

# R4.1 - Collaborative Activities





This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



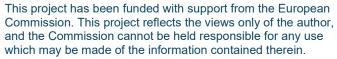




## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. Introduction	3
2. Objectives	3
3. Structure of the Activities	5
4. Summary of Activities	7
5. Methodology and Implementation	8
5.1 Transnational Collaboration Matrix	8
5.2 Role of Facilitators	9
5.3 Logistics	9
6. Integration into the Training Programme	10
7. Transferability and Open Access	10
8. Conclusion	10
Annex 1. Collection of activity sheets	12











## 1. Introduction

As part of the AI4GreenSME project, the collaborative activities described in this deliverable constitute an essential pillar of the training methodology. They are designed to complement the online course with interactive, problem-based learning exercises, thereby enhancing the practical application of knowledge, promoting peer learning, and supporting the formation of a transnational SME community committed to digital and green transitions.

Rooted in the principles of experiential and collaborative learning, the activities aim to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, empowering SME professionals to explore innovative ways of applying artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of circular economy models. Each activity is directly aligned with one of the ten training modules of the AI4GreenSME course, ensuring a coherent and integrated learning pathway.

# 2. Objectives

The collaborative activities developed within the Al4GreenSME project are a central component of its pedagogical framework. Their core purpose is to translate theoretical knowledge into practical, context-based applications through active interaction among professionals from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across different sectors and European countries.

Rather than simply reinforcing the contents of the online training course, these activities are designed to create a dynamic, applied, and participatory learning environment. They allow participants to engage in real-world problem solving, strategic thinking, and peerto-peer collaboration while tackling concrete challenges related to artificial intelligence (AI) and circular economy (CE) practices.

## Main Goals of the Collaborative Activities

## • 2.1 Apply Knowledge in Real-World Contexts

Each activity is framed around a realistic and contextualised scenario that challenges participants to transfer knowledge from the course to practical business situations. By engaging with these problem-based tasks, participants develop deeper insights and strengthen their ability to act in complex decision-making environments, thus increasing the real-world relevance of the training programme.

3



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





## 2.2 Promote Peer Learning and Exchange

The collaborative format enables a unique opportunity for horizontal knowledge sharing between SME professionals. Participants are encouraged to exchange experiences, challenges, and practices in an open, non-hierarchical setting, enriching each other's learning processes. This format supports reflection, co-creation of solutions, and the discovery of sector-specific innovation pathways.

## 2.3 Encourage Transnational and Cross-Sector Collaboration

By fostering joint work between SMEs from different countries and industries, the activities expand participants' understanding of how AI and CE can be applied across diverse contexts. This diversity stimulates innovative thinking, opens opportunities for collaboration beyond the training, and strengthens the project's European dimension by building bridges across ecosystems.

## 2.4 Strengthen Strategic and Analytical Capacities

In addition to reinforcing technical knowledge, the activities aim to build strategic capabilities in sustainability and digitalisation. Participants are invited to reflect critically on business models, innovation strategies, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement. The activities serve as a catalyst for deeper organisational transformation aligned with the principles of AI for sustainability.

#### 2.5 Contribute to the Formation of the Al4GreenSME Community

Through these sessions, the foundations are laid for a lasting European community of practice. Participants connect not only as learners but also as potential future collaborators. This engagement contributes to the long-term sustainability of the project's results, paving the way for the Al4GreenSME network (linked to R4.4).

In summary, the collaborative activities are more than just a pedagogical complement to the training programme. They are a core strategic tool to foster innovation, connection, and implementation capacity within the European SME landscape. Through carefully designed interactions, they promote active engagement, reinforce interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue, and empower SMEs to lead the green and digital transition with confidence.

4



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





## 3. Structure of the Activities

The collaborative activities in Al4GreenSME have been designed following a structured, modular format that ensures consistency across all sessions while allowing flexibility for adaptation to specific organisational or sectoral contexts. Each activity is aligned with one of the ten modules of the online training course and follows a clear pedagogical structure to promote critical thinking, group interaction, and application of knowledge.

