

# CIRCULAR IMPACTS – Kick OFF

The Vision of CIRCULAR IMPACTS

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# Content

- The transition to Circular Economy
- Measuring the transition in order to guide and foster it
- Providing an evidence base for concrete impact assessments
- Providing an overview outlook on potential impacts of the transition

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# Transition to a Circular Economy I

- Circular Economy is at the heart of the EU ambition to become a more inclusive, sustainable and competitive economy
- Replacing the old take, make, waste model
- The transition should support EU policy objectives on many different levels
  - Creating more **jobs** by moving value added to labour intensive processes
  - Improving the balance of trade by replacing **reducing** the need for resource **imports**
  - Improving the **European** (and global) **environment** by reducing **land take** of resource extraction, waste disposal and the **emissions** of the use of the resources (green house gas, air emissions and others)
  - **Spreading value added** in the European union to **poorer regions** and improving the **labour market participation** of currently disadvantaged workers

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# Transition to a Circular Economy II

- A very broad range of EU policies relates to this transition but two overarching policy initiatives stand out:
  - Since 2015 the **Circular Economy Roadmap** defines the ambition and the work programme to achieve that ambition
  - The **European Semester** measures the national progress towards the EU 2020 goals and provides policy recommendations on that base
- In the next years many additional policy proposals and policy initiatives will need need an evidence base to support robust policy making

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# Measuring the transition I

- Circular economy is a **broad cover** for many **different changes** to the economic process
- Common theme only the **reduction of resource input** and **resource outflow**
- The impacts of those changes differ as much as the changes
- To **guide the transition** and foster policy proposals which support the **multidimensional policy objectives** an understanding of the different processes is needed

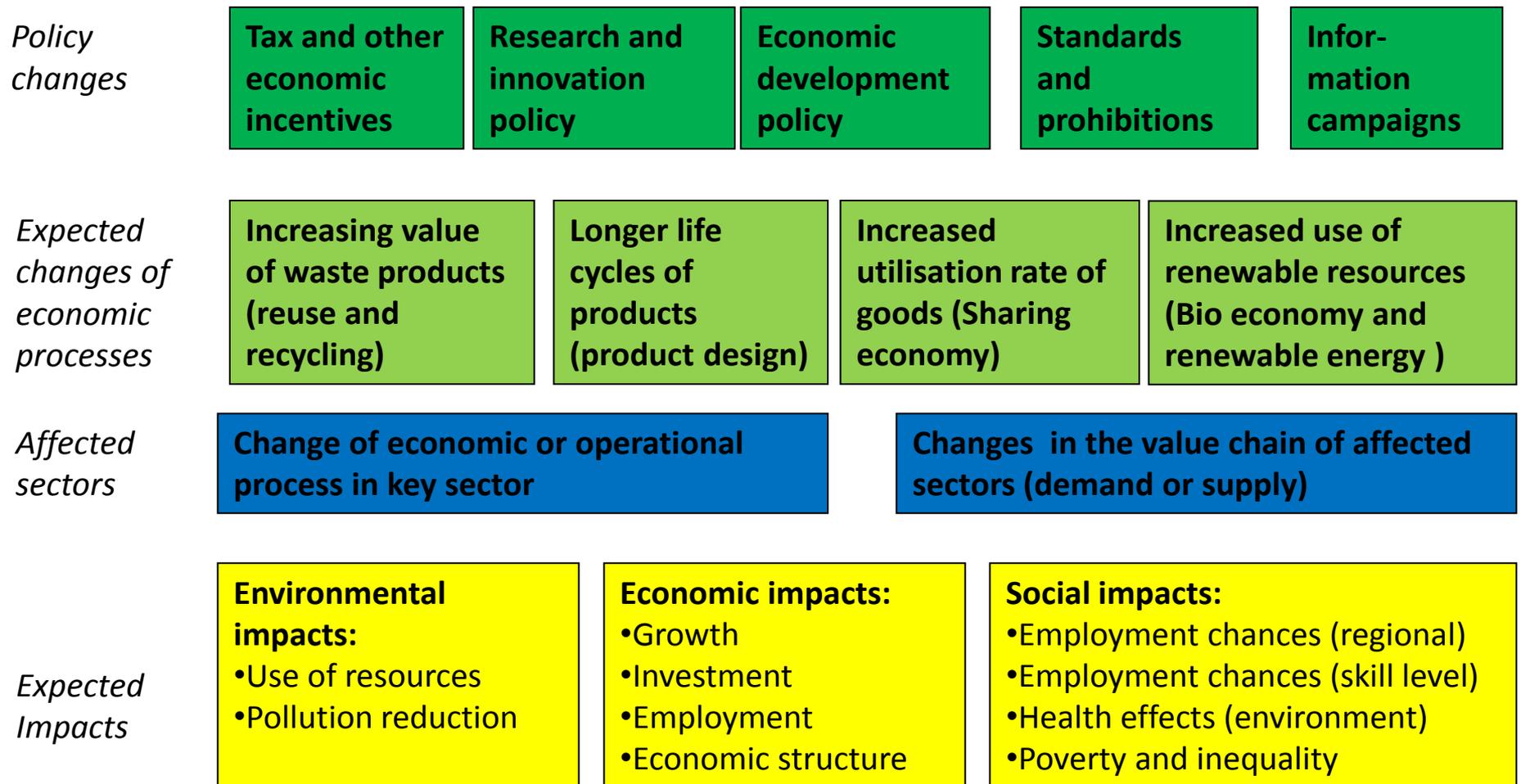
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# Measuring the transition II

