



## Subject: Call for Scientific and Innovative Proposals: Environment, Circular Economy, and Waste Management

Communities face a wide range of environmental challenges that require local action and collaboration to overcome. These challenges can vary depending on the geographical location, population size, and local industries. Some common environmental challenges that communities often encounter include, Waste Management, Air Quality, Water Pollution, Land Use and Urban Development, Climate Resilience, Energy Consumption, Deforestation and Green Spaces, Environmental Education, Preservation of Local Ecosystems and many more. Overcoming these environmental challenges requires engagement and cooperation among community members, local government, businesses, and non-governmental organizations. Community-based initiatives, sustainable policies, and collective efforts can play a significant role in making a positive impact on the environment and creating a healthier and more resilient community.

To this direction, we are pleased to announce a Request for Scientific and Innovative Proposals in the fields of Environment, Circular Economy, and Waste Management. Our consortium is committed to finding sustainable and effective solutions to address pressing environmental challenges and promote circularity in various industries.

### Project Overview:

The primary objective of this initiative is to identify groundbreaking research and innovative projects that can contribute significantly to environmental conservation, circular economy practices, and efficient waste management. We are eager to collaborate with forward-thinking individuals and teams who can offer novel insights, methodologies, and technologies in these crucial areas.

### Scope of Proposals:

We welcome proposals that cover, but are not limited to, the following themes:

#### 1. Sustainable Waste Management:

- Advanced waste sorting and recycling technologies
- Circular business models for waste reduction and resource recovery
- Waste-to-energy conversion processes

#### 2. Circular Economy Implementation:

- Strategies for extending product lifecycles and reducing waste generation
- Circular supply chain and logistics optimization
- Circular design principles for products and packaging

#### 3. Environmental Conservation and Restoration:

- Biodiversity preservation and restoration techniques
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures
- Sustainable land use and ecosystem management

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#### 4. Environmental responsibility practices for business and individuals

- ESG implementation
- Carbon Offsetting
- Sustainable Product Design
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Adopting the "3 R's" principle

#### 5. How to create a friendly public space that stimulates all 5 senses, in accordance with the idea of circular economy and using natural resources

#### Eligibility criteria:

The call is open for everyone that want to contribute towards environmental protection and sustainability related to one of the thematic above. Indicatively, participants can be students or group of students, individuals, start-ups and academic staff.

#### Submission Details:

Registration form: [\(insert link\)](#)

In the registration form you have to provide:

- Idea Name
- To what thematic from the below list your idea corresponds
- Short Summary (max 175 characters)
- Name(s) of the participant(s)

Deadline: 8th of August

Each participant (individual or team) can submit 2 proposals in total, 1 proposal per thematic of their choice from the above. In the case of two submissions, registration must be completed twice.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

The submitted ideas will be evaluated by an evaluation committee comprised of professors, industry experts and representatives of public entities that are members and associates of the HEI4S3-RM project. Evaluation committee will select the first 10 best proposals.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific and Innovative Approach
2. Potential Impact on Environment and Circular Economy
3. Feasibility and Resources
4. Qualifications and Expertise of the Research Team
5. Originality and Novelty of the Proposal



Selected proposals will be communicated on: 6th September and they will be invited to participate in the **“ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE DAY”** event in Kavala, Greece at the end of September (28-30/09/2023). The event will be hybrid and proposers could participate by distance as well.

Proposals that will be promoted to take part in the ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE DAY will have the chance to pitch their ideas to stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. At the end of the event, stakeholders will deliberate on the performance of each pitch and will conclude on 5 winning proposals. Participants will receive a certificate and the winners will be nominated a medal of excellence.

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<sup>1</sup> an individual, group or organization that's impacted by the potentials of the proposed idea and will sponsor the venture

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