The core structure of each activity is composed of three main elements:

#### A Contextualised Scenario

Each activity begins with a realistic, professionally relevant **scenario**, crafted to reflect a common challenge or opportunity encountered by SMEs in the integration of AI and circular economy practices. The scenarios are:

- Grounded in real-world dynamics and sectoral situations.
- Designed to **stimulate identification** with the problem at hand.
- Structured to provide enough context without prescribing solutions, thereby encouraging participants to explore multiple possible approaches.

Scenarios cover a variety of sectors and topics—from sustainable product design and regulatory compliance to ethical implications of AI systems—ensuring wide relevance and adaptability.

## Guided Prompts

Following the scenario, a set of **guided prompts** is provided to frame the analysis and direct the group's thinking. These prompts:

- Encourage participants to apply key concepts from the course.
- Address different dimensions of the problem (technical, strategic, ethical, operational).
- Are formulated as open-ended questions or tasks, allowing participants to bring in their unique expertise and company experience.

5



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.







Some prompts explicitly refer to the use of **Al tools or principles** (e.g., generative design, predictive analytics, natural language processing), prompting learners to reflect on how such technologies can be adapted and scaled within SME contexts.

## Discussion Questions

The guided prompts lead into a broader set of **discussion questions**, which deepen the reflection and facilitate collaborative knowledge construction. These questions are designed to:

- Encourage debate and comparison of approaches across sectors and national contexts.
- Stimulate reflection on broader systemic, environmental, or organisational implications.
- Support the identification of barriers, opportunities, and practical next steps.

These questions are ideal for use in virtual or face-to-face group discussions and can be adapted by facilitators depending on the composition of the group and the available time.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME







# 4. Summary of Activities

Activity	Topic	Focus		
Activity 1	Circular Economy Literacy	Explore how AI can help to conserve resources and minimise environmental impact enabling circular strategies across operations		
Activity 2	Al Literacy	Introduce core AI concepts and tools to non-technical staff through practical workplace uses		
Activity 3	AI Applications in CE	Apply AI to optimise product design, material recovery, logistics, and reverse flows		
Activity 4	Ethical & Social Implications	Evaluate fairness, privacy, job impacts, and inclusion in AI deployment for sustainability		
Activity 5	Data for AI in CE	Address challenges in data quality, ethics and FAIR principles		
Activity 6	AI-Driven Product Design	Use generative design and analytics to develop sustainable, circular, Alenhanced products		
Activity 7	Circular Business Models	Redesign business models using AI to extend product life and implement closed-loop systems		
Activity 8	Policy & Regulation	Analyse how AI supports ESG reporting, compliance, and strategic sustainability alignment		
Activity 9	Building AI4CE Roadmaps	Develop strategic, phased roadmaps to integrate AI into circular economy initiatives		
Activity 10	Evaluating AI4Green Projects	Design evaluation frameworks to measure environmental, economic, and social impact of AI		

Each activity has been developed in line with the **learning objectives** of the course modules and the **challenges faced by European SMEs** in implementing circular and Albased solutions. See Annex 1 for a collection of all activity sheets.





This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.







# 5. Methodology and Implementation

The implementation of the collaborative activities in the Al4GreenSME project follows a clear and structured methodology designed to maximise participation, transnational cooperation, and practical impact. The methodology builds on principles of adult education, peer learning, and problem-based learning, while incorporating a strong coordination and facilitation framework to ensure consistency across countries and sessions.

## 5.1 Transnational Collaboration Matrix

To foster **cross-border learning and diversity of perspectives**, a transnational collaboration matrix has been developed. This matrix defines a system of **bilateral exchanges** between SMEs from the five partner countries (Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Malta), ensuring:

- Equal distribution of roles and responsibilities among participants.
- Exposure to a wide range of business contexts and innovation ecosystems.
- Balanced participation across all 10 collaborative activities.

Each SME representative will take part in a set of bilateral meetings with peers from other countries. The matrix guarantees that **each organisation can interact with counterparts from all other partner regions**, thereby supporting the project's European dimension and the foundation of a truly transnational SME network.

