



This project is co-funded by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye

Technical Assistance for Assessment of Turkey's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy

EuropeAid/140562/IH/SER/TR

Activity 2.1.1 - Workshops for Strategy Development

Second Workshop
Ankara, May 16th – 18th, 2023

The First Study Visit to the Netherlands and Belgium: Lessons Learnt
Onur Akpulat, Technical Component Leader

STUDY VISIT INFORMATION

5 Days

November 28th- December 2nd, 2022

2 Countries

The Netherlands and Belgium

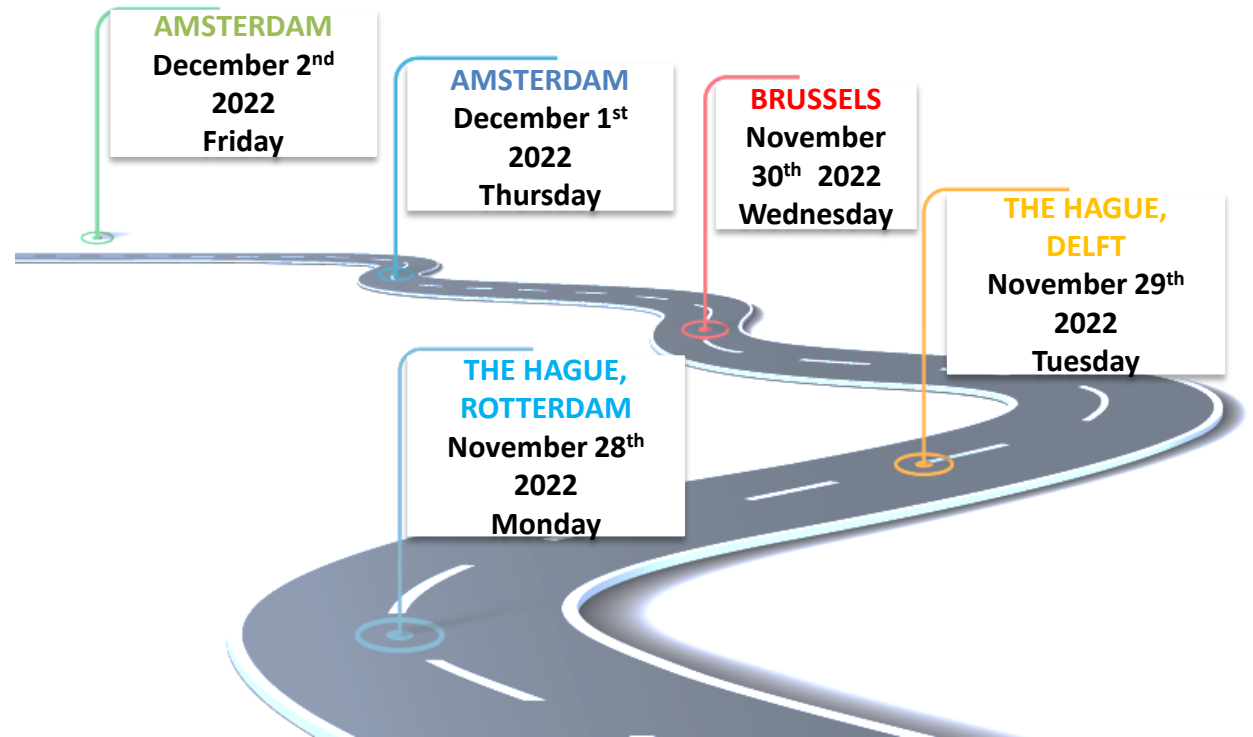
5 Cities

The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Delft and Brussels

Main Purpose:

