

Plastics Circularity  
Multiplier



*in-built Triggered Enzymes to Recycle Multi-layers: an Innovation for Uses in plastic-packaging*

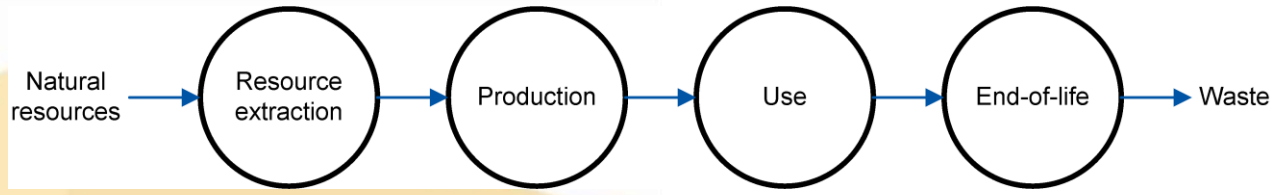
# Time control of the circularity of plastic multilayer packagings



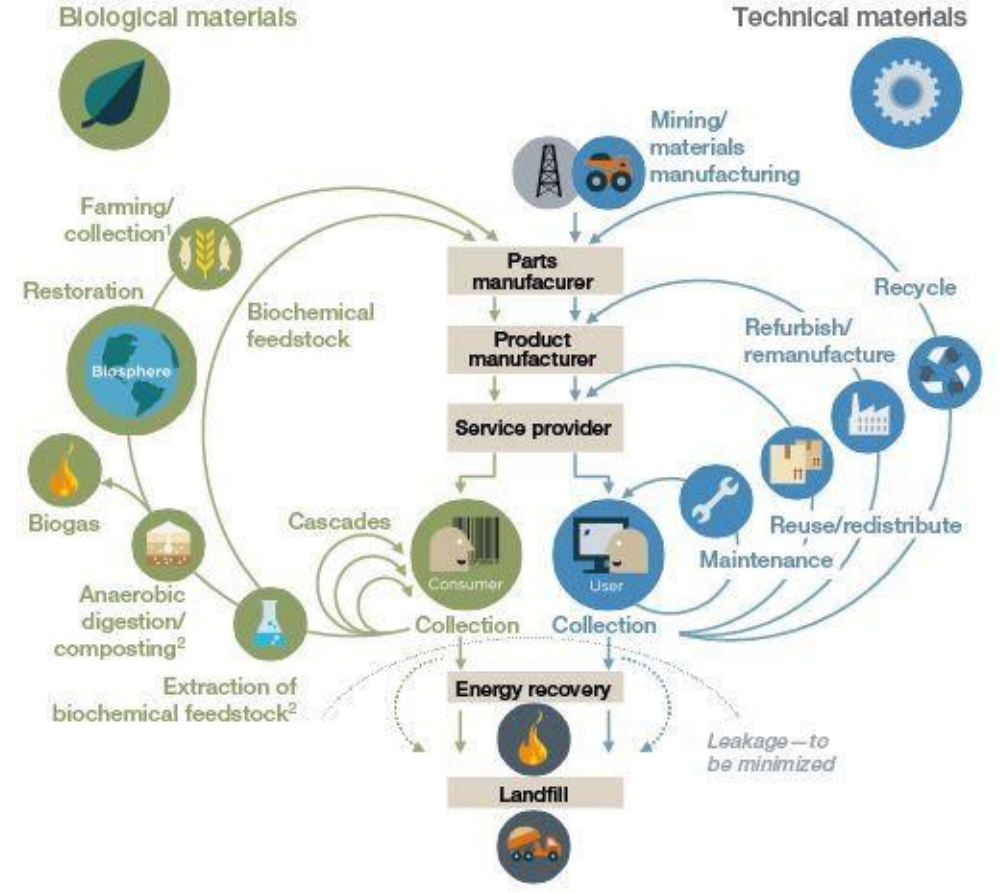
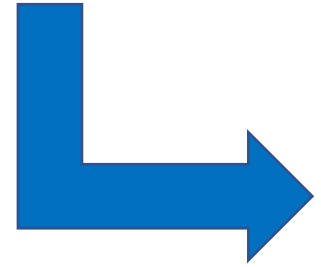
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# From linear to circular economy



