

# WE WORK FOR THE PERSONS

The objective of **SIRCLES** is to promote the social and labour insertion of people at risk of social exclusion, providing them with skills and jobs in the organic waste management sector. In Catalonia (Spain) the project is carried out in the community composting area built in Vila-seca by the Training and Employment Labour Insertion Company with European funds ENI CBC MED.



**HANANE**

"I have carried out the training and now I have a six-month contract. My children and my family are very proud of me."



**SERGIO**

"I had never worked before. It is my first job opportunity and it has been a very positive experience for me."



**CRISTIAN**

"I have discovered the world of composting and found it very interesting. I have started making some of it at home, too."

During the project, **24 NEETs and Women at risk of social exclusion** around Vila-seca have received training in composting. Afterwards, **11 of them have been hired to work at the SIRCLES composting area** in Vila-seca. With the on-site technical expert, it adds up to 12 new jobs.

## TECHNICAL FEATURES OF THE VILA-SECA COMPOSTING AREA

- MUNICIPALITY:** Vila-seca (Catalonia, Spain)
- LOCATION:** Park "La Torre d'en Dolça"
- PROMOTERS:** Training and Employment Labour Insertion Company and Catalan Waste Agency
- SERVICE HOLDER:** Training and Employment Labour Insertion Company
- INAUGURATION DATE:** February 16, 2022
- NOMINAL TREATMENT CAPACITY:** 80 tons of biowaste per year
- TECHNOLOGY:** Community composting in 24 composters
- MACHINERY:** Truck, scale, bio-shredder, sieve
- TOTAL INVESTMENT COMPOSTING PLANT, MACHINERY AND COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS:** €87.470
- AREA FINANCING:** ENI CBC MED through SIRCLES

FINANCIAL DATA		
TOTAL BUDGET	EU CONTRIBUTION	PROJECT CO-FINANCING
€3.8M	€3.4M	10%
PROJECT DURATION		
FEB 2021 - AUG 2023		

[www.enicbmed.eu/projects/sircles](http://www.enicbmed.eu/projects/sircles) @SirclesProject

## SUPPORTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

## THE VILA-SECA COMPOSTING AREA

Spain | Greece | Palestine | Jordan | Lebanon | Tunisia | Italy



# THE SIRCLES PROJECT

The **SIRCLES** project promotes social inclusion and employment opportunities for women at risk of social exclusion and young people not in education, employment, or training through a circular economy model applied to the organic waste sector. SIRCLES is financed by the European programme ENI CBC MED, has a budget of 3.8 million euros, is led by the **Waste Agency of Catalonia** and has as partners in Catalonia the **Training and Employment Labour Insertion Company**.

7 Mediterranean countries are working in the project (Spain, Greece, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Italy) and it has generated more than 110 new jobs.

A **composting area** has been created in Vila-seca, a facility for the **self-sustainable circular economy** which generates work in the surrounding area.

The area collects biowaste from hotels and restaurants in the area with the aim of composting it. The initiative seeks to be reproducible and will also be useful to generate knowledge applicable to future policies in the area of the circular economy.







In the early hours, the workers arrive with their uniforms on. **The truck leaves to collect the organic waste from the collaborating companies** and, upon returning, dumps it on the floor of the composting area.

Once there, the colleagues check the collected material in order to clean the inappropriate materials: **the quality of the bio-waste is essential to produce high-quality compost.**

The organic waste is weighed and an **appropriate amount of structuring material (vegetable remains and shredded pruning) is added** and watered if necessary. Then, it is

introduced into the composter. A new layer of structuring and some coffee grounds are placed both below and above to ensure that the process parameters are at optimal levels.

**Composters are thoroughly examined daily:** checking that there is no leachate, taking temperatures, mixing waste, controlling its humidity and smell and noting any anomalies.

Finally, the working day ends by cleaning all surfaces, composters and tools with pressurized water. Day-to-day life is not at all boring, there are always things to do.

### COLLECTION

The organic waste of the collaborating companies in the territory is collected with a truck.

Previously, a first separation of the different types of waste generated (organic, light packaging, glass, other) has been carried out.



### RECEPTION, SELECTION AND MIXTURE

Inappropriate materials are manually separated to ensure the quality of the organic matter.

It is then mixed with the necessary portion of structuring and introduced into the composters 1 and 5 until they are full.

### COMPOST

Three modules take part of the process. The composting material is moved from the outer containers (1 & 5) to the interior one (3).

#### Module 1

The organic matter begins to undergo its natural decomposition process thanks to its containing microorganisms. The temperature can reach 80°C.

#### Module 2

A transfer is made from the composters 1 or 5 to the containers 2 or 4, during this process, the quality and needs of the organic matter are checked.

#### Module 3

When composters 2 and 4 reach a good state of maturation, the matter may have decreased by up to 50% in volume. Both are transferred to composter 3.



### RETURN TO THE FIELD

The compost is used for study actions and social and environmental awareness campaigns.

A part is transferred to the Caritas' garden in Reus (Catalonia) where different percentages of compost are used in the cultivation beds.



### SIEVING

At the end of the composters' phase, the material is extracted and sieved with a square mesh sieve to separate the larger particles.

The resulting compost continues its maturation phase outside.