ftal
2024
conference

Call for papers
FTAL Conference 2024
Circular Economy
November 14-15, 2024

Hosted by the Department of Innovative
Technologies (DTI) of the University of Applied Sciences
and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)

Join Us in Shaping a Sustainable Future!

The Association of Swiss Schools of Engineering, Architecture and Life Sciences (FTAL) welcomes you to the FTAL 2024 conference on Circular Economy. In recent years, the concept of a circular economy has been widespread, leading a growing number of governmental, societal, and business stakeholders to take major initiatives to find promising cyclical models alternative to the currently widely used linear ones. The adoption of circular economy is of paramount importance for reducing environmental impact, creating fair economic opportunities, and building valuable models capable of facing challenging global dynamics.

Objectives and scope

The circular economy offers innovative solutions to face the current socioeconomic and environmental challenges and to create a more sustainable future.

Within this context, the FTAL 2024 Conference on Circular Economy aims to present the state of the art of research, and addresses topics such as resource efficiency, value retention, servitization, localization, circular built environment, circular bioeconomy and other new business, production, and market models.

The conference goals are:

- Promoting exchanges between the different disciplines encompassed by Circular Economy, offering new insights and research challenges.
- Receiving new input from international experts to advance the current research.
- Connecting practitioners and researchers to mutually boost development of grounded theories and their application.
- Presenting the state-of-the-art of circular frameworks and solutions.

The conference welcomes submissions from researchers, master students from different disciplines and practitioners.

Focus topics

Contributions should address one or a combination of the following five topic areas:

1) Innovative concepts for circular Rs in practice (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, Recycle, Recover, Remine), especially models for multiple or combined cycles.
2) Business models and strategies to rethink and redesign towards circular value networks or localization, including costs, value retention, revalorization, incentives.
3) Societal changes, community approaches and motivations, including policy and regulation.
4) Technical challenges like reverse logistics, material durability, and contamination.
5) Monitoring and assessment of circularity, including transparency, traceability, and its impact on the environment, society, and businesses.

Contributions in English at any of the following stages are welcome:

- Full paper.
- Work in progress.
- Planned project.

Full papers will be presented in the form of traditional scientific sessions to share and discuss the main results of the contribution, whereas work in progress and planned projects will be presented in the form of an interactive poster session.

Participants are also invited to submit a workshop proposal. In this case, lecturers, researchers, practitioners, and students active in the field of circular economy are welcome to submit a proposal for carrying out an interactive session to take place during the conference.

All contributions shall demonstrate their compatibility with the above conference objectives and focus topics.

Awards
Outstanding contributions will be awarded through the following prizes:

- Best interactive session.
- Best scientific paper.
- Best young academic paper.
- Best poster contribution.
- Best interdisciplinary project.

Submission guidelines
- All contributions must be structured using the conference proceedings template and must be submitted in electronic form (PDF) on EasyChair:
  easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ftalce24

- All contributions will be subjected to double-blinded peer review.

- In order to be considered for the publication on the conference proceedings, which will be Open Access, authors of full papers/work in progress/planned projects must fulfill the following minimum requirements:
  - *A minimum of 1500 words in the main text excluding title, authors, affiliations, abstract, keywords and references (max 10 pages).*
  - *A minimum of 3 Figures/Tables.*
  - *A minimum of 10 references in "References" section per article.*
- It is possible to submit a work in progress or a planned project in a shorter format, but you will only be considered for poster presentation and not for the publication in the conference proceedings.

In this case, please consider the following minimum requirements:
- *A minimum of 600 words in the main text excluding title, authors, affiliations, abstract, keywords and references (max 5 pages).*
- *A minimum of 1 Figures/Tables.*
- *A minimum of 5 references.*

- If you wish to submit a workshop proposal, it has to describe your workshop concept with emphasis on engaging with conference participants through an interactive session.
  - *The proposed activity should optimally fill a whole 1-hour time slot.*
  - *It is also possible to submit a 30-min-workshop, then two contributions would be presented in a 1-hour-slot.*
  - *The submitted concept description has to:*
    - *demonstrate interactivity with the other conference participants;*
    - *outline the topic, desired workshop result, methodology applied for the workshop, target group of the workshop, intended use of the workshop results;*
    - *define a minimum and maximum number of participants and prerequisites for participation;*
    - *inform if you plan to do any recordings or pictures during the workshop.*

- Depending on the results of the reviews, not all the contributions might be selected for the publication on the conference proceedings, but authors may be invited anyway to present their contribution during the conference in form of a poster.
- At least one author per contribution must register and attend the conference to present the work.
- Further details regarding the publishing house will be provided at a later stage.

Selection guidelines
When reviewing submissions for our conference and for the proceedings, we carefully take into consideration several aspects. Our foremost emphasis is on receiving valuable contributions that adhere to a high standard of applied research and impact. We regard contributions that are relevant for the field and that actively involve the audience and foster meaningful discussions regarding circular economy.

In conjunction with these criteria, we ensure that each submission respects the conference's objectives and themes provided, enhancing the overall experience for our attendees.
To ensure blind-review process, please, keep your submission anonymous.
Final acceptance will depend on whether the author(s) can adequately address review comments to the satisfaction of the reviewers.

This conferences asks its participants to uphold scientific ethical standards and kindly asks Authors to declare competing interests.

Important dates
- Papers Submission Deadline:
  ~~February 29th, 2024~~ Extended June 10th, 2024
- Author Notification:
  ~~April 30th, 2024~~ Extended July 12th, 2024
- Conference dates:
  November 14th-15th, 2024

East Campus USI-SUPSI
Lugano

ftal.supsi.ch/cms

Registration
Registrations are open until 30.09.2024.
Please note that early registration is possible until ~~31.05.2024.~~ Extended July 31st, 2024

The registration fee includes conference participation, welcome reception, coffee breaks, networking aperitif, networking lunch, and OA conference proceedings publication, if a paper is submitted and accepted.

Extended July 31st, 2024
Early bird registration fee (until ~~31.05.2024~~)
Student   CHF 150
Non-student   CHF 200

Late registration fee (until 30.09.2024)
Student   CHF 180
Non-student   CHF 250

Please note that your registration will only be successful after you paid the registration fee. You will get an e-mail confirming your registration and the payment.

Conference registration will open in January 2024. The registration link will be activated at the FTAL 2024 conference website: ftal.supsi.ch/cms/registration

Conference venue
The FTAL 2024 will be held at the Lugano East Campus USI-SUPSI, Via la Santa 1
CH-6962 Lugano-Viganello
Various hotels and restaurants are located within walking distance (see conference website).

Scientific chairs
Prof. André Podleisek, andre.podleisek@ost.ch
Dr. Daniel Kliem, daniel.kliem@ost.ch

Organizing committee
Dr. Corinna Koch Dandolo, corinna.koch@supsi.ch
Dr. Alice Noris, alice.noris@supsi.ch