		7			
Transnational distribution matrix	Cyprus		_		
Cyprus		Greece		_	
Greece	A3		Spain		
Spain	A7	A6		Malta	
Malta	A4	A9	A5		Bulgary
Bulgary	A1	A2	A8	A10	

Activity 1 - Circular Economy Literacy	Cyprus-Bulgary
Activity 2 - Artificial Intelligence Literacy	Greece-Bulgary
Activity 3 - Applications of Al in Circular Economy	Cyprus-Greece
Activity 4 - Ethical and Social Implications	Cyprus-Malta
Activity 5 - Data for Al for Circular Economy	Spain-Malta
Activity 6 - Al-driven Product Design and Innovation	Spain-Greece
Activity 7 - Circular Business Models and Market Opportunities	Spain-Cyprus
Activity 8 - Policy and Regulatory Considerations	Spain-Bulgary
Activity 9 - Building your AI4CE Roadmap	Greece-Malta
Activity 10 - Evaluating Al4Green Projects	Bulgary-Malta

8



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.







## 5.2 Role of Facilitators

The successful implementation of the collaborative activities relies on the active participation of qualified **external facilitators**, who are selected and coordinated by each project partner through national networks. A total of **20 facilitators** (4 per country) will be engaged.

#### Their roles include:

- Introducing the activity and its structure.
- Guiding the session to ensure productive dialogue.
- Clarifying doubts about the scenario or content.
- Keeping the discussion aligned with the project's objectives and values.
- Encouraging inclusive participation and capturing key insights.

Facilitators also serve as multipliers and quality validators, helping ensure the **pedagogical rigour and practical relevance** of the activities across diverse contexts.

# 5.3 Logistics

Project partners will be responsible for the **planning**, **coordination**, **and technical execution** of the sessions. Their tasks will include:

- Scheduling and announcing the meetings in accordance with the transnational matrix.
- Providing the technical infrastructure for virtual meetings (e.g., Zoom, Teams, collaborative whiteboards).
- Distributing the activity sheets and any supplementary materials to participants in advance.
- Offering technical and methodological support throughout the sessions.
- Collecting data on participation, feedback, and qualitative results to inform later evaluation stages (e.g., in R4.3).

All partners will follow a common protocol to ensure that the activities are carried out **consistently and effectively across countries**, while still allowing for contextual flexibility based on participant needs or logistical constraints.

9



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





# 6. Integration into the Training Programme

The collaborative activities are fully integrated into the structure and flow of the AI4GreenSME online training programme. Their function is to provide a **practical**, **interactive complement** to the theoretical and conceptual content delivered through the digital learning modules.

Each collaborative activity is **linked directly to one specific module** of the training course. Participants are encouraged to complete the corresponding module before engaging in the related activity, ensuring that they have acquired the foundational knowledge needed to fully participate in the discussion and problem-solving process.

# 7. Transferability and Open Access

One of the key strengths of the collaborative activities developed in AI4GreenSME lies in their **high transferability and scalability**. All ten activities have been designed to be easily adopted and adapted by other training providers, business support organisations, chambers of commerce, vocational education institutions (c-VET), and SME networks across Europe and beyond.

To support wide dissemination and reuse, the materials are published under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**. This ensures that:

- They are **freely accessible**, downloadable, and editable.
- Users may translate, modify, or redistribute the content, provided appropriate credit is given to the original creators and the AI4GreenSME project.

The activities are also accompanied by implementation guidelines and recommendations (as detailed in R4.2) to support trainers and facilitators in adopting the methodology effectively.

## 8. Conclusion

The collaborative activities developed represent a **foundational component** of the AI4GreenSME training ecosystem. Their design, based on realistic scenarios, structured prompts, and facilitated peer interaction, ensures that learners will not only acquire

10



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





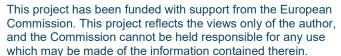


theoretical knowledge but also **develop the practical skills and strategic mindset** needed to lead Al-driven circular transformations within their organisations.

By promoting **experiential, cross-border, and sector-inclusive learning**, these activities will empower SMEs to confront shared sustainability challenges with innovative, Alsupported solutions. Furthermore, they will open up the possibility of long-term collaboration, community building and mutual support among professionals from participating SMEs.

