



Funded by the European Union

TAIEX EPPA

Sub- regional Workshop on Circular Economy

organised in co-operation with
EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA)

26 – 27 May 2021

Online

Beneficiaries:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia

EPPA 80802

Organised and funded by the
Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument

*Neighbourhood and
Enlargement
Negotiations*

Aim of the Workshop:

The aim of the Workshop is to share the EU's policy initiatives and practical measures for the development of a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient, and competitive economy in the frame of the Green Deal. Advice and guidance as well as practical examples will be provided on Circular Economy (CE) in order to support the development of CE in the beneficiary countries.

The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- to explain the CE concept and to present the latest EU initiatives in this area;
- to present the latest initiatives in the beneficiary countries in the area of CE
- to provide examples of CE business models in practice;
- to present and share experiences and best practices from EU Member States, from public and the private sectors where the potential for circularity is high: plastic, packaging and food;
- to discuss the opportunities and challenges for CE in the beneficiary countries.

EU Member State Speakers:

- Ms. Aditi **Bhasin**, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, Sweden
- Ms. Francesca **Montevecchi**, Environment Agency Austria, Austria
- Mr. Attila **Steiner**, Secretary of State for the Development of Circular Economy, Energy and Climate Policy, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Hungary

Beneficiary Speakers:

- Ms. Sandra **Dokić**, Assistant Minister in charge of International Cooperation, Strategic Planning and Projects, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- Mr. Mirza **Hujić**, Assistant Minister, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Danilo **Mrdak**, State Secretary, Montenegro

Other Speakers:

- Mr. Ioannis **Bakas**, Waste Expert, European Environment Agency
- Mr. Werner **Bosmans**, European Commission, DG Environment
- Ms. Cristiana **Ciaraldi Jolivet**, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Ms. Anna **Desogus**, Founder, Circular Together Poland
- Mr. Thomas **Heinemeier**, European Commission, DG GROW
- Mr. Máté **Kriza**, Circular Economy Expert, Circular Point Hungary

- Ms. Josefina **Lindblom**, European Commission, DG Environment
- Mr. Lars Fogh **Mortensen**, European Environment Agency
- Ms. Cecile **van Oppen**, Circular Economy Expert, Copper8
- Mr. Joachim **Quoden**, Director at the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance.
- Ms. Alija **Salkunić**, Chemical Engineer, Elixir Zorka Mineral fertilizers
- Mr. Wim **Van Breusegem**, EPPA Waste Senior Expert
- Mr. Arthur **ten Wolde**, Founder, Circular Future, The Netherlands
- Mr. Bartosz **Zambrzycki**, European Commission, DG SANTE

Day 1: Wednesday, 26 May 2021

Chair: Mr. Wim **Van Breusegem**

08:30 - 09:00	<p>Event starts /technical introduction/solving participants' issues</p> <p>8:50 – Short technical introduction to the webinar platform</p>
09:00 - 09:20 <i>Slot 1</i>	<p>Introductory remarks</p> <p>Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Director, Global Sustainable Development Directorate, DG Environment, European Commission</p> <p>Mr. Lawrence Meredith, Director Neighbourhood East and Institution Building, DG NEAR, European Commission</p>
09:20 – 09:50 Session 1 <i>Slot 2</i>	<p>Address by the beneficiary countries – Transition towards Circular Economy</p> <p>Ms. Sandra Dokić, Assistant Minister, Serbia</p> <p>Mr. Danilo Mrdak, State Secretary, Montenegro</p> <p>Mr. Mirza Hujić, Assistant Minister, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
09:50 - 10:20 <i>Slot 3</i>	<p>EU policies and measures to advance the CE: The European Green Deal, and the new Circular Economy Action Plan</p> <p>The EU has adopted the Green Deal, a new growth strategy to transform the EU into a resource-efficient and competitive economy. The strategy provides an action plan to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, to restore biodiversity and to cut pollution. One of the main blocks of the European Green Deal, is the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP). The presentation will outline the key measures and initiatives included in the new CEAP.</p> <p>Ms. Madalina Ivanica</p>
10:20 - 10:50 <i>Slot 4</i>	<p>Paving the way for a CE: knowledge, skills and governance approaches</p> <p>The term “Circular Economy” has a different meaning to different people. The purpose of this presentation is to create a common understanding among the workshop participants of the CE model, by introducing the concept and by making it concrete. The presentation will focus on the knowledge, skills and governance approaches needed for a systemic transition.</p> <p>Mr. Slobodan Perovic, EPPA Senior Expert</p>
10:50 – 11:10	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:10 – 11:40 <i>Slot 5</i>	<p>EU Member State policies and measures to advance the CE: A case study from Hungary</p>