→ Take → Make → Use → Throw and Dispose



# Questions?

- Clear and precise definition of circularity?
  - *Bio based vs petrol based / Biodegradable / Recyclable*
- How to measure circularity?
  - *Metrics and their relevance?*
- How to assess the environmental benefits linked to the jump from LE to CE?
  - *Connecting CE metrics to LCA indicators ?*

# Time dimension of Circularity

## - Time renewal of the resource

→ *Metrics = Carbon use time ? Zero time? Reference time?*

## - Service time (ST)+ Material Lifetime Durability (MLD)

→ *MLD  $\geq$  ST (preferable  $\approx$ ) at every cycle to ensure fiability!*

→ *Recycled material = ST preferably longer for cycle 2 than for cycle 1 :  $ST_n, \dots, ST_2 > ST_1$*

# Material /Service vs Lifetime Durability

- Physical / mechanical

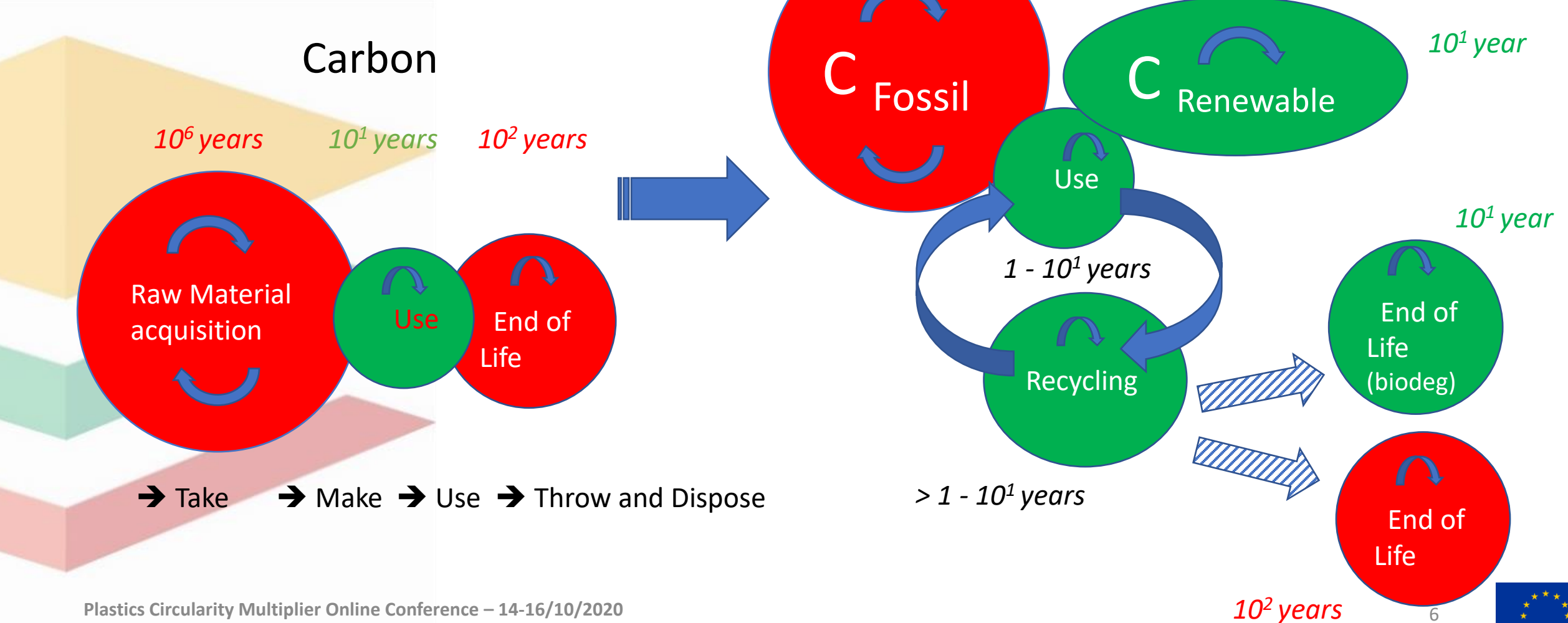
- Molecular weight changes
- loss of properties - Material failures

