



Final Conference
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SMecoMP

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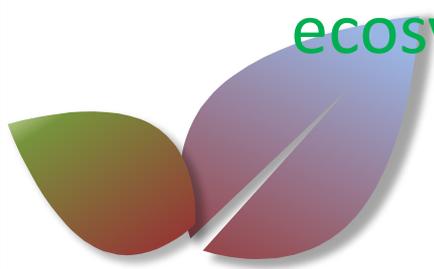
Moving towards circular and bio-economy with EMAS

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Natural resources are the basis of the economy functioning as their availability and the ways in which they are used determine the quality of human life.



Ensuring long-term economic growth depends to a large extent on the introduction of sustainable production and consumption patterns that are in line with the capacity and capacity to restore ecosystems and do not cause environmental degradation.



Sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Environmental sustainability: means that we live within the 'framework' of our natural resources.

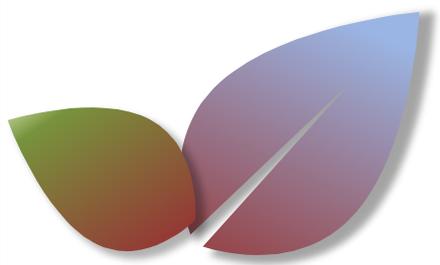
Economic Sustainability: requires a business or government to use its resources efficiently and responsibly so that it can operate in a sustainable way to achieve consistent profits.

Social sustainability: is the ability of society, or any social system, to constantly achieve good social well-being.



Global materials consumption as biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals is expected to **double** over the next 40 years, with the amount of waste generated each year increasing by 70% by 2050.

Considering that the half of all greenhouse gas emissions and over 90% of biodiversity and water losses are due to resource extraction and processing, the **European Green Pact** has launched a coherent strategy for a climate-neutral, competitive economy with efficient use of resources.



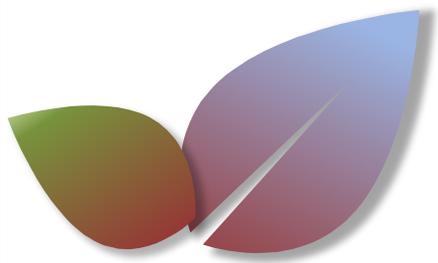
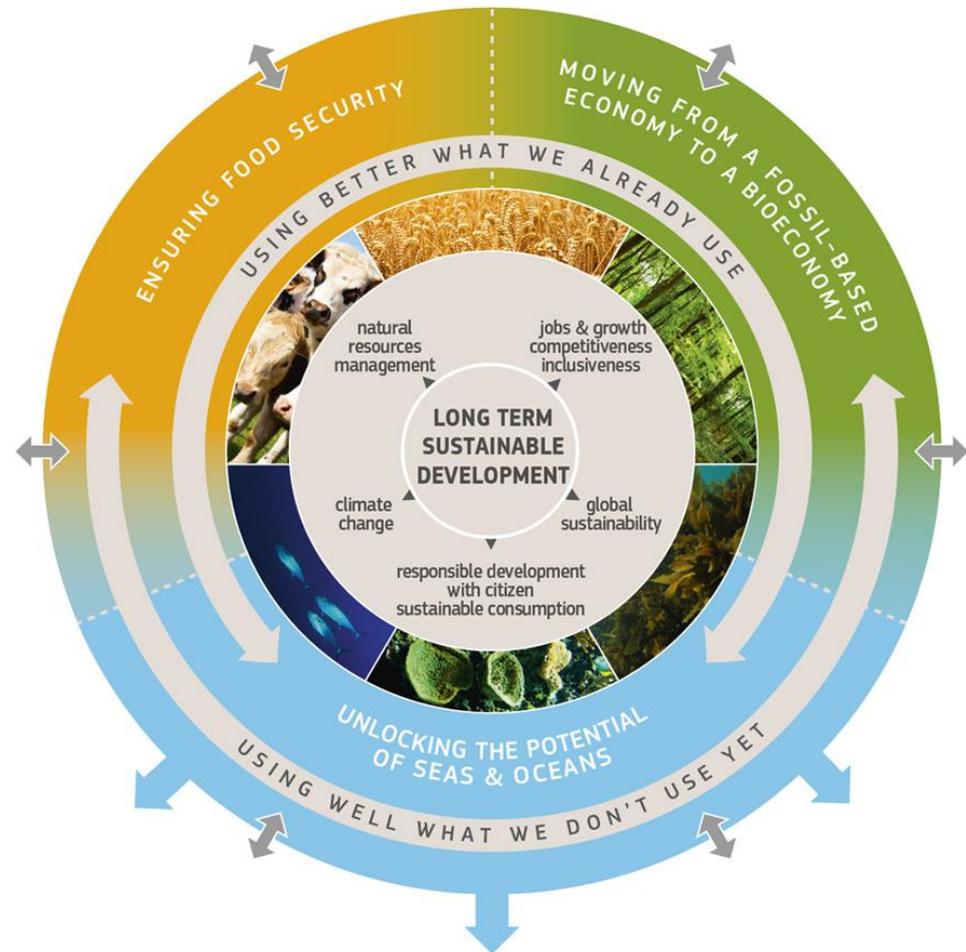


The **circular economy** concept *upgrades* the traditional linear model, in which raw materials are used, products are created, they are consumed and residues are not utilized / discarded.

Understanding the **circular economy** is an integrated model aimed at extending the life cycle of products. In practice, this means sharing, borrowing, reusing, maintaining and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

The European Commission defines the **BIOECONOMY** as "the production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy.

