

GA N°101057765

D8.9 – Training and social engagement report for 3 different manufacture cases”



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GREEN-LOOP
Sustainable manufacture systems towards novel bio-based materials

WP8 – Communication, Dissemination and Training

D8.9 – Training and social engagement report for 3 different manufacture cases

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GREEN-LOOP Key Facts

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Project title | Sustainable manufacture systems towards novel bio-based materials |
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| Duration in months | 36 |
| Call (part) identifier | TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION 2021 (HORIZON-CL4-2021-TWIN-TRANSITION-01) |
| Topic | HORIZON-CL4-2021-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-05 Manufacturing technologies for bio-based materials (Made in Europe Partnership) (RIA) |
| Consortium | 17 organizations: 15 from EU Member States + 2 from UK |

GREEN-LOOP Consortium Partners

| | Partner | Acronym | Country |
|----|--|---------|---------|
| 1 | IDENER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT | IDE | ES |
| 2 | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY | NIC | SI |
| 3 | SLOVENIAN NATIONAL BUILDING AND CIVIL E. I. | ZAG | SI |
| 4 | FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V | FHF | DE |
| 5 | GUALA CLOSURES | GUALA | IT |
| 6 | MIXCYCLING SRL | MYX | IT |
| 7 | NSBPROJECT SRL | NSB | IT |
| 8 | LE TERRE DI ZOE' | TDZ | IT |
| 9 | IRIS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, SOCIEDAD LIMITADA | IRIS | ES |
| 10 | GLOWNY INSTYTUT GORNICTWA | GIG | PL |
| 11 | AACHEN UNIVERISTY: PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEERING / AACHEN UNIVERISTY: INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY | AAU | DE |
| 12 | AUSTRIAN STANDARDS INTERNATIONAL | ASI | AT |
| 13 | INSTITUTO DE SOLDADURA E QUALIDADE | ISQ | PT |
| 14 | AXIA INNOVATION UG | AXIA | DE |
| 15 | ASOCIACIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN METALÚRGICA DEL NOROESTE | AIMEN | ES |
| 16 | NATIONAL COMPOSITE CENTER | NCC | UK |
| 17 | UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL | UBRIS | UK |

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Executive Summary

Work Package 8 (WP8) of the GREEN-LOOP project pays importance to the role of training and social engagement, acting as a foundation for the dissemination and communication of sustainable innovation across three distinct manufacturing cases. Anchored in the principles of the circular economy and environmentally conscious production, the GREEN-LOOP project aims to reimagine traditional industrial processes and embed sustainability into every stage of the manufacturing value chain. WP8 translates these strategic goals into tangible action through structured training initiatives and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

This final deliverable reports on the successful implementation of nine workshops, six internal and three external, conducted over the past two years and tailored to the specific needs of the GREEN-LOOP partners and stakeholders. Internal workshops targeted consortium members and project stakeholders, aiming to build internal capacity and ensure alignment with emerging best practices in sustainable manufacturing. External workshops reached a broader audience, including industry leaders, researchers, local communities, and policymakers. They aimed to disseminate project outcomes, foster collaboration, and inspire the adoption of bio-based and circular manufacturing approaches.

Each workshop was grounded in a comprehensive planning process that included the analysis of the needs assessments, definition of learning outcomes, and customized lesson plans. This deliverable presents detailed documentation of each workshop, including participant registration information, planned training, and evaluation outcomes. The effectiveness of each workshop was evaluated using structured feedback forms (see Annex 4), providing both quantitative and qualitative insights.

The training methodology applied was intentionally diverse and participatory, leveraging a mix of presentations, interactive group work, real-life case studies, and digital tools. This multifaceted approach ensured high levels of engagement and helped contextualize complex topics for varied audiences. Evaluation results show that most participants found the workshops valuable, relevant, and well-aligned with their learning expectations—affirming the impact of the project’s pedagogical strategy.

Beyond reporting on completed activities, this deliverable also serves as a resource for future trainers and project partners. It outlines a replicable framework for workshop development, including templates for learning outcomes and lesson planning, and offers methodological guidance for tailoring content to different target groups.

As the sustainability landscape continues to evolve, the lessons captured here will serve as a foundation for future knowledge transfer.

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Abbreviations

- WP Work Package
- LO Learning Outcome
- OSH Occupational Safety and Health
- LCA Life Cycle Assessment
- IW Internal Workshop
- EW External Workshop



1. Introduction

Work Package 8 (WP8) is a key component of the GREEN-LOOP project, where sustainability and innovation meet. It is responsible for advancing the project's objectives by strategically combining training and social engagement. As part of the wider Dissemination and Communication Work Package, WP8 aims to put the GREEN-LOOP mission into practice. It does this by creating tangible, structured opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaborative learning, which are aimed at embedding circular economy principles within three distinct manufacturing cases.

From its inception, the GREEN-LOOP project recognized that the transformation of manufacturing systems into more sustainable and bio-based models cannot rely on technological advancement alone. Real change requires a shift in culture, in capacity, and in the relationships between stakeholders across the value chain. WP8 has therefore taken on the critical role of bridging the gap between theoretical ambition and practical implementation—by developing and delivering targeted training sessions and fostering inclusive, participatory environments for social engagement.

This final report documents the culmination of WP8's efforts over the past two years. It marks the second report and concluding part of the Task 8.4 Training and Social Engagement, building upon the foundational work laid out in the first report, which proposed the training structure, methodologies, and expected learning outcomes. While that earlier phase outlined the theoretical and methodological approach to be applied, this report reflects the implementation phase—reporting on nine fully delivered workshops (six internal and three external), analysing the outcomes, and synthesizing the lessons learned.

The internal workshops focused on capacity-building within the consortium. These sessions supported knowledge transfer related to the specific materials, processes, and value chains developed under Green-Loop, with an emphasis on technical depth, regulatory considerations (including health and safety), and process integration. Partners contributed not only as learners but also as facilitators and knowledge holders, strengthening the internal coherence and expertise of the project team. Each internal training session was tailored to reflect the evolving needs of the project, with workshop themes and content refined based on needs assessment exercises conducted in advance.

Complementing this internal focus were three external workshops, which played a crucial role in disseminating project results beyond the consortium and engaging broader audiences—including industry stakeholders, policymakers, academia, and local communities. These workshops were designed to function as both outreach events and learning opportunities, with the dual objective of sharing the insights and technologies developed under GREEN-LOOP and gathering valuable input from external actors. They created space for dialogue around sustainable manufacturing, fostered new networks of interest, and encouraged the adoption of bio-based approaches within and beyond the project's pilot sites.

Each workshop—whether internal or external—was structured around clearly defined learning outcomes, developed using a standardized framework introduced in Deliverable 8.8. These outcomes encompassed knowledge, skills, and attitudes and were aligned with European Qualifications Framework (EQF) guidelines. Trainers used detailed lesson plans to guide delivery, drawing on a diverse set of pedagogical methods including interactive lectures, case studies, group discussions, and simulations.

Evaluation played a central role in the implementation process. Each workshop was assessed through a post-session questionnaire, which allowed participants to reflect on their experience and provide structured feedback. This feedback was used not only to evaluate the effectiveness of the learning outcomes but also to improve the design and delivery of future sessions. Across all workshops, high levels of participant satisfaction were recorded, with many highlighting the relevance of the content, the value of peer interaction, and the applicability of the training to real-world contexts.

This report is therefore both a retrospective account of what has been accomplished and a forward-looking resource for future replication and scaling. It includes comprehensive documentation of each workshop—participant registration summaries, lesson plans, and evaluation results—providing a transparent view of how the training activities were implemented and how they contributed to the GREEN-LOOP project’s objectives.

As we conclude the training and engagement component of the GREEN-LOOP project, the work reported here stands as a testament to the power of well-structured, context-sensitive educational initiatives. WP8 has demonstrated that technical innovation must be matched by investment in people, skills, and communities, and that meaningful transformation in manufacturing systems depends as much on shared understanding and cooperation as on materials and machines.

The chapters that follow offer detailed insights into each of the nine workshops delivered, accompanied by analysis of the feedback received and the extent to which the training activities met their intended goals. This introduction thus marks the transition from planning to execution—from design to delivery—and from vision to verified impact.

2. Training activities

2.1 Implementation and Approach

The social engagement activities carried out under Work Package 8 were designed to promote knowledge exchange on novel bio-based technologies for green and smart manufacturing and to foster collaborative learning environments. These activities played a dual role: supporting the delivery of high-quality training sessions and enabling a broader dialogue among project partners, industry stakeholders, and local communities. By aligning social engagement closely with the training activities, WP8 helped ensure that all workshops were context-relevant, inclusive, and responsive to the real needs of their audiences.

