

## First Year of the LIAISE COST Action: Key Advances in innovation and sustainability under the framework of the Industrial Symbiosis

The COST Action CA22110 Cooperation, Development and Cross-Border Transfer of Industrial Symbiosis among Industry and Stakeholders (LIAISE) which was started on 24th October 2023 in Brussels celebrates first year of its existence. The Action is successfully led by Ms. Almudena Muñoz Puche from CETEM and currently involves 245 working group members from 49 countries (70% of participants from ITC), with a good gender balance (52% of working group members are females) and great involvement of young researchers (45%).

LIAISE's main goal is to create an inclusive and comprehensive approach to Industrial Symbiosis. It aims to foster strong collaborations, build a solid foundation for knowledge growth, and encourage research and development that lead to practical, impactful results.

The Action is divided into four working groups:

- WG1 Industrial Symbiosis: Technical Synergies, led by Prof. Aleksandar Erceg (Croatia), having currently 101 members,
- WG2 Industrial Symbiosis: Business Model, led by Dr. Hasan Volkan Oral (Türkiye), having currently 140 members,
- WG3 Enhancing the Awareness and Acceptance of Industrial Symbiosis, led by Prof. Besa Shahini (Albania), having currently 137 member, and
- WG4 Dissemination and Exploitation, led by Mr. Leonardo Piccinetti (Ireland), having currently 94 members.

During the first year of this Action there was organized core group, management committee and working groups meeting periodically online. In addition, some face-to-face events have been organised.



The first one was in Alicante (Spain) in April 2024, where the core group, the management committee and the workings groups met. Participants visited the headquarters of CETEM institution in Yecla and also one local furniture producing company being a great example of Industrial

Symbiosis. Last day of the meeting was dedicated to the active participation in an innovation forum in Alicante.

Under the lead of Prof. Aleksandar Erceg (WG1), a workshop was organised in September in Brussels. This event brought together experts from across Europe to discuss about the key technological solutions and the challenges faced in implementing Industrial Symbiosis (IS) across industries.

Dr. Hasan Volkan Oral (WG2), and Prof. Besa Shahini (WG3) were successfully organised in September and October workshop respectively a Working Group meeting (WG2 in Istanbul and WG3 in Riga).

LIAISE COST Action is well established in social networks ([YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#)) as well as in their [website](#).

To promote the results and impact if this Action among stakeholders, there were organised four thematical workshops with stakeholders (in February in Lithuania, in June in Serbia, in July in Armenia, in September in Slovenia and in Croatia in October).

In addition, the Action support the implementation of some networking tools. Concretely, the Action has funded 5 short-term scientific missions, 3 virtual mobilities, 1 dissemination grant and 4 ITC grants.

And what about the future, what to expect for the second year of this Action? For the second year the Action will continue to progress in the fulfilment of its more technical tasks such as the identification of technical and non-technical barriers, the publication of scientific articles, identification of training material related to Industrial Symbiosis and other key aspects, definition of KPIs, as well as continuing to implement the strategy of dissemination and promotion of the project to as many stakeholders and interested parties as possible.

During the second year will organise, at least, the following events:

- On November 2024 will be organised a core group and Management Committee meeting in Zagreb (Croatia).
- On February 2025 will be organised a joint-working group meeting of WG1 and WG2 in Skopje (North Macedonia) to coordinate, compare and bring together the results of associated research, ICT tools and other databases related to by-products, waste etc.
- On May 2025 will be organised WG2 workshop in Istanbul (Türkiye) to present know-how about the challenges and business perspective of LIAISE Action, other target groups and identified stakeholders.
- On September 2025 will be organised a joint-working group meeting of WG3 and WG4 in Korce (Albania) to discuss their progress regarding to WG tasks and to make a progress on efforts needed to achieve the objectives of this Action, especially in terms of stakeholders.
- LIAISE will actively (co-)organise two training schools:
  - February 2025 joint-training school with ECO4ALL Action in Athens (Greece) to address the synergies between LIAISE and ECO4ALL COST Actions
  - March 2025 LIAISE training school in Tirana (Albania) focusing on (i) rethinking industrial systems according to a new agenda, (ii) importance of Industrial Symbiosis in the context of sustainability, and (iii) business models for Industrial Symbiosis

The Action will again strongly support short-term scientific mission (expected approx. 8 grants), virtual mobilities (expected approx. 3 grants), ITC conferences (expected approx. 5 grants), dissemination grants (expected approx. 1 grant).

This action is open to anyone interested in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Action as well as sharing their know-how with the other participants, in order to create a solid network that will allow us to move forward and make Industrial Symbiosis a reality in the industries. Don't hesitate to join us!