



MAPPING CIRCULAR STRATEGIES IN EUROPE – REPORT OF WORKSHOP

Taking place in JDE62 of the EESC during the first session of workshops, approximately 150 people attended the workshop looking at circular economy strategies across Europe.

The objective of the workshop was to review the current state of implementation for circular economy policies in Member States, followed by an in-depth look from specific Member States as they make their journey along the road to a circular economy strategy.

Success Stories

Research on '[Identifying synergies and potential cooperation and alliance building](#)' was presented by Giacomo Salvatori and Frank Holstein of Spatial Foresight, noting that there are 33 existing strategies and 29 planned, that have Circular Economy as the core focus. These come from across Europe, and are at national, regional and local level. Each strategy has taken its own path, focusing on sectors that fit their territories. The role of public authorities and civil society was also mentioned, noting the lead role of the former, and the benefit of greater inclusion of civil society.



As an example of a strategy **recently developed**, one of the Workshop Leaders, Laura Cutaia of ENEA, the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, presented the [Model of Circular Economy for Italy](#). This approach used public consultation to define Italy's position on circular economy principles and objectives, while also looking at how to manage the transition process. A new platform – the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform now has more than 50 members from across public institutions, private associations and research centres; all of whom participate in working groups looking at topics from research and eco-innovation, to good practices and communications.

Elena-Simina Lakatos, of the [Romanian Institute for Circular Economy and Environment \(IRCEM\)](#), and another Workshop Leader, presented Romania as an example of a country **currently developing** a strategy. Building on the success of the Green Economy Partnership for Zero Waste, IRCEM have sought to bring together public authorities, NGOs, the private sector and the individual on the transition to a circular economy. The Action Plan includes establishing regulatory instruments to support a circular economy, plans to stimulate action at market and policy level, and the development of communication plans to drive the change.



Last, but not least, of the presentations was an example of an **established strategy** – the [French Circular Economy Roadmap](#), with Sylvain Chevassus from the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition outlining the development and inclusive approach of the roadmap. The implementation of the Roadmap includes working groups on topics such as waste and stakeholder involvement, reviewing relevant tax levels to stimulate recycling, and getting 55 companies to commit to integrating recycled material in their products.



New Challenges

The challenges for the next stages of circular economy strategies can be found in the sli.do questions posed to the workshop participants, as well as the discussion. Using sli.do, the Workshop Leaders asked the following questions:

1. *Which of these key areas do you think are the most important for the circular economy?*

The Top 3 Answers were: "From Waste to Resources", "Production" and "Innovation and Investments"

2. *Which type of strategy does your country have?*

Most respondents stated that their country had a Roadmap, which is what a country would like to do, rather than a Strategy (the what and when) or a Plan (the what, when and how). Nearly a fifth of respondents said that their country did not have a strategy, indicating there is **still some work for strategy development** across Europe!

3. *If there is a CE strategy in your country, how do you rank implementation?*

Here, most of the respondents ranked the implementation of their strategies as low, with only 16% in total giving the top two scores for their national strategy. As with the responses to the second question, this indicates that there is still a lot of **work to do on the implementation** of national strategies, including those already developed.

Further discussion with the workshop participants provided additional information on what needs to be addressed to overcome the challenges facing national strategies. Some themes that emerged from the questions raised through sli.do are:

National approaches and harmonisation

- A call for harmonisation of approach to national measures to ensure there are not 28 difference circular economies across Europe
- How will countries standardise regulations across Europe to ensure companies can market their products in a single market?
- International and national voluntary commitments – how will these be monitored?
- The need to harmonise information symbols

The role of waste management

- Focus of strategies should be on waste prevention, rather than waste recycling
- Action plans are needed, including for communications and marketing
- Strategies need to be broader than just waste
- Should countries who use incineration be excluded from the circular economy?

The role of broader society

- The role of civil society should be addressed – at the moment, involvement is at implementation stage, rather than development stage

What's Next?

- Spatial Foresight will publish its *final report on Circular economy strategies and roadmaps in Europe* by May 2019
- As the coordinator of *ICESP (Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform)*, ENEA will continue supporting Italy's public administration and private enterprises with implementing circular strategies. In partnership with the Ministries of Environment and Economic Development, *ENEA is designing an indicator set to monitor the circular economy in Italy*.
- *IRCEM* is campaigning for Romania's government to adopt a circular economy strategy. To ensure citizen and civil society engagement provides buy-in for such a strategy, IRCEM will be hosting 7 regional consultations in collaboration with Romania's Ministry of Environment and host a *final conference on June 11th in Bucharest* to present the *Roadmap for developing a strategy on the circular economy in Romania*.
- The *4th Circular Change Conference*, to be held 16-17 May in Maribor, will tackle the 4 priority sectors of the *Slovenian roadmap towards the circular economy* and focus on business cases delivering this roadmap.

Want to keep the conversation going? Contribute your good practice on circulareconomy.europa.eu, join the online forum or drop us a line: CEStakeholderEU@eesc.europa.eu