In conclusion, R4.1 is not only an educational resource, but also a **strategic facilitator** of systemic change. It reflects the project's ambition to create a **lasting impact** by equipping SMEs with the knowledge and collaborative frameworks necessary to thrive in the dual transition towards **digital and green business models**.





2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME







# Annex 1. Collection of activity sheets



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME







## **Activity 1 – Circular Economy Literacy**

#### Scenario:

You've been tasked with implementing a circular economy initiative within your organisation. Your goal is to reduce waste, conserve resources, and minimise environmental impact.

#### **Prompt:**

How would you use AI tools to:

- 1. Identify waste streams and opportunities for circularity: What AI tools could you use to analyse your organisation's operations and identify areas where materials can be reused, recycled, or repurposed?
- 2. Design circular products and services: How can AI assist in creating innovative products and services that prioritise sustainability, durability, and recyclability?
- 3. Optimise supply chain logistics: What AI-powered tools could you use to improve the efficiency and sustainability of your supply chain, reducing transportation emissions and minimising waste?
- 4. Engage employees and promote a circular culture: How can you leverage AI to educate and inspire employees about circular economy principles and encourage their participation in sustainability initiatives?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What are the potential challenges and ethical considerations of implementing a circular economy?
- 2. How can AI be used to collaborate with suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders to create a more circular economy?
- 3. What are the long-term benefits of adopting a circular economy for businesses and society?



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME





## **Activity 2 – Al Literacy**

#### Scenario:

You've been tasked to introduce the main concepts of AI to a group of non-technical employees. Your goal is to expand their awareness regarding AI and help them think of cases where AI could facilitate their work and daily lives.

## **Prompt:**

How could AI facilitate certain operations of your work:

- 1. All and especially generative models can inspire you. How can you ask an Al chatbot in order to get ideas about certain concepts of your domain?
- 2. Facilitate collaborative learning. What AI-powered tools could you use to foster discussions, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving among learners, encouraging them to work together and learn from each other?
- 3. Use advanced AI features of certain tools that can increase productivity. How can image editing or text processing tools help you create or edit images or documents faster?
- 4. Facilitate your e-mail and document management by using AI. How could you use a classification approach in order to automatically classify your e-mails or documents?
- 5. Discover or retrieve similar documents or images. How can AI help you compare documents or images in order to identify interesting groups?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What are the main considerations of using Al in order to generate content?
- 2. What criteria should I use to select an AI tool?
- 3. What do we need to do in order to prepare/produce data that can teach an AI model our preferences?
- 4. When grouping documents or images, how can I judge if the groups suggested by an AI (clustering algorithm) are useful?

14



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.







## **Activity 3 – Applications of AI in Circular Economy**

## Scenario:

Your organisation aims to become a leader in sustainable practices. You've been tasked with exploring how AI can be leveraged to drive a circular economy strategy.

#### Prompt:

## How would you use AI tools to:

- 1. Optimise product design for circularity: How AI could help you design products that are more durable, easily repairable, recyclable, etc?
- 2. Predict and prevent product failures: How can AI be used to analyse product usage data and identify potential issues before they occur?
- 3. Improve material recovery and recycling: How AI can help you classify potential materials that you can use for your products as recyclable and non-recyclable.
- 4. Optimise logistics and reverse logistics: How can AI be used to optimise logistics operations such as proposing transportation routes or reducing emissions?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What kind of data should we gather/use to allow AI to facilitate us during product design?
- 2. How data should be gathered in order to help us to usage of our product? What are the ethical aspects that we should take into consideration?
- 3. How the models you developed with the help of AI, could be used in order promote collaborations with other SMEs for a greener and circular economy?

15



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author,

and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.









## **Activity 4 - Ethical and Social Implications**

#### Scenario:

You are part of a Green SME that is implementing an AI system designed to optimize energy consumption in local businesses and households. While the system promises significant energy savings, its deployment has raised ethical and social concerns. Stakeholders worry about data privacy, fairness in decision-making, and the potential displacement of jobs in traditional energy management sectors. Meanwhile, community leaders question whether the AI system will address the needs of underserved populations or exacerbate existing inequalities. Your task is to ensure the AI system aligns with ethical principles and promotes positive social outcomes while meeting environmental goals.