- Chemical (aging)

- Oxidation by-products : carbonyl and hydroxyl groups (FTIR)

# Circularity = a matter of time

## Fossil plastics





## Objective of the project





TERMINUS addresses the challenge of unlocking recycling and reuse of flexible multi-layer and multi-compound packaging

- Range of smart enzyme-containing adhesive or tie layer polymers
- Intrinsic self-biodegradation properties
- On-demand controlled biodegradation of adhesives and tie-layers
- **Enable separation of different layers of packaging, which can then be recycled after having been collected and sorted**

# Background

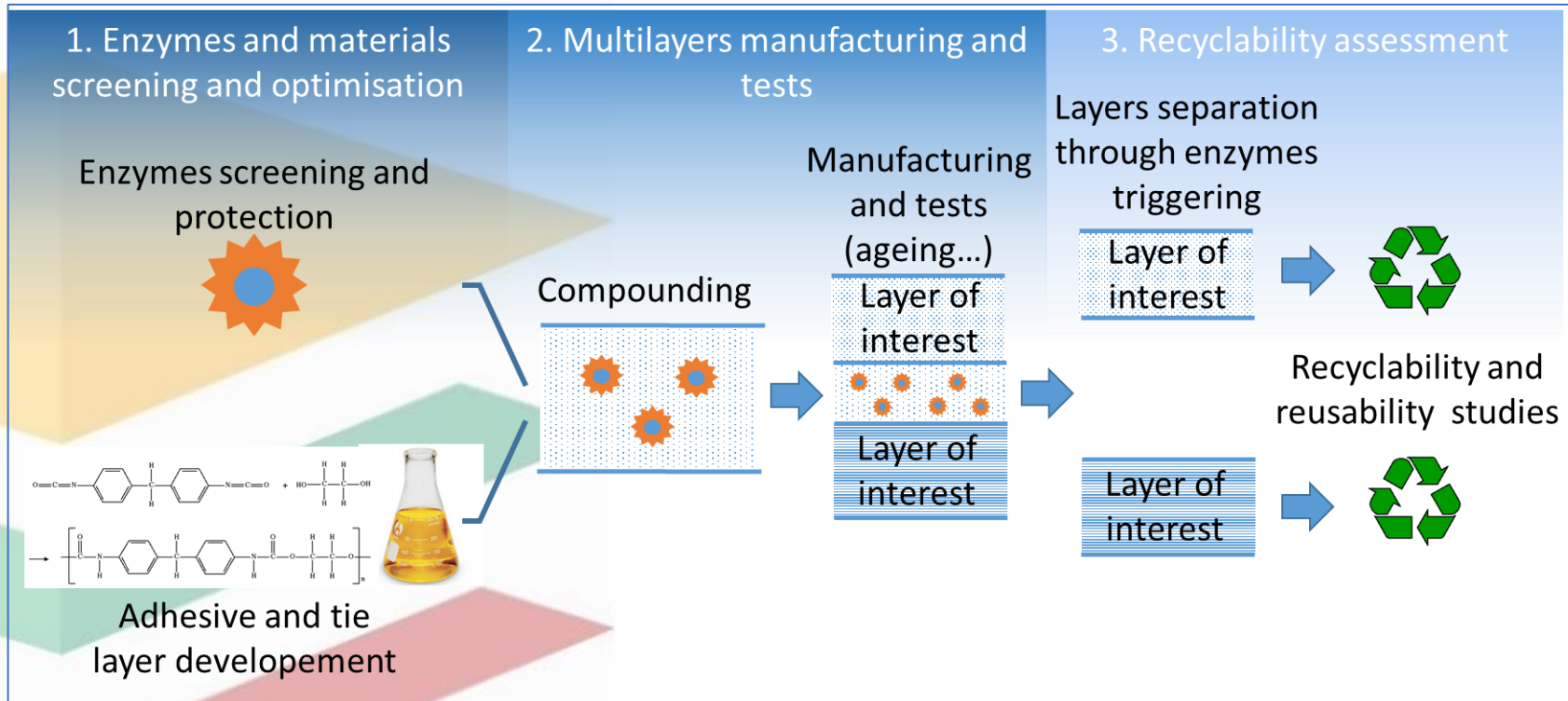
## Multi-layer packaging

- Widely used due to many properties
- Used for packaging of food, beverages, cosmetics, pet food, etc.
- Extend lifetime of goods, helping reduce food waste
- **Due to complex structures, these materials are unrecyclable**
- **Almost 100% of plastic multi-layer packaging is incinerated or landfilled**