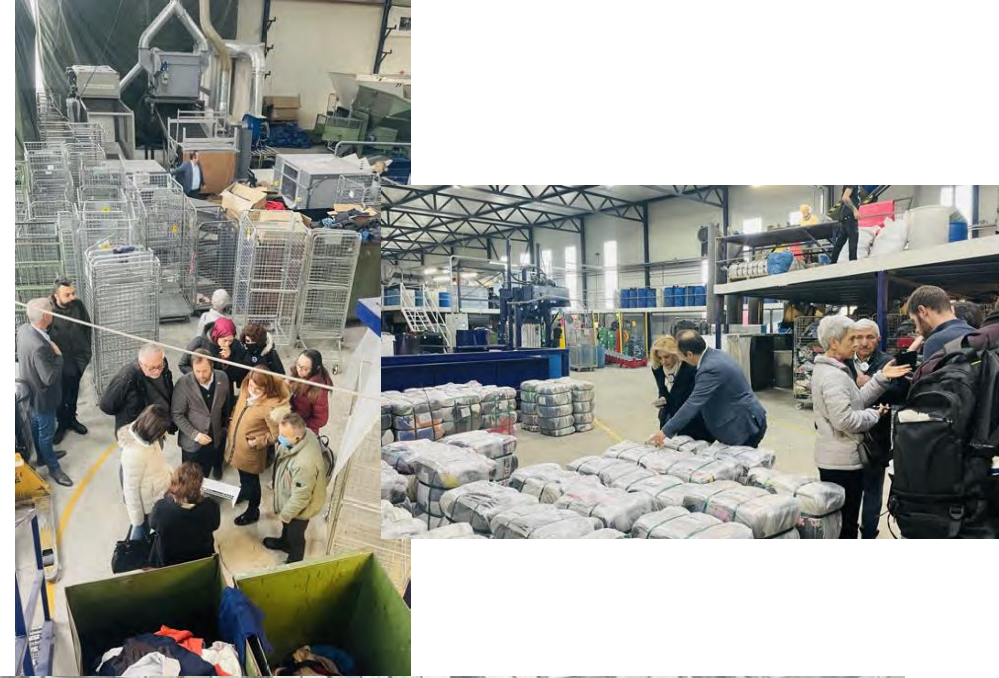
Understanding the establishment procedures, operation, and financing of centers, agencies, and research institutions working on waste management and circular economy issues and their relations with competent bodies including finance and environmental institutions and ministries.

In addition, to get information about the latest developments within the scope of EU CEAP, contacts were made with the relevant General Directorates of the European Commission in Brussels, and the policy development processes and practices of the Netherlands, which is one of the countries that have made significant progress in the field of circular economy, were examined.



STUDY VISIT DELEGATION

	Name Surname	Title	Inst.	Unit
1	Recep Akdeniz	Deputy General Manager	MoEUCC	DGEM
2	Salih Eminoğlu	Acting Branch Manager	MoEUCC	DGEM
3	Hülya Çakır	Acting Branch Manager	MoEUCC	DGEM
4	Ece Dinsel	Environment and Urbanization Expert	MoEUCC	DGEM
5	Münüre Türkmen	Environment and Urbanization Expert	MoEUCC	DGEM
6	Emre Cihan Kavlak	Environment and Urbanization Expert	MoEUCC	DGEM
7	Gülşah Reis Manap	Acting Branch Manager	MoEUCC	DGEIAPI
8	Nurnisa Elçin	Contracting Authority	MoEUCC	GDEUFR
9	Halime Sezer	Recovery and Producer Responsibility Director	MoEUCC	Turkish Environment Agency (TÜÇA)
10	Bahar Güçlü	Deputy General Manager	MoT	Directorate General of International Agreements and EU
11	Mihail Dimovski	Project Team Leader	DAI	
12	Onur Akpulat	Technical Component Leader	DAI	
13	Simge Aldı	Project Assistant	DAI	
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15	Bilge Kahramanyol	Interpreter	-	
16	Gizem Başal	Logistic Assistant	IPCEU	



STUDY VISIT PROGRAM AND VISITED INSTITUTIONS

Day 1 - Dutch Government, The Hague & Best Practices, Rotterdam

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

Blue City Visit & Meetings on Good Practices

Circular Production Session (Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences)

Day 2 - Circular Economy Oriented Dutch Organizations, The Hague & Good Practices, Delft

Circularise

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

Ministry of Infrastructure and the Water Management

Dutch Environmental and Water Association (ENVAQUA)

Day 3 - European Commission Departments and Related Institutions, Brussels

Directorate General of Environment (DG ENV)

Directorate General of Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to the European Union

Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)

European Environment Bureau (EEB)