## Prompts:

## 1. Ensuring Fairness and Inclusivity:

How would you ensure that the AI system addresses the energy needs of underserved populations, such as low-income households or rural communities? What strategies could you use to prevent bias in the AI's decision-making processes and ensure equitable access to its benefits?

## 2. Addressing Data Privacy Concerns:

What ethical considerations must be addressed to ensure the AI system respects data privacy? How would you implement measures to safeguard user data and ensure transparency in how the data is collected, used, and stored?

## 3. Managing Job Displacement Risks:

How would you address concerns about job displacement in sectors impacted by the AI system? What steps could you take to promote workforce upskilling and ensure a just transition for workers whose roles are affected?

#### 4. Promoting Social Responsibility:

How would you measure and communicate the AI system's social impact, including its contributions to community development and social equity? What ethical principles should guide your efforts to align the system with broader goals of sustainability and social well-being?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How can Green SMEs balance the trade-offs between technological efficiency and ethical concerns, such as fairness and social inclusion, when deploying Al systems?
- 2. What strategies can be adopted to ensure that Al-driven green solutions do not unintentionally deepen existing social inequalities or create new ones?
- 3. Why is stakeholder engagement critical in addressing ethical and social implications of AI systems? How can involving diverse voices, including marginalized communities, improve the outcomes of Green SMEs' AI initiatives?

16



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





## **Activity 5: Data for Al for Circular Economy**

#### Scenario:

You work for a Green SME developing an AI tool to streamline the circular economy processes for managing waste in manufacturing industries. The tool requires extensive data on product life cycles, resource usage, waste generation, and recycling rates. However, the available data is fragmented, incomplete, and lacks standardisation. Additionally, stakeholders have raised concerns about data privacy and security. Your team needs to decide how to collect, evaluate, and use data effectively to ensure the AI tool meets sustainability goals, aligns with ethical standards, and adheres to the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data principles.

## Prompts:

## 1. Evaluating Data Sources and Requirements:

What data sources would you prioritise to ensure the AI tool addresses key aspects of the circular economy, such as resource efficiency and waste reduction? How would you assess the relevance, quality, and completeness of the data before integrating it into the AI model?

## 2. Ensuring FAIR Data Principles:

How would you ensure that the data used for the AI tool adheres to the FAIR principles? What steps can you take to make the data more accessible and interoperable while maintaining its integrity and usability for sustainability goals?

## 3. Addressing Data Privacy and Security:

What ethical considerations must you keep in mind while handling sensitive data from manufacturers and recycling plants? How would you implement data security measures to safeguard information and build trust with stakeholders?

#### 4. Leveraging AI for Circular Economy Data:

How can AI technologies be applied to improve the analysis of fragmented and incomplete circular economy data? What specific AI tools or techniques (e.g., predictive analytics, natural language processing) would you use to optimise resource usage and minimise waste?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What are the challenges Green SMEs face in collecting and managing high-quality data for circular economy initiatives? How can these challenges be overcome?
- How can adopting the FAIR data principles improve the effectiveness of AI applications in the circular economy? Provide examples of practical benefits for Green SMEs.
- 3. Why is ethical data management essential in circular economy Al projects, and how can Green SMEs ensure data practices align with privacy and security standards?

Funded by the European Union

17

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





## **Activity 6 - Al-driven Product Design and Innovation**

#### Scenario:

You are part of an interdisciplinary team tasked with designing an innovative, eco-friendly product using AI tools. Your goal is to create a product that minimizes environmental impact, promotes sustainability, and aligns with circular economy principles.

These principles are:

- Eliminate Waste and Pollution: Design products and systems to prevent waste and pollution from being created.
- Circulate Products and Materials: Keep items in use through different strategies like reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, or recycling, creating closed-loop systems that reduce the need for new raw materials.
- Regenerate Nature: Enhance natural systems by returning valuable nutrients to the environment and improving natural resources, rather than depleting them.

