

EU Green Week 2026 Partner Event Proposal



Circular Industry in Action

Repair, Remanufacture and Reuse of Consumer Goods

*How robotics, ecodesign and circular business models
can turn industrial waste into value*



Circular Industry in Action Repair, remanufacture and reuse of consumer goods

How robotics, ecodesign and circular business models can transform industrial waste into value while supporting a nature-positive economy

**Interreg
Sudoe**



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REMAIN

[REMAIN Project website](#)

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FASHION FORWARD

[Fashion Forward Project website](#)

Introduction to the projects

REMAIN

The Interreg SUDOE's REMAIN project promotes remanufacturing in traditional manufacturing sectors, like the shoe industry, to combat waste and boost sustainability. It focuses on developing tools for damage detection and robotic systems for product disassembly, making repair a viable alternative to disposal. This benefits industries, consumers, and the environment by reducing waste and conserving resources.



FASHION FORWARD

Fashion Forward tackles textile waste in SUDOE regions by promoting a circular economy. It focuses on recycling, stakeholder collaboration, and local action plans. The project offers training and runs pilot programs in schools and businesses to foster sustainable practices, reduce waste, and boost innovation in the fashion industry. Promoting sustainable fashion benefits industries, consumers, and the environment, and conserving resources.



Shared objective:

The REMAIN and Fashion Forward projects aim to transform the textile and shoe sectors by promoting circular economy practices. They focus on reducing waste, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and driving innovation to create more sustainable industries.

Description of the event

This event explores how circular economy strategies such as repair, reuse and remanufacturing can contribute to the transformation of industrial waste into valuable resources while supporting Europe's transition towards a nature-positive economy.

Focusing on the footwear and textile sectors, the event will present the latest technological and industrial developments aimed at extending the life cycle of consumer goods. In particular, it will highlight the results of the EU project Interreg-Sudoe REMAIN (Robotic REMAnufacturing of deformable INdustrial products), aimed at developing advanced robotic technologies capable of detecting damage and enabling the remanufacture of complex deformable products such as footwear and garments.

Through a series of keynote talks, project presentations and expert sessions, participants will discover how artificial intelligence, advanced sensors and collaborative robotics can support new circular manufacturing processes. The event will also highlight the importance of ecodesign strategies and life-cycle assessment methodologies that enable products to be designed for durability, reparability and future remanufacture.

In addition to technological innovations, the event will discuss the growing role of European policies and regulations on sustainability in accelerating the transition towards circular production models. Experts from industry, research organisations and industry associations will share their perspectives on how companies can adapt to these changes while strengthening their competitiveness.

The programme will conclude with a panel discussion bringing together representatives from industry, technology centres and innovation networks to explore the key opportunities and barriers for implementing remanufacturing solutions in Europe. Topics will include business opportunities, technological challenges and the role of circular economy strategies in building a more resilient and sustainable industrial ecosystem.

By bringing together companies, researchers, policymakers and innovation stakeholders, this event aims to foster dialogue and collaboration around practical solutions that help industry move from a linear “produce-use-dispose” model to a circular approach where products, materials and resources retain their value for longer.

Draft agenda



18 June 2026

9:00 - 13:00

Language: Spanish
(English subtitles)

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

Arrival of participants and networking.

09:00 – 09:15 Opening remarks: Investing in nature through circular industry

Welcome and introduction to the event.

Speaker: Francisca Arán - Inescop R&D&i Area Manager

Key messages:

- Why circular economy matters for European industry
- Why repair and remanufacturing are strategic for sustainability and competitiveness

09:15 – 09:30 European cooperation for sustainable innovation

How EU programmes support circular technologies

Speaker: Interreg SUDOE representative

Topics:

- Role of European cooperation
- Importance of innovation projects for sustainability

09:30 – 09:50 Keynote talk

The future of remanufacturing in Europe. Does luxury and quality enable remanufacturing?

Speaker: David Fitzsimons – Director European Remanufacturing Council

Topics:

- Remanufacturing as an industrial strategy
- Economic and environmental benefits
- Opportunities for European companies

09:50 – 10:15 From waste to value

Robotic remanufacturing of deformable products – the REMAIN project

Speaker: María D. Fabregat – Inescop

Topics:

- The challenge of remanufacturing footwear and textile products
- Detection of damages using AI and advanced sensors
- Robotic manipulation of deformable objects
- Industrial opportunities for circular manufacturing

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee break & networking

Opportunity for participants to meet speakers and exchange ideas.

10:45 – 11:05 Circular fashion in practice

How circularity can strengthen competitiveness in the textile sector – the FASHION FORWARD project

Speaker: Lidia Morcillo – MODACC

Topics:

- Circular economy in fashion and textile
- Tools for companies to transition to circular models
- Results from the Fashion Forward project

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11:05 – 11:35 Ecodesign Insights: Designing products for circularity

Ecodesign applied to footwear (Borja Mateu – Inescop)

Topics:

- Design for disassembly
- Materials and product architecture for circularity

Measuring environmental impact (Adrián Amat – Inescop)

Topics:

- Footwear Life Cycle Assessment
- Tools to reduce environmental footprint

11:35 – 11:50 Circular innovation projects

Introducing EcoStep project

Speaker: Amalia García – Inescop

Topics:

- Defining new ecodesign parameters for footwear.
- Development of footwear-specific testing methods to assess and verify sustainability and product performance.
- The ECOSTEP digital platform: integrating LCA, AI and Digital Product Passport to support ecodesign decision-making in the footwear industry.

11:50 – 12:10 New sustainability regulations

What companies need to know

Speaker: Salomé Beneyto - ATEVAL / Textile for the Future

Topics:

- EU textile strategy
- Ecodesign regulation
- Impact on industry

12:10 – 12:55 Panel discussion

Can remanufacturing become a real industrial opportunity?

Participants - delegates from: (to be confirmed)

Footwear Industry

Technology Centre

Social Enterprise

Textile sector

Key questions:

- Can remanufacturing be profitable for companies?
- What are the main barriers for industry?
- Does sustainability increase competitiveness?
- Should remanufacturing come before recycling?

12:55 – 13:00 Closing remarks

Key conclusions and invitation to future REMAIN activities.

13:00 – 13:30 Guided visit to Inescop facilities (Optional)

Thank you



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FASHION FORWARD



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AIDA
Asociación de comercio e industria de la zona de Alicante

ACN
Asociación de Comerciantes de la Zona de Alicante

Inescop
Shaping the future of footwear

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