2.1.1 Stakeholder Analysis

To ensure that each training activity reached the appropriate audience and reflected the dynamics of its respective value chain, a stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted in coordination with all project partners. Rather than relying solely on brainstorming sessions, contacts were systematically gathered and organized in a shared Excel file hosted within the project's SharePoint platform. This allowed partners to identify relevant internal and external stakeholders for each pilot case—bio-rubber, bioplastic, and wood-composite materials.

This contact list served multiple functions: identifying participants for internal and external workshops, tailoring invitations to specific interest groups, and supporting targeted outreach aligned with the communication strategies previously defined in Deliverable D8.1, updated in D8.2 and finalised in the D8.3. Final Communication and Dissemination Plan

2.1.2 Needs Assessment Analysis

In addition to the originally planned questionnaire-based approach, the needs assessment was also carried out through an interactive and collaborative format. A dialogue was held with consortium partners, where each value chain was discussed in detail to identify training gaps, knowledge needs, and thematic priorities for the upcoming workshops.

Additionally, immediate feedback loops were integrated into each internal workshop. At the end of every session, participants were encouraged to reflect on their experience and provide input on further training needs or topics of interest through a questionnaire. This iterative method ensured that upcoming workshops could be adapted based on real-time feedback, fostering a dynamic learning environment and enhancing the relevance of the training offer.

The open discussions and needs analysis questionnaires allowed participants to express both specific and broader needs, including suggestions for content improvement, delivery style, and future focus areas.

2.1.3 Social Engagement During the Workshops

During the workshops themselves, social engagement was actively fostered using integrative didactic methods. These included case studies, breakout group discussions, open Q&A sessions, live demonstrations, and collaborative reflection activities. Such methodologies were chosen specifically to encourage interaction between participants, allowing for the sharing of perspectives and the co-creation of knowledge.

In both internal and external workshops, trainers were encouraged to adapt their approach depending on participant dynamics and feedback. This flexibility ensured that sessions remained learner-centred and context-sensitive. In external workshops, the involvement of non-consortium stakeholders—such as industry representatives and local actors—brought additional perspectives and enriched the dialogue around sustainable manufacturing practices.

2.1.4 Evaluation of the Workshops

To assess the effectiveness of each training session and gather structured feedback from participants, an evaluation questionnaire was distributed at the end of every workshop. These questionnaires were made easily accessible via a QR code, displayed both on screen during the final moments of each session.

Participants were invited to complete the evaluation on their personal devices, using a Likert-scale format to rate various aspects of the workshop—from content relevance to trainer effectiveness and perceived learning outcomes. An open-ended field was also provided, allowing for free-text comments, suggestions, and reflections.

This digital and low-friction approach led to high response rates and enabled rapid analysis of feedback. Results were reviewed by the WP8 leader and used to inform continuous improvement of subsequent workshops. In the case of external workshops, evaluation results also helped identify how participants learned about the event and which topics they found most engaging, feeding directly into the project's broader dissemination strategy.

2.2 Execution

Throughout the course of the GREEN-LOOP project, a series of strategically designed training activities were implemented to translate the project's vision into concrete action. These activities took the form of nine workshops—six internal and three external, delivered at key moments aligned with the project's timeline and technological advancements across the three pilot value chains. Each workshop served as both a capacity-building initiative and a platform for exchange, aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to embrace circular economy principles and foster more responsible, bio-based manufacturing practices.

The workshops were categorically divided into internal and external events. Internal workshops focused on enhancing competencies within the consortium, targeting

project partners and associated stakeholders. These sessions addressed technical topics specific to each value chain, including bio-rubber, bioplastic, and wood-composite materials, and featured a dedicated session on Health and Safety, as defined under Task 8.5. The Health and Safety workshop explicitly incorporated gender considerations.

In parallel, three external workshops extended the project’s reach beyond its immediate consortium, engaging a wide spectrum of stakeholders such as industry representatives, community actors, researchers, and policymakers. These external events served as vehicles for dissemination, collaboration, and community engagement, encouraging the broader adoption of the sustainable practices promoted by Green-Loop. Each external workshop corresponded to one of the three pilot value chains and was positioned as an opportunity to showcase results, gather feedback, and catalyse new networks of interest and potential replication.

Prior to each workshop, a needs assessment was carried out to tailor the content to the specific needs of the target audience. This ensured that workshop themes remained relevant, timely, and in alignment with participant needs.

At the close of each workshop, a digital evaluation questionnaire was distributed via a QR code, allowing participants to immediately provide feedback on the training content, facilitation quality, and overall learning experience. These evaluations played a key role in guiding improvements for subsequent sessions and provided valuable insights into the impact of each event.

To maximize social engagement, a range of didactic methodologies were employed—such as group discussions, case study analysis, live demonstrations, and participant-led Q&A—promoting interaction, co-learning, and peer exchange. These formats not only reinforced the training objectives but also contributed to a vibrant learning environment where knowledge could be contextualized, debated, and internalized.

Beyond their individual objectives, these workshops functioned collectively as steppingstones in Green-Loop’s transformative journey—from research and development to dissemination and societal integration. They embodied the project’s commitment to sustainability not just as a technical challenge, but as a shared cultural and educational pursuit. Each workshop, in its own way, contributed to shaping a future manufacturing landscape grounded in innovation, responsibility, and collaborative resilience.

The following sections present a detailed description of each workshop, organized by type (internal or external) and value chain. Each description includes workshop logistics, methodology used, participant engagement, and the summary of the evaluation results will be in a separate chapter afterwards.

3. Internal Workshops

The internal workshops organized by ISQ are based on the needs analysis carried out with the partners. ISQ assigns responsibility for each workshop to the most suitable partner according to their expertise and meets with them to align on content. Once the partner agrees, ISQ provides the necessary templates and guidance, including the Learning Outcomes Template (Annex 1) and Lesson Plan Template (Annex 2).

The date of each workshop is set collaboratively. Using the Doodle platform, partners have one week to indicate their availability, after which ISQ finalizes the scheduling and manages the Teams invitation. A registration questionnaire (Annex 3) is prepared for each session, and all registered participants receive the invitation along with a PDF document containing the completed Lesson Plan and Learning Outcomes template.

Each workshop begins with a short welcome by ISQ, introducing the theme and informing participants that the session will be recorded for later access via the project’s SharePoint and platform. The trainer(s) then lead the workshop, after which ISQ closes the session by sharing an evaluation questionnaire (Annex 4). This allows partners to provide feedback on the event and highlight training needs for future sessions.

The following sections provide a detailed report of the six internal workshops conducted.

3.1 Internal Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health for GREEN-LOOP manufacture systems:

The theme of this workshop was defined based on the needs analysis exercise conducted with the partners. It was structured into two sessions: the first, held on 22 November 2023, focused on “Occupational Safety and Health for GREEN-LOOP Manufacturing Systems”, while the second, on 29 November 2023, addressed “Gender and Diversity Dimensions in Occupational Safety and Health.”

Each session lasted two hours, with the content building on the findings of deliverable D8.11, “Report on Occupational Safety and Health for GREEN-LOOP Manufacturing Systems,” submitted at the end of October 2023. A total of 16 participants registered for the first session and 18 for the second. The sessions were led by trainers from AAU and NSB.

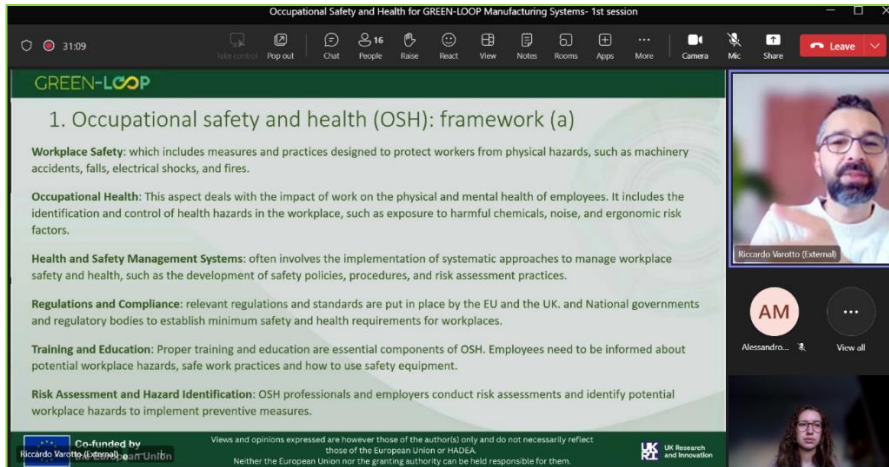


Figure 1 - Screenshot from the workshop on “Occupational Safety and Health for GREEN-LOOP manufacture systems”

