EU-(TR)ADE NEWSLETTER

ISTANBUL MEDIPOL UNIVERSITY
E-NEWSLETTER OF JEAN
MONNET MODULE OF EU(TR)ADE

JEAN MONNET MODULE

101085102-EU-TRADE-ERASMUS-JMO-2022-HEI-TCH-RSCH

GREEN DEAL, SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND TURKIYE'S INTEGRATION

VOLUME 5 | JULY 2023

GAINS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Prof. Dr.Rana ATABAY KUŞÇU

The linear economy is the result of business practices that revolve around a continuous supply of natural resources. This has led to a take-away approach, in which raw materials are extracted, converted into products, and after use or consumption, products are generally disposed of as non-recyclable waste. However, this approach is under increasing pressure due to its environmental and economic disadvantages.

The circular economy is more than just recycling and waste management, it is about maintaining value in the economy and ensuring that resources are used more intensively and optimally for a longer period. The circular economy is an emerging economic concept that enables new business models and strategies to reuse materials and resources for maximum benefit. Central to the circular economy is the idea of moving away from linear ways of doing business and directly challenging the traditional “take-make-dispose” mentality that aims to provide social welfare while operating within the boundaries of our planet. While the circular economy is struggling with climate change, in addition to its economic benefits such as reducing waste, supporting economic growth, increasing employment, developing innovative thinking, and adapting quickly to the changing demand structure, it also leads to the environment, which leads to the economy through self-months, such as causing less greenhouse gas emissions, creating ecosystems such as vital soil, air and water bodies, and protecting nature reserves.

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Studies show that the transition to the circular economy can create 6 million new jobs by 2030 and contribute up to 4.5 trillion USD to the global economy.
In this respect, the EU announced the "Circular Economy Action Plan" on March 11, 2020, aiming to adopt a circular approach at every stage of the product's life chain throughout the economy.

In light of the studies carried out within the scope of the "Green Deal Action Plan" announced by the Turkish Republic Ministry of Commerce, on July 16, 2021, academic and sectoral studies that support the circular economy gain importance so that the private sector can produce value in the economy in a healthy way and that its long-term commercial relations with EU member states that implement the circular economy package can continue uninterruptedly and maintain their competitiveness.
In addition, higher education plays a vital role in the transition to a global circular economy. From teaching and learning to research and procurement, there is increasing momentum around the world to move into the circular economy. How higher education institutions make their purchases can have important implications in making campus operations and supply chains more circular. More circular procurement decisions can significantly help change the economy and support universities in their net zero carbon targets.

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Circular Economic Transformation: Driving Sustainable Growth in the EU and Türkiye

Assoc.Prof. Oğuz DEMİR, PhD

The global population continues to grow rapidly, increasing demand for raw materials, while supplies are decreasing. This is rapidly increasing demand for raw materials, while their availability is declining. The extraction and consumption of resources have an impact on the environment. Higher energy consumption also increases carbon emissions. Smarter use of resources will in the future enable people to enjoy a prosperous life on a healthy planet, with a strong and sustainable economy. These problems need a new economic model for all countries and EU started to devise policies and strategies to lead the solution of these problems. With this respect the EU started to work on economic transformation process with new industrial policy approach and the EU's Green Deal also brought a new perspective to this change. One of the most important dimension of this new model is the change of the linear model ‘take-make-waste’ to a circular economy model which is a "make-use-recycle" model and aims to growth through resource efficiency. It is expected that a circular economic transformation will have less negative impact on the environment and will reduce carbon emissions and help EU to transform the economy.

The concept of a circular economy has gained significant momentum as a transformative approach to address pressing environmental challenges while promoting economic prosperity. Europe, at the forefront of this movement, recognizes the vital importance of embracing circular economic principles. EU as the leading region for the circular economic transformation also emphasizes the potential of circularity to drive innovation, create jobs, and foster sustainable growth.

