

01 | M4 CO3 A2 R11 T5

Revitalizing Kerkrade. Embracing Circularity. The Netherlands

In Europe urban areas are shrinking as populations move to larger cities. Existing buildings no longer meet current comfort and efficiency demands, and the urban environment lacks attractiveness and opportunities for young people. It is the case of Kerkrade in the Netherlands, a medium size city. With a population of 45,000, Kerkrade was divided in two by the border between Germany and the Netherlands after World War II. One of Europe's oldest coal-mining towns, Kerkrade served as an important coal-mining centre from 1113 until the early 1970s, when the mines were closed.

The innovation urban project aims to circularly reuse the values within the project area, both social and material. This includes 100% recycling and reuse of demolition materials. Former inhabitants will be invited back to the area, fostering a sense of community and continuity. To create a more attractive urban environment, the project will introduce new collaborative economy services and facilities, such as a shared mobility platform and a social services center. These additions will enhance the area's appeal and functionality. Furthermore, The project will implement innovative water circularity practices to ensure sustainable water use and management within the area. By boosting the local economy and creating a high-quality, desirable urban environment, the project aims to revitalize the area and make it more appealing to residents, especially young people. This case study highlights the comprehensive approach taken to address the challenges of shrinking urban areas, emphasizing the importance of circularity, community involvement, and sustainable urban development.

Source: EESF project, based on [Super Circular Estate - First Circular Social Housing Estate for 100% Material and Social Circularity | UIA - Urban Innovative Actions](#)



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