

## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY EVENT: CIRCULAR PLASTICS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS**

- On Tuesday 23rd July, the Circular Economy Event: Circular Plastics in the Canary Islands took place at the facilities of the Parque Científico Tecnológico del Norte, in Punta de Gáldar, within the framework of the CIRCNET Project.

The circular economy event organised by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, with the collaboration of the Mancomunidad de Ayuntamientos del Norte, was held on Tuesday morning at the facilities of Parque Científico Tecnológico Comarcal del Norte de Gran Canaria and was attended by more than 35 participants and experts from the sector. The event was inaugurated by the President of the Mancomunidad, José Luis Rodríguez Quintana, the Vice-Rector of Internationalisation of the ULPGC, Jin Taira, and the Manager of the Mancomunidad, Alejandro Peñafiel Hernández, who welcomed the attendees and highlighted the importance of holding this type of events to disseminate the advances made in the circular economy and to establish collaborations between entities.

The first presentation was given by Ángel Pablo Montañés Ríos (Director General de Transición Ecológica, Lucha contra el Cambio Climático y Energía del Gobierno de Canarias), who explained the strategic lines of the Government of the Canary Islands related to the circular economy and the reuse of plastics. This was followed by Elisa Monzón Ramos (Directora Insular de Medio Ambiente, Cabildo de Gran Canaria), who presented data on waste management in Gran Canaria and outlined the island's policies on these matters. Next, Carlos Agustí Chust from the AIJU Technology Centre (Instituto Tecnológico de Producto Infantil y Ocio) presented the CIRCNET project, promoter of the event, which aims to create the most extensive, open and tailor-made training course on circular economy for plastics at European level. After the break, different projects carried out by the ULPGC were presented, starting with Raquel Ortega García who presented the CICEP project (Action of circular economy in island regions through the recovery of plastic and agricultural waste) on the use of banana rachis and plastic bottle caps for the manufacture of composite materials. Next, María Dolores Marrero Alemán, professor at the ULPGC, presented the EcoFibras and Inv2Mac projects, both related to the use of invasive plant species for industrial use. Then, Zaida Ortega Medina, professor at the ULPGC, presented the potential of microalgae as an alternative source of bioactives and composite materials, followed by Alicia Herrera Ulibarri with the IMPLAMAC project on the evaluation of the impact of microplastics and emerging pollutants on the coasts of Macaronesia. Finally, Néstor Santiago Ávila, CEO of Fibras Naturales Canarias, gave a presentation about his company.

The successful event has proved to be a significant step towards the adoption of sustainable practices in our community and has reflected a growing commitment to environmental protection and the implementation of a more responsible economic model.