The activities of this workshop followed the plan in the Tables below:

| TEACHING PLAN for the “Occupational safety and health for GREEN-LOOP manufacture systems” workshop | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|--|---------------|---|
| Day 1 22/11/2023 | 2 | Microsoft Teams for interactive web call and recording |
| Introduction by ISQ on the framework of the training unit as the first session of the GREEN-LOOP “internal training” planned. Information on recording and how/where training materials will be available after the session. | 5 minutes | Power Point presentation and Word clouds for ice breaking dynamic |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational safety and health (OSH): framework and definition Main EU regulations for OSH in bio-value chains: some references Main UK regulations for OSH in bio-value chains: some references OSH focusing on manufacturing processes of | 30 minutes | Power Point Presentation |

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| | | |
|--|------------|---|
| GREEN-LOOP: framework and perspective | | |
| Q&A time Feedback from partners for further development of the study for the new report to be delivered at month 24 | 15 minutes | Interaction via Teams (micro, chats etc) |
| Break | 10 minutes | |
| 5. OSH in the manufacturing of rubber panels 6. OSH in the manufacturing of bioplastic bottle closures for the packaging of food and beverage sectors 7. OSH in the manufacturing of wood composites to produce sliding bearings 8. The assessment of OSH issues in the GREEN-LOOP value chains: presentation of the Checklist for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) issues for GREEN-LOOP manufacturing processes | 45 minutes | Power Point Presentation |
| Q&A time Feedback from partners for further development of the assessment of OSH issues for GREEN-LOOP and the Checklist for the new report to be delivered at month 24 | 15 minutes | Interaction via Teams (micro, chats etc.) |

| | | |
|--|------------|---|
| Workshop quality evaluation questionnaire -This questionnaire will evaluate the session and establish a needs assessment moment for the next internal workshops | 10 minutes | Free online Survey platform Power Point presentation |
|--|------------|---|

Table 1 - Lesson plan for the first session

| TEACHING PLAN for the “Gender and Diversity Dimensions in OSH” workshop | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|--|---|--|
| Day 2 29/11/2023 | 2 | Microsoft Teams for interactive web call and recording |
| Welcome and Introduction: Giving a short Introduction Presenting the Workshop Agenda | 10min | Power Point Presentation |
| Revision from the first Gender Workshop: Provide an overview on the basic terms “sex” and “gender” Basics about legislation on gender in OSH set by the EU | 5 min | Power Point Presentation |
| Board Session: Brainstorming about the impacts of sex and gender differences in OSH Summary of the results | 10 min 5 min | Miro Board |
| Gender and Diversity Dimensions in OSH: Data Gap in OSH Biological Differences in OSH Gender Impacts in OSH Q&A | 10 min 5 min | Power Point Presentation |
| Break | 10 min | |
| Breakout Session (groups): Checklist for Gender and Diversity Dimensions in OSH: The participants will be divided into 4 groups. Each group will discuss one thematic part of the Checklist. Afterwards one person of each group gives a small | 20 min (breakout session) 20 min (presentation of the group work in plenary) | Breakout rooms in Microsoft Teams, Miro Board |

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|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| insight in their thematic part and discussion. By that participants can raise questions and add checkpoints to the checklist. | 10 min (Q&A, summary) | |
| Wrap-Up and Feedback (Survey) | 10 min | Power Point Presentation, Survey Tool |

Table 2 - Lesson plan for the second session

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

3.2 Internal Workshop on “Introduction to Sustainable Materials in Product Design”

The title of this workshop was defined through the needs analysis carried out with project partners. It was delivered in two sessions: the first on 3 December 2024 and the second on 4 December 2024, each with a duration of one hour.

The first session introduced the fundamentals of sustainable materials and their importance in environmentally responsible product design. The second session focused on practical strategies for integrating these materials into design processes, with attention to performance, cost, and lifecycle impact.

In total, 11 participants registered for the first session and 14 for the second. The content was informed by the latest research findings and practical applications identified within the project’s knowledge base.

The workshop was hosted by NCC and facilitated by experts who encouraged interactive discussion and the exchange of experiences among participants.



Figure 2 - Screenshot from the workshop on “Introduction to Sustainable Materials in Product Design”

The activities of this workshop followed the plan in the Table below:

| TEACHING PLAN on “Introduction to Sustainable Materials in Product Design” | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Day 1 03/12/2024 | 1 | |
| 9-9:30 Joining the meeting, brief introduction and objectives of the two sessions | 0.30 | PowerPoint, MS Teams |
| 9:30-10:45 Why are we here? Definition of sustainability (3 pillars) Global warming and GHG explanation and how they effect the environment. Outline of current and future policies for sustainability and sustainable design Interactive questions on sustainability fundamentals Circularity and circularity metrics | 1.15 | PowerPoint, MS Teams, Mentimeter |
| Break – 10:45-11:00 | 0.15 | |
| 11:00-12:30 Demonstration and interactive task around SDGs, PBs and doughnut economics Life cycle assessments Introduction into Design for Sustainability – Why is sustainability important at the design stage? Q&A | 1.30 | PowerPoint, MS Teams, Mentimeter |
| Day 2 04/12/2024 | 1 | |

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| | | |
|--|------|----------------------------------|
| 9-9:30 Joining the meeting Re-cap of day 1 and objectives Objectives met so far | 0.30 | PowerPoint, MS Teams |
| 9:30-10:45 Breakdown of product lifecycle stages Answering why is sustainability important at every stage of the cycle. Interactive session to summarise, cement learning and get opinions of attendees | 1.15 | PowerPoint, MS Teams, Mentimeter |
| Break – 10:45-11:00 | 0.15 | |
| 11:00-12:00 Presentation on Eco-design tool and demonstration for integrating Design for sustainability into practice Examples of other external software that can be used for Design for Sustainability | 1 | PowerPoint, MS Teams |
| 12:00 – 12:30 Re-cap of all content over the two sessions Objectives cover Wrap-up | 0.30 | PowerPoint, MS Teams |

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Table 3 - Lesson plan of the two sessions

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

3.3 Internal Workshop on “Life Cycle Assessment of the three GREEN-LOOP value chains”

This workshop’s title was defined based on the needs analysis exercise conducted with project partners. It was held on 27th January 2025, hosted by AIMEN, and focused on introducing and applying Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods to the three GREEN-LOOP value chains.

The session explored the principles of LCA, data collection requirements, impact assessment methods, and how LCA results can inform decision-making for sustainable manufacturing. Real examples from the GREEN-LOOP value chains were presented to illustrate practical applications.

A total of 10 participants registered for the workshop. The training encouraged interaction through Q&A and discussion, enabling participants to connect the LCA methodology with their own work contexts.

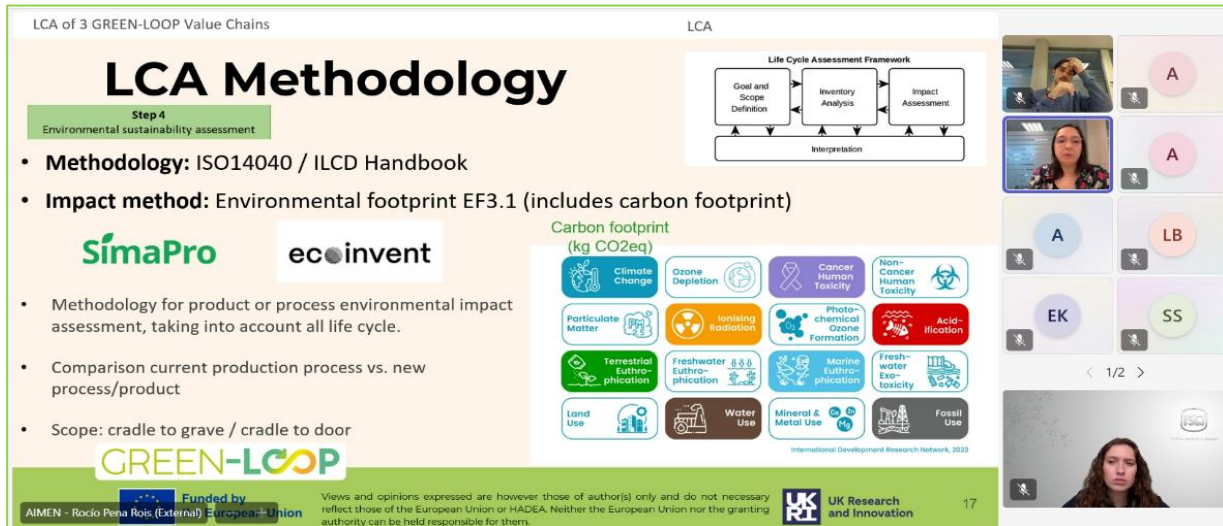


Figure 3 - Screenshot from the workshop on “Life Cycle Assessment of the three GREEN-LOOP value chains”

The activities followed the plan in the table below:

| Teaching Plan on “Life Cycle Assessment for the three GREEN-LOOP value chains” | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|--|---------------|--|
| 27/01/2025 | 1.10 | Microsoft Teams for interactive web call and recording |
| Welcoming of participants | 0.05 | |
| Ice breaking Activity | 0.10 | Mentimeter |
| The concept of LCA | 0.20 | PowerPoint |
| The LCA of the three GREEN-LOOP value chains | 0.20 | PowerPoint |
| Q&A Discussion with participants | 0.15 | |

Table 4 - Lesson plan for the internal workshop

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

3.4 Internal Workshop on “Sustainability and Environmental Benefits for Wood Composite Applications”

This workshop’s title was defined based on the needs analysis exercise conducted with project partners. It was held on 21st February 2025, hosted by FHF, and focused on exploring the sustainability aspects and environmental advantages of using wood composites in various applications.

