



Welcome to the workshop

TOOLS FOR MEASURING THE CIRCULAR TRANSITION

European Economic and Social Committee, JDE63

7 March 2019, 11:00 – 12:20

Objective

- To identify qualitative / quantitative indicators stakeholders can use to measure their circular transition
- To define what makes indicators effective tools and how to use them in stimulating change on the ground

Leader

Michal Len

RREUSE

@RREUSE_Brussels

Schedule

Welcome by the Leader

Measuring the Circularity Gap

Tamara Veldboer

Circle Economy

@tmrvldbr

@CircleEcon

Introducing the Circularity Check

Arthur ten Wolde

Ecopreneur

@ArthurtenWolde

@EcopreneurEU

Towards a circular economy monitor for Flanders

Luc Alaerts

Flanders Policy Research Centre Circular Economy

@CirculFlanders

Developing City Indicators for Circular Economy

Hakon Jentoft

Urban Agenda Partnership for the Circular Economy

@EUUrbanAgenda

Breakout sessions on

What factors make indicators useful instruments?

Do indicators require targets to be effective?

Summary and conclusions by the Leader

Setting the scene

'In the transition to a more circular economy, monitoring the key trends and patterns is key to understand how the various elements of the circular economy are developing over time, to help identify success factors and to assess whether sufficient action has been taken.' (European Commission 2018, **Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy**). For the EU and national level, such a framework is provided on a **dedicated website** by EUROSTAT. This framework enables stakeholders to review implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan and supports national authorities in reaching targets set in waste management legislation. For example, the Dutch government has made further progress since with its own framework, which places emphasis on developing comprehensive indicator sets that cover both the process of transition itself and the impact such a transition has, including key socio-economic indicators such as job creation. This **Dutch monitoring system** also introduces qualitative indicators, e.g. the level of cooperation between partners along a value chain, removal of restrictive rules or design of circular products. That indicators are key as well to effective circular strategies in business is underlined by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, whose **landscape analysis on Circular Metrics** reviews the indicators 39 companies use to measure how circular their processes or products are. As 74% indicated using internal measures, there is a clear need to develop toolkits that enable comparable measuring the circularity of products or the transition towards a circular economy in defined geographic or sectoral areas.





All types of public authorities, businesses and civil society need such toolkits to benchmark themselves, review the progress they are making and communicate the circular economy to a wider audience. European stakeholders have responded to this challenge enthusiastically: **Ecopreneur**, the sustainable SME association, has developed and piloted a **Circularity Check** that allows companies to self-assess how circular their products, goods or services are with a practical and user-friendly survey.

From a public authority perspective, the Flanders regional government is designing a **three-level circular economy monitor** while closely involving civil society. This monitor, conceptualised into macro (regional level), meso (systems fulfilling societal needs) and micro (products and services) levels also feeds into the Urban Agenda's action on Circular City Indicators, which is working towards an easily implementable.

Alongside the aforementioned tools, this workshop will introduce the value of measuring and the role of targets before featuring updates from Circle Economy's **Circularity Gap 2019 report**, which shows that, globally, the world remains only 9% circular and the trend is negative. To support the necessary action towards a circular economy, this workshop will thus identify and discuss a variety of indicator toolkits that can be used as a means of not only measuring, but also inspiring a change towards a circular economy, especially if they underpin targets.

Key questions

- Why are we measuring the transition to a circular economy? **How can we measure the circular transition as businesses or local authorities?** What indicators are we or should we be using?
- What factors influence the (in)effectiveness of indicators? **What role do targets play in making indicators effective?** What resources do stakeholders need to enable measurement?
- **How can we use data on the circular transition to inspire change towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**, especially 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and 17 (partnerships for the goals)?

Coming up

- A **report** presenting the toolkits shared in this workshop and summarising the conclusions on what makes indicators effective will be published on the ECESP website and sent to all conference participants
- **Presentations** will be published on the **conference webpage** upon authors' consent
- **RREUSE** is collaborating with the consultancy **Social Circular Economy** on measuring the wider impacts of social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling for society, to be published in the near future
- **Urban Agenda** will develop its draft indicator set into a toolkit for use by local authorities, and collaborate with ESPON and the OECD to help cities use these suggested measures.
- While **Ecopreneur** has completed the pilot of its **Circularity Check** on March 1st, the checklist remains open for use. Together with MVO Nederland and WeSustain, Ecopreneur is investigating how to roll out further.

About the lead



Michal Len is Director of **RREUSE**, where he manages and coordinates a network of 25 social enterprise networks across Europe, whose members employ people at risk of socio-economic exclusion and help bring them back into work through re-use, repair and recycling. His priority is supporting job-rich and inclusive strategies toward a circular economy, including metrics and targets related to the re-use sector as well as greater use and recognition of indicators by public authorities underlying the circular transition.



RREUSE represents 160,000 employees, volunteers and trainees engaged in re-use, repair and recycling activities across its wider network of 1,000 social enterprises across Europe. Collectively they handle around 1 million tonnes of goods and materials annually, including textiles, furniture and electricals.

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

