

Better Knowledge



Circular City Indicators

Action 11 - Develop City Indicators for Circular Economy

Transition towards circular economy depends on a significant part on the transition taking place in cities (and metropolitan area). Indicators that are Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy to monitor and Robust against manipulation (RACER) need to be made accessible for cities.

Scope and Output

Lack of indicators for Circular Economy transition on city level was identified as one important barrier for cities. The partnership used a part of the available expert days to undergo a survey and organisation of Circular Economy indicators in use. The survey was discussed in two different workshops attended by experts working on circular economy and ended in a note categorising possible indicators and limiting the list to 30 different indicators in 4 themes. The themes are picked from the EU Monitoring Framework for Circular Economy in Member States.

Drivers and Barriers

- Relevant and easy to access data is as always a challenge on local level. Data available on national level are for the most part not available for cities. Member States have to develop collection of data especially on production and consumption down to at least a regional level.
- Environmental indicators are challenging to monitor, but it is even more challenging to monitor the impact of circular economy on economic and social issues. For instant, there is no clear definition of jobs in a circular economy. The focus on jobs in existing sectors like waste management or repair is not sufficient for monitoring a transition towards a circular economy. There is a strong need for a better definition of circular jobs and circular enterprises and this should be done at European Level.
- There is a need for knowledge exchange between cities developing set of indicators. Given the importance of CE strategies on local level, a network financed by the Commission should be set up to facilitate a testing program of indicators on city level.
- RACER based set of indicators could boost the work of circular economy in cities.

Potential impact

- Social – Circular Economy strategies tends to focus on traditional economic and environmental areas, hence losing the impacts on the development of living cities for citizens. Indicators will help cities to monitoring the link between circular economy and other vision/targets for local development.
- Financial – indicators help cities to do the right measures in a right way, securing limited financial resources to be used as efficient as possible.
- Environmental – as for financial, indicators help cities to develop targets and measures in best efficient way to reach the visions for the cities.



How will this help the new Circular Economy Action Plan of the European Commission?

The Circular Economy WG 2.0 should raise the efforts to help local and regional level in implementing Circular Economy strategies. Alongside the work of monitoring framework on Member States, the Commission should initiate a program on developing and implementing (training) indicators on local and regional level.

The necessary next steps

The partnership will develop a short list of indicators based on existing list of 29 indicators. The list will be followed by a practical example from the City of Kaunas on how to use the list in organising the work of developing indicators on city level. This rather flexible approach will leave the choice of what indicators to follow using the exhaustive list to cities, while the short list could facilitate benchmarking and exchange of information.

The partnership will support cities and association in forming research application for economic support in upcoming calls like Horizon 2020.

Where to find more information

The note on circular economy indicators could be found on the [Futurium Website](#).

Connection to the SDGs



The SDGs has already developed a set of indicators to be used on local level for following up the 17 goals. SDGs' objectives could act as indicators for circular economy, and indicators on circular economy will add perfectly into the SDGs indicators. The two sets fit together perfectly.