The session covered material properties, environmental impact comparisons with alternative materials, lifecycle considerations, and examples of best practices in sustainable wood composite production and use.

A total of 12 participants registered for the workshop. The training encouraged active engagement through discussion and Q&A, allowing participants to share experiences and explore opportunities for implementing wood composites in sustainable product designs.

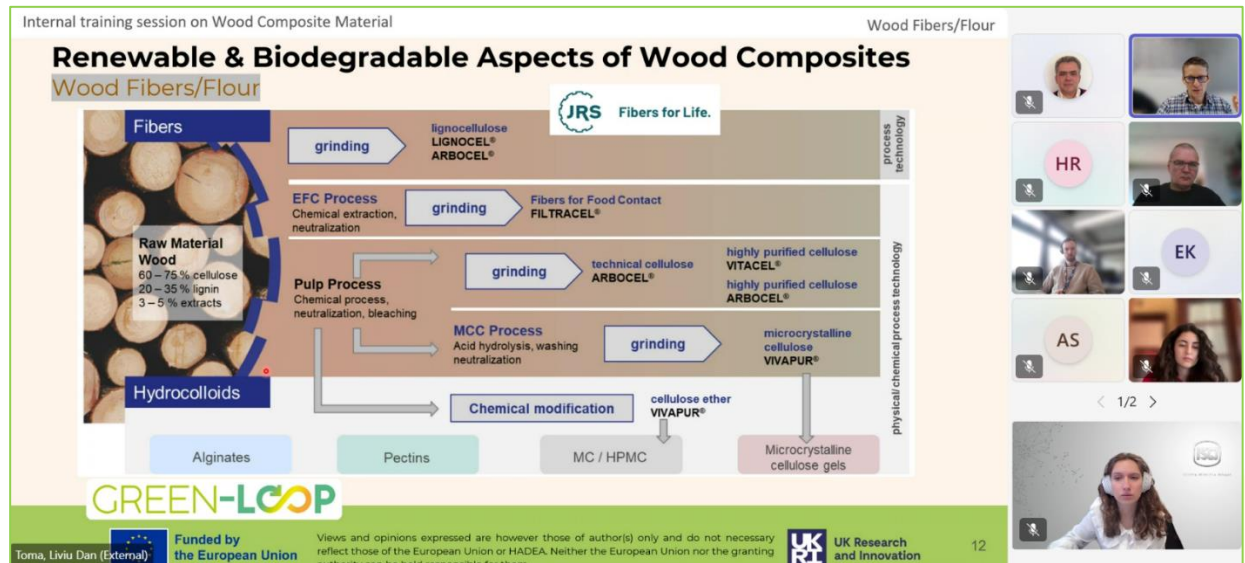


Figure 4 - Screenshot from the workshop on “Sustainability and Environmental Benefits for Wood Composite Applications”

The activities followed the plan in the table below:

| | | |
|--|---------------|-------|
| TEACHING PLAN on “Sustainability and Environmental Benefits for Wood Composite Applications” | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|--|---------------|-------|

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| 21/02/2025 | 2.5 | Microsoft Teams for interactive web call and recording |
| Overview and discussion of wood composites production and properties – identification of opportunities and risks | 60 min | Presentation and discussion FHF with support from ISQ, UBRIS and NCC |
| Discussion of applicability of the materials for bearings – performance, design | 30 min | Presentation discussion FHF |
| Ideas for components suitable to be manufactured with wood composites | 30 min | Presentation and discussion NCC with support from LBRT |
| Summary: Ideas for future actions of exploitation of project results | 20 min | all |

Table 5 - Lesson plan of the internal workshop

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

3.5 Internal Workshop on “Bio-Plastic Innovations”

This workshop’s title was defined based on the needs analysis exercise conducted with project partners. It was held on 25th March 2025, co-hosted by MIXCICLYIND and ISQ, and focused on recent innovations in bioplastics and their potential applications across industries.

The session introduced emerging bio-plastic materials, discussed advances in processing technologies, and examined sustainability benefits compared with conventional plastics. Practical examples and case studies were presented to illustrate performance characteristics, market trends, and challenges in scaling production.

A total of 25 participants registered for the workshop. Interactive discussions and Q&A segments encouraged participants to share perspectives, explore adoption barriers, and identify opportunities for integrating bio-plastic solutions into their own projects.



Figure 5 - Screenshot from the internal workshop on “Bio-Plastic Innovations”

The activities followed the Table below:

| TEACHING PLAN on “Bio-plastic Innovations” | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Onboarding and introduction | 1 hour | Microsoft Teams |
| Innovative Bio-Plastic Formulations (MIX) | | Presentation and discussion |
| Sustainability and Circularity in Bio-Plastic Manufacturing (MIX) | | Presentation and discussion |
| Challenges in replacing traditional plastics with bio-based alternatives (MIX) | | Presentation and discussion |
| Applications and Market Trends for Bioplastics (MIX) | | Presentation Discussion |
| Characterization Techniques for Bioplastics (ISQ) | 1 hour | Presentation Discussion |
| Mechanical, physical, and chemical testing of bioplastics (ISQ) | | Presentation Discussion |
| Methods for assessing durability, biodegradability, and safety (ISQ) | | Presentation Discussion |
| Q&A and discussions | | Microsoft Teams |

Table 6 - Lesson plan for the internal workshop

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For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

3.6 Internal Workshop on “The GREEN-LOOP platform”

This internal workshop was held on 27th June 2025, hosted by IDENER, and focused on demonstrating the features and functionalities of the GREEN-LOOP platform to project partners.

The session served as a practical tutorial rather than a structured training course, with no formal lesson plan. It guided participants through platform navigation, accessing content, uploading and managing resources, and using interactive tools for collaboration.

A total of 15 participants registered for the workshop. The session was recorded, and the tutorial video is available on the project’s SharePoint for future reference.

4 External Workshops

As part of the GREEN-LOOP project's capacity-building and dissemination activities, a series of three external workshops were organised, each focusing on one of the project's value chains. These events were designed to share project knowledge, foster stakeholder engagement, and promote the adoption of sustainable manufacturing practices.

The workshops targeted a mix of industry representatives, research institutions, and community stakeholders, addressing specific topics identified through a needs analysis exercise with project partners. Each session combined expert presentations, interactive discussions, and case studies to ensure effective knowledge transfer and active participation. They also served as a platform for exchanging experiences and exploring practical applications of the project's results within the context of each value chain.

4.1 External Workshop on "Bio-Plastic Formulations"

This external workshop, titled "Bio-Plastic Formulation", was held as part of the GREEN-LOOP project's dissemination activities and focused on innovative bio-plastic formulations and their role in advancing the circular bioeconomy. The session was hosted by Mixcycling and gathered 31 registered participants.

The workshop presented cutting-edge developments in sustainable materials, including the use of bio-based and biodegradable polymers combined with natural fillers such as rice husk and cork.

Key topics covered included:

- Formulation and application of bio-based, compostable plastics for packaging, closures, and cosmetic containers.
- Use of non-thermal plasma technology to treat organic fibres, enhancing compatibility with polymers.
- Real-world case studies, including bioplastic caps for olive oil and limoncello bottles, developed with industry partners.
- Compliance with the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and associated environmental benefits, such as reduced carbon footprints.

The workshop highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and certification in scaling up sustainable plastic alternatives and offered participants a forward-looking perspective on eco-conscious product design. The recording and photos of the session are available in the project's platform for reference.



Figure 6 - Screenshot from the external workshop on “Bio-Plastic Formulations”

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

4.2 External Workshop on “Sustainability and Environmental Benefits for Wood Composite Applications”

This external workshop, titled "Sustainability and Environmental Benefits for Wood Composite Applications", was held on 5th June 2025 as part of the GREEN-LOOP project's dissemination activities, focusing on the wood composites value chain. The session was hosted by FHF, with 15 registered participants.

