



RISE

**Resilient Innovation Ecosystems
for EU Value Chains**

**Global Stone Congress 2025
Drama, Greece | 16th – 20th June 2025**

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Building Resilient Innovation Ecosystems for Circular Economy Investment - RISE Project - Seminar

Industrial **circular economy solutions**—particularly in sectors like construction, minerals, and advanced manufacturing—are essential to achieving Europe's climate and cohesion goals. Yet across the EU, and especially in less developed and transition regions, these solutions face persistent barriers:

- High capital and operational costs,
- Weak interregional collaboration,
- Fragmented or incomplete value chains, and
- The chronic inability of innovations to progress from R&D to market—a challenge often described as the “Valley of Death.”

Despite strong policy support from initiatives like the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan, many regions still lack the investment structures and collaborative frameworks needed to scale sustainable technologies and business models.

The **RISE project – Resilient Innovation Ecosystems for EU Value Chains** – funded under the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3-2022-CAP2b), responds directly to these challenges.

By building an **interregional support system** that connects SMEs, clusters, investors, research organisations, and public bodies, RISE facilitates the co-development and co-investment of circular economy solutions—bringing them to market, particularly in regions lacking the infrastructure, expertise, or access to capital. The project supports regions to:

- Map their innovation capacity,
- Align local strengths with EU value chains through Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3), and
- Create roadmaps for future investment and replication.

RISE focuses on circular innovation in three strategic areas: sustainable manufacturing, the bioeconomy, and new energetic pathways—including technologies related to minerals and construction.

This seminar will **explore how RISE is building a bridge between innovation and investment**—and how actors in the mineral and construction sectors can engage with this growing ecosystem to scale up circular solutions across Europe.

Seminar Programme

Day 19 June | 16:30 – 17:30



16:30 – 17:00

RISE Project Presentation

Speaker:

Marta Peres, Executive Director
Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources

- Welcome & opening remarks
- The context: why circular innovation struggles to scale in the EU
- Introducing RISE: goals, funding, and strategic focus
- How RISE works: methodology and the Innovation Investment Maturity Accelerator
- Key results and what the project delivers
- Relevance for the mineral and construction sectors
- Final remarks and transition to discussion

17:00 – 17:30

RISE Into the Future – Interactive Brainstorming Session (30 Minutes)

Objective: Engage participants in an open exchange of ideas inspired by the RISE approach, and explore opportunities for cross-regional collaboration.

Format: Moderated discussion + individual input

Structure:

Green Deal Challenge.

Invite participants to share ideas on how the RISE model could support Green Deal objectives within their sector or region. Encourage reflections on circularity, decarbonisation, and sustainable innovation.

Digital Transition Challenge.

Prompt discussion on how digital tools and innovation ecosystems could accelerate circular economy goals. Ask: What role can digitalisation play in bridging gaps in value chains or investment readiness?

Call for Collaboration.



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