



PRESS RELEASE

The launching of the Center of Excellence project in water management, valorization of materials, by-products and waste for the implementation of the circular bioeconomy (acronym CERSUS) will take place on **July 10, 2026** in "**Cristea Niculescu Otin**" Senate Hall, Rectorate building, 67 Prof. dr. Dimitrie Mangeron Street, Iași (between 10:00 - 14:15).

„Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași (TUIASI), „Cristofor Simionescu” Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection announces the official launch of the project "**Center of Excellence in Water Management, Valorization of Materials, By-Products and Waste for the Implementation of the Circular Bioeconomy**" (acronym CERSUS), one of the most important national projects dedicated to the development of excellent research in the field of circular bioeconomy and sustainable development.

The project is implemented between **June 2, 2026 and December 30, 2030**, with a total value of **85.900.000 lei** (approximately **17,16 million euros**), and is coordinated by "**Gheorghe Asachi**" Technical University of Iași, under the leadership of the project director, Emeritus Professor Dr. eng. Carmen Teodosiu.

The launch event (Start meeting) will take place on **July 10, 2026**, at the "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași, bringing together representatives of all partner organizations, as well as guests from the academic, research and institutional areas.

A center of excellence for the circular bioeconomy

The main objective of CERSUS project is to create a Center of Excellence that will provide a framework for interdisciplinary collaboration dedicated to:

- developing circular bioeconomy;
- increasing the performance and international visibility of Romanian research;
- developing innovative solutions and technologies with environmental impact;
- accelerating technological transfer to the economic environment;
- training and development of highly qualified human resources in research.



Through its activities, CERSUS aims to contribute to the development of sustainable solutions for the efficient use of natural resources and reducing environmental impact, in line with the objectives of both European Green Deal and circular economy.

Main research directions:

The project will address five strategic areas:

- development of innovative materials for environmental applications, resources recovery and reuse;
- advancing water-food-energy nexus for circular bioeconomy and sustainability;
- enhancing recirculating aquaculture systems through novel materials and pollutants assessment;
- development of biorefineries processes for the recovery/reuse wine and food industry by-products/wastes;
- development of an integrated sustainability framework for materials, processes, by-products and waste valorization.

These directions are supported by a transversal package dedicated to assessing the sustainability and risks associated with new technologies, ensuring the integration of circular economy principles into all research activities.

A national partnership of excellence

The CERSUS consortium brings together eight prestigious organizations from Romania:

- **"Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași (TUIASI)** – Coordinator;
- **"Politehnica" University of Timișoara (UPT)** – Partner 1
- **"Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry Iași (ICMPP)** – Partner 2
- **"Transilvania" University of Brașov (UNITBV)** – Partner 3
- **"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași (UAIC)** – Partner 4
- **University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (USAMVB)** – Partner 5
- **"Coriolan Drăgulescu" Institute of Chemistry Timișoara (ICCD)** – Partner 6
- **National Institute for Research and Development for Industrial Ecology – ECOIND (INCD-ECOIND)** – Partner 7.

Expected results and indicators

- **Human resources**
 - ✓ 10 New jobs created in research with full time employment



- ✓ 69 PhD and Post-doc total positions
- ✓ 17 PhD vacant positions
- ✓ 9 Postdoc vacant positions (3 international)
- **Research infrastructures**
- ✓ Min. 2,952,343 Euros - Value of equipments installed
- **Publications**
- ✓ 56 Q1+ 26 Q2 = 82 indexed articles in Web of Science (WoS) with impact factor – 47 Open Access (OA)
- ✓ 15 International Conference Proceedings
- ✓ 121 Participations in international conferences
- ✓ 7 International Project proposals
- ✓ 11 National Project proposals
- **Intellectual Property Rights**
- ✓ 12 Patents applications
- **Innovation in companies**
- ✓ 2 Small and medium enterprises (SME) which will introduce innovative products (Datcomp SRL) and processes (Datronic SRL)
- **Summer/Winter schools, other training events for young researchers**
- ✓ 2 Summer/Winter schools
- ✓ 16 Training sessions in the Consortium
- ✓ 2 Training sessions outside the Consortium
- ✓ 8 Short duration research internships in the Consortium
- ✓ 3 Short duration research internships at industrial partners
- **Other indicators**
- ✓ 5 B2B (Consortium - industrial partners) meetings
- ✓ 2 Research Agenda update workshops
- ✓ 8 Standard operation procedures

Official launch

During the start meeting on **July 10, 2026**, the partners will analyze the project's management structure, implementation plan, research and collaboration activities for the



period 2026–2030, as well as the cooperation mechanisms necessary for the development of the Centre of Excellence.

Through CERSUS, the consortium aims to create a national pole of competence and innovation in the field of water management, the valorization of materials, by-products and waste, and the implementation of circular bioeconomy, contributing to strengthening Romania's research and innovation capacity and to the development of solutions with long-term economic, social and environmental impact.

On behalf of CERSUS consortium,

Emeritus Professor dr.eng. Carmen Teodosiu
Department of Environmental Engineering and Management
Cristofor Simionescu Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection
Gheorghe Asachi Technical University Iasi
73 Prof.Dr. D. Mangeron Street, 700050 Iasi, Romania
E-mail: carmen.teodosiu@academic.tuiasi.ro