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

TNO innovation
for life



STUDY VISIT PROGRAM AND VISITED INSTITUTIONS

Day 4 - Circular Economy-Oriented Dutch Organizations, Amsterdam

Holland Circular Hotspot (HCH)
European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform (ECESP)
Het Groene Brein
CIRCO
Amsterdam Economic Board (AEB)
Port of Amsterdam



Day 5 - Best Practice Tours, Amsterdam

Textiles2Textiles (T2T)
Brightfiber Textile
Ereks Garment
PVH Corp.
Circle Economy
Circl: A Circular Building in Amsterdam



Bright.fiber Textiles





Directorate General of Environment (DG ENV)

- The Commission is expected to finalize the Waste Shipment Regulation and its related annexes (predicted waste treatment standards, etc.) in the second half of 2023 and send it to the Council. Depending on the evidence provided by the countries, various exceptions may be granted.
- Two separate regulations are expected within 1-2 years on issues such as separate collection of textile wastes by the Commission, the mandatory EPR system (e.g. France), the modulation of wages, and the rewarding of producers producing easily removable or recyclable products.



Directorate General of Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

- The Commission will provide specific frameworks for specific issues (regulations and tools) regarding the Sustainable Product Policy and the Digital Product Passport.
- On the other hand, it is expected that there will be issues to be agreed on the industry. The Commission may point to a practice considered good practice as a leading example.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

European Commission Departments and Related Organizations



Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)

- The best way to reach different waste fractions with high quality was suggested by ZWE as 5 ways of collection
- It was underlined that separate collection at source is critical to engage the consumer more in the process through communication (e.g. free bus ticket proportional to biogas from the organic waste collected separately)



European Environment Bureau (EEB)

- The main circular economy policy strategy of the Flanders Region of Belgium is the Federal Circular Economy Action Plan (2021-2024).
- OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders), which is the responsible organization for development and implementation of such policies, has been also developing the new policy on Enhanced Landfill Mining (ELFM).
- It is underlined that RDF and waste incineration cannot be considered circular activities according to the Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.





Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

- The circular economy is a holistic value chain approach so it is not possible to realize it through a single institution.
- If the circular economy is not accepted at the citizen level, it will be difficult to achieve success.
- The Netherlands is also aware that an environmentally friendly innovation that does not benefit the business world will not make a difference, and with this awareness, the new circular economy program has been prepared.
- In the Netherlands, it has been determined that regulations remain limited without effective supervision. For this reason, national auditors work intensively.
- In the Netherlands, in the scope of the EPR, if the manufacturer offers a better design or packaging to the market, he/she pays less tax. Otherwise, the manufacturer must pay a higher tax.
- With initiatives such as the National Raw Material Supply Agreement, the National Plastics Agreement, the National Concrete Agreement, and the Denim Agreement, public-private sector cooperation is progressing step by step.
- Tools such as green purchasing, CO2 tax, export tax, incineration tax can be considered as other interventions that will accelerate the transition to the circular economy.





Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

- **The Circular Netherlands Accelerator** formed by the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and other relevant public institutions, private sector, academia and NGOs, is an example of a good national platform/program to trigger the private sector in the transition to circular economy.
- It is fully financed by the ministry. **RVO is the implementer of this program.**
- The platform provides free support to companies and new entrepreneurs on policy analysis, circularity measurement, access to finance, access to networks, and value chain for circular economy.



Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

- TNO, an independent organization established by the government, is an organization that produces information on the circular economy for different sectors, makes models and provides a basis for policies.
- The modeling study on the number of raw materials and demolition waste that the Dutch construction sector will use in the long term and their effects sheds light on the investments to be made in this direction.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Holland Circular Hotspot (HCH)

- HCH, another public-private initiative (50% public - 50% project funded), has again come to the fore as a good circular economy association.
- HCH is an independent organization and the Chairman of the Board is Professor Jacqueline Cramer, former Minister of the Environment of the Netherlands.
- It works to encourage and support international cooperation and knowledge exchange between companies, academia, and local governments on the circular economy.
- It focuses on awareness, good practices, digital tools, knowledge production, and sharing on a national and international scale rather than financing.

