Loading the circular bioeconomy, where are we?

Analysering the situation in pilot territories

Pilots selected the biowaste chain and the alternative scenario to reach a circular bioeconomy. Challenges encountered in the current biowaste management chain and potential solutions were discussed during the first meetings of the local Living Labs (LLs). 5 external experts gave feedback on the results of the LL and validated project’s choices during a peer-review session.

For more:

biocircularcities.eu
info@biocircularcities.eu
@biocirc_cities

Biocircularcities in brief #1
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Recommendations from the Peer Review session #1

5 external experts were invited to discuss and share insight on the results of the first Living Labs.

Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (MAB)

The experts validated the decision to address the issue of high impurities content in biowaste by moving towards the individualisation of the collection systems, from open containers to door to door or smart bins. On a subsequent stage, it could be possible to implement a pay-as-you-throw system. Sociological aspects in source separation should not be neglected since communication to citizens is key to a successful separation.

Metropolitan City of Naples (MCN)

To address the insufficient local treatment capacity, it is suggested to start a gradual recovery of local mechanical biological plants into biological treatment exclusively for biowaste. Another solution, complementary to this centralised treatment, could be to implement decentralised biowaste treatments. Experts agreed on the need to retrieve the results from past research and projects, as starting point to expand the range of available circular solutions for the agro-industrial biowaste chains. Industrial symbiosis and local cooperation can also pave the way to circular bio-economy results.

Province of Pazardzhik (PP)

An increase in separation rate could be incentivized by introducing a landfilling tax returned to municipalities according to their separate waste collection performance. A change in waste fees should be introduced to incentivise separate collection of different fractions, especially biowaste that is currently not source separated. Energy and lignocellulosic valorisations are possible to valorise forest residues, giving priority to the second option to incentivise good practices for utilization of agro-forestry wastes more in line with the waste hierarchy.