

## **SEA: Hackathon Circular Cities**

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**Challenge 6: Designing a platform for a circular city transformation involving diverse actors**

### **Press release**

## **Nine crowd-workshop-café's were opened with the help of "Munich Circular City Map"**

*Munich- 1st August 2022 - Since its launch in February 2021, the "Munich Circular City Map" enabled many citizens as well as other actors within the city to realize over 20 projects that foster the development towards a circular city. In addition, more than 80 projects are in the pipeline. Several projects were initiated using the co-creation tool. These include nine repair café's, two new second-hand shops, one zero-waste café, two zero-waste stores, and multiple events that were held. Moreover, new exchange initiatives were founded and another ten similar café's started the implementation phase.*



*Photo by Pedelects on <http://pedelecs.wp.hs.de/>*

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1st August 2022 - Today, the 9th repair café was opened in Munich through the initiative of Munich citizens. The café's opening was possible thanks to the "Munich Circular City Map," a web application that brings citizens' initiatives to life through the collaboration of volunteers, communities, businesses and the municipality. According to the Munich municipality representative, next year's budget is in the drawing and will include resources necessary to solve the projects of the townspeople.

This is a huge step forward in engaging citizens in city planning processes, since until now many citizens were eager to participate and to help but were not aware of their options. They were often excluded from participating in the decision-making processes and projects within a neighbourhood happened without the citizens knowing about them. This could then quickly turn in a mismatch between the citizens' needs and the new project's offers.

The "Munich Circular City Map" is a dynamic and free service that enables citizens to search businesses, organizations and initiatives that contribute to the transformation of Munich into a circular city. The map gives an overview of all the contributors and locations. If someone realizes that their neighbourhood needs a new initiative, he/she can plan and register their project using the co-creation toolkit. This contributor becomes a change agent and gets connected with experts, volunteers, and possible sponsors. The tool also invites people to vote, thus giving them the opportunity to actively participate in prioritizing projects and allowing them to get involved and be part of the implementation of innovative solutions that drive circular change.

Instead of the traditional search for niches in the market and the necessary demand, a business or any city dweller can propose their own initiative focusing on their own problems. Thus, it is not businesses that look for problems in the city that they want to solve, but the citizens themselves talk about their concerns and problems and suggest places for solving them. Policymakers, city administration and businesses get insights from the projects, comments and requests done by the citizens. Currently, 150 projects are registered on the "Munich Circular City Map" platform. The number of participants is about a hundred thousand.

According to the head of the Munich cyclist community, *"The opening of the 9th repair café in Munich was possible thanks to a joint effort and a single tool for city planning and the implementation of urban initiatives - the "Munich Circular City Map". New cafés are a prime example of how the new (bottom-up) economy is beating the old top-down economy and of how the green economy beats the internal combustion engine."*

Citizens, businesses, and organisations register on the platform and get connected. They can propose a project and get contacted by other people in the neighbourhood who want to contribute. *"I needed to repair my bike. However, the nearest repair shop was 5 km away from my house. I suggested organizing one in the basement of a neighbouring house. The owner of the premises agreed to support the project if there were other people willing to join. The project was supported by more than a hundred people in the quarter and over time, a repair café was opened by joint efforts."* - says Mr. Miller.

Every Munich resident can propose his/her own project to improve life in his area and find interesting business. It is also possible to engage as a volunteer and to help finding solutions for challenges proposed by other members of the community. To do this, you need to register on the site and post information about your idea. Then you can get connected to experts and volunteers that would like to implement the project or challenge.

Join Circular Munich now and help Munich to become one of the first zero-waste cities worldwide (find more information on the project website “Munich Circular City Map”: <https://circular-munich.com/>).