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# Measuring the transition II



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# Measuring the transition III

- To support in this challenge CIRCULAR IMPACTS will provide two major outputs:
  - A **structured evidence base** which will facilitate finding and using the existing evidence base for impact assessment in the circular economy transition
  - An **overview impact assessment** summarising the existing evidence base on the **potential impacts** of such a transition in order to help setting **policy priorities**

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# Evidence base I

- There is already a broad existing evidence base that could be used for impact assessments on the Circular Economy :
  - [www.measuring-progress.eu](http://www.measuring-progress.eu) and other Green economy and green growth related initiatives
  - <http://www.liaise-kit.eu/> and TIAS and other impact assessment related initiatives
  - Groups which assemble the evidence base at the EEA and the EU commission
  - Service contracts of the EU commission (eg. employment effects and sharing economy)
  - Starting work on the UN SDG indicators
  - Academic research
  - Other suggestions

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## Evidence base II

- The key concept of CIRCULAR IMPACTS is to make this evidence base available
- Additionally some limited **additional evidence on production processes** is created in the project
- A web tool should enable the user to **quickly find and understand the evidence** that is useful for the specific policy question
- The web tool should enable a **structured and interactive** search

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# Evidence base III

- **Structure:**
  - The structure should follow the **causal chain** of an impact assessment from **political measure** to the **production process** to the **value chain** and to the **impacts**
  - As the number of potential options for each steps is huge the user should be able to limit the relevant options on each step
- **Interaction:**
  - As going through the impact chain will very often broaden and change the perspective of the user the different levels are **reconnected** to allow interactive search
  - Users can look for **policy measures** often connected to certain **impacts** and the other way around

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# Overview Impact Assessment I

- As many new big policy programs the circular economy is feted as the “the ultimate mean to achieve everything we wish”
- As the type of measures and the type of economic changes is very broad, examples for a desired impact can always be found
- But a **consistent overview** on the relevance of the competing claims and an overview on the potential gains of a transition does not yet exist
- Based on the assembled evidence an **overview on the expected impacts of the transition** will be developed

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# Overview Impact Assessment II

- The impact assessment will be conducted in WP5 but all WPs will contribute to it:
  - WP2 will develop the structure of the impact assessment, define the information needs
  - WP3 will collect and assemble the evidence base
  - WP4 will add to the evidence base by providing first hand knowledge on the changes to production processes and the impacts of those

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# Overview Impact Assessment III

- An important part of the work and measure of success will be the engagement of stakeholders into the project
  - Other initiatives working on the topic (EEA, EU commission and others)
  - Existing knowledge repositories (measuring progress, LIAISE and others)
  - Industry experts with knowledge on the new production processes and the processes they replace (Steering group)
  - Commission experts with an understanding of policies and knowledge on the evidence that would be needed

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## Limitations of the project

- The overall project budget is 500,000 €
- The topic has a very broad scope
- It will depend on the willingness to collaboration that we will find how much can be achieved
- The objectives is to include as many other initiatives with similar goals to provide a real overview

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# List of Partners

**Ecologic Institute**



**CEPS** The Centre for European  
Policy Studies



**Wageningen Economic Research**  
(formerly LEI Wageningen UR)

