

Institutional Arrangements for the Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

The post-pandemic economic recovery offers a strong opportunity to accelerate the transition from a linear to a more sustainable, circular model. Discussions often surround circular business models, waste and recycling methods or pollution reduction. Yet, the institutional preconditions required for an effective circular economy and the implementation of SDG 12, “Responsible Consumption and Production”, are rarely discussed. At the same time, it requires strong governance to create a regulatory framework that incentivizes sustainable resource use rather than hinder the circular transition. Often neglected and dismissed as a solely environmental concept, the idea of a circular economy demands cross-cutting implementation across the entire administration. A successful transition towards a circular economy can only be achieved through extensive coordination, collaboration, and communication between every administrative level, across all ministries, from municipal to national. These cooperative efforts are at the centre of SDG 17, “Partnerships for the Goals.”

Session objectives and expected outcomes

Governmental actors and other stakeholders will discuss how to harness synergies between the different governmental institutions and share best practices on basic administrative requirements for policymaking in the circular economy context. We will hear from different parts of the UNECE region on the establishments and implementations of Circular Economy regulations to conclude best practices and analyse the way forward on this rarely discussed matter. Furthermore, the event will mark the launch of the emerging multi-stakeholder network connecting policymakers and other circular economy actors to promote the sharing of experiences and cooperation in the field.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Contributors: UNDP (technical assistance)

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Agenda and Structure

17:15-17:22	Opening and moderation	Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk , Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
17:22-17:35	Keynote speech	Ms. Dr. Ella Jamsin , UNECE Senior Consultant on Institutional Arrangements and the Circular Economy
17:35-17:45	Sharing experience	Ms. Satu Lahteenoja , Senior Expert, Demos Helsinki
17:45-17:55	Sharing experience	Dr. Elizabeth Nichols , Office of Environmental Quality, U.S. Department of State
17:55-18:05	Sharing experience	Ms. Ece Dinsel , Environmental and Urbanization Expert, Circular Economy Policies Branch, DG Environmental Management
18:05-18:20	Launch of the network and closing remarks	Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin , Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
18:20 - 18:30	Q&A	Interactive quiz (with Mentimeter)

List of Panellists

- **Elisabeth Tuerk**, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE
- **Satu Lahteenoja**, Senior Expert, Demos Helsinki
- **Elizabeth Nichols**, U.S. Department of State Office of Environmental Quality, U.S. focal point
- **Ece Dinsel**, Environmental and Urbanization Expert, Circular Economy Policies Branch, DG Environmental Management
- **Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE