



Action D1 Development of CE indicators at national scale and for key economic sectors and value chains

DELIVERABLE D1.D1

Literature review on Circular Economy Indicators

Beneficiary Responsible: NECCA, Beneficiaries involved: GRFU, HRA, MEEN, TN, ERS

Summary

This literature review concerns the evaluation indicators of the circular economy at macro and medium economic level.

A brief reference is made to the national and European institutional framework concerning the CE followed by an assessment of the circular economy indicators monitored by the EU. The review examines cases from different European countries, but makes separate reference to the cases of China, Japan and France as these countries use additional indicators, different from those of the EU.

Particular reference is made to the relationship and interaction between the indicators of the circular economy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The literature review draws important conclusions regarding the Asian and European approach in monitoring the progress of a circular economy. The monitoring frameworks of these countries are the pre-eminent reference points. This emerges from the examination of the cases of European countries such as Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, which in terms of national monitoring frameworks of the CE do not deviate to a large extent from the framework set by the European Commission. National initiatives and the academic literature place Asian countries' development strategy in coming up with indicators covering resource efficiency, waste management, water, pollution and specific social and economic issues. The monitoring of the circular economy in Europe focuses on priorities for its countries and regions, which differ to some extent from those in Asia.



However, the case of France examined in this review is an example of the implementation of a separate national strategy with specific CE monitoring indicators adapted to specific economic conditions and opportunities.

At present, the European Commission's monitoring actions concern only the national level, with no proposals for the other operational levels of implementation. Thus, even when the first steps are taken to monitor the CE at national level in the EU, the existing framework will not be able to adequately record its results at local and regional level.

The findings of this literature review suggest that CE practices and related business models can help achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They contribute directly to the achievement of 21 objectives and indirectly contribute to an additional 28.

While CE practices are not a solution to all the challenges and issues that need to be addressed by SDGs, CE offers opportunities for the implementation of specific goals.

Additional research and analysis of synergies and opportunities between CE practices and SDG objectives in specific countries is further required.

As much as the CE can help achieve many SDG goals so can they help promote CE practices.