great opportunity to showcase the project, talk about sustainability, circular economy and innovation, among young people, olive oil producers, and stakeholders of the sector.

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:: Participation in dissemination events

Sips of Science 2025 (Italy)

On June 13, 2025, CIRCOLIVE participated in the event “Sips of Science – One Too Many Suns,” hosted at the University of Bologna’s Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

This vibrant gathering blended science, youth, and olive oil in a celebration of learning and sustainability. Aimed at young students preparing to enter higher education, the event featured interactive displays and discussions on CIRCOLIVE’s goals: promoting circular economy practices and transforming olive oil production through innovation.

Even the youngest attendees engaged with CIRCOLIVE’s mission, discovering how research and sustainability intersect in the olive oil value chain. Events like this affirm the importance of inspiring future generations to contribute to a more circular and responsible agri-food system.

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