Circular Economy Oriented Dutch Organizations



Het Groene Brein (Yeşil Beyin)

- It is a foundation founded by 150 scientists from different disciplines. It gets its funding from many projects and programs.
- It supports companies, non-governmental organizations and public institutions free of charge, especially entrepreneurs, who want to take steps towards a sustainable economy.
- HGB is initiating new collaborations to scale and beyond individual practices to build ecosystems.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CIRCO CIRCO

- CIRCO is an activation program that works on circular economy and provides financing with participation fees provided by the private sector, banks, and municipalities.
- It has become self-sustainable by moving away from the approach taken from public finance.
- CIRCO has headquarters in 14 countries, including Türkiye.
- Good examples of circular design are shared between companies through the CIRCONNECT platform.
- The primary motivations for persuading companies to circular design are new business opportunities and business licenses backed by legislation.

Circular Economy Oriented Dutch Organizations

CIRCLE ECONOMY Circle Economy

- Circle Economy is a think tank foundation guiding businesses, nations, and cities on the path to circularity.
- The foundation, which has expertise in circular textiles, financing, built environment, capital equipment, circular businesses, metrics for circularity, data, circular design, and digitalization, constitutes the main financing source of the foundation. Trust funds are the main funding source of Circle Economy.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Amsterdam Economic Board (AEB)

- Amsterdam Economic Board is essentially an operating organization, it also has a real board of 25 people and representatives of 140 partner organizations on this board.
- These organizations represent a total of approximately 2.5 million people.
- It is funded by business, universities and research institutes, and the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area authorities.
- It develops and implements city-scale initiatives, programs and projects on cyclical transformation, which is one of its main areas of work.

Circular Economy Oriented Dutch Organizations



Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences

- Only 5% of manufacturing firms are circular. 99% of the products produced to turn into waste and 80% of environmental impacts are caused during the design phase. Therefore, circular production is a key issue.
- Countries need to take action against the actions of manufacturers toward planned obsolescence.





- Textiles2Textiles is a company based in Wormerveer, Netherlands, and focuses on the reuse of textiles in their final form. Their aim is to apply technological innovations to reuse every garment and fiber.
- T2T's textile recycling center called Fiber Farm is the only manufacturer in the world that transforms non-re-wearable post-consumer textiles into homogeneous, clean, and traceable circular resources.
- Ereks Garment met Textiles2Textiles through Denim Deal and established cooperation. Ereks Garment is the Türkiye representative of T2T.
- A value is added to the waste, but to give an example, with this system, a quilt with a value of 10 TL is obtained from a garment worth 100 TL. It is seen that this is called “down-cycling” in the definitions.

- No emission is released.
- No part of the process is chemical.
- No water is used.
- Baled and packaged clean output.
- Negative carbon is produced.
- Requires the use of green energy.





Circl: Circular Building

INITIATIEF VAN  ABN-AMRO

- The Circl is a circular building in Amsterdam's Zuidas district. Circl is a building designed and built according to sustainable and circular principles.
- Circl was created to be energy efficient and easy to disassemble to create as little environmental impact as possible on the planet.
- Many of the materials reused to build the Circl are the materials that already exist and have been used. All raw materials, from the wood used in its construction to the aluminum in its exterior walls, can be reused for new uses in the future.
- Here are a few examples of circular implementations in Circl:
 1. Solar Panels:
 2. Mitsubishi Lifts with a Circular Business Model:
 3. A Second Life for 16,000 Jeans at Circl:
 4. Only ventilate where necessary with variable air volume (VAV):
 5. Phase Change Materials (PCM):



CIRCULARISE **Circularise**

- Circularise ensures that brands promote these claims with quality and secure data.
- Circularise mainly works on digital product passports and supply chain.
- Digital Product Passport and Sustainable Product Initiative regulations, increase the need for traceability in the supply chain.
- The regulation of the Digital Product Passport is expected to be a complex, costly and lengthy process due to the necessity of observing different information (LCA, CO2e, etc.) and standards (ISO, CENELEC, etc.) for the circular economy.
- The information will need to be verified by third parties.
- Digital product passports should be meaningful, comparable, verifiable, easy to understand and support sustainability insights.





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Teşekkürler.



Türkiye Döngüsel Ekonomi

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IPA Çevre/Environment TÜRKİYE



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