The project is expected to address key aspects such as material usage, energy efficiency, and product lifecycle optimization.

## **Prompts:**

## 1. Eco-friendly Product Design:

How can AI tools (e.g., generative design, predictive analytics) assist in selecting sustainable materials and optimizing the product's lifecycle for minimal waste and maximum durability? Which are specific features of the products that AI could help to optimize for ecological sustainability?

## 2. Interdisciplinary Collaboration:

How can internal teams (engineers, data scientists, and designers) work effectively together to leverage AI tools in the product design process?

What role can individuals or organizations from outside the company (e.g., researchers, consultants, industry partners) play in enriching this collaboration? Who should be involved, and why?

#### 3. Predictive Analytics for Efficiency:

How can predictive analytics be used to forecast potential environmental impacts of the product's design? Think of an example of how such predictions could influence design decisions.

#### 4. Circular Business Models:

Imagine the product is offered as part of a "product-as-a-service" model. How can AI enable the maintenance, reuse, or recycling of the product throughout its lifecycle?

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. How can Al-driven generative design encourage innovative solutions that align with sustainability goals?

18



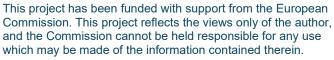
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





- 2. How can AI facilitate collaboration across industries (e.g., fashion, automotive, furniture) to promote widespread adoption of sustainable practices?
- 3. How can small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) overcome barriers like high costs and lack of technical expertise to implement AI in ecodesign?





2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME





## **Activity 7 - Circular Business models**

#### Scenario:

You work in a furniture company specialising in the manufacture of wooden furniture. You already have a well-developed policy to produce with local and ecological wood, and you are involved in reforestation projects. However, you would now like to go a step further and think about the end-of-life of your products and implement new company policies in this area for a better application of circular principles.

## Prompt:

## How would you use AI tools to:

- 1. Optimise your business model for circularity: What AI tools could you use to design a business model that work with more modular, durable, and easily repairable or recyclable products?
- 2. Improve the longevity of your products: how AI can be used to anticipate maintenance needs of your products, and how could you improve the reuse and repair aspects?
- 3. Rethink the product end of life: how could you use AI to implement a reverse logistics or closed-loop process to guarantee the reuse of your wood?
- 4. Platforms: Are there any technological collaborative tool, network or platform with which you could associate to optimize this business model transformation?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. How can we implement more circular processes in the wood/furniture sector, especially in terms of business models? What are the current models and how could this be changed?
- 2. What is the role of AI in this process? What are the potential challenges and opportunities of integrating AI into the current model?
- 3. What is the cascading use of wood? Could we apply this model here?



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME





## **Activity 8: Policy and Regulatory Considerations**

#### Scenario:

As the environmental regulations are progressing, requirements are increasing for reporting the environmental impact of your company and its sustainability. The VSME standard has become mandatory (It is in reality a voluntary standard at this moment), and you need to produce your first sustainability report as an SME.

## **Prompt:**

## How would you:

- 5. Choose the among the 3 different modules and four ways of building this report, the one that best fits your particular circumstances.
- 6. Select your materiality topics among the ones proposed in the standard. Are you able to identify the major area generating environmental impact in your company?
- 7. What are your major assets/achievements in terms of sustainability? Do you have an established strategy for improving your efforts in this field?
- 8. The role of AI in this field: can AI support your work for measuring your sustainability achievements? Which tools could you use?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 4. What is your first reaction while having to complete this exercise. How do you estimate, a priori, your sustainability performance?
- 5. In the context of increasing regulation, are you sure to be aligned with the entire existing current regulation in the field of AI and environmental protection?
- 6. What could you do to remain aware of the changing policy context? Do you have any responsible person in your company in charge of following the regulatory compliance?



21

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





## **Activity 9 – Building Your AI4CE Roadmap**

**Scenario:** In embracing circular economy practices within your organisation, you have decided to follow the guidelines provided under Lesson 9 for the AI4GreenSME project to create your own AI4CE (Artificial Intelligence for Circular Economy) your own roadmap that can be subsequently adopted and implemented by your organisation.