The event brought together researchers, engineers, and sustainability advocates to explore how bio-based wood composites can revolutionise industrial applications. One of the hosts introduced the development of wood composite materials using renewable wood fibres, biopolymers, and natural additives, aiming to create high-performance, recyclable, and cost-effective materials for precision-engineered mechanical components such as sliding bearings. He detailed the formulation process, including sustainable raw material selection, integration of recycled glass fibres, and the use of microwave-assisted extrusion to boost energy efficiency. A novel fibreglass composite barrel for microwave heating during extrusion was also presented, designed to reduce energy consumption and improve material homogeneity. It was also provided a technical deep dive into tribological testing, assessing friction and wear performance under dry conditions with pin-on-disc and bearing test setups. Several bio-based formulations demonstrated low friction coefficients, high wear resistance, and thermal stability up to 120°C, making them viable alternatives to conventional thermoplastics in demanding applications.

The workshop showcased collaboration between partners including Technaro, GRS, NCC UK, and MixCycling, highlighting how joint efforts can advance circular, bio-based materials. The Q&A session explored challenges such as fibre degradation

during extrusion, the role of coupling agents, and scalability for industrial use. The event concluded with plans for component testing in conveyor rollers as the next step toward real-world validation.

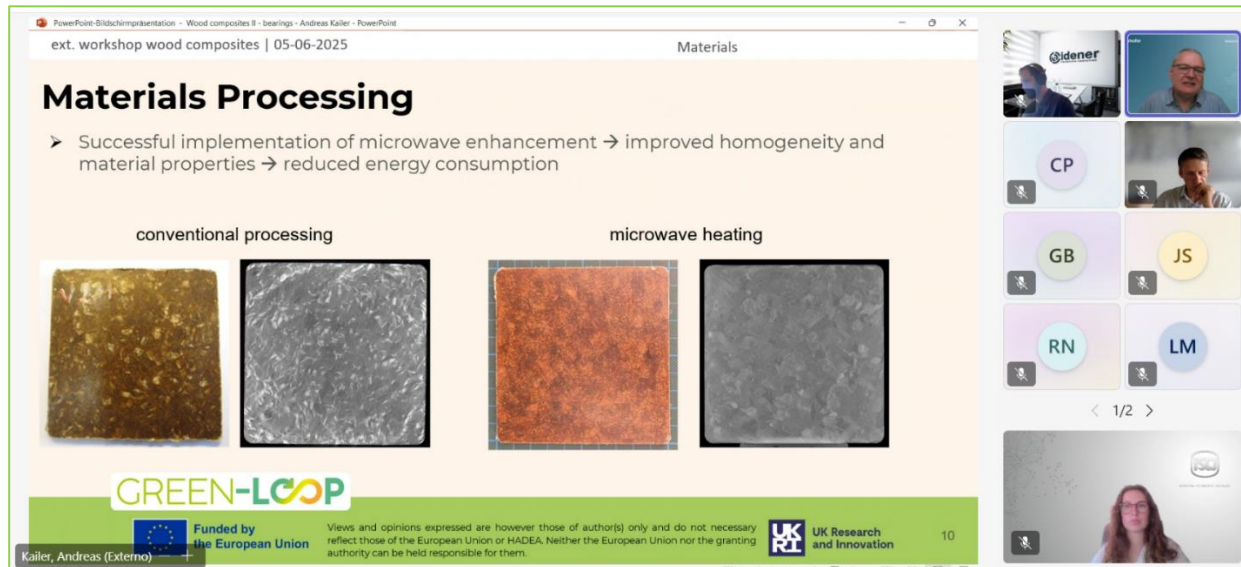


Figure 7 - Screenshot from the external workshop on “Sustainability and Environmental Benefits for Wood Composite Applications”

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

4.3 External Workshop on “Innovations in the Bio-Rubber Value Chain”

This external workshop, titled "Innovations in the Bio-Rubber Value Chain", was held on 16th July 2025 as part of the GREEN-LOOP project’s dissemination activities, focusing on advances in circular rubber panel development for construction and industrial applications. Hosted by the National Composites Centre (NCC), the event gathered 45 registered participants.

The session showcased collaborative progress in converting waste tyre rubber and lignin into recyclable vibration-damping panels. Key contributions included:

- Chemical devulcanization of rubber using deep eutectic solvents and low-power ultrasound, enabling selective bond breaking while preserving the rubber backbone, confirmed through microscopy and mechanical testing.
- Introduction of multilayer-coated rubber sheets to improve compressive strength, hysteresis, and compliance under impact and cyclic loads. These coatings, biodegradable and lignin-based, provided strong adhesion and stability.

- Vibrational testing on large panels (up to 0.5 m²), demonstrating enhanced damping with lignin addition, particularly under flexible floor configurations and walking load simulations.
- Fire testing results showing that untreated panels achieved Class E, while coated samples with water glass and lignin showed reduced ignition and heat release, offering potential for improved fire classification.
- The workshop concluded with circular reuse demonstrations, where recycled rubber panels were granulated for use in particle dampers, outperforming conventional materials in energy dissipation—especially at low frequencies.

This session illustrated how integrating sustainable chemistry, mechanical design, and rigorous testing can transform rubber waste into safe, functional, and fully circular building materials.

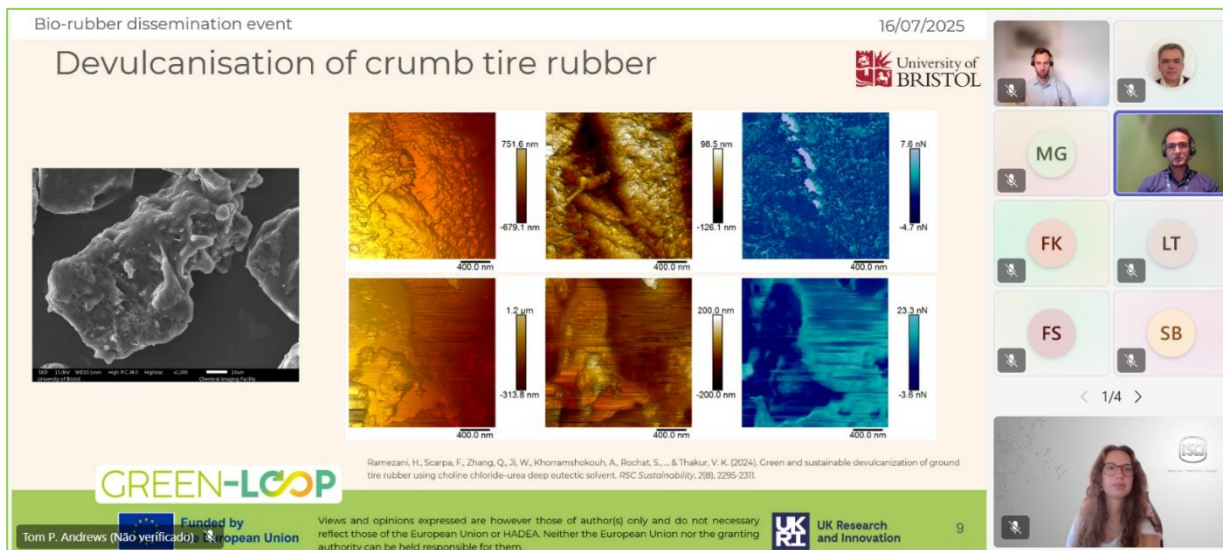


Figure 8 - Screenshot from the external workshop on “Innovations in the Bio-Rubber Value Chain”

For the evaluation results of the workshop, please refer to chapter “5. Quality and Evaluation”.

5. Quality and Evaluation

The quality and evaluation of the training activities represented a central part of Task 8.4 Training and Social Engagement. Every internal and external workshop was carefully assessed through participant feedback, ensuring that the sessions were not only delivered as planned but also met the knowledge needs of the target groups. Evaluation played a key role in verifying the relevance of the content, the clarity of delivery, and the effectiveness of the learning methods applied.

By collecting feedback after each session, the project was able to understand how well participants perceived the usefulness of the material, whether the workshops addressed their specific knowledge gaps, and to what extent they felt prepared to apply the insights in practice. The evaluation also provided a window into participants’ perspectives on the format and interactivity of the sessions, allowing the consortium to adjust its training approach over time.

This process was critical for ensuring quality and accountability. It helped demonstrate that the training activities were not only a formal exercise but a meaningful contribution to building skills and knowledge among stakeholders. More importantly, the evaluations offered insight into barriers, opportunities, and areas for improvement, ensuring that future workshops can be designed to achieve even greater impact. Through this systematic evaluation, Task 8.4 strengthened the transferability and long-term sustainability of the GREEN-LOOP results, ensuring that knowledge shared with stakeholders continues to generate value beyond the project itself.

