

CABE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Introducing CABE: A New Approach to Circular Construction



Transforming construction waste into valuable resources requires collaboration across research, industry and policy.

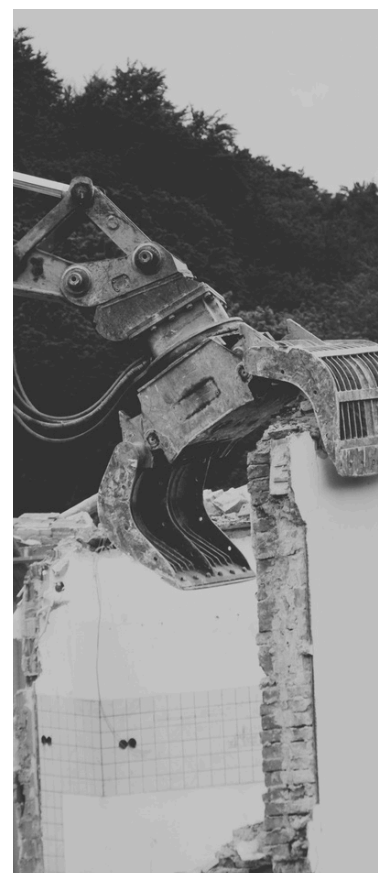
Opening Message

The construction sector generates some of the largest waste streams in Europe, while at the same time facing increasing pressure to reduce environmental impacts and improve resource efficiency. The CABE project brings together universities, municipalities, researchers and industry partners to explore how construction and demolition waste (CDW) can become a valuable resource within a more circular built environment.

This first edition introduces the project's vision, partnership and initial activities as CABE begins building a collaborative framework for circular construction across Europe.

What we've been working on

- Launching the CABE consortium and defining common objectives
- Mapping challenges and opportunities related to construction and demolition waste
- Establishing collaboration between academic, public and industry partners
- Preparing the first research and stakeholder engagement activities



Why CABE Matters

Construction and demolition waste accounts for one of the largest waste streams in Europe, yet much of its potential remains underused. CABE aims to support the transition towards circular construction by improving collaboration, resource sharing and innovation across the built environment ecosystem.

CABE brings together partners from across Europe with expertise in:

- circular economy
- urban innovation
- construction materials
- digital tools
- public policy
- stakeholder engagement

Together, the consortium works towards practical and scalable approaches for reducing waste and extending the life cycle of construction materials.



Kick-off Highlights

The project officially launched in January 2025 in Zurich, with a consortium meeting focused on:

- aligning project objectives
- discussing expected impacts
- defining technical and dissemination activities
- identifying opportunities for collaboration across countries

CABE – Circular Approaches for the Built Environment is a European project funded under the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership. The project explores how construction and demolition waste can be transformed into valuable urban resources, supporting more sustainable and circular development in cities.

Through digital tools such as material passports, urban building cadastres and reuse platforms, CABE aims to help planners, developers, investors and local authorities integrate circular economy principles into urban projects.

The project's approaches will be tested through Living Labs and case studies in Switzerland, Slovenia and Türkiye, with insights shared through the DUT Knowledge Hub to support smarter, greener and more resilient cities.

Meet the project leaders: Zurich University of Applied Sciences

The ZHAW is one of the leading universities of applied sciences in Switzerland. It offers teaching, research, continuing education and other services.

Research & development at the ZHAW focuses on key societal challenges, with a particular emphasis on energy and societal integration. With its expertise in sustainable development and digital transformation, the ZHAW imparts forward-looking knowledge and takes an active part in shaping the digital and ecological transformation. With locations in Winterthur, Zurich and Wädenswil, the ZHAW is firmly anchored in its region whilst collaborating with international partners.



CABE within the DUT Partnership

CABE is funded under the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership, a European initiative supporting research and innovation projects that contribute to more sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities.

The DUT Partnership brings together national and regional funding organisations across Europe to address key urban challenges through collaboration, innovation and knowledge exchange. Through its thematic programmes, DUT supports projects working on energy, mobility and circular urban economies, helping cities accelerate their transition towards climate neutrality and sustainability.

Within this framework, CABE contributes to the transition towards circular construction by exploring innovative approaches for reducing construction and demolition waste and improving resource efficiency in the built environment.

Learn more about the DUT Partnership and the CABE project:



Upcoming activities

10

Stakeholder workshops

85

Research activities

10

Mapping of circular construction practices

40+

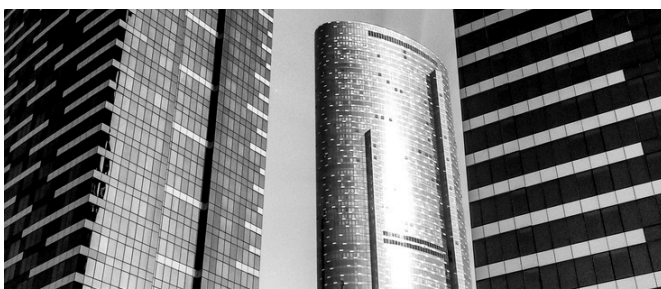
Development of digital and collaborative tools

Looking ahead

Over the coming months, CABE partners will begin stakeholder engagement activities, research and case study development across participating countries. The project will focus on understanding current practices, identifying barriers to circularity, and exploring innovative approaches for reducing construction and demolition waste.

Circular construction is not only a technical challenge; it is a collaborative transition.

Project Partners



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