	<p>National measures (regulatory, economic, policy and social/information based measures) to enable the transition to a CE and to create the conditions for the wider adoption of circular business models.</p> <p>Mr. Attila Steiner</p>
<p>11:40 -12:10 <i>Slot 6</i></p>	<p>The benefits of circular procurement and how to get started</p> <p>Ms. Cecile van Oppen</p>
<p>12:10 – 12:40 <i>Slot 7</i></p>	<p>A New Industrial Strategy for Europe</p> <p>The twin ecological and digital transitions will affect every part of our economy, society and industry. They will require new technologies, with investment and innovation to match. They will create new products, services, markets and business models. They will shape new types of jobs that do not yet exist which need skills that we do not yet have. Moreover, they will entail a shift from linear production to a circular economy. The new Industrial Strategy shows the direction of travel and the route the EU will take to get there. It lays out the vision of what EU wants to achieve by 2030 and beyond, the fundamentals that will take EU there.</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Heinemeier</p>
<p>12:40 – 13:30</p>	<p><i>Lunch break</i></p>
<p>13:30 – 13:35 <u>Session 2</u></p>	<p>Introduction to the Session 2</p> <p>Prevention and improved management of plastic waste in a Circular Economy</p> <p>Mr. Wim Van Breusegem</p>
<p>13:35 – 14:00 <i>Slot 8</i></p>	<p>EU policies and measures to prevent plastic waste and to improve its management</p> <p>The EU has adopted in 2018 the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy and the Single-Use Plastics Directive. The key challenges, including the recent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the measures that are being taken to turn these challenges into opportunities, will be presented.</p> <p>Mr. Werner Bosmans</p>
<p>14:00 – 14:30 <i>Slot 9</i></p>	<p>Plastics, the circular economy and Europe's environment - A priority for action</p> <p>Plastics play an essential role in modern society, but also lead to significant impacts on the environment and climate. Reducing such impacts while retaining the usefulness of plastics requires a shift towards a more circular and sustainable plastics system. The presentation will discuss the effect of plastics on the environment and climate, and looks at their place in a European circular economy.</p> <p>Mr. Lars Fogh Mortensen</p>
<p>14:30 – 15:00 <i>Slot 10</i></p>	<p>EU Member States policies and measures to prevent plastic waste and to improve its management: A case study from Austria</p> <p>Key challenges and opportunities of prevention and recycling of plastics, both single-use plastics and long-lived plastics, including also the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is challenging the economic viability of plastic waste recycling. The policy measures and initiatives taken to reduce plastic waste generation and to improve the collection and recycling of plastic will be presented</p> <p>Ms. Francesca Montevecchi</p>
<p>15:00 – 15:10</p>	<p>Conclusions and wrap-up</p> <p>Mr. Wim Van Breusegem</p>

