



Aalto University
School of Business

Circular Economy in Construction and Real Estate

Master's thesis project

Elizabeth Miller | 16 January 2019

About the project

- This Sitra-funded project will bring together master's students from different disciplines to **research the same circular economy challenge** from different angles with multiple companies.
- Global challenges require solutions that combine different disciplines and expertise. **Aalto Sustainability Hub (ASH)** supports the emergence of solutions through multidisciplinary research and teaching in co-operation with various organizations in society. Circular economy is a key focus area of ASH.

Company 1: SYK

- The **University Properties of Finland Ltd (SYK)** is a nationwide owner and developer of higher education campuses outside of the Helsinki metropolitan area.
- **Possible research questions:**
 - How can a property owner contribute to the realization of the circular economy? For example, when ordering construction projects?
 - How would it be possible to measure the realization of circular economy in a construction project? What goals could be set in both construction and maintenance?
 - How can the circular economy and its realization become visible in the built environment?
 - Job listing: <https://www.aarresaari.net/advert-3-54656>

Company 2: Saint-Gobain

- **Saint-Gobain** designs, manufactures and supplies building materials, products and solutions.
- **Preliminary research objectives:**
 - Look at the supply chain in a new light as a service provider in the design and construction of different phases
 - Concretize the results of the UK Green Building Council Circular Economy Guide from a material/product/solution provider perspective
 - Explore the impact of early-stage involvement of key personnel on a circular economy project's effectiveness
 - Make a recommendation on the role of material suppliers in a circular economy
 - Job listing: <https://www.aarresaari.net/index.php?31&aid=54988>

Benefits of joining this project

- Participate in regular check-ins with other students working on the same case, who can provide **feedback and ideas**
- Gain deep knowledge of circular economy, a **hot topic** in sustainability
- Develop **connections** with the case company
- Work on a **paid** thesis project

Interested?

- Send an email to elizabeth.miller@aalto.fi or fill out the application directly through CareerWeb
- Applications are due 10 February