

“Green transformation and circular economy”

International conference

21th of June 2018,

Regional museum, Grajska ulica 2, Maribor, Slovenia

After “Circular economy package” was finally ratified and passed by all three European bodies- European Council, Commission and the Parliament- the last being European Council on 22 of May 2018, there is now a clear path laid down for Reuse and recycle milestones in EU states and on the local level. The new legislation obliges EU member states to reach a 55% municipal recycling rate by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035.

Other approved measures include a 10% cap on landfill by 2035, mandatory separate collection of bio-waste and stricter schemes to make producers pay for the collection of key recyclables. Recommendations also include economic incentives for reuse, deposit-return schemes, food donations and the phase-out of subsidies that promote waste.

In addition to material-specific targets, member states will have until 1 January 2025 to set up a separate collection for textile waste and hazardous waste from households and until 31 December 2023 to ensure that bio-waste is either collected separately or recycled at source (e.g. home composting).

Making the distinction between re-use, preparing for re-use and supporting access for re-use operators and recycling process at the end of the chain opens a space for collaboration between bigger/multinational producers and social economy, who's actors are locally integrated, supporting local and regional communities and are often in the forefront of sustainable development and mostly dealing with reuse and preparing for re-use of still usable material as clothes, organic waste and others.

On the other side taking into consideration a definition by Ellen Macarthur foundation on circular economy:

“Looking beyond the current “take, make and dispose” extractive industrial model, the circular economy is restorative and regenerative by design. Relying on system-wide innovation, it aims to redefine products and services to design waste out, while minimising negative impacts. Underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources, the circular model builds economic, natural and social capital.”

Circular economy in its core is meant to be a “game changer” in economics, its relationship towards nature and social change:

“Today's linear economic model relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy, and is a model that is reaching its physical limits.

The circular economy is restorative and regenerative by design, and aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times... in a continuous positive development cycle that preserves and enhances natural capital, optimises resource yields, and minimises system risks by managing finite stocks and renewable flows.

Combining “Circular economy package” on waste reduction, reuse and recycle standards by EU institutions, together with *economy that needs to become: “restorative and regenerative by design”* we are opening a path to potentially zero waste society. That is something we owe to ourselves and generations to come.

Our conference - locally integrated - will therefore focus on 3 specific sectors: **textile, food, plastic**, each in its way important for circular economy progress and everyday life on local and global level. Each round table will go deeper, by introducing “the big picture” and presenting some of the best practice examples in each of the chosen sectors of products/resources we think are important as building blocks of green transformation.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday, 21st June 2018

9:00 Registration and welcome coffee

9:30 Welcome address

Sebastjan Piki | Direktor, Institute Novum

Saša Pelko | vice mayor, City of Maribor

Zdravko Kačič | Rector of the University of Maribor (tbc)

Tadej Slapnik | state secretary, office of prime minister of RS, Head of Partnership for the Green Economy Slovenia

Mojca Žganec Metelko | secretary general, Association social economy Slovenia

9:40 **"Introduction to Circular economy and green transformation: Roadmap towards the circular economy in Slovenia"**

Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie | secretary, Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning

10:00 - 11:40 **Panel session 1: "Clothes and textile recycle and reuse"**

Round table is going to focus on cloths and textile reuse and recycle aspect in circular economy. Event is going to present issues connected to collection, sorting and redistribution of used clothing and textiles together with contemporary technical approaches to recycle fabrics and threads for new use. It will open a question of economic sustainability of recycle in comparison to reuse and development cooperation.

Jana Žůrková | Rreuse, Brussels

Antonio Roade | Circle Economy, Amsterdam

Maja Bauman | Resyntex project

Natasha Foltanova | Tierra Verde (Prague)

Jure Strah | Dobrote z.b.o.

Morch Henning | Humana Slovenia

Moderator: **Mojca Žganec Metelko**; Association social economy Slovenia

11:40- 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 - 13:30 **Panel session 2: "Reducing Wasted Food at home and in business"**

By managing food sustainably and reducing waste, we can help businesses and consumers save money, provide a bridge in our communities for those who do not have enough to eat, and conserve resources for future generations. Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day — from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. Conference will focus on ways how to reduce wasted food at home and in economy, food donations and composting.

Dalibor Matijević / Gregor Pečnik | RobinFood

Eva Štraser | founder, Evegreen, Bokri

Zdenko Podlesnik | Lions Slovenia
Martin Kržič | Žganjekuha Kržič

Moderator: **Urša Zgojznik** | Ecologists without borders

13:30 - 15:00 LUNCH

15:00 » SRIP circular economy and recruiting business for plastic recycling «
Mojca Škerget | Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Maribor

15:20 - 16:30 Panel session 3: “Plastic Reuse and recycle?”

Plastic recycling is the process of recovering scrap or waste plastic and reprocessing the material into useful products. Since the vast majority of plastic is non-biodegradable, recycling is a part of global efforts to reduce plastic in the waste stream, especially the approximately eight million metric tonnes of waste plastic that enter the Earth's ocean every year. Plastic recycling includes taking any type of plastic, sorting it into different polymers and then chipping it and then melting it down into pellets. After this stage, it can then be used to make items of any sort such as plastic chairs and tables.

Jaka Kranjc | Zero waste Slovenia, Ecologists without borders
Branko Kosi | Wcycle projekt, Snaga Maribor
Ivan Plevnik | director, KOCEROD
Andrej Kržan | National institute for Chemistry

Moderator: **Felicita Medved** | president, Novum Institute

16:30 - 17:00 Analysis and policy proposals

17:00 Refreshments and end of the event

Event moderated by: **Aljaž Pengov-Bitenc**