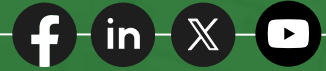


CIRCLE project Newsletter

ISSUE #3 - April 2026



Editorial

Dear readers,

The CIRCLE editorial team is delighted to welcome you to our third newsletter, where we continue to spotlight the progress, insights, and collaborative spirit driving the project forward.

In this edition, we feature an in-depth interview with Dr. Simon J. Jackson, Scientific Ambassador of the Davines Group. You will also find the latest updates from the project, alongside a curated selection of key developments, and noteworthy events, shaping the bioeconomy landscape.

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The project is supported by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and its members. Funded by the European Union under grant agreement No101157359. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CBE JU. Neither the European Union nor the CBE JU can be held responsible for them.



CIRCLE Dialogue

In this issue, we are pleased to present a special feature with **Dr Simon J. Jackson**, Scientific Ambassador of Davines grp [\[BIO\]](#).




In our conversation, Simon shares how Davines' involvement in the CIRCLE project is advancing circular and regenerative approaches to cosmetic innovation. He highlights the potential of transforming food production side-streams into high-quality, bio-based ingredients that balance sustainability with performance, while also addressing the regulatory and safety considerations needed to bring these innovations to market. Looking ahead, he reflects on evolving consumer expectations and the growing role of circular, science-driven ingredients in shaping the future of cosmetic formulations at Davines.

How does your involvement in the CIRCLE project support Davines' commitment to sustainable sourcing and innovation in cosmetic formulations?


Our involvement in the CIRCLE project aligns closely with Davines' broader commitment to regenerative and circular approaches to ingredient sourcing. Through CIRCLE, we are exploring how side-streams from food production can be transformed into high-quality cosmetic ingredients, contributing to a more circular bioeconomy. This complements our existing work in regenerative agriculture and botanical sourcing, allowing us to expand our ingredient portfolio beyond traditional plant-derived systems into scientifically validated circular materials. It also strengthens our ability to connect sustainability with performance, ensuring that innovation is not only responsible, but also relevant and effective in final formulations.

CIRCLE Dialogue




What are the main advantages of using bio-based clean lactate salts (CLS) and lactic acid from food waste in your skincare and haircare products compared to conventional ingredients?

Bio-based lactate salts and lactic acid derived from food waste offer several advantages. Firstly, they support circularity by valorising waste streams, reducing reliance on virgin raw materials. Secondly, when produced through controlled fermentation processes, they can offer high purity and consistency, which is essential for cosmetic applications. From a formulation perspective, lactic acid and its salts are multifunctional ingredients - contributing to pH regulation, hydration, and mild exfoliation in skincare, as well as conditioning and performance benefits in haircare. The combination of functionality, consistency, and improved sustainability profile makes them particularly interesting alternatives to conventional sources.



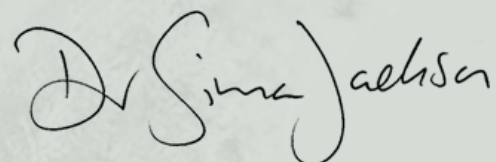
What are the key challenges and considerations in ensuring that these new bio-based ingredients meet regulatory requirements and safety standards for the cosmetics market?

The introduction of new bio-based ingredients requires careful alignment between innovation, regulatory frameworks, and safety evaluation. Key considerations include ensuring consistent quality and traceability of the raw material, defining appropriate specifications, and demonstrating safety through established toxicological and regulatory pathways. For Davines, an important aspect is also ensuring that the sustainability narrative is supported by robust data. This means going beyond origin and processing and ensuring that ingredients are fully characterised and suitable for their intended cosmetic use. Collaboration within projects like CIRCLE is particularly valuable in addressing these challenges, as it brings together expertise across production, analysis, and application.



How do you see consumer demand evolving for sustainable, bio-based cosmetic products, and what role do you expect innovations from CIRCLE to play in shaping future product lines at Davines?

Consumer expectations are evolving from a focus on "natural" towards a broader understanding of sustainability, including circularity, transparency, and scientific credibility. There is increasing interest in ingredients that not only perform well but also have a clear and responsible origin story - including the use of upcycled or bio-based materials. Innovations from CIRCLE have the potential to play an important role in this shift, offering ingredients that combine functionality with a strong sustainability profile. For Davines, this represents an opportunity to further integrate circular ingredients into our formulations, while maintaining the performance and sensorial qualities expected by our customers.