The transition from a linear economy to a circular one is crucial for Europe to tackle the issue of resource scarcity and waste generation. By prioritizing resource efficiency and adopting sustainable practices such as recycling, reusing, and remanufacturing, Europe can optimize the use of materials, reduce its dependency on finite resources, and minimize waste. This shift not only protects the environment but also enhances resource security, making the European economy more resilient and less susceptible to price volatility and supply chain disruptions.

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REVIEWS Cont.

One other important dimension for circular transformation in economy is to stimulate economic opportunities and innovation. Circular economic transformation presents vast economic opportunities for Europe. By adopting circular business models and practices, companies can unlock new revenue streams, reduce costs, and gain a competitive edge. This transition drives innovation, encourages entrepreneurship, and fosters the development of sustainable industries. Europe's commitment to circularity positions it as a global leader in green innovation, attracting investments and fostering the growth of a vibrant circular economy ecosystem.

Circular economic transformation has the potential to generate employment opportunities and foster social inclusion. The shift towards a circular economy requires new skills and expertise in areas such as recycling, remanufacturing, and sustainable design. This transition creates jobs across diverse sectors, supporting economic growth and providing opportunities for SMEs. Furthermore, the circular economy promotes ethical practices, social responsibility, and a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

EU does not limit the circular transformation to its economic contributions but also with the environmental benefits. The circular economy aligns closely with Europe's climate objectives and commitment to environmental sustainability. By decoupling economic growth from resource consumption and carbon emissions, Europe can make significant progress towards its climate targets. Circular practices reduce the environmental footprint associated with production, transportation, and waste management. Furthermore, the circular economy promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable transportation systems. By embracing circularity, Europe not only contributes to global climate action but also reaps the economic benefits of a low-carbon economy.

The circular economic transformation is of paramount importance for the European economy. By embracing circular economy principles, Europe can enhance resource efficiency, drive innovation, and stimulate economic growth while addressing environmental challenges and promoting social inclusion. As Europe leads the way in adopting circular practices, it positions itself as a global leader in sustainability, attracting investments, creating jobs, and setting an example for the rest of the world. The circular economy is not just an environmental imperative; it is a powerful driver of sustainable and inclusive economic development.

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EU NEWS

Circular economy: Commission recommends actions to boost recycling in 18 Member States at risk of missing waste targets*

The Commission identifies Member States at risk of not meeting the 2025 preparing for re-use and recycling targets for municipal and all packaging waste and the 2035 landfilling target. Nine Member States are on track to meet the 2025 targets: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Slovenia. Some countries also continue to landfill most of their municipal waste and will probably fail to meet the 2035 landfilling target. The Commissions presents recommendations to these Member States, building on continuous financial and technical support provided for improving performance on waste management.

The Commission is presenting specific recommendations for the 18 Member States that are at risk of not achieving the main 2025 recycling targets. These recommendations cover a broad range of actions: reducing non-recyclable waste, increasing reuse, boosting separate collection, developing waste treatment capacities for sorting and recycling, improving governance, deploying economic instruments and awareness-raising.

For more detail

MDBs join forces to accelerate circular economy transition

During the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2023 in Helsinki, environment focussed directors from the leading Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) met to discuss the topic of the circular economy for the first time. The agenda outlined in the report “Unlocking the Potential of the International Financial Institutions in the Circular Economy Transition” will remain central. Correspondingly, the future MDB collaboration will consider the following aims:

Link circularity to key environmental objectives and in particular with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Improve and align impact assessment methods for circular economy investments. Aim at increasing the share of high-impact circular projects in lending and investment practices. Build internal (MDBs) and external (project partners) capacity for utilising the circular economy as a strategy to achieve economic success and resilience in client countries. Develop mechanisms to de-risk investments in the circular economy and facilitate better access to blended finance through public-private collaboration. Based on the aims, the MDBs will continue to work with private sector and national agencies, to introduce circular economy approaches into their sustainable development activities.