## Prompt:

How would you use AI tools to:

- 1. Conduct a business analysis: What AI tools or methods could you use to assess how your organisation manages resources, handles waste, and impacts the environment? For example, you might use predictive analytics to forecast resource needs or data visualisation tools to identify waste hotspots.
- 2. Identify circular opportunities: How can AI help you spot opportunities to redesign your products or processes to make them more circular? What kind of insights could it offer to help you rethink your business model? For example, could AI analyse your sales data to identify the most popular products and predict future demand, minimising overproduction and waste?
- 3. Select and integrate AI tools: What factors should you consider when selecting AI tools for your roadmap? How would you ensure their successful integration with existing business systems?
- 4. **Define goals and monitor progress:** How can AI support setting clear, measurable targets for your circular economy initiatives and help track progress through monitoring tools and performance reviews?
- 5. **Engage stakeholders and foster collaboration:** How would you use AI to facilitate engagement with employees, customers, and other stakeholders, ensuring alignment with your circular economy goals?

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What challenges might come up when putting an AI4CE roadmap into action, like high costs, tech limitations, or people resisting the changes? How could approaches like rolling out the plan in phases or offering training programs for employees help overcome these obstacles?

22



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

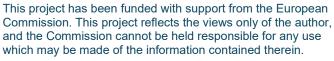






- 2. How can AI help you work more effectively with suppliers, customers, and partners to create innovative circular economy solutions? Think about how AI could improve supply chain transparency or support joint efforts to develop sustainable practices.
- 3. How can regularly updating and improving your AI4CE roadmap help your business achieve long-term success? What practical steps, like using feedback loops or adopting the latest AI innovations, can keep the roadmap relevant and impactful?





2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME







## **Activity 10 - Evaluating Al4GreenProjects**

#### Scenario:

Your organization is exploring AI-powered solutions to address pressing environmental challenges. For instance, an AI4GreenProject aims to use machine learning models to optimise waste management in urban areas, conserve energy, and promote sustainable practices across industries. Your evaluation must consider environmental, economic, social, and governance aspects to ensure the project's long-term success.

To complete this activity, choose one of the examples of AI4GreenProjects from Lesson 10 in completing the following prompts.

## Prompt:

How would you use evaluation frameworks and metrics to:

## 1. Measure environmental impact:

What metrics would you use to assess the environmental benefits of the Al4GreenProject, such as reductions in waste (e.g., percentage of material diverted from landfills), resource conservation (e.g., gallons of water saved), or emissions mitigation (e.g., tons of CO2 reduced)? How would you ensure these metrics align with the project's goals by linking them to specific sustainability benchmarks or industry standards?

## 2. Evaluate AI efficiency and accuracy:

How would you evaluate the performance of the AI technology used in the project? Consider metrics like data quality (e.g., completeness and reliability), processing speed (e.g., time taken to process inputs), and error rates (e.g., accuracy in sorting waste). How would you balance efficiency (e.g., computational resource usage) with the project's sustainability goals, such as minimising the carbon footprint of AI systems?

## 3. Assess economic feasibility:

How can cost-benefit analysis be used to determine the economic viability of the project? What potential revenue streams (e.g., selling carbon credits or AI-powered environmental monitoring services) or cost-saving opportunities (e.g., predictive maintenance for renewable energy systems) should be factored into your evaluation?

24



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.







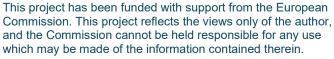
## 4. Analyse social impact:

How would you evaluate the project's social impact, including its potential to create jobs, enhance community development, or support a just transition to a greener economy?

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What challenges might arise when attempting to balance environmental, economic, and social goals in Al4GreenProjects, and how can these be addressed?
- 2. How can scalability be factored into the evaluation of Al4GreenProjects? What practical steps, like creating flexible Al systems or working with local governments, can help a project grow successfully and adapt to different settings?
- 3. Why is transparency in data collection, AI decision-making, and project outcomes critical to the success of AI4GreenProjects? How can being transparent about your project's data, decisions, and outcomes help gain the trust of stakeholders and ease any concerns they might have about adopting AI?





2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000150941 AI4GREENSME