Dr. Simona Jackson

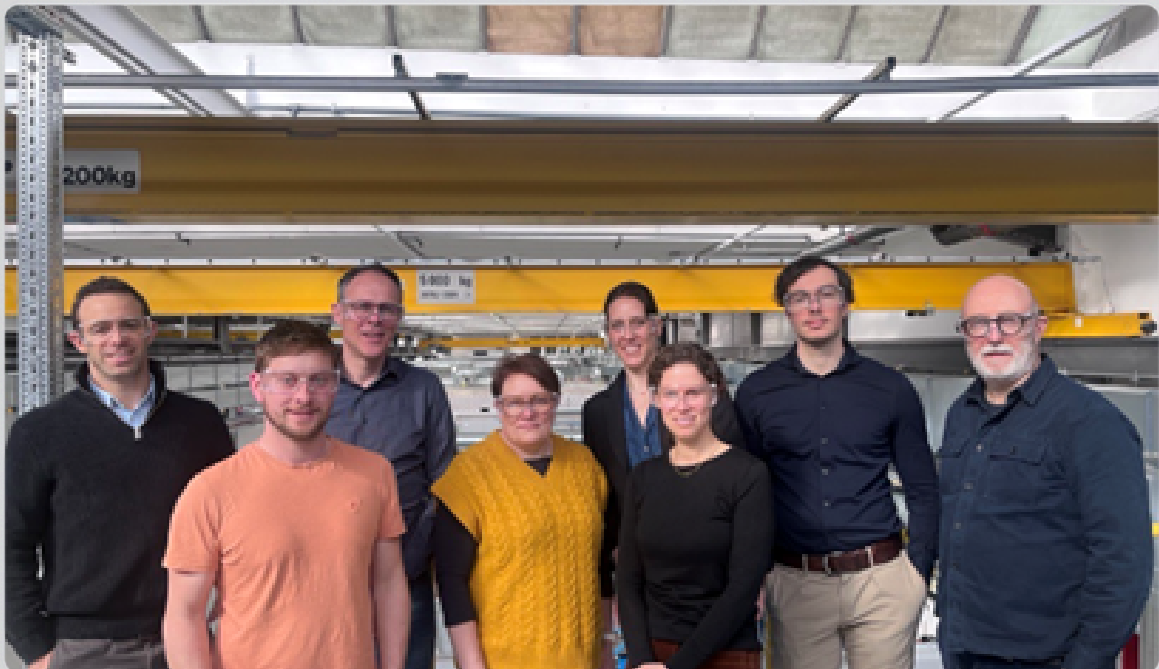
CIRCLE Updates

18-MONTHS CONSORTIUM MEETING

On March 10th to 11th, Sulzer hosted CIRCLE's fourth consortium meeting at their headquarters in Winterthur, Switzerland.

The partners covered a range of topics, including an upcoming project amendment, activities and progress made by individual partners, as well as a look ahead to upcoming project activities, including the use of LA and PLA in consumer products, as well as the organization of a PLA recycling workshop between Volkswagen, Sulzer, and TripleW.

Over the two days, partners enjoyed tours of Sulzer's various facilities in Winterthur, which showcased the company's technology, as well as the production process carried out a few months ago for the world's first PLA produced from food waste. The consortium also discussed dissemination and communication strategies and stakeholder engagement activities to maximize the impact of project results.



NEWS

Circular

EU Launches Strategic Framework to Boost a Sustainable Bioeconomy

The European Commission has adopted a new Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy, outlining plans to transition Europe toward a cleaner, circular, and resilient economy. By harnessing renewable biological resources from land and sea and promoting alternatives to critical raw materials, the Strategy aims to reduce reliance on fossil imports and decarbonise key sectors.

The bioeconomy, spanning agriculture, forestry, biotechnology, and biomanufacturing, already contributes an estimated €2.7 trillion to Europe's economy and supports 17.1 million jobs. Yet much of its potential remains untapped. The new framework seeks to scale up innovation and investment, translating laboratory breakthroughs into market-ready solutions in bio-based chemicals, plastics, textiles, construction materials, and fertilisers.