<p>Outside</p> <p>BOPET/BOPA (10-15µm)</p> <p>Adhesive (2µm)</p> <p>LDPE (40 – 70µm)</p> <p>Inside</p>		<p>Outside</p> <p>OPET (10-15µm)</p> <p>Adhesive (2µm)</p> <p>Alu (6-9µm)</p> <p>Adhesive (2µm)</p> <p>LDPE (40 – 70µm)</p> <p>Inside</p>	
<p>Example 1</p> <p>Adhesive lamination</p>	<p>Cooked foods, cheese, meat, aquatic products, pet food</p>	<p>Example 2</p> <p>Adhesive lamination</p>	<p>Coffee, peanuts, cosmetics sachets, cosmetic tubes, pet food</p>
<p>Outside</p> <p>HDPE (20µm)</p> <p>Tie layer (2µm)</p> <p>EVOH (6-8µm)</p> <p>Tie layer (2µm)</p> <p>LDPE (20µm)</p> <p>Inside</p>		<p>Outside</p> <p>BOPET (15µm)</p> <p>Adhesive (2µm)</p> <p>LDPE (40µm)</p> <p>Inside</p>	
<p>Example 3</p> <p>Blown coextrusion</p>	<p>Film for vacuum packaging of fresh meat, thermoformed trays, MAP trays, cosmetic tubes, stand up pouch</p>	<p>Example 4</p> <p>Extrusion coating lamination</p>	<p>Cooked foods, cheese, fish/meat, aquatic products</p>



