



EcoInnovators Erasmus+ Project

KA220-YOU | Youth Cooperation

2024-2-FR02-KA220-YOU-000279572

GreenLink Hub

France, Case Study 1

Les Canaux: Supporting Circular and Sustainable Entrepreneurship



August 2026

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Case Study 1 – Les Canaux: Supporting Circular and Sustainable Entrepreneurship

1. Country

France – Paris

2. Organisation

Les Canaux – Maison des économies engagées

3. Theme

Circular Economy • Green Entrepreneurship • Social Innovation • Sustainable Production • Training & Skills Development

4. Background

The transition towards a circular and sustainable economy requires more than environmental awareness: entrepreneurs and organisations also need practical support to develop viable business models, access markets, acquire new skills and scale up innovative solutions.

Based in Paris, Les Canaux is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote local, social and circular economies. It supports entrepreneurs, associations and project leaders developing solutions that combine economic activity with positive environmental and social impact.

5. Solution

Les Canaux has developed an ecosystem combining entrepreneurship support, training, networking, access to economic opportunities and practical experimentation.

Its activities include programmes helping entrepreneurs to develop their projects, strengthen their business models and access public procurement opportunities. Specific programmes focus on sectors where circular solutions can have significant environmental impact, including construction, furniture and events.

Training is also an important part of the approach. Les Canaux provides workshops, digital resources and learning opportunities on circular economy principles and related professional skills.

The Maison des Canaux, the organisation's headquarters in Paris, also acts as a practical demonstration site. Its renovation applied circular economy principles, using reused,

transformed and recycled materials and involving organisations specialising in circular and social economy solutions.

6. Results and Impact

In 2025, Les Canaux supported nearly 2,000 organisations and project leaders, representing approximately 20,000 jobs. More than 1,000 companies and associations benefited from its activities, 45% of them operating in the circular economy.

Its programmes contribute to:

- supporting new sustainable and socially responsible businesses;
- helping entrepreneurs transform ideas into viable projects;
- developing circular solutions in sectors such as construction and furniture;
- improving access to responsible public procurement;
- creating connections between entrepreneurs, companies and local authorities;
- providing training and practical learning opportunities;
- raising public and professional awareness of circular economy principles.

The Maison des Canaux itself demonstrates the approach in practice: 95% of the waste generated during its refurbishment was reinvented or recycled, with more than 20 circular and social economy organisations involved in the project.

7. Why Is This a Good Practice?

Les Canaux demonstrates how an entrepreneurial support ecosystem can accelerate the transition towards a circular economy.

Its approach is particularly relevant to EcoInnovators because it connects sustainability, entrepreneurship, skills development and practical implementation. Rather than simply promoting environmental principles, it helps entrepreneurs turn sustainable ideas into viable projects and supports existing organisations in increasing their environmental and social impact.

The model also demonstrates the value of collaboration between entrepreneurs, public authorities, associations and businesses in creating sustainable local economic ecosystems.

8. Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13 – Climate Action

- SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

9. Resources

Further information about Les Canaux, its programmes, training opportunities and resources is available through its official website.

Website: <https://www.lescanaux.com>

Location: 6 Quai de la Seine, 75019 Paris, France

10. Recommended illustrations:

- the Maison des Canaux in Paris;
- examples of reused materials and circular design within the building;
- entrepreneurs participating in workshops or support programmes;
- circular economy projects supported by Les Canaux.

See <https://www.lescanaux.com>