Key measures include creating a simplified regulatory environment, forming a Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group to mobilise private capital, and stimulating demand through the Bio-based Europe Alliance, targeting €10 billion in bio-based procurement by 2030. Sustainability is central, promoting responsible biomass sourcing, circularity, and support for farmers and foresters. The Strategy positions the EU as a global leader in bio-based technologies, strengthening supply chain resilience and driving economic growth while protecting the environment.

[More information here...](#)



Bioplastics Market Development Update 2025: Steady Growth and Expanding Applications

The global bioplastics market continues to grow, driven by innovation, expanding applications, and rising demand for sustainable materials. According to the Bioplastics Market Development Update 2025, global production capacities of bio-based plastics are expected to double from 2.31 million tonnes in 2025 to 4.69 million tonnes by 2030. Despite this growth, bioplastics still account for only 0.5% of the 431 million tonnes of plastics produced annually, highlighting both progress and untapped potential.

Material diversification is a key driver, with alternatives now available for nearly every conventional plastic type. Strong development is seen in PLA and PHA, alongside rising capacities for bioPP and steady growth in bioPE, enabling wider adoption in demanding applications. Packaging remains the largest segment (41.3% of production), while automotive and transport are growing rapidly, reflecting increasing acceptance in high-performance sectors.

Europe plays a central role, particularly in bioPP, bioPE, and PHA, strengthening its position in the global bioplastics value chain. Operating at 72–73% of capacity, the industry shows solid utilisation and room for scale-up. The market is steadily moving from niche to mainstream, offering significant opportunities for sustainable growth.

[Read more here...](#)




EVENTS

Circular



34th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition

19-22 May 2026 


The Hague, THE NETHERLANDS 


The 34th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EUBCE 2026) is a leading global event for biomass, bioenergy, and circular bioeconomy.

With over 40 years of history, EUBCE brings together around 1,500 experts from academia, industry, and policymaking across more than 60 countries. The programme features scientific sessions, workshops, exhibitions, and interactive formats focused on the latest research and market-ready innovations. Networking is a core element, supported by social events and dedicated exhibition forums highlighting EU-funded projects. The Scientific Conference Programme is coordinated by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, with support from Circular Bio-Based Europe. [More info...](#)



EU Green Week 2026: Spotlight on Nature-Positive Growth

3-9 June 2026 

Brussels, BELGIUM 

This year's EU Green Week will highlight the business case for nature, showing how a nature-positive economy drives Europe's prosperity, resilience, and competitiveness


Organised by DG Environment, the event brings together policymakers, investors, businesses, farmers, urban planners, and civil society to explore practical solutions in sustainable farming, soil health, urban greening, and reversing rural flight. The programme features panels, a movie night, and, for the first time, a startup-investor matchmaking event for nature-based innovations. Partner events across Europe will engage citizens with debates, workshops, and project visits. [More info...](#)

EVENTS

Circular



3rd Global Summit on Biopolymers and Bioplastics

8-9 June 2026 


Rome, ITALY 

The 3rd Global Summit on Biopolymers and Bioplastics will take place in Rome at a critical time for sustainable materials and circular bioeconomy

As environmental pressures intensify, biopolymers and bioplastics are gaining importance as alternatives to conventional plastics, offering biodegradability and reduced carbon footprints. The summit provides an international platform to showcase scientific and industrial progress, encourage collaboration, and address key challenges such as production costs, scalability, performance limitations, and end-of-life management. Discussions will highlight recent technological breakthroughs, waste-to-bioplastics solutions, market growth driven by circular economy initiatives, and policy developments such as the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive promoting bio-based materials. [More info...](#)



BIO INNOVATIONS EUROPE (formerly World Bio Markets)

10-11 June 2026 

The Hague, THE NETHERLANDS 

Bio Innovations Europe (formerly World Bio Markets) is Europe's premier event for scaling industrial biomanufacturing.

Over two days, 500+ bio-pioneers will connect through pre-arranged 1-2-1 meetings, conference sessions, and networking opportunities. The event brings together bio-developers, producers, chemical manufacturers, consumer brands, investors, and suppliers to generate deal flow, source innovations, and accelerate commercialisation. Focusing on translating existing scientific breakthroughs into industrial-scale solutions, Bio Innovations Europe enables direct connections between innovators and partners who can bring their technologies to market. [More info...](#)

great things happen in CIRCLES



and...
be part
of ours



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PROJECT COMMUNICATION



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