For more detail

State of the Climate in Europe 2022

The State of the Climate in Europe 2022 report, the second in an annual series, was produced jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service. It shows how Europe has been warming twice as much as the global average since the 1980s, with far-reaching impacts on the region’s socio-economic fabric and ecosystems. In 2022, Europe was approximately 2.3 °C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average used as a baseline for the Paris Agreement on climate change but, in a sign of hope for the future, renewable energy generated more electricity than polluting fossil fuels for the first time last year. Wind and solar power generated 22.3% of European Union (EU) electricity in 2022, overtaking fossil fuel (20%).

The report has a special focus on energy and highlights how more extreme weather, including intense heat, heavy precipitation and droughts have growing implications for the supply, demand and infrastructure of Europe’s energy system.

For more detail

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INTERVIEW

Prof.Dr. Mehmet BABACAN,
Marmara University

Dr. Mehmet Babacan is an associate professor at Marmara University, Department of Economics. His research fields are international political economy, development economics, governance and business networks/interest groups. His current research is on the performance of Turkish firms and industries in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Besides, he is working on sustainable businesses, the impact of "green deal" on the SMEs. Dr. Babacan earned his bachelor's degree at Marmara University and his master's degree at Clemson University. He obtained his Ph.D. degree at Marmara University with a dissertation titled "Role of Institutions and Governance in International Trade". Throughout his academic career, he has been a researcher and leader of several research projects. He also served at the Turkish Prime Minister's Office between October 2014 and September 2018 as an advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister. Dr. Babacan assumes a position in the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey as a member of the auditing committee since May 2015.

What are the "keywords" of the content you present within the scope of the Jean Monnet module? How would you interpret its relationship with the European Green Deal?

The keywords in my presentation are "green deal", "emerging markets", "Türkiye" and "SMEs"as my part relates the prospective benefits and challenges of adopting into the European Green Deal in Turkish context at the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) level. As a country among the top 10 trade partner of the European Union (EU) for the last quarter century, Türkiye has benefited from the leverage of TR-EU customs union while tackling with the challenges. An emerging market economy with an expanding scope of regional and global trade, Türkiye now faces a new challenge due to the recent implementation of the European Green Deal. In such a period that requires extensive transformation in manufacturing, logistics and trade, the key takeaway from my presentation is that SMEs are critical to focus, support and guide with multiple stakeholders.

Could you please tell us what being a Jean Monnet Module lecturer contributed to your academic career?

Such a module has clearly advanced my career in terms of being a part of an international project within the EU context given the excitement of studying relatively a new subject with a competent team of academics and professionals. Working on my part, I have discovered a variety of perspectives both on the past and the future of greening the economies, especially within an emerging market context. Particularly, I have broadened my understanding of SMEs, different aspects of the expected transformation towards a greener economy with its main pillars (i.e. state, firms, interest groups and financial institutions).

