



Circular
Cities & Regions
Initiative

Why Bioeconomy Accelerators Matter for Europe's Transition

CCRI & Project Development
Assistance (PDA) as bridges
from innovation to deployment

Why the circular bioeconomy matters for Europe's territories

Cities and regions are key implementation actors

- They manage or influence:
 - biowaste and wastewater systems
 - local industrial ecosystems
 - public procurement & infrastructure
 - local innovation ecosystems
- They can accelerate deployment by:
 - organising circular value chains
 - supporting demonstration environments
 - enabling industrial symbiosis
 - developing investment-ready project pipelines

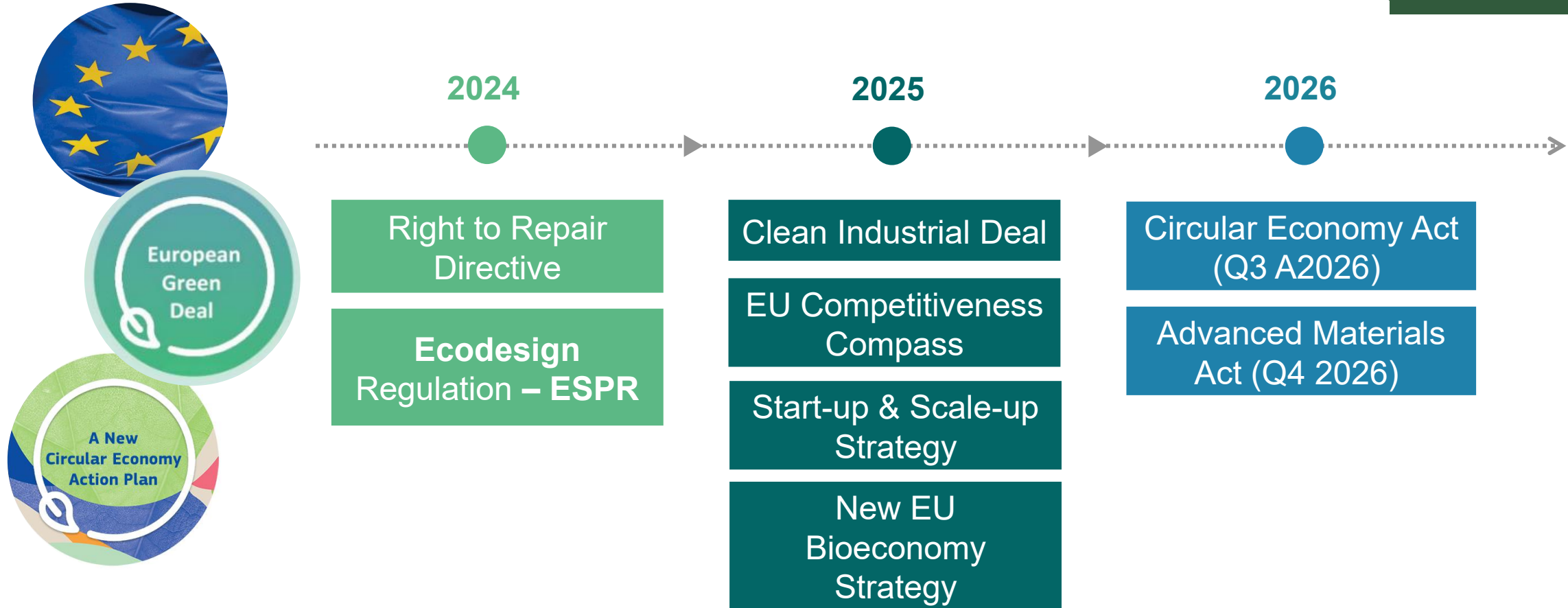
Europe's bioeconomy transition will happen locally.



A strengthening EU policy framework



Scan for full EU
policy information



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Bridging the gap

Research → Pilot → Demonstration → **VALLEY OF DEATH** → Deployment → Scale-up

THE CHALLENGE

Europe generates innovation...

- Strong Horizon Europe pipeline
- Emerging bio-based solutions (e.g. biorefineries, biomaterials, nutrient recovery, bio-based chemicals)

...but many projects stall before deployment.

WHY PROJECTS STALL

Circular (bio-based) projects face:

- High upfront investment needs
- Technology and scale-up risks
- Fragmented local value chains
- Difficult permitting and procurement
- Low investment readiness

Accelerators and PDAs help bridge this gap.



