The role of Circular Economy in Transport Dangerous Goods

Supporting circular economy development in the Adriatic- Ionian region

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According to EUROSTAT, a circular economy aims to maintain the value of products, materials, and resources for as long as possible by returning them to the product cycle at the end of their use while minimizing waste generation.

The fewer products we discard, the fewer materials we extract, and the better for our environment.

Environmental challenges and reducing natural resources have led to increased sustainable development.

Need to sustainability, can be achieved by integrating national and international policies regarding the circular economy (CE), the green economy (GE), and the bio-economy (BE) (Gural, 2021).

(Yim & Fung) describes green innovation as a transformation process that comprises novel ways of doing things (e.g., production—manufacturing, construction, procedures, systems, etc.) that directly and positively benefit the environment.
The circular economy is part of the 2030 Green Agenda, a European strategic decision. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations (Kruja, 2013).

Circular Economy is based on three dimensions, economic, social, and environmental. The cooperation of these dimensions makes the environment more sustainable.

It also results in healthier generations. Empowering consumers and providing them with cost-saving opportunities is a crucial building block of a sustainable environment (Commission).
PRIORIT Y 2 - Supporting a greener and climate resilient Adriatic and Ionian region, following
Circular economy stages applied to transport.
Life cycle stages of the transportation system, considering the flow for the production, operation, and EoL, as well as the energy consumption; Source: Bauer et al. (2015)
Circular Economy and Construction (+TDG)

- One entry point in starting to implement Circular Economy principles might be Albania’s sensitivity to climate change, as the country is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Greenhouse gas emissions originate mostly from
  - Energy and Transport (44.85%)/ Land Use Change and Forestry (19.35%)/ Agriculture (15.83%)
  - Industrial (12.61%)/ Waste (7.37%).
- One main driver for GDP development was the construction sector
- This dynamic can be beneficial to implement circular strategies into infrastructure solutions like building and construction as well as connected public services (e.g., healthcare facilities).
- Due to the ‘slow-flowing’ product character of infrastructure, decisions taken in the construction sector impact the economy and the environment for a long time.
- Regarding investments in infrastructure, circular strategy opportunities exist for the use of heavy construction machinery and buildings and constructions like
  - roads, railways, airports, tunnels, and ports.
Selection of national strategies and policies supporting economic development

1. The National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI-II) is the key national planning document
   - growth through sustainable use of natural resources and territorial development.

2. the EU Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, adopted in October 2020, Oct. 2020

3. the EU Green Deal for the Western Balkans, adopted in November 2020, Nov. 2020

Selection of national institutions and initiatives as entry point for circular solutions

• The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is responsible for Albania’s climate change related activities, scientific evaluations, and leadership.
  • The Albanian Government has made climate change adaptation and development within the country a high priority.

• In 2014, an inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change (iMWGCC) was established by the government as a permanent coordinating body for climate change issues. (headed by Deputy Minister of Environment)

• The Climate Change Unit (CCU) is the national UNFCCC focal point and collaborates with an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional technical team established to fulfil the countries duties as a UNFCCC member.

• The State Environmental Inspectorate identifies and responds to issues related to environment and climate change.

• The responsibilities of the National Environmental Agency include permitting, environmental impact assessment

• Ministry of Industry,
• Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration,
• Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, and the
• Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism.
Circular Economy and Waste Management (+TDG)

- Political and Economic priorities of Albania as well as relevance for the circular economy (CE)
  - Currently, 4/5 of the waste ends up in landfills.
  - All sectors (consumer goods, capital infrastructure) are open to foreign investors as there are no legal barriers to market entry.
  - Thus, add foreign investment and consumer goods and infrastructure imports to waste generation in Albania.
  - Relevant strategies and frameworks for CE: The revised Integrated Waste Management Strategy (IWMS) – referencing EU targets and directives – is developed around the concept of ‘zero waste.’
  - It aims at waste being collected and treated as raw materials.
  - Waste is to be managed by circular systems, serving the criterion of using and preserving raw material resources.
On participation in interregional cooperation programs IPA interreg Adriatic and Ionian (ADRION)

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**Concept of the idea:** Preparation of the socio-economic plan, employment especially for young people, tourism, environment, health and safety/conservation (ESIA/ESAP) in the function of people’s mobility, protection of natural resources and biodiversity in the Area.

In this call - A proper scientific study of the project area to take into account the priorities of the preliminary phase, of innovation, skills, employment, especially for young people, preservation of the environment due to transport operations in the function of the mobility of people and luggage, at the border crossing points of green (land) and Blue growth (sea ports) of the beneficiary area of the European Union program in IPA.
The idea of an “Innovative mobility” - between border authorities are applied between:

- The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, responsible for transport,
  through the General Maritime Directorate, with the state control of the ports (Porti Detar I Shengjinit Sh.a.)
- Inland Water Administration
- Ministry of Agriculture and Water Administration, which is present at the border crossing points, with the
- Ministry of the Interior through the Directorate of the General Police of the Albanian State,
- Regional Directorate of Border and Migration Police, which operates in our blue and green borders, in the program area offering integrated services for border management
The idea of an “Innovative mobility” - between border authorities are applied between:

- Ministry of Finance and Economy with the Albanian customs allocated to the port,
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection, which carries out sanitary control with the Health Inspectorate; and
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment with the regional directorates of the environment in the Program Area,
- Municipality of the Program Area with the departments of culture, promotion for the preservation of cultural values, and waste management;
  - (Lezhe municipality, potential project partner as a direct beneficiary of the cross-border program with the EU).
Activities in this program, among others, promote the approach through the thematic priorities:

1. Ensuring green protocol measures to guarantee people's lives in green corridors
2. Provision of green growth services through procurement with SSH/ISO environmental standards
3. Digitization with more border and regional services in an integrated/transparent way;
4. Increasing the transparency of the reform in the public administration, the authorities of the border crossing points by offering those green transport through the E-Albania system;
5. Implementation of short-term/medium-term measures of the National Plan of European Integration;
6. Updating the economic reform program, Albania, Kosovo, neighboring member states
7. Maintaining the management of urban waste in the area (Municipality)
8. Implementation of the national plan of the coast, the cross-border area with the biodiversity strategy;
Thank you!

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