THE INCUBATION FORUM FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN EUROPEAN DEFENCE

EDA launched the Incubation Forum for Circular Economy in European Defence (IF CEED) on 1 October 2021 to help applying the EU Green Deal's Circular Economy approach to the European defence sector, based on a cooperative community that involves EU Member States' Ministries of Defence (MoDs), the defence industry, research-and-technology-organisations (RTOs), financial institutions and academia. IF CEED has an initial duration of two years and is co-funded by the EU LIFE Programme 2014-2020 and the Luxembourg's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Defence Directorate).

Goals

Based on the principles of Circular Economy, the goals of IF CEED are to:
• incubate collaborative projects and their respective consortia;
• enable transnational innovative solutions and new business models;
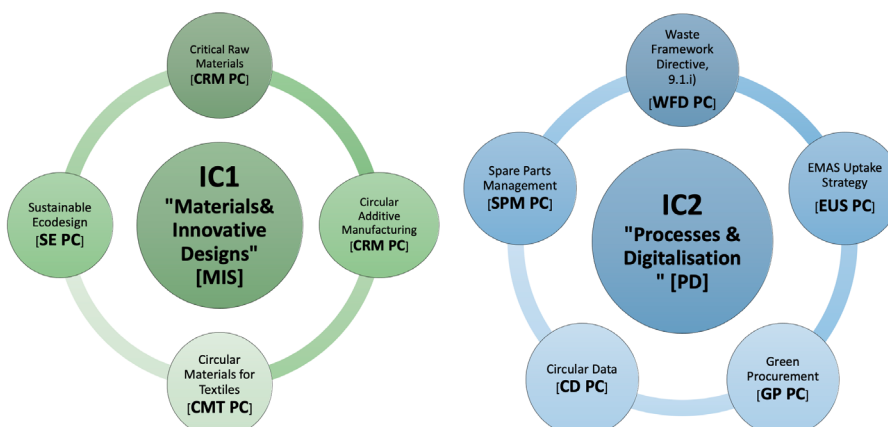• generate proposals for mitigating defence sector's environmental impact.

Structure

IF CEED is organised around two Incubation Clusters [ICs]:
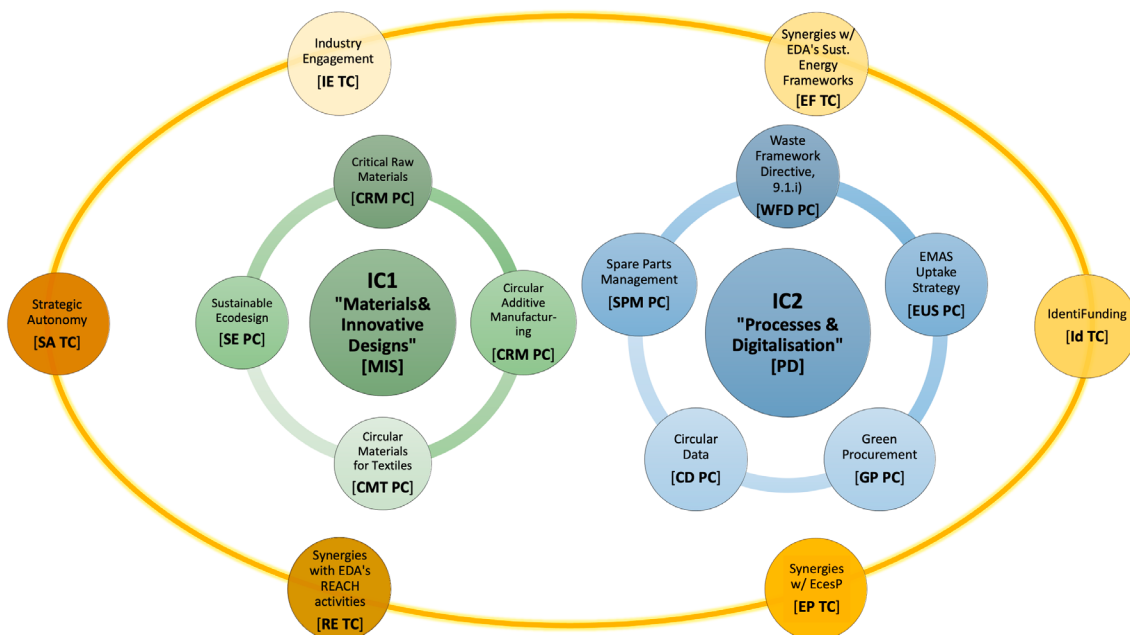• Materials & Innovative Designs;
• Processes & Digitalisation.

Within each IC, several Project Circles [PCs] are created to address each Specific Objective of the IF CEED Workplan. A PC is a dedicated group of the above-mentioned engaged stakeholders, partly based on EDA's working bodies specialised on the respective field, who meet to achieve the goals of IF CEED.

Graphic : Incubation Clusters [ICs] and Project Circles [PCs]

Additionally, six Transversal Cells [TCs] cooperate to nurture and support the PCs.

Graphic : Incubation clusters [IC], Project circles [PCs] and Transversal Cells [TCs]

Furthermore, IF CEED organises conferences and coordination meetings involving the wider defence community. It may also launch a study to enhance knowledge, data and foresight around Circular Economy in defence, thereby contributing to the "IF CEED Roadmap" and the way forward.

General objectives

The general objective of IF CEED is to extend the Circular Economy concept and policies, already present in the civil sector, also to the defence domain. To do that, a structured approach is needed to ensure this transition is "systemic, deep and transformative, in the EU and beyond" as well as "disruptive", as it is stated in the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, CEAP. Against this backdrop, the "Climate Change and Defence Roadmap" of the Council of the EU explicitly invited EU Member States to "use, strengthen and engage in upcoming ... platforms whenever possible and appropriate, notably EDA's ... IF CEED".

IF CEED aims at bringing together a wide community of stakeholders wishing to build common projects on circular economy in European defence: Member States' Ministries of Defence and Ministries for the Environment, the European Commission and its Agencies, other pertinent EU institutions and national public bodies, the defence industry and research centres as well as academia. Moreover, to avoid duplications with other major organisations dealing with the same subject, EDA will consider inviting experts from NATO, OECD, UN (considering e.g. its peacekeeping missions) as well as relevant entities from other organisations.

The activities are conducted in synergy with existing EDA initiatives - notably the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS III), the Energy and Environment CapTech (EnE CT) and the REACH Task Force - as well as with other relevant platforms such as the European circular economy stakeholder Platform (EcesP).

IF CEED also plays an important role in relation to the Council's invitation to the Member States, the EEAS, the Commission and the EDA "to develop concrete solutions within the defence sector ... leading to increased resilience and operational efficiency also in the context of climate change", together with EDA's Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector and EDA Energy & Environment CapTech.

If you want to express your interest in joining the IF CEED Project Circle(s), please send an email to our functional mailbox: circular.economy@eda.europa.eu