



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)

17 November 2021

Online

Beneficiaries:

Albania, Kosovo*, North Macedonia

EPPA_81286

* This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Organised and funded by the
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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 two public and the private sectors where the potential for circularity is high: plastic and construction
- to discuss the opportunities and challenges for CE in the beneficiary countries.

EU Member State Speakers:

- Mr. Waldo **Galle**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)-Architectural Engineering
- Mr. Dainius **Kazlauskas**, the Environmental Program Management Agency, Lithuania
- Ms. Francesca **Montevecchi**, Environment Agency Austria
- Ms. Viktória **Pokorná**, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Environmental Policy Department

Beneficiary Speakers:

- Mr. Filip **Ivanovski**, Pakomak, North Macedonia
- Mr. Ljubomir **Kekenovski**, University of Skopje, North Macedonia
- Ms. Anuela **Ristani**, Deputy Mayor, Tirana, Albania
- Ms Lindita **Sopa**, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Kosovo

Other Speakers:

- Ms. Viktoriya **Belokonska**, Waste Expert, Bulgaria
- Mr. Mihail **Dimovski**, EPPA Team Leader
- Ms Eleni **Feleki**, Lead Expert, URGE -circUlaR buildinG citiEs
- Mr. Theo **Geerken**, European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy/VITO
- Ms. Madalina **Ivanica**, European Commission, DG Environment
- Mr. Jon **Jonoski**, ICLEI Europe - Local Governments for Sustainability

- Mr. Joachim **Quoden**, the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA)
- Mr. Wim **Van Breusegem**, EPPA Waste Senior Expert

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Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Chair: Ms. Madalina **Ivanica**,
Enlargement Coordinator, Bilateral & Regional Environmental Cooperation, DG ENV

08:30 - 09:00	Event starts /technical introduction/solving participants' issues 8:50 – Short technical introduction to the webinar platform
09:00 - 09:05	Welcoming address Ms. Madalina Ivanica Mr. Mihail Dimovski
09:05-09:10 Session 1	Introduction to Session 1: Transition towards a Circular Economy Mr. Wim Van Breusegem
09:10-09:30	EU policies and measures to advance the CE: The European Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan The Green Deal is the EU's 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, CE, to restore biodiversity and to cut pollution. The presentation will outline key measures and initiatives from the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), one of the main blocks of the Green Deal. Ms. Madalina Ivanica
09:30 - 10:00	Resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe - even more from less An overview of the policies, approaches and targets of thirty-two European countries will be provided. This overview has been prepared to stimulate exchange of information and good practice among countries, and to support capacity building within the Eionet network. It identifies trends, similarities and new directions taken by countries in the policy areas of resource efficiency and the CE Mr. Theo Geerken
10:00 - 10:20	Advancing the CE: a case study from the Slovak Republic The presentation will provide an overview of national policy measures (regulatory, economic, policy and social/information based measures) and initiatives to enable the transition to a CE and to create the conditions for the wider adoption of circular business models by the private sector. Some concrete examples of local policy measures and initiatives, and circular business models will also be presented. Ms. Viktória Pokorná
10:20-10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30-10:50	The role of local governments in the transition to a CE Local governments have a critical role to play in enabling the transition to a CE. The European Circular Cities Declaration is designed to help accelerate the transition and has been signed by over 60 cities already. The presentation will outline what is understood by “a circular city”, its role in making the transition to a CE happen and some notable examples of local CE initiatives. Mr. Jon Jonoski
10:50-10:55	Q/A Session

10:55 – 11:00 <u>Session 2</u>	Introduction to Session 2: Transition towards a Circular Economy in the Western Balkans Mr. Wim Van Breusegem
11:00-11:15	The transition of Tirana to a circular city The presentation will outline the measures and initiatives of the city of Tirana to become a circular city, one of the initiatives being the signing of the Circular Cities Declaration, and to create the conditions for the wider adoption of circular business models by the private sector. Ms. Anuela Ristani
11:15-11:30	Advancing the CE: a case study from North Macedonia The presentation will provide an overview of policy measures and practical initiatives taken to encourage the uptake of circular business models and of ongoing CE initiatives in the country Mr. Ljubomir Kekenovski
11:30-11:45	A circular approach to packaging and packaging waste: a case study from North Macedonia The presentation will outline how the application of Extended Producer Responsibility has contributed to the reduction of unnecessary packaging, to innovation in packaging and in particular to increased recycling. The roles of the different public and private stakeholders will be presented, as well as the measures and initiatives they are taking and the challenges encountered. Mr. Filip Ivanovski
11:45-12:00	Advancing the CE: a case study from Kosovo The presentation will provide an overview of policy measures and and practical initiatives taken to encourage the uptake of circular business models and of ongoing CE initiatives in the country Ms. Lindita Sopa
12:00-12:05	Q & A
12:05-12:10 <u>Session 3</u>	Introduction to the Session 3: Transition towards a CE for plastics Prevention and improved management of plastic waste in a Circular Economy Mr. Wim Van Breusegem
12:10 – 12:30	EU Member States policies and measures to prevent plastic waste and to improve its management: A case study from Austria 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 Ms. Francesca Montevecchi
12:30-12:50	Preventing plastic waste and improving its management: a case study from Lithuania 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 Mr. Dainius Kazlauskas

12:50-12:55	Q & A
12:55-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-13:55	<p>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 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>
13:55 – 14:00 Session 4	<p>Introduction to the Session 4: Transition towards a CE in the construction sector</p> <p>Mr. Wim Van Breusegem</p>
14:00 – 14:40	<p>Enabling CE practices in construction</p> <p>Constantly consuming materials and producing waste, the construction sector could significantly reduce its environmental impact through a CE. Following some notable examples from Brussels, Belgium and beyond, an overview will be provided of systemic opportunities for circular building design, construction and operation. For each, enabling policy measures will be given. They have been identified in the context of the Flemish and Brussels Living Labs projects.</p> <p>Mr. Waldo Galle</p>
14:40 – 15:10	<p>Integrated action planning to boost circularity in the construction sector: A methodological framework and case examples from EU cities</p> <p>URGE is an EU funded network, bringing together eight cities from eight different EU Member States and their stakeholders, to inspire and learn from each other in integrating circularity in construction, and thus contributing to sustainable cities. Key measures that are being taken by the cities and lessons learnt on circular construction will be presented.</p> <p>Ms Eleni Feleki</p>
15:10-15:40	<p>Construction and Demolition Waste: challenges and opportunities in a CE – a case study from Bulgaria</p> <p>A case study from Bulgaria to demonstrate what the barriers are to the environmentally sound management of construction and demolition waste, which policy measures can encourage the prevention, reuse and recycling and what the results of the policy are.</p> <p>Ms. Viktoriya Belokonska</p>
15:40-15 :50	Q & A
15:50 – 16:00	<p>Conclusions and wrap-up</p> <p>Ms. Madalina Ivanica</p>

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