



## **A joint workshop at LAB University of Applied Sciences to develop the Circular Design Training framework**

In November 2024, LAB University of Applied Sciences hosted a collaborative workshop focused on developing the modular structure for the Circular Design Training program. The workshop was organized by LAB's Institute of Design, with active participation from the Estonian Design Centre. It aimed to strengthen the integration of circular economy principles into design education.

The development of the training content emphasized the importance of systems thinking and the need to respect the planet's ecological boundaries. The workshop particularly highlighted that designers play a key role in driving sustainable change when they understand material lifecycles, value networks, and the long-term impacts of design.

Participants explored how circular economy principles can be applied in design practice and discussed why training content should be developed from a designer-driven perspective. It was noted that although information and materials related to circular design already exist, they are often fragmented and business-oriented. However, the designer's perspective and methods offer significant potential to support systemic transformation—especially when combined with ecological awareness and societal responsibility.

The workshop marked a significant step toward creating training content that supports designers in transitioning from linear models to more sustainable and regenerative solutions, promoting ecological restoration and societal resilience.