

Call for Application: CirculaRise Accelerator Program

Social business entrepreneurs bring innovative solutions and business models to the market with the main aim of driving positive social and environmental change. Through our systematic, innovative, yet pragmatic entrepreneurial approach to capacity building, Yunus Environment Hub (YEH) is a partner of excellence in social business incubation and acceleration supporting entrepreneurship for the socio-ecological transition of our economy. With the CirculaRise Accelerator Yunus Environment Hub offers a program specialized in the circular economy transition for social business entrepreneurs. As part of the "REACT with Impact" program which is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection and financed by the European Union as part of the Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (REACT-EU), YEH is implementing a holistic intervention intended for small and medium-level social businesses in Germany.

The **CirculaRise Accelerator** aims to support up to **10 social businesses in Germany** to become **more sustainable, climate resilient, and competitive** through the integration of **circular economy strategies in their business operations**. The **highly individualized program** involves implementing circular business solutions based on the businesses' needs, societal and current global environmental challenges such as climate change-related challenges, disrupted supply chains, and a resource-depleting economy. Through, the implementation of YEH's **Circularity framework**, we engage our social business and circular economy experts to provide in-depth expertise in social business diagnostics, as well as circular and green opportunity mapping. The experts will support the participants in identifying, adopting and transiting to circular business models and strategies such as circular supply chains, product as a service, product life extension, sharing and leasing, and resource recovery & and recycling within their operation. No prior know how on the circular economy is required to participate in the program and social businesses from any circularity stage (explorative to mature) are encouraged to apply.

The program will be in English and will be conducted virtually. Participation is free of charge.

Up to 2 representatives per social business can be trained during the program. We are expecting that at least 1 representative per social business attends all program sessions.

Targeted Sectors:

- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Processing
- Circular economy and waste management (including biomass, water, and sanitation)
- Renewable Energy and E-mobility
- Eco-Tourism and Hospitality
- Fashion and Design

Note: If you are interested in the program and your social business is within a different sector, we encourage you to apply and will consider your application.

Das Projekt „CirculaRise Accelerator“ wird im Rahmen des Programms „REACT with Impact“ des Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz unterstützt und von der Europäischen Union als Teil der Reaktion der Union auf die COVID-19-Pandemie (REACT-EU) finanziert. Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos.

Benefits of joining CirculaRise Accelerator:

- Explore the circularity framework of circular supply chains, product as a service, product life extension, sharing and leasing, and resource recovery and recycling and how it can be applied to your social business.
- Attend workshops and receive individual mentoring to identify a circular strategy.
- Peer-to-peer exchange with fellow social businesses and YEH's international network of circular economy industry leaders and practitioners to get advice on the implementation of your circular strategy.
- Experience and become part of a truly international, diverse, and innovative environment committed to addressing climate change.
- Join the YEH global alumni network in the (post-)accelerator phase.

CirculaRise Accelerator is your perfect match if:

- you are a social business registered in Germany.
- Your social business was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- you have been in operation for at least 3 years.
- Are within the sectors of interest for the CirculaRise program.
- Willingness to apply circular principles for green economy transition.
- 20 hours of time commitment to the program
- Working towards environmental and social impact.

To be considered, please fill out the [application form](#).

Applications will close on the **12th of Oct 2023, at 23:59 CET**.

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