5.1 Internal Workshop’s evaluation

For clarity within this report, the term IW will be used as an abbreviation for Internal Workshop. The numbering of these workshops (IW1, IW2, etc.) follows the same chronological order as presented in the reporting above.

The internal workshops were designed primarily as knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities among project partners. Unlike the external workshops, which targeted broader stakeholder groups, the internal sessions served as platforms to align consortium members, demonstrate project tools, and strengthen technical understanding across the different value chains. These sessions were more tutorial- and collaboration-oriented, ensuring that partners could effectively apply project methodologies, use the GREEN-LOOP platform, and integrate results into their ongoing work.

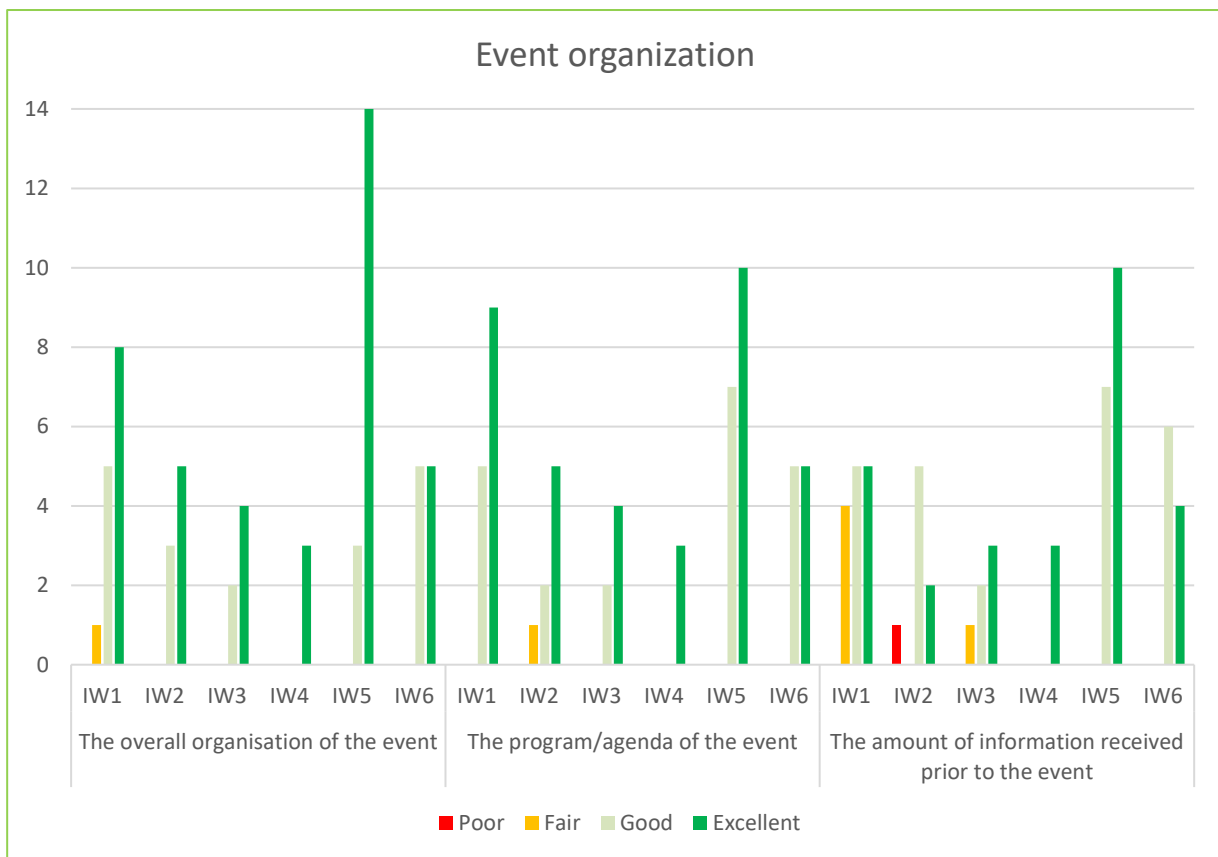
The following section outlines the results of each internal workshop, including participation levels, scope, and outcomes.

Feedback was collected on three key dimensions: the overall organisation of the event, the clarity and suitability of the programme or agenda, and the amount of information received prior to the sessions.

The results (Graph 1) highlight a clear improvement over the course of the workshops. While the first sessions (IW1–IW3) received generally positive feedback, there were some concerns raised regarding the consistency of organisation and the

level of information provided beforehand. A few participants rated these early workshops as “Poor” or “Fair,” pointing to gaps in communication and preparation. IW3 and IW4 showed more modest satisfaction levels, suggesting that additional effort was needed in structuring content and providing advance materials.

From IW5 onwards, however, the evaluations demonstrate a significant strengthening in quality. IW5 received the highest scores across all three criteria, with participants overwhelmingly rating the organisation, agenda, and pre-event information as “Excellent.” IW6 also performed strongly, maintaining this high standard and confirming that the improvements introduced were well received by participants.



Graph 1 - Event Organization evaluation- Internal Workshops

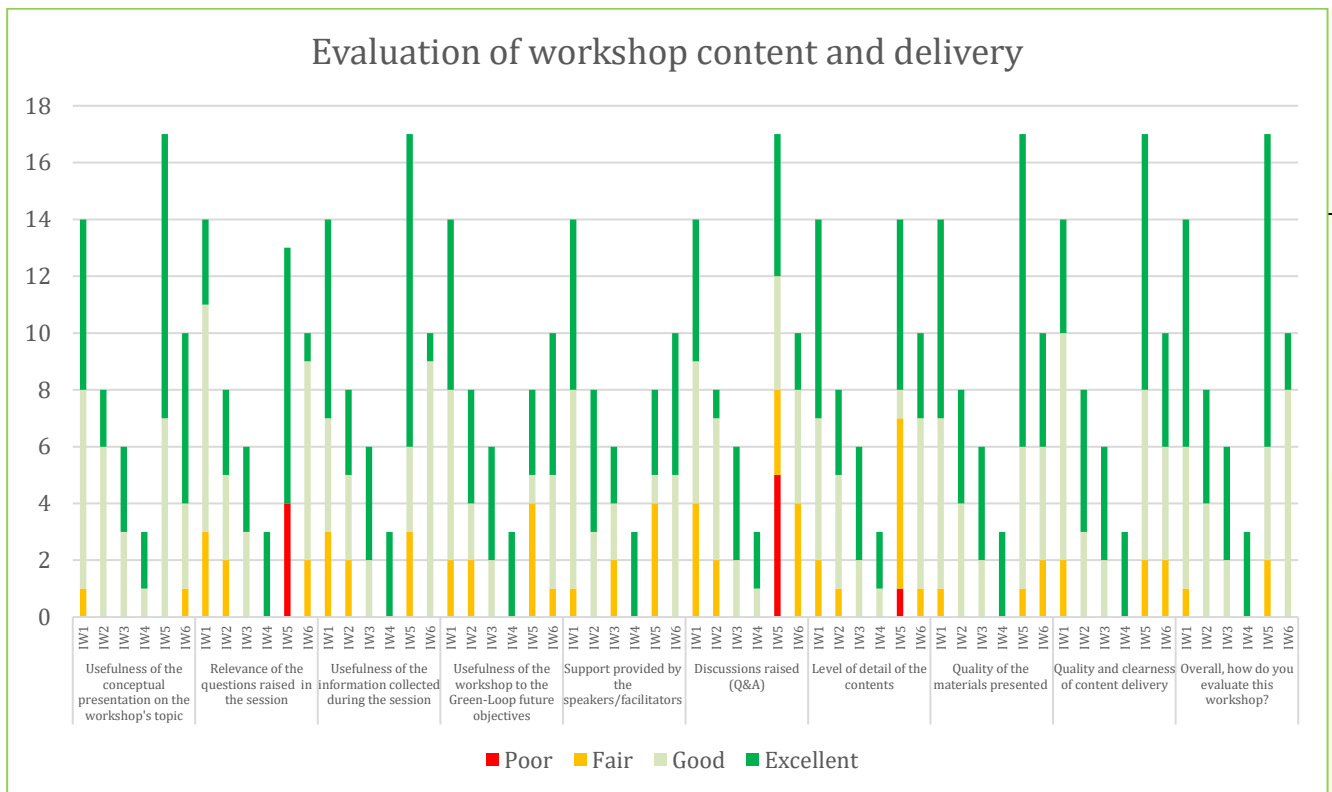
The feedback indicates that participants generally rated the workshops positively across these dimensions, with most responses falling in the Good and Excellent categories (Graph 2):

- Relevance of Topics: Consistently high ratings, with IW4 showing the strongest results, indicating that the content closely matched participant expectations and needs.
- Usefulness of Materials: Ratings were slightly more mixed compared to relevance, with some participants marking “Fair,” suggesting room for improvement in the supporting documentation and resources.

