

# APPLY FOR BECBA'S AGRO-CIRCULARITY PIONEERS PROGRAM



We are looking for 20 motivated participants (Pioneers) to take part in our agro-circularity pioneers' program: learn about how to ideate and start a circular start-up dealing with agricultural bio-waste and how to coach other, young, circular agro-entrepreneurs!

**About the BECBA project:** [BECBA](#) (Boosting Employability through Circularity of Bio-waste in Rural Areas) is an EU project which aims to empower and engage young people in agro-entrepreneurship actions that involve transforming bio-waste into valuable bio-products through innovative circular business models. The project addresses the challenges of unemployment of young people and mismanagement of segregated and mixed bio-waste in rural areas. To achieve its objectives, the project focuses on developing the capacities of youth workers to recover valuable nutrients from bio-waste and adapting them for reuse in agriculture. This approach is an integral part of the New Circular Economy Action Plan and will help shift agriculture away from its current linear model.

**About the Agro-Circularity Pioneers program:** To kick off the impact of the BECBA project, we are recruiting 20 participants from Kosovo (8), Albania (4), Greece (4), and Austria (4), for a **5-day Pioneers course** in September 2023 in Vienna, Austria, to become our **Agro-Circularity Pioneers**. (See below the page if this course is right for you!). You will be early adopters in the BECBA project and during this week in September you will be guided through the process of becoming a Circular Agro-Entrepreneur and through the steps of idea generation for a Circular Start-up dealing with agricultural bio-waste. During this explorative week, we will generate ideas on how to identify, prevent or use agricultural waste (think of edible/inedible food surplus, other types of bio-waste (e.g. seeds, stems), wastewater, etc.) and use it as food for other products. After the 5-day September course, you will be part of our community as a Pioneer and will share your gained knowledge to guide other young aspiring entrepreneurs.

## 5-day Agro-Circularity Pioneers course in Vienna, Austria (17 Sept - 23 Sept)

The 5-day course will contain three different types of activities: in the GET INSPIRED time blocks, participants and facilitators will visit best practice examples in Vienna. In the GET KNOWLEDGEABLE time blocks, participants will be able to slightly lean back and train the brain by attending lectures and semi-interactive workshops provided by experts from the field. In the GET ACTIVE time blocks it is time for the participants to develop an idea, a business model for a Circular Start-up and work towards pitching that idea at the end of the week. The exact time schedule for the entire week will be shared later, but the three different time blocks will be divided throughout the entire week.

### Content draft of the course:

#### **GET INSPIRED:**

- Field visits to showcase best practices (circular start-up, farmer and start-up collaboration)

#### **GET KNOWLEDGEABLE:**

- Circular thinking
- Types of circular start-ups, circularity strategies and circular business model innovations (& best practice examples).
- Circular economy and more specifically agricultural waste management
- Design thinking lecture: learn the steps of the design thinking process
- (International) Laws & regulations: waste management and circular economy
- How to measure your impact
- How to prevent Green / Circular Washing
- Access to Finance: learn about the different financing opportunities for circular start-ups and how to access them.
- Pitch training

#### **GET ACTIVE (active workshops working towards a start-up idea)**

- Map your region
- Identify waste-streams (hunt the waste)
- Idea generation (following circular design thinking)
- Business Modelling: build a circular business model (CBM) or sustainable business model (SBM) around your idea.

- Pitch Session: Share your idea with the group and show-off your newly acquired pitch skills.
- Workshop: boost your impact! Let's determine how you will guide 5 young agro-entrepreneurs on their journey in your region!

*Accommodation and travel costs will be provided for by the BECBA project*

*For the rest, participation in the program is on a voluntary basis*

#### **Go home:**

- Being part of a growing community of young, aspiring Circular Agro-Entrepreneurs and Circular Economy experts within Austria, Greece, Kosovo, and Albania!
- Equipped with the right tools to develop yourself further as a Circular Economy expert
- As an ambassador of the BECBA project and a coach to youth entrepreneurs offline and via an online incubator system.

#### **Is this course right for you?**

Do you live in a rural area in Kosovo, Albania, Greece or Austria?

Are you 25+ years old?

Did you finish or are you currently enrolled in a relevant bachelor's or master's degree? (Environmental Sciences, Agriculture (or related fields such as environmental engineering or any other arguable field)

Could you spend 18 – 22nd of September in Vienna, Austria? (Accommodation and travel costs will be provided for).

Detailed knowledge of circularity is NOT required although a keen interest is clearly desirable!

This 5-day Pioneers course is most fitting if you are willing **to learn more** about:

- Circular design thinking
- Types of circular start-ups, circularity strategies and circular business model innovations
- Circular economy and more specifically agricultural waste management
- Upcycling biowaste
- Business Modelling
- Entrepreneurship skill (pitching, marketing, etc.)

- Impact measurement and green/circular washing
- Access to finance for entrepreneurial and circular economy initiatives

This 5-day course is most fitting if you are **aspiring to**:

- Nurture or develop your circular mindset.
- Experiment and learn during the program.
- Start your own Circular Start-up and/or
- Start circular farming and/or
- Become a coach to young Circular Agro-Entrepreneurs working on circular ideas.
- Stay linked to the project as an ambassador after the training week in September, to teach others what you have learned.

## Would you like to apply?

Then fill out the supplication form: <https://forms.gle/SxswMqzARzJ5Qkh57>

For further questions contact us via e-mail: [femke.meeuwes@alchemy-nova.net](mailto:femke.meeuwes@alchemy-nova.net)

Application deadline: Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2023