



OVERVIEW

The workshop, led by **Ladeja Košir Godina**, **ECESP co-chair and founder of [Circular Change](#)**, focused on issues such as **circular economy (CE) hubs** and their role as front-runners of the circular transformation, their nature (public, private, public-private, etc.), their agendas and competences, their agility and ability to mobilise their resources, and their way of interacting with stakeholders and among themselves.

Two topics in particular were discussed: **network governance** and **transition brokers**.

NEW CHALLENGES

Jacqueline Cramer:

- Because many actors are used to working in silos, building circular initiatives through new forms of cooperation is a real challenge.

Freek van Eijk (ECESP co-chair, [Holland Circular Hotspot](#)):

- CE hubs are still underutilised. They need more (economic, etc.) support and recognition.
- Leadership is needed: governments need to set ambitious targets, devise indicators and allocate funds, and businesses need to do their part.

Daria Figelj/Arthur ten Wolde:

- More innovation from SMEs is needed. They find it hard to be acknowledged by governments and to demonstrate their economic effectiveness.

KEY MESSAGES

[Prof. Jacqueline Cramer](#) (Utrecht University, HCH): Presentation of her new book [Building a Circular Future – Ten takeaways for global change-makers](#), a sequel to [How network governance can power the circular economy](#), where the concept of **network – as opposed to public - governance** was introduced, including interviews with ECESP LG members who contributed with their insights and experiences:

- No company or organisation can deliver the CE alone, hence the need for a network and for network governance.

- Combining public and network governance enhances the transition.
- Network governance needs transition brokers.
- Receptivity to network governance depends on the socio-cultural and political context.
- Country-specific drivers (linked to the market's characteristics) can enhance effective governance. Governments need to provide public governance, funding and leadership.
- Exchanging experience/cooperation between countries can accelerate the worldwide transition.

Emmanuelle Mairie (European Commission, DG ENV.B.1):

- Each person/city/enterprise needs to be connected and share knowledge on the CE and good practices in order to accelerate the transition.
- There is a need for a sense of direction/leadership. To this end, the EU published the ambitious Circular Economy Action Plan (2020). As mobilisation was also needed, the ECESP was created, providing the infrastructure to launch CE stakeholder initiatives in order to drive the change.
- Some examples of dialogue initiatives were presented: Dubai Expo - European Circular Days, Climate COP in Glasgow, Congress on Biodiversity in Marseille.
- Some examples of network governance at international level: global alliance on CE and resource efficiency, CE Missions (EU politicians, businesses, individuals going to other countries to promote the CE and share their knowledge and skills).

Daria Figelj ([Interseroh](#)):

- Encouraging better resource management practices while developing tailor-made services is key. It is time to see household plastic packaging as a resource. Transition brokers play a very important role here (they initiate, inspire, encourage, facilitate, develop, link and orchestrate).
- Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is a process but working together is a success: these are the roles of transition brokers.

Arthur ten Wolde ([Ecopreneur](#))

- SMEs need to cooperate to speed up the transition towards the CE: 60% of pollution at EU and global level comes from them.
- Economic incentives are needed for circular products to become cheaper than linear ones.
- The European Commission should take the lead and fund the creation of Circularity Hubs in all EU regions.

Shadow Chen ([Circular Taiwan Network](#))

- Taiwan's position is unique: 67% of its industry participates in global value chains (semi-conductors, electronics, textiles, etc.). It imports all resources, but is an excellent recycler.
- As a transition broker, Circular Taiwan Network carries out communication, advocacy ("accelerating circular collaboration for climate crisis") and networking activities.
- Its approach: introducing systems thinking to stakeholders, creating scalable tools, focusing on the most advanced circular enterprises to convince others to follow suit (15% principle).

Sarah Miller ([Rediscovery Centre](#))

- As a CE hub, Rediscovery Centre carries out education, demonstration, advocacy and collaboration activities.

- 50% of its operations are funded through collaborative programmes and multiannual strategic partnerships such as the ones with the Environment Protection Agency and local city councils.