

Urban Regions Shifting to Circular Economy: Understanding Challenges for New Ways of Governance

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Governance: Governance Arrangements and Market Structure
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Background and methods

- This presentation focuses on the results of a governance analysis of **six urban regions in Europe** involved in the Horizon 2020 project REPAiR Grant Agreement No.: 688920 **www.h2020repair.eu**
- Semi-structured interviews (58), document analysis and workshops with local stakeholders lead to a draft list of governance challenges
- The research results in the six cases were used as input for the Living Lab process throughout the project

Shifting to CE: Need for governance

- How can cities and urban regions support the shift towards CE?
- What are the challenges for urban regions?
- Three main dimensions to examine governance challenges in relations to CE –
 - Multi-level governance (EU, national, regional, municipal)
 - Cross-sectoral governance (within the public sector)
 - Quadruple helix governance (public, private, academic, citizen)



**Hamburg |
Germany**



**Łódź |
Poland**



**Ghent |
Belgium**



**Amsterdam |
The Netherlands**



**Pécs |
Hungary**



**Naples |
Italy**



Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, The Netherlands

- AMA one of the frontrunners towards a CE
- City of Amsterdam has a circular city policy
- Private sector (waste management, construction) work on CE initiatives
- *Organisational fragmentation (between municipalities, between sectors)*
- *Lack of leadership on regional level*

Naples, Italy

- A new waste management system was established, managing to overcome the waste emergency
- *Problems remain: like contaminated areas, waste bales storage, lack of recycling and incineration capacities*
- *Mismatch between different public entities (municipalities, waste management units ATO, region) → lack of implementation*
- *Mistrust of citizens toward public authorities*

Pécs, Hungary

- Achievements to decrease waste generation and improve waste management
- Few voluntary CE initiatives in the private sector
- *Lack of visible political intention to CE on national level*
- *Centralisation of waste management leads to sinking interest of local stakeholders (e.g. due to unavailability of secondary raw materials)*

Łódź, Poland

- Regulation on waste management relatively recent
- Responsibility of municipalities for waste management; they appoint private waste collection companies
- *Still low environmental awareness of citizens*
- *Legal regulations do not adequately ensure quality of waste management*
- *Lack of exchange and cooperation between municipalites*

Ghent, Belgium

- Long tradition of waste management in Flanders and high waste sensitivity
- Ambition to reduce waste
- Waste management integrated into climate policy and urban planning, but CE still needs to be integrated
- *Adaptation of waste management (and CE) to changing demography and to spatial conditions in urban areas (lack of space)*

Hamburg, Germany

- Germany frontrunner in waste management, Circular economy Act as legal framework
- *Need to improve waste management accordingly to spatial situation (e.g. no space for separated collection in dense urban areas) and changing demography (multi ethnic population)*
- *Lack of cooperation between waste management and spatial planning*
- *CE initiatives from civil society and economy not imbedded in public strategy*

Conclusions from the six cases

Multi-level governance while ambitious initiatives for CE do exist in urban regions, the connection between these local and regional initiatives to policies on higher political and administrative levels is lacking.

Cross-sectoral governance within the public sector: lack of connection of CE strategies with other policy fields especially spatial planning. Another major challenge is the often-missing horizontal cooperation between municipalities. Strategies and activities often remain local, not using the opportunity of promoting CE in larger regional scale.

Multi-actor or quadruple helix governance: in some regions many entrepreneurial and civic society initiatives exist, but they lack coordination and support by the public sector; in other regions still only few activities from the economic sector and citizens can be observed and the public sector is mostly absent in promoting CE.

Remarks and outlook

- Six urban regions started in different phases of transition towards CE
- The presented results are only intermediate results
- In all of the six regions changes during the project's lifetime could be observed
- These changes are subject of our current research

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Thank you!

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