Day 2: Thursday, 27 May 2021

Chair: Mr. Mihail Dimovski

08:30 - 09:00	Event starts /registration /solving participants' issues
09:00 – 09:05 <u>Session 3</u>	Introduction to Session 3 The circular economy in the construction and the demolition waste sector Mr. Wim Van Breusegem
09:05 – 09:35 <i>Slot 11</i>	CE in the construction sector: a new vision for a sustainable Built Environment Ms. Josefina Lindblom
09:35 – 10:00 <i>Slot 12</i>	Construction and Demolition Waste: challenges and opportunities in a Circular Economy Ms. Cristiana Ciaraldi Jolivet
10:00 – 10:05 <u>Session 4</u>	Introduction to Session 4 Moving from policy to practice: How can businesses make the CE a reality by implementing circular business models? Mr. Wim Van Breusegem
10:05 – 10:30 <i>Slot 13</i>	Circular Economy for SMEs and Consumers The involvement of SMEs and the consumers is a key issue in the transition to the CE. It implies the knowledge, enabling environment, market and financial incentives as well as engagement and awareness. Currently there are still numerous obstacles and challenges, which SMEs and consumers face when it comes to choosing circular business models or circular products and services. Mr. Máté Kriza
10:30 – 11:00 <i>Slot 14</i>	Best practice examples of circular business models in the EU What the CE means in practical terms for EU businesses, how they are they moving to models that are more 'circular' and where there are new business opportunities. Case studies will be presented from EU MS businesses, active in sectors that are moving towards the CE, with a focus on business models that prevent the generation of waste and that ensure inevitable waste is effectively recycled, closing material loops as efficiently as possible. Mr. Arthur ten Wolde
11:00 – 11:25	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:25 – 11:30 <u>Session 5</u>	Introduction to the Session 5 Moving from policy to practice: measures taken in EU Member States to prevent and improve the management of packaging waste Mr. Wim Van Breusegem
11:30 – 12:00 <i>Slot 15</i>	Making packaging more circular The amount of materials used for packaging is continuously growing and in 2017, packaging waste in Europe reached 173 kg per inhabitant – the highest level ever. The presentation will define the challenges of plastic packaging and the measures that can be taken to ensure that the increase in the generation of packaging waste is reversed and that the EU's aim of making all packaging placed on the EU market reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way by 2030, is met. Ms. Anna Desogus
12:00 – 12:30	Preventing plastic waste in Europe

<i>Slot 16</i>	<p>Policy initiatives around curbing plastic and plastic packaging waste generation in EU Member States, together with conclusions on the measures taken, indicators and targets set. The presentation will also underline best practice examples from a variety of countries.</p> <p>Mr. Ioannis Bakas</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:00 <i>Slot 17</i></p>	<p>Extended Producer Responsibility measures to improve the management of packaging waste: experiences and lessons learnt from EU Member States.</p> <p>Opportunities and challenges of EPR policies will be discussed in more detail, like benefits and conditions for EPR systems, the role of the different public and private stakeholders in the development and implementation of EPR systems and the measures that can be taken to apply the EPR principle to packaging waste in the best manner.</p> <p>Mr. Joachim Quoden</p>
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
<p>13:30 – 13:35 Session 6</p>	<p>Introduction to the Session 6</p> <p>Moving from policy to practice: measures taken to prevent and improve the management of food waste</p> <p>Mr. Wim Van Breusegem</p>
<p>13:35 – 14:00 <i>Slot 18</i></p>	<p>EU policies and measures to prevent food waste</p> <p>The Commission has already carried out important steps to prevent food losses and waste, in line with the actions put forward under the Circular Economy Action Plan and the revised Waste Framework Directive. All EU countries are required to take action to reduce food waste at each stage of the food supply chain, to monitor food waste levels and to report regarding progress made. The new Farm to Fork Strategy, which is at the heart of the European Green Deal, seeks to step up action to prevent food loss and waste across the EU. The Strategy puts forward a series of actions to enable the transition to a sustainable EU food system that ensures the sustainability of the sector – strengthening efforts to tackle climate change, protect the environment and preserve biodiversity. The EU will also continue to mobilise all players by encouraging implementation of the recommendations for action of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.</p> <p>Mr. Bartosz Zambrzycki</p>
<p>14:00 – 14:30 <i>Slot 19</i></p>	<p>Moving from policy to practice: good practices in food waste prevention from Sweden</p> <p>Approaches taken in EU Member States for minimising food waste, interesting case studies and the lessons learnt that could be availed by Turkey. The presentation builds on the recent experience that Sweden gained through REFRESH, an EU research project (2015-2019) taking action against food waste, with 26 partners from 12 EU MS, as well as through other food waste prevention projects.</p> <p>Ms. Aditi Bhasin</p>
14:30 – 14:50	<p>Application of circular economy model in the production of mineral fertilizers - Elixir Zorka Mineral fertilizers (Serbia) case study</p> <p>Mr. Alija Salkunić</p>
14:50 – 15:00	<p>Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations</p> <p>Ms. Madalina Ivanica</p>

More information on TAIEX:

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