What is the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI in short)

1



Systemic approach

linking sectors, value chains, and governance structures

2



Hands-on support

combining technical, financial, and advisory services tailored to each city/region

3



Vibrant community

140+ cities/regions and 300+ organisations actively collaborating

4



Knowledge & tools

tailored to real implementation needs

5



Support for maturing circular solutions

from early piloting to replicable, investment-ready projects

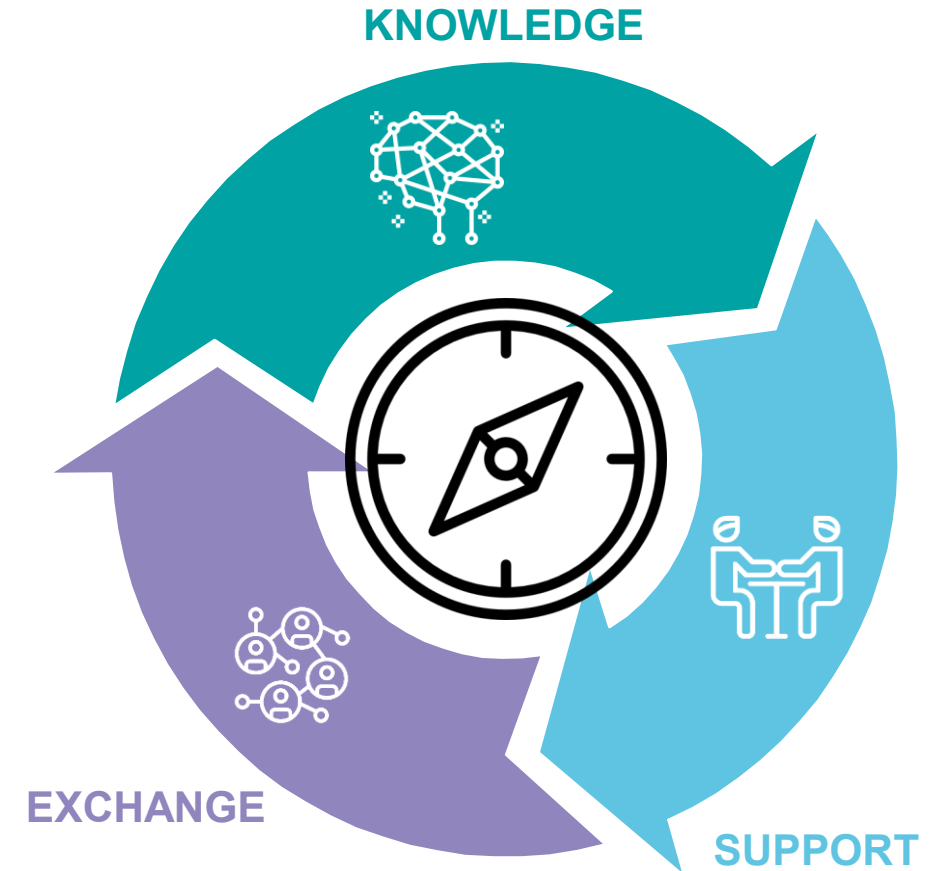


What CCRI offers

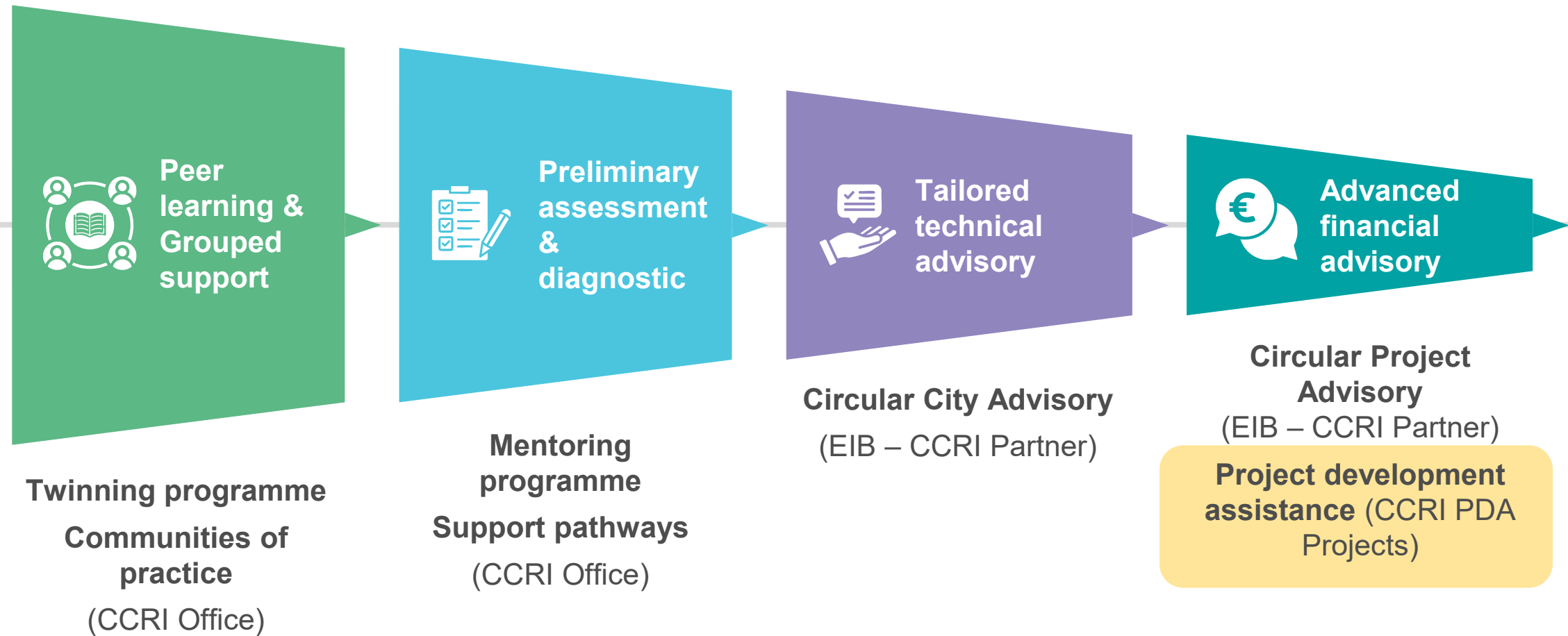
CCRI supports cities and regions through:

- **Knowledge:** methodologies, tools, solution catalogues
- **Exchange:** peer learning, twinning, communities of practice
- **Project support:** technical + financial advisory (incl. EIB's C3)

Use the CCRI Compass



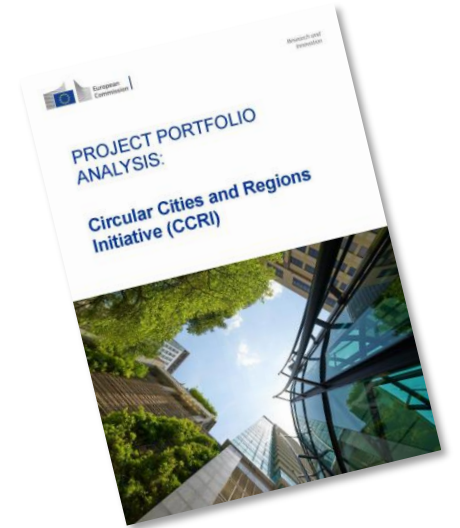
Supporting you at every step of the Circular Journey



PDA – Project Development Assistance

What PDAs Do

- Prepare circular projects for investment.
- Cover feasibility, governance, procurement, finance structuring, risk, etc.
- Typical target: **≤€20M investment**, support ≈10%.
- Aim: **turn preparation into signed investment deals.**



Discover the CCRI
Project Portfolio Analysis



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PDA – Early Lessons

Lessons Learned

- “Soft work” (governance, procurement, business model) often decisive.
- Early **investor engagement** = success factor.
- Variable leverage → need early alignment with financiers.
- Design for **replicability & scalability**.
- Must adapt to **local capacity & context**.
- **Time & iteration** matter for quality proposals.
- **Knowledge sharing** key for community learning.



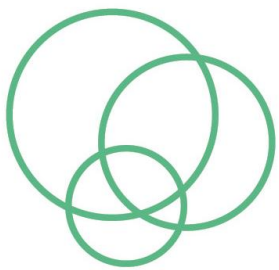
Looking Ahead – CCRI 2026+

Priorities ahead:

- Strengthen **peer learning & replication**.
- Develop **tiered support** for territories at different maturity levels.
- Link circularity more closely with **raw materials, climate action, digitalisation and industrial resilience...**
- Focus on **project maturity and investment readiness**, deepening **investor engagement**,.

Overall goal: scale up, consolidate progress, mobilise private sector, and strengthen climate-circularity nexus.





**Circular
Cities & Regions
Initiative**



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