



European
Commission



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

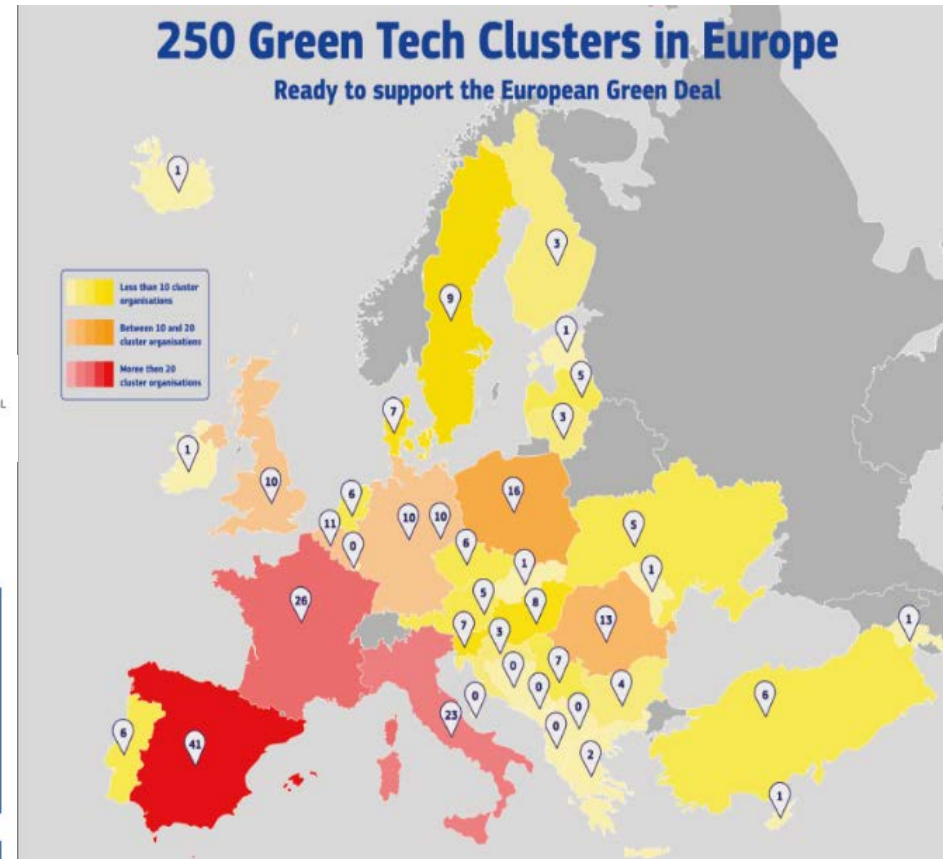
European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre and Network (EREK)

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The EREK Network of resource efficiency support providers





The EREK Knowledge Base

Current database under : www.resourceefficient.eu

Covers 11 sectors of the industry (tourism, construction, textile, office...)

More than :

- ❖ 400 good practices
- ❖ 130 measures
- ❖ 80 technologies
- ❖ 370 support programmes

For companies to save water, carbon, materials, waste and energy, including investment costs

Evolution of the Knowledge base : soon available under the ECCP

- Validation by the Joint Research Centre
- More case studies, indicators, green best practices, green technologies
- Mobilisation of EREK Network Members
- Payback time calculated

The EREK events

EREK Workshops

- 

November 2017
Resource efficiency in the manufacturing industries
- 

March 2018
Circularity and resource efficiency within the public sector in UK and Europe
- 

May 2018
Technical assistance tools and public support schemes to exploit resource efficiency to potential on SMEs
- 

September 2018
Resource Efficiency on the tourism sector
- 

October 2018
Let's help SMEs to go circular
- 

February 2019
Compete in a more resource efficiency and circular economy by policy and eco-design
- 

March 2019
Lessons learned from delivering resource efficiency support programmes to SMEs in Europe - insights from France, Scotland and Estonia
- 

March 2019
Making a recycling of packaging waste a profitable business for SMEs
- 