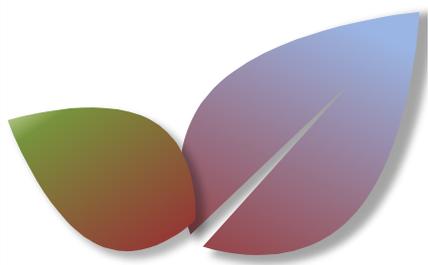
Its sectors and industries have **strong innovation potential** due to their use of a wide range of sciences, enabling and industrial technologies, along with local and tacit knowledge.



HOW CAN ORGANISATIONS IMPLEMENT A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

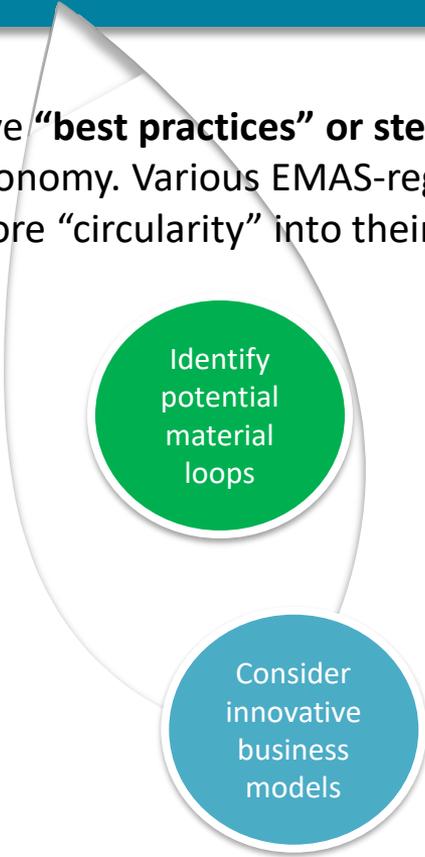
Five “**best practices**” or **steps** can be considered by any organisation interested in implementing a circular economy.

Various EMAS-registered organisations have already implemented these practices to insert more “circularity” into their environmental management system.



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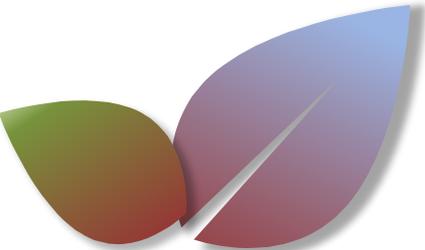


Identify potential material loops

Go beyond resource efficiency and adopt a whole lifecycle approach by inventorying the material flows in and outside of your organisation and identifying how they can be optimised and transformed into loops.

Consider innovative business models

Understand the users’ needs and consider developing a new business model to save resources. This could be leasing instead of selling, dematerialising your product or incentivising reuse.



Involve employees & other stakeholder

Brainstorm with your employees, create partnerships with the local community and involve your clients in the process of defining your circular economy strategy

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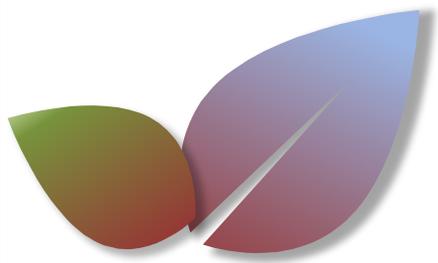
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Develop a message

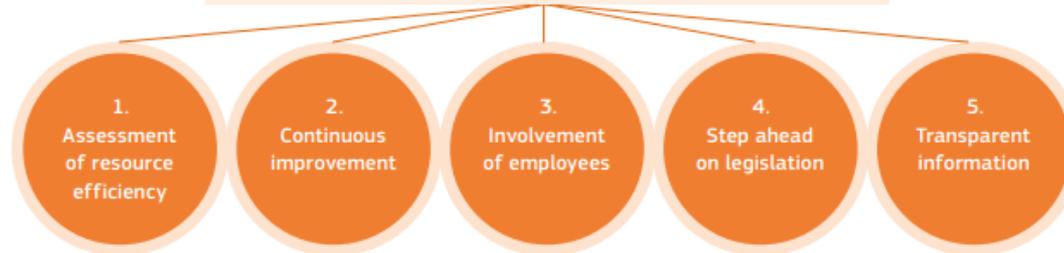
Create a story to commit your stakeholders to your new strategy. Use real-life examples to create the narrative that best resonates with your stakeholders

Test, learn & improve

Research, benchmark and design new solutions, then measure impacts and collect feedback to improve them.



EMAS can foster a circular economy in five main ways:



1. It is a tool to measure resource efficiency: EMAS is a tool for measuring resource efficiency. It provides a framework to help organisations assess their resource consumption and implement actions to optimise it.

2. It ensures continuous improvement, which fosters innovation: In EMAS, companies have to improve continuously, which fosters innovation through the entire lifecycle of the product or service, another key aspect of a circular economy.

3. It requires the involvement of employees: Moving towards a circular model requires a significant change in practices that is only possible through employee involvement and dialogue with the top management, which is a key requirement of EMAS.

4. It keeps companies a step ahead on legislation and stakeholders' needs.

5. It provides all stakeholders, including authorities, with transparent information.

WHEN CAN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIO-ECONOMY BE CONSIDERED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMAS?

The CC and BIO-E can be considered at different steps in the implementation of EMAS.

First, during the initial environmental review, **the organisation can identify actions that already contribute to circular economy and bio-economy.**

Then, during the definition of its environmental policy and programme, it can set specific targets for CC and with regards to BIO-E

During the implementation of its environmental management system, it can involve employees and other stakeholders to put circular economy principles into practice

Finally, when reviewing the system and aiming at continuous improvement and when preparing the environmental report or statement, EMAS **organisations can identify new opportunities and report on their contribution to a CC and BIO-E.**





THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION !

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