# Description of the project

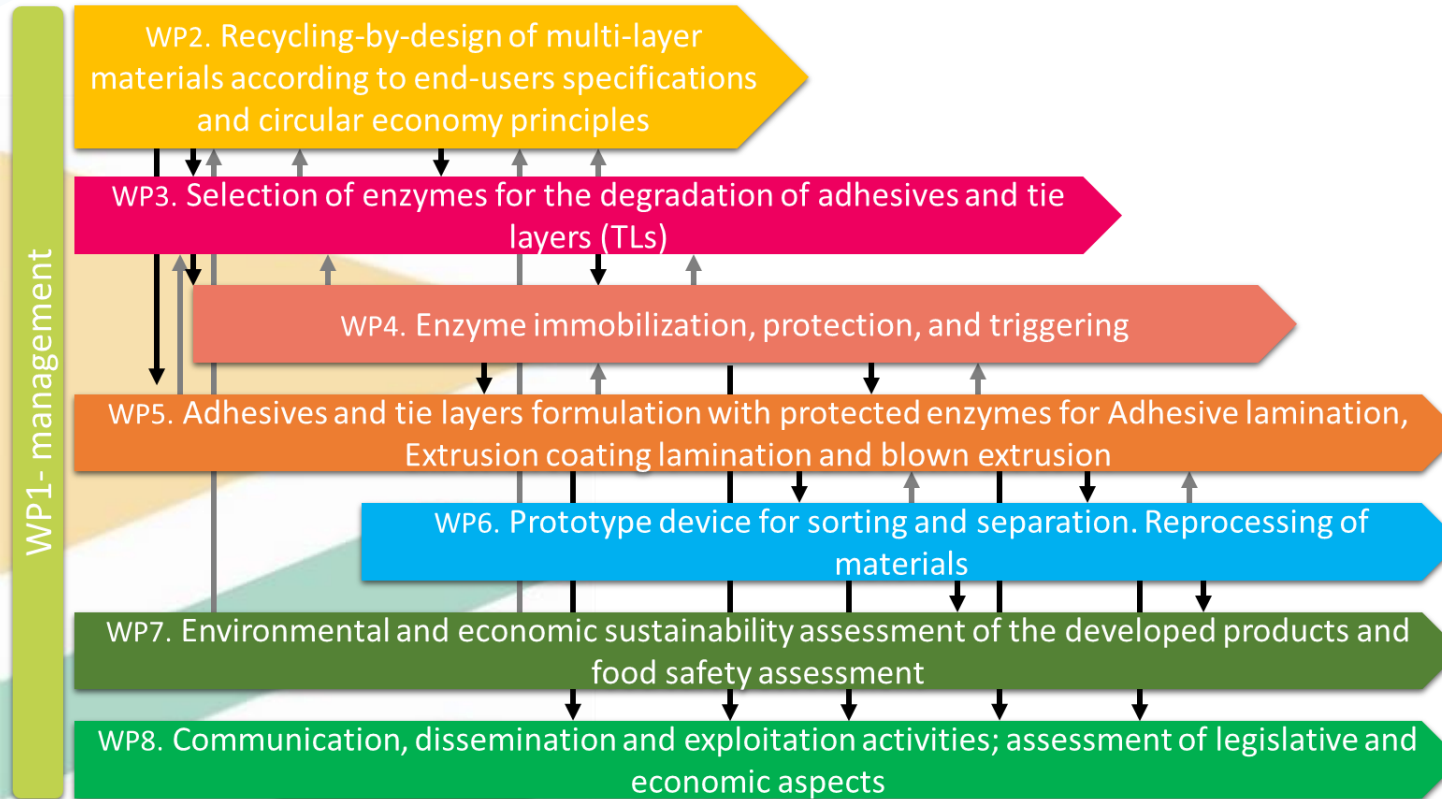


**13 partners : 5, 74 M€- Duration : 01/01/2019 – 31/01/2023**

Partners



# Organization of the project



Main results (M20) :

- Enzyme selection
- Improvement of enzyme thermal stability – Use of Natural Deep Eutectic Solvents (NADES) \*
- Demonstration of triggering
- Circular metrics / Initial LCA / Food contact
- Dissemination
  - Open research Data
  - Zenodo Terminus community <https://zenodo.org/communities/terminus-h2020>
  - Web : <https://www.terminus-h2020.eu/>
  - Social media

\* Improving laccase thermostability with aqueous natural deep eutectic solvents

Astrid E. Delorme, Jean-Michel Andanson and Vincent Verney  
*International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*, 163, 2020, 919-926, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2020.07.022>.

# Circular Economy inputs



- Follow up the Ellen Macarthur foundation methodology



- Selection of pertinent metrics



- **MRS (%) =  $\left[ \frac{(\% \text{ recyclable content} * 2) + (\% \text{ recycled content} * 1)}{3} \right] * 100$**

*(Material Reutilization Score)*



- **MCI = 1 – LFI\* F(X)**






*Material Circularity Index*



- *Development and/or improvement of new metrics*



# Expected final results

-  15% improvement in economic efficiency of end-of-life management
-  80% reduction of landfilling for multi-layer plastic packaging
-  55% reduction of overall plastic landfilling
-  65% decrease in the overall CO<sub>2</sub> footprint
-  MRS:  $\approx 0 \rightarrow \approx 90\%$



## EU Circular Economy Action Plan



### A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe

The European Commission has adopted a new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) - one of the main blocks of the [European Green Deal](#), Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth.

The new Action Plan announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products, targeting for example their design, promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption, and aiming to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

It introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.

#### Actions

The new Circular Economy Action presents measures to:

- Make sustainable products the norm in the EU;
- Empower consumers and public buyers;
- Focus on the sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as: electronics and ICT; batteries and vehicles; packaging; plastics; textiles; construction and buildings; food; water and nutrients;
- Ensure less waste;
- Make circularity work for people, regions and cities,
- Lead global efforts on circular economy.



CE-NMBP-26-2018

Smart plastic materials with  
intrinsic recycling properties by  
design



Circular Economy  
Circular Clustering activities !



Plastics Circularity  
Multiplier



Clustering H2020 / Horizon Europe  
Projects



# Thank you for your attention!

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*This presentation reflects only the views of the authors. European Commission and Research Executive Agency are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*