Circular economy strategies and roadmaps in Europe

Identifying synergies and potential for cooperation and alliance building

2019 Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference – 7 March 2019
Collecting strategies across Europe

Circular economy strategy definition in the scope of the study

Documents focused on a circular economy, with a clear strategic plan, defining objectives or describing a desired outcome and including key steps or milestones to reach them

Identified

- **33** existing strategies
- **29** planned strategies
Own elaboration based on existing strategies and information collected from stakeholders

Location of existing and upcoming strategies

Factors:
- Presence of early adopters
- National strategies facilitating regional ones
- Decentralised systems

Own elaboration based on existing strategies and information collected from stakeholders
A growing number of strategies

Development of circular economy strategies over time

Own elaboration based on the review of existing strategies and information collected on upcoming strategies
Different criteria used for sector selection: economic importance, circularity potential, political importance.

Scalability and transferability often have little consideration in the selection of sectors.
Choice of sectors differs by:
- territorial level
- time of strategy

Many strategies follow an exploratory/pioneering approach in topic/sector selection.
**Different orientation of strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Different rationales for the development of strategies</th>
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<td>- Levels of ambition (leaders vs. followers)</td>
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<td>- Degrees of concern/integration with global challenges and goals</td>
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<td>- Degrees of orientation to territorial context-specific challenges</td>
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<td>- Degrees of inclusiveness of value chains</td>
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<th>Different thematic and sectoral focus</th>
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- Strategies with a restricted sectoral focus: 4
- All-encompassing strategies with a clear setting of priorities: 19
- Integrated strategies with no specific sector focus: 10

*Own elaboration*
### Findings: Inclusive Approaches

<table>
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<th>Public authorities take a leading role in issuing circular economy strategies (28 of 33)</th>
<th>The inclusion of different types of stakeholders is considered differently in strategies</th>
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<td>Some strategies set-up boards or organisations improving stakeholder involvement and follow-up</td>
<td>There is a trade-off between the inclusion of many types of players and agility of formulation and implementation of strategies</td>
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<td>Civil society involvement is higher during strategy implementation than during strategy development</td>
<td>Strategies could benefit from a greater inclusion of civil society. Often CSOs are mentioned without identifying any specific role, or as a target group</td>
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Thank you!