



## PRESS RELEASE

**The launch of the project “Center of Excellence in Water Management, Recovery of Materials, By-products and Waste for the Implementation of the Circular Bioeconomy” (acronym CERSUS) will take place in the “Cristea Niculescu Otin” Senate Hall, Rectorate Building, 67 Prof. Dr. Dimitrie Mangeron Street, Iași, on 10 July 2026, between 10:00 and 14:15.**

“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași (TUIASI), through the “Cristofor Simionescu” Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection, announces the official launch of the project “Center of Excellence in Water Management, Recovery 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 excellence in research in the field of circular bioeconomy and sustainable development.

The project is implemented between 2 June 2026 and 30 December 2030, with a total value of RON 85,900,000, approximately EUR 17.16 million, and is coordinated by the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași, under the leadership of the Project Director, Professor Emeritus Dr. Eng. Carmen Teodosiu.

The launch event, the Kick-off Meeting, will take place on 10 July 2026 at the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași, bringing together representatives of all partner organisations, as well as guests from the academic, research and institutional sectors.

### **Center of Excellence for the Circular Bioeconomy**

The general objective of the CERSUS project is to create a Center of Excellence that will provide a framework for interdisciplinary collaboration aimed at:

- developing the circular bioeconomy;
- increasing the performance and international visibility of Romanian research;
- developing innovative solutions and technologies with environmental impact;
- accelerating technology transfer to the economic sector;
- training and developing 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 the reduction of environmental impact, in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the circular economy.

### **Main Research Directions:**

The project will address five strategic areas:

- development of innovative materials for environmental applications, resource recovery and reuse;
- development of solutions for integrated water–food–energy management within the circular bioeconomy;



- development of recirculating aquaculture systems through innovative materials and pollutant assessment;
- development of biorefineries for the recovery of by-products and waste from the food and wine industries;
- development of an integrated framework for assessing the sustainability of materials, processes, by-products and waste.

These directions are supported by a transversal work package dedicated to the assessment of 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 organisations 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 Research and Development Institute for Industrial Ecology – ECOIND Bucharest (INCD-ECOIND) – Partner 7.

### **Expected Results and Indicators**

#### ✓ **Human Resources**

- 10 new full-time research jobs created;
- 69 total positions for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers;
- 17 vacant positions for PhD students;
- 9 vacant positions for postdoctoral researchers, of which 3 are intended for

**international researchers.**

#### ✓ **Research Infrastructure**

- Minimum value of installed equipment: EUR 2,952,343

#### ✓ **Publications**

- 56 Web of Science indexed articles in Q1 journals and 26 articles in Q2 journals, totalling 82 impact factor articles, of which 47 will be published in Open Access;
- 15 papers published in the proceedings of international conferences;
- 121 participations in international conferences;
- 7 international project proposals;
- 11 national project proposals.



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- ✓ **Intellectual Property Rights**
    - 12 patent applications filed.
  - ✓ **Innovation in Companies**
    - 2 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that will introduce innovative products (Datcomp SRL) and innovative processes (Datronic SRL).
  - ✓ **Summer/Winter Schools and Other Training Activities for Young Researchers**
    - 2 summer/winter schools;
    - 16 training sessions within the consortium;
    - 2 training sessions outside the consortium;
    - 8 short-term internships within the consortium;
    - 3 short-term internships with industrial partners.
  - ✓ **Other Indicators**
    - 5 B2B meetings between the consortium and industrial partners;
    - 2 workshops for updating the Research Agenda;
    - 8 standard operating procedures

### **Official Launch**

During the kick-off meeting on 10 July 2026, the partners will analyse the project management structure, the implementation plan, the research and collaboration activities for the 2026–2030 period, as well as the cooperation mechanisms required for the development of the Center of Excellence.

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

### **On behalf of the CERSUS consortium**

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