

Circular Hubs: Multilevel Approach Creating Impact in Practice

Introduction by Ladeja Godina Košir - Founder and Executive Director @Circular Change & Co-Chair European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform

Pitches

- Einar Kleppe Holthe - Founder & CEO Natural State AS & Managing Partner & Strategic Project Leader @Nordic Circular Hotspot
- Lars Anders Joensson - Chief of innovation policy section @UN Economic Commission for Europe
- Laura Cutaia- Head of Circular economy Section in the Sustainability Department and Coordinator of the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform @ENEA
- Milena Rmuš – Secretary of Board for Energy Efficiency and Environment Protection @Chamber of Economy of Montenegro
- Simo Karetie - Project Manager @Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley
- Bart Volkers - Director @Circular Groningen
- Andreas Mucke, the General Manager of the Circular Economy Accelerator Circular-Valley Foundation – Wuppertal
- Karl Vrancken – CSR Manager Indaver - Waste Managers Perspective
- Dina Padalkina - Founder and Chairwoman @Circular Berlin
- Julie Poppe – programme manager circular city Mechelen - Circular / Social Hub Circular Flanders

Panel

Freek Van Eijk – Director @Holland Circular Hotspot and Co-Chair European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform

Brigitte Mouligneau - Transition Manager Circular Economy -@Circular Flanders

Karel Vanderpoorten - Policy Officer European Commission, DG Grow – Social Economy

Antonio Ferrandez Garcia - Policy Officer European Commission DG RTD

Lucie Blondel - Policy Officer European Commission, DG Research & Innovation

Moderators: Brigitte Mouligneau - Transition Manager Circular Economy -@Circular Flanders and Luca Polidori – Program Manager Circular Economy Hubs @Holland Circular Hotspot

Intro

- Value of hubs/stakeholders? What we do is important but what we stop doing is important as well
- Systemic change: we need partners to work on value systems: who is expert? What are good practices?
- Monitoring: money is all around. Hubs help us to get that money.
- Global resource outlook: the data is there but without promoting and implementation it, it doesn't work
- Take care of what we already have
- Hubs and stakeholders have access to social capital: often they are nonprofit. Let's figure out how to get the money and make impact.

Pitches

Lars Anders Joensson - Chief of innovation policy section @UN Economic Commission for Europe

- Innovation at the center of everything: new ideas and learn
- 1970's: the amount of resources we used we are now using more effectively. We make progress in materials, for example in digitalization: more than 70 products replaced. Solutions to create prosperity.
- We have to think of policies who captivate innovation.
- Service as a platform. We can learn from each other

Laura Cutaia- Head of Circular economy Section in the Sustainability Department and Coordinator of the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform @ENEALink with Eu platform

- Ministerie of environment
- Communication between experience en public government

Simo Karetie - Project Manager @Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley1/3e van de bevolking

- Bringing stakeholders together to cocreate pilots, tests
- Informationpoint landuse
- Issue: There are a lot of platforms (Eu) and it's sometimes hard to keep track

Bart Volkers - Director @Circular Groningen

- Model based on model 'Modular Friesland'
- Together you have more impact
- We need connections all over EU. We need a collaborate platform. We need more knowledge and technology. Connect innovations with companies. And we need policies. Synergy and alignment in EU so we can work together

Andreas Mucke, the General Manager of the Circular Economy Accelerator Circular-Valley Foundation – Wuppertal

- Broad network
- Non profit organisation

Dina Padalkina - Founder and Chairwoman @Circular Berlin

- Change can come from the people
- (2018) Looking for likeminded people where we defined the mission
- Knowledge building
- Community building
- Education

Julie Poppe – programme manager circular city Mechelen - Circular / Social Hub Circular Flanders

- Refular en social economy partners
- Ambassadors
- Network
- Setting or scaling up
- Circular activities
- Create ecochains

Panel

- Hubs are tools to goals

How can we accelerate flows?

- we need everyone on board, all stakeholders, knowledge, business... And the people, a hub is a network of a network. Mainstream them.
- Shared sense of urgency
- hubs are the place of action
- importance of systematic approach. Change the whole environment
- legal framework: how can we learn from each other? Important to find partnerships on different levels.
- industrial aspect: important to have all levels of society (inclusivity). We create jobs, this is a good business model. The industrial partners are the initiator but we have to have everyone on board
- value chain approach
- All hubs, valleys have a big ambition. There is a good awareness and we are on the right track using this approach

- community power is already there, we are struggling with the projects coming out with a good implementation
- hubs are essential for investment. There is need of streamlining. Share common practices. We need the same language.
- importance of studies
- The hubs can mean a big difference. There is countability, we are checking each other out.

What are we doing in order to support more hubs or increase the impact of existing hubs?

- Towards a EU network
- Learn from each other, we need new jobs, new opportunities. How are we going to prepare our people for a just transition? Don't forget parts of the population. We need each other to learn from each other very fast
- Industrial research: a big investment. (Financial) this is the backbone of the future. Knowledge sharing and measuring and analyzing hubs in different regions. Help them to be sustainable
- Feedback support needs no technology or funding, needs are more about connecting. Diversity of ideas. And building strong government and business models. Supporting and translating it to get it mature enough to raise attention to investors.
- Making the converted better. There are so many sme's who don't have this capacity. Knowledge sharing. Sector focus: organize specific trainings. Matchmaking events (permits, local support) future looking perspective for example: ecodesign. Cross EU matchmaking: knowledge sharing

Hubs are often projects. How can we assure they will keep working together?

- we want them to have a profitable organization in a sustainable way
- Working hand in hand, how can we complement each other? Work inclusive
- Government doesn't only have to make the law but is also facilitating. What do we expect for the future? Facilitate networks. Problem of the funding is that it is often short (2years) for hubs. Don't see it as one of the projects. It should be a priority in the government. True all the value chain. We need to work together and connect.

What do you hope for the next EU commission?

- Karel: make sure that social sectors are on board
- Lucie: its not creating a network but being part of it. If we all do that, the change will happen.
- Antonio: the most polluting sector must be more on the foreground
- Brigitte: lets stay connected to make it a priority
- Freek: keep the ambition high, make sure the conditions are there

End conclusion

We are not alone, we can learn a lot from each other.

The energy is there.

There is a lot of money in the commission ready to be used. We just need to find the way to these funds to continue our work.