- Clarity of Presentations: Most participants rated presentations as Good or Excellent, although there was some variation across workshops. IW2 and IW4 appear to have received the strongest feedback here.
- Effectiveness of Trainers/Facilitators: High levels of satisfaction, especially in IW4, where most responses were “Excellent.”
- Opportunities for Interaction: Feedback here shows more variability, with several “Fair” ratings in earlier workshops (IW1, IW2), suggesting that interactivity was limited at first. Later sessions (especially IW4) were better received, showing improvements in encouraging discussion and engagement.

The data suggests that while the core content of the workshops was strong from the start, there was a clear improvement in delivery and interactivity over time. Early workshops were sometimes perceived as less interactive and with materials that could be refined, but later workshops showed marked improvement—particularly IW4, which received consistently high evaluations across all categories.

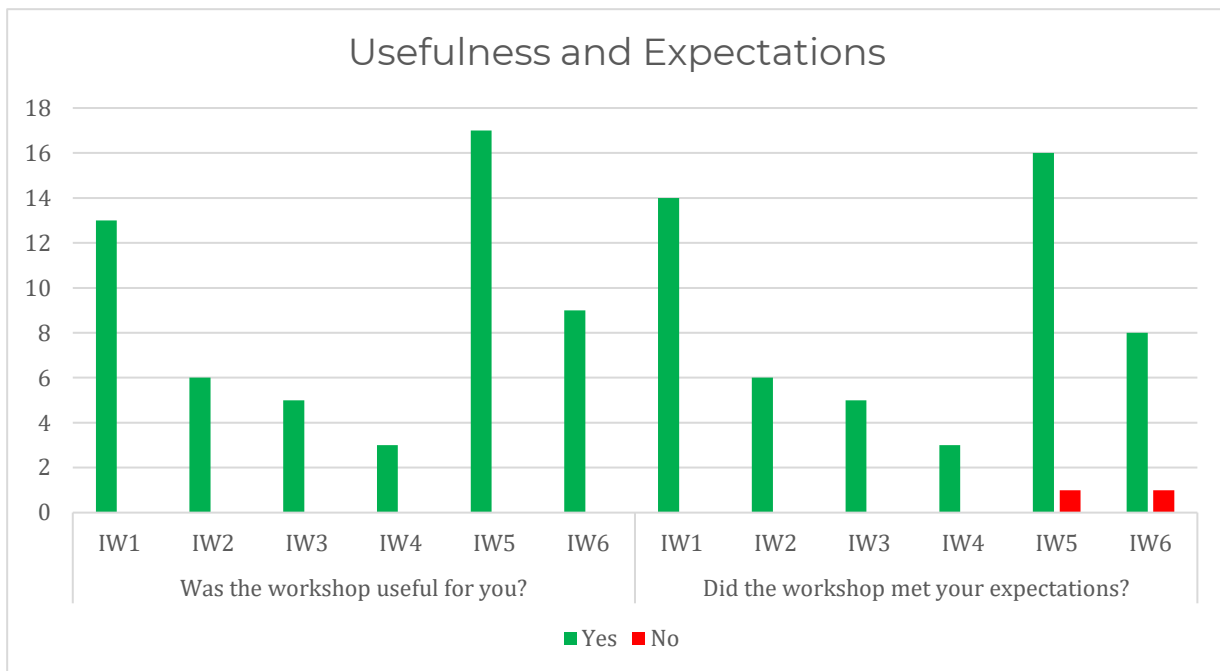
This progression demonstrates how feedback loops contributed to raising the quality of the sessions: facilitators adapted their delivery methods, materials became more targeted, and participants were given more opportunities to engage actively in discussions.



Graph 2 - Evaluation of workshop content and delivery- Internal Workshops

The Graph 3 titled “Usefulness and Expectations” shows most participants found the workshops useful and felt they met their expectations, with the highest positive feedback recorded for IW5 (17 “Yes” for usefulness and 16 “Yes” for expectations). IW1 and IW6 also performed strongly, while IW4 received the lowest ratings (3 “Yes” for usefulness and 2 “Yes” for expectations), suggesting it was the least effective session.

Only a small number of negative responses were recorded (notably in IW5 and IW6), indicating that dissatisfaction was minimal. The pattern across both questions is consistent: workshops that were rated highly useful were also seen to meet expectations, while weaker workshops scored low on both. These results highlight that while most workshops were well-received, IW4 may have required significant improvement in design or delivery, whereas IW5 can serve as a model of best practice.



Graph 3 - Usefulness and expectations

5.2 External Workshop’s evaluation

For clarity within this report, the term EW will be used as an abbreviation for External Workshop. The numbering of these workshops (EW1, EW2, EW3) follows the same chronological order as presented in the reporting above.

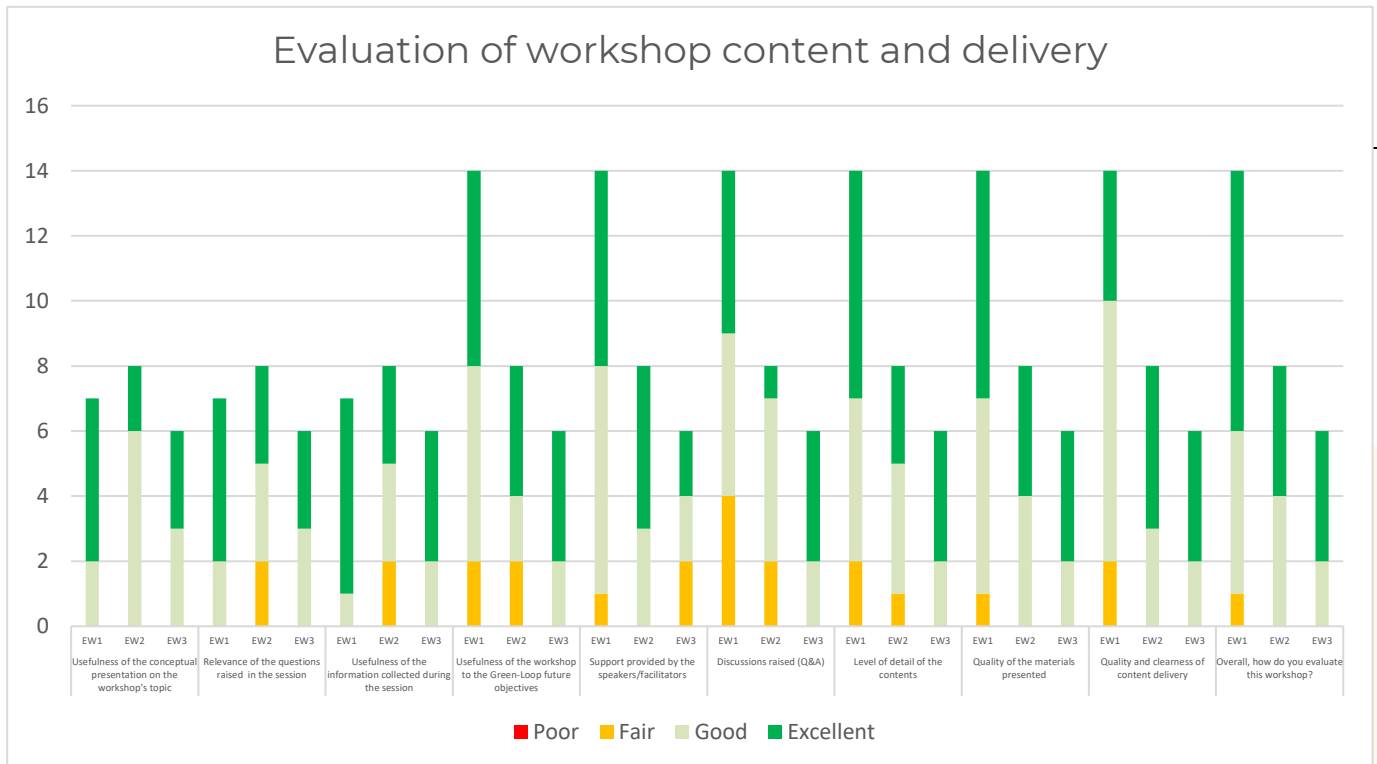
The external workshops were designed primarily as outreach and dissemination activities, targeting stakeholders beyond the consortium such as researchers, industry representatives, and sustainability practitioners. Unlike the internal workshops, which focused on capacity-building among partners, the external sessions served to showcase project results, exchange knowledge, and gather feedback from broader audiences across the three GREEN-LOOP value chains. Each

session was structured to highlight innovations, practical applications, and environmental benefits, while fostering dialogue with participants.