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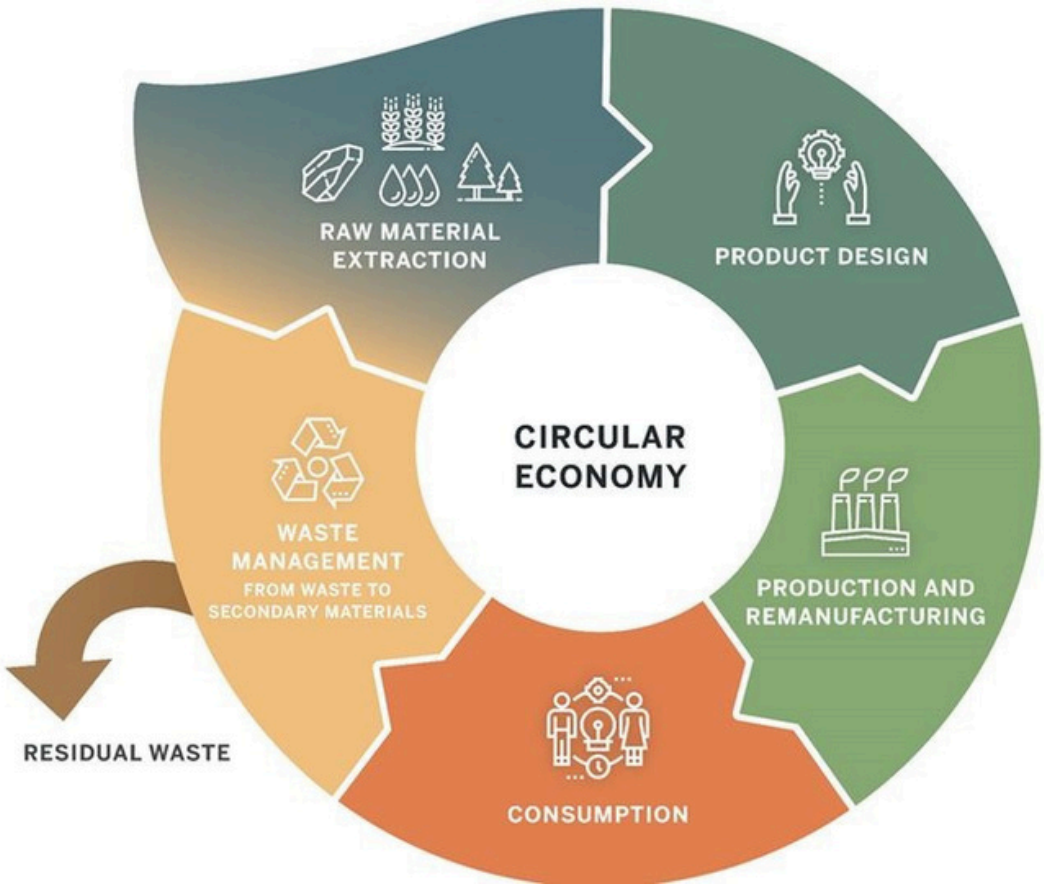
INTERVIEW

From the perspective of your field of study, how do you evaluate the roadmap for Türkiye's integration/harmonization process with the European Green Deal?

Türkiye's roadmap has already prioritized its trade with the EU in terms of greening the economy. The announced "Green Deal Action Plan" focuses on key areas like increasing awareness with regards to the European Green Deal and its possible consequences as well as cross-border carbon adjustment mechanism which are short-term priorities. Besides it comprehends different items such as fight against climate change and achieving a green and circular economy as long-term targets. Issues like developing green finance, sustainable agriculture and smart logistics represent the roadmap's mid-term goals. One should however open an exclusive chapter for the SMEs' integration into the plan. That is the fundamental perspective of my presentation within the module to draw attention to the importance of this subject.



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Towards a More Resource- Efficient and Circular Economy

Dilara TÜRK
Project Team
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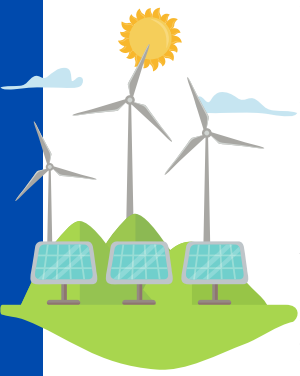

