

Charting a new course with CirclesOfLife: Circular and zero-emission shipbuilding

Launched in January 2024, CirclesOfLife is the EU-wide sustainable shipbuilding project where stakeholders throughout the shipbuilding supply chain work together to solve critical challenges on the way to circularity. CirclesOfLife is funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon Europe programme, and runs from 2024 to 2026 (contract 101138013).

CirclesOfLife brings together a diverse consortium of 15 maritime organisations from across Europe. From leading shipyards and technical universities to environmental NGOs, technology providers and other stakeholders, each partner brings unique expertise and experience in sustainable shipbuilding, environmental technology, and maritime innovation.

Together, they are committed to developing and implementing innovative methodologies, fostering material circularity, and enhancing the environmental performance of the shipbuilding process, front to end.

The consortium's work is also taking place in a specific regulatory context, with the new Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, which mandates European shipyards to monitor and report their environmental impacts comprehensively.

To achieve its goals, CirclesOfLife develops the Shipyard Environmental Performance Index (SEPI) and the Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Ship Passport, empowering stakeholders across the full supply chain to monitor, assess, and enhance their environmental footprint. SEPI will provide a standardized framework to European shipyards for monitoring and reducing their environmental footprint. The second one will be a means of documenting the lifecycle of materials used in shipbuilding, from design and production to repair and recycling.

Background Note:

The following organisations participate CirclesOfLife: Damen, BALance Technology Consulting GmbH, Center of Maritime Technologies gGmbH, Surfrider Foundation Europe, Netherlands Maritime Technology Foundation, Cetena S.p.A., Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft & Nobiskrug, Bureau Veritas M&O, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Delft University of Technology, NGO Shipbreaking Platform, University of Genoa, GALLOO, SEA Europe, ERIKS.

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