The following section outlines the results of each external workshop, including participation levels, scope, and outcomes.

Graph 4, titled Evaluation of workshop content and delivery, presents the participants’ feedback on several aspects of the external workshops. The results show a consistently positive evaluation across all dimensions, with most responses falling into the Excellent category. This is particularly evident in areas such as the clarity of presentations, the relevance of the topics, and the overall effectiveness of facilitators, where ratings of Excellent dominate, often reaching values above 10 responses. A significant number of good evaluations were also recorded, suggesting that while participants were highly satisfied, there remains a small margin for improvement in some aspects. Only a minimal number of Fair or Poor ratings appear across the different workshops, indicating isolated cases rather than widespread concerns.

Overall, the data highlights the strong performance of the external workshops in terms of content quality, delivery, and facilitation. The consistently high scores reflect that the sessions were well-prepared, informative, and engaging, successfully meeting their objective of building capacity and strengthening collaboration among project stakeholders. The very limited presence of negative feedback further reinforces that the workshops were well-received and effective in transferring knowledge.

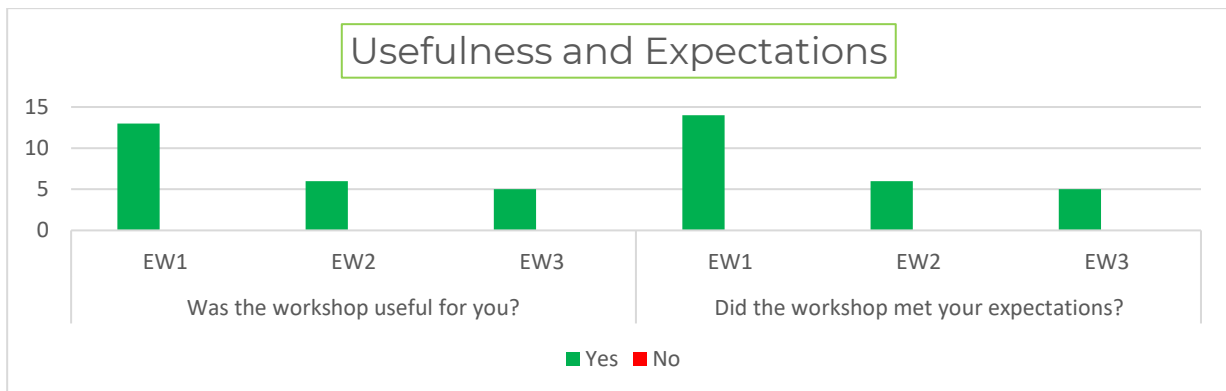


Graph 4 - Evaluation of workshop content and delivery- External Workshops

Graph 5, titled *Usefulness and Expectations*, highlights participants’ perceptions of the external workshops in terms of overall usefulness and whether the sessions met their expectations. The results are strongly positive, with all responses falling under “Yes” and none under “No,” indicating a unanimous recognition of the value of these workshops.

EW3 stands out most clearly, with the highest number of participants affirming both usefulness and alignment with expectations, suggesting that this session was particularly impactful and resonated strongly with attendees. EW1 also performed well, with a solid number of participants finding the workshop useful and meeting their expectations. EW2 shows slightly lower numbers compared to the other two workshops, but still entirely positive, indicating that while engagement may have been more modest, participants still perceived the session as valuable.

Overall, the graph demonstrates that the external workshops were successful in achieving their objectives, with participants across all three sessions acknowledging both their practical value and their relevance to expectations. The absence of negative feedback further reinforces the effectiveness and relevance of the workshops for consortium partners.



Graph 5 - Usefulness and expectations- External Workshops

6. Conclusions

The implementation of Task 8.4 has demonstrated the value of careful planning, strong partner collaboration, and systematic evaluation in achieving meaningful results for the GREEN-LOOP project. Beginning with a structured needs analysis and stakeholder mapping exercise, the workshops were designed to respond to clearly identified gaps in knowledge and skills across the consortium and among external stakeholders. The use of common templates for lesson planning and learning outcomes ensured consistency and alignment with project objectives, while the collaborative involvement of different partners in hosting and delivering sessions enriched the content and diversified the expertise presented.

The six internal workshops strengthened the consortium’s capacity by providing technical depth on key project themes and tools, as well as by creating opportunities for shared learning and integration of knowledge across value chains. Subsequently, the three external workshops extended the project’s impact beyond the consortium, engaging industry representatives, researchers, and community stakeholders in a dialogue on sustainable manufacturing practices and the adoption of bio-based materials. Together, these activities built a bridge between internal technical development and external dissemination, reinforcing the project’s role as both an innovation driver and a knowledge hub.

Evaluation was embedded throughout the process, functioning as a key quality assurance mechanism. Post-workshop feedback highlighted the strengths of the training activities, including the relevance of the topics, the clarity of presentations, and the opportunities for interaction. The results also revealed a positive trajectory: while early workshops identified some areas for improvement in organisation and pre-event communication, later sessions demonstrated clear enhancements in quality and participant satisfaction. This progression illustrates how continuous feedback loops enabled the consortium to adapt and refine its approach, ensuring workshops became increasingly impactful over time.

The contribution of partners was central to this success. ISQ coordinated the process and provided methodological guidance, while individual partners leveraged their expertise to design and deliver workshops tailored to their respective value chains. This collaborative approach ensured that the workshops combined academic knowledge, industrial practice, and practical case studies, making them both informative and applicable.

In conclusion, Task 8.4 has achieved its objectives of knowledge transfer, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement. It has not only supported the immediate needs of the project but also laid the foundation for long-term sustainability and replication of results. By combining thorough planning, collaborative delivery, and robust evaluation, the training and engagement activities of GREEN-LOOP stand as a model for how technical innovation can be effectively paired with capacity development and social dialogue to accelerate the transition towards sustainable manufacturing.

Annex 1 - Template for setting Learning Outcomes

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| TITLE OF THE COMPETENCE UNIT | Workload: |
|------------------------------|-----------|

OBJECTIVES [max. 500 characters including spaces]

The objectives of this unit are...

In this Unit, learners will...

| LEARNING OUTCOMES | | |
|---|--|--|
| Upon completion of this unit, the learner will be able to... | | |
| KNOWLEDGE | SKILLS | ATTITUDES |
| Theoretical/Factual knowledge in: or Specialized knowledge in: Etc... Etc. Etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please complete here • Please complete here Example: “Manage stress in the work environment.” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please complete here • Please complete here Example: “Explain the concept of hazard” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please complete here • Please complete here Example: “Differentiate hazards and risks” |

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Annex 2 - Template for the lesson plan

| TEACHING PLAN | CONTACT HOURS | TOOLS |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Day--- | Total of hours of this teaching plan | Discriminate every tool used for the specific activity |
| Please describe activities, dynamics, methodologies (...) that you plan on implementing | Time used for specific activity | Discriminate every tool used for the specific activity |
| Please describe activities, dynamics, methodologies (...) that you plan on implementing | Time used for specific activity | Discriminate every tool used for the specific activity |



Annex 3 - Registration survey for the Internal Workshops

GREEN-LOOP workshop on "XXX"

We are pleased to invite you and your colleagues to participate in the upcoming internal training sessions as part of Task 8.4 of the GREEN-LOOP project. These sessions will focus on XXXX.

Date and time: XXXX CET (via Teams Platform).

Key Topics to be Covered:

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

1 Name

2 Organisation

3 Email



Annex 4 - Evaluation survey for Internal and External Workshops

GREEN-LOOP workshop on "XXXX" - Session X

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this event evaluation questionnaire. Your comments will be analysed and considered for the organisation of future events.

Logistics

1 Regarding the event organisation, how would you rate...

| | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ... the overall organisation of the event? | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| ... the program/agenda of the event? | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| ... the amount of information received prior to the event? | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |

2 How would you rate the following items regarding the workshop implementation?

| Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Usefulness of the conceptual presentation on XXX | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Relevance of the questions raised in the session | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Usefulness of the information collected during the session | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Usefulness of the workshop to the GREEN-LOOP future objectives | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Support provided by the speakers/facilitators | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Discussions raised (Q&A) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Level of detail of the contents | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Quality of the materials presented | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Quality and clearness of content delivery | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Overall, how do you evaluate this workshop? | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |

Satisfaction

3 Was the workshop useful for you?

- Yes
- No
- If no, why?

4 Did the workshop meet your expectations?

- Yes
- No
- If no, why?

5 Which topics would you be interested in attending in the future GREEN- LOOP training events?

6 Do you have any further comments/suggestions?

7 Which topics would you be interested in attending in the future GREEN- LOOP training events?

8 Do you have any further comments/suggestions?