May 2019
Circular Europe - EU Cluster Conference 2019
- 

June 2019
Improving Resource Efficiency through industrial symbiosis - Opportunities for SMEs
- 

September 2019
- Boosting resource efficiency in the real economy
- What do Game of Thrones, Tomorrowland and Carnival have in common? A waste management challenge



Circular Europe

Parallel session on "Circular Europe" that EREK organised and moderated during the EU Cluster Conference 2019 in Bucharest, Romania. The attendance of EREK to the EU Cluster Conference 2019 helped to have a first contact with the potential interviewees for the ad-hoc report on clusters, as well as to collect contact information for others.

What do GoT, Tomorrowland and Carnival have in common? A waste management challenge



Parallel session on waste on the cultural sector during the EREK International Conference. It was co-organised by OVAM. This event was moved from a full day event, to a parallel session at the final conference, due to limited timescales to deliver events that would have the scale and impact required.

Boosting resource efficiency in the real economy



Parallel session on financing resource efficiency during the EREK International Conference, co-organised by KÖVET. Originally conceived to be a full day workshop, it was moved to be a parallel session. This was due to the limited time available to deliver a strong and successful workshop.



EREK European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre

EREK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH RESOURCE EFFICIENCY!
25-26/09/19 - BRUSSELS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDUSTRY 4.0 DIGITALISATION
SOCIAL ECONOMY

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EREK Reports, studies and interviews



#ResourceEfficiency #EREK

SOCIAL ECONOMY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

A significant portion of the European economy can be classified as social economy. The social economy, also known as the fourth sector, can be defined in a variety of ways, but in essence it consists of a variety of organisations that use market mechanisms to pursue explicit social objectives. Through these types of organisations, social goals, reciprocity and solidarity are reinserted into economic thinking and decision making.

There are over 2 million social economy enterprises in Europe, representing 10% of all businesses in the EU. Social economy enterprises consist of a variety of different organisations, such as cooperatives, mutual societies, non-profit associations, foundations and social enterprises. These organisations employ over 11 million people. An important and growing group of social economy enterprises are social enterprises. Their main objective is to have a social, societal or environmental impact for the general interest.

The social economy plays an important role in the transition towards sustainability, resource efficiency and a greener economy. Social economy enterprises can have sustainability central to their business models, a goal beyond profit. These enterprises can also help ensure that the transition towards a green economy does not reinforce inequality and insecurity.



In this edition of EREK Quarterly, read our interview with Macheu Rama, environmental policy officer of REUSE, an international network of social enterprises that put service to the environment and community at the heart of their activities in re-use, repair and recycling (page 2-3); practical examples from companies (page 4); information on public-funded support programmes related to social economy (page 5) and many other relevant tips and information.



#ResourceEfficiency #EREK

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN EUROPE

Perspectives of EU industry cluster managers & regional policymakers

In the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy, the European Commission defines circular economy as follows: "In a circular economy the value of products and materials is maintained for as long as possible; waste and resource use are minimised, and resources are kept within the economy when a product has reached the end of its life, to be used again and again to create further value". Circular economy provides economic opportunities, but SMEs still face many obstacles.

Shifting to a circular economy requires the involvement of many actors across existing industrial value chains and regions in Europe. This report offers a first glimpse to the experience, perspectives and specific role of two of the key actors driving such shift:

- **EU industry clusters:** offer a nurturing environment to effectively promote circular economy business models among their members, given their direct contact to companies and SMEs and their understanding of the core business processes and needs. Cluster managers, knowing the region and the sector, often consider themselves a 'spider in the web' who can connect different stakeholders and tailor their approach to the needs of companies in their cluster.
- **Regional policymakers:** having a more formal and facilitating role compared to cluster organisations. They support the transition to circularity by introducing schemes and measures at local level, influencing national policies and by providing financial and other means of support.



EREK - What is the role of clusters in the shift towards Circular Economy?

EREK- Resource Efficiency and Music Festivals





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www.resourceefficient.eu

Soon at : www.clustercollaboration.eu

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