The G20 countries must play a major role in improving resource efficiency and material circularity because they account for 75% of the world's material consumption and 80% of its greenhouse gas emissions. Although there have been modest gains in resource productivity, they are insufficient to balance out the growing global use of materials. There is a strong case for the G20 countries to accelerate the shift to a more resource-efficient and circular economy given the advantages on the environmental, economic, and social fronts. The G20 has been talking about resource efficiency since 2017, promoting the exchange of ideas, policy experiences, and best practices. Some G20 countries have already begun adopting initiatives in this respect. Based on variables including resource endowments, stage of development, demographics, and economic specialization, the economic structures of the G20 countries differ. As a result, the productivity of resources and per-capita consumption of materials vary among the G20. The resource productivity of nations that concentrate on services and high-value goods, like the UK, Italy, and Japan, is generally higher than that of nations that rely primarily on the extraction of natural resources, like India, Brazil, and China. Between 2000 and 2017, the G20's resource productivity increased by an average of 40%. Despite these benefits, the majority of the large G20 nations—particularly those with swiftly expanding economies like China—have seen an increase in their material consumption as a result of population growth and rising consumption as a result of economic expansion. Various environmental effects are linked to the lifetime of materials, which includes extraction, transport, processing, use, and disposal. These effects include environmental and human health implications from harmful pollutants released into the environment, as well as climate change-related greenhouse gas emissions. At the national, subnational, and international levels, resource efficiency and material circularity have received more attention recently. To address resource productivity, waste management, and the circular economy, many G20 nations have created national policies, roadmaps, and policy packages. Additionally, circular economy strategies and roadmaps have been established by local and subnational governments. Resource efficiency has been stressed by global groups like the G7 and G20. The OECD and UNEP's International Resource Panel assist the European Union's efforts to promote the circular economy through forums and action plans. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which holds producers responsible for the environmental implications of their products throughout their lives, is one of the policy tools utilized by G20 nations.

Circular Economy and Waste Management

The idea of a circular economy has become increasingly popular in recent years as societies have become increasingly aware of the urgent need to address the escalating environmental problem. A paradigm changes from the conventional linear take-make-dispose model to a regenerative and restorative one is represented by the circular economy. It places a strong emphasis on the idea of "closing the loop" by avoiding waste and pollution, protecting the value of resources, and setting up a system where products, parts, and materials are reused, repaired, or recycled. Reduce, reuse, and recycle are the three main concepts that the circular economy emphasizes since it offers an innovative and all-encompassing method of waste management. Firstly, the circular economy is centered on waste minimization. The focus is on reducing resource use, energy use, and waste generation through eco-design and sustainable industrial methods. Longer lifecycles are made possible by product design that prioritizes durability, reparability, and recycling, which also lowers the overall environmental impact. Second, the circular economy promotes the recycling of goods and resources. The lifespan of items can be increased, lowering the need for new resources, by employing tactics like sharing platforms, leasing, and refurbishment. This not only lessens waste but also helps save money and encourages the creation of new business models. Finally, recycling is essential to the circular economy. It entails turning trash into useful resources to keep it out of landfills and incinerators. Recycling initiatives can recover materials from items at the end of their useful lives and reintroduce them into the production cycle thanks to improved technologies. This not only conserves resources but also lessens the environmental effects of raw material exploitation. A road to a future that is more sustainable and resilient is provided by the circular economy, which offers a transformative vision for waste management. We can lessen the environmental effects of excessive resource use and waste generation by embracing the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle. This will open the door for a regenerative economy that benefits both society and the environment.

Fatma Melike AŞCI
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SUMMER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Medipol University Jean Monnet Summer School on "Green Deal, Sustainable Trade, and Türkiye's Integration" will be held in Bodrum, Türkiye, from September 3rd to 8th, 2023, in collaboration with Bodrum+ Institute. The module will be offered with the support of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Activities and will focus on the Green Deal within the context of Sustainable Trade. The objective of the summer school is to raise awareness among participants about the "EU's New Roadmap: Green Deal within the Scope of Sustainable Trade" and its impact on climate change and trade.

Students are required to attend classes and read the necessary texts. Students who complete the course requirements will be awarded a certificate worth 5 ECTS credits. However, the recognition of ECTS for undergraduate and graduate students' courses is based on their institutions' internal practices and additional requirements.
The ECTS documents and transcripts will be emailed to the students

Who Can Participate?
This Summer School is open to all university students, professionals, and anyone interested in the subject.

REGISTRATION

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