



OECD Circularity

Campus Kristiansund Internship Program



Kristiansund
kommune



Møre og Romsdal
fylkeskommune

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Project leader



Mo Zijlmans
mozijlmans@live.nl

Project members



Julia Volchkova



Maria Victoria Silva

Project dates: November 2023 – February 2024

Project owners: Møre and Romsdal County Council

- Solveig Stornes (Project Manager Sustainability and Circular Economy)
Solveig.Stornes@mrfylke.no
- Ingrid Hansgaard Gjelsvik (International Advisor)
Ingrid.Gjelsvik@mrfylke.no

Introduction

Norway's circularity rate stands at 2.4%, significantly lower than the global average of 8.6%. Møre and Romsdal County is striving to become a leader in sustainability, amongst other things through a collaborative regional initiative called 'The Sustainability County Møre and Romsdal'. A key step for this program involved conducting a sustainability assessment for each municipality in the county. This assessment used the United for Smart Sustainable Cities key performance indicators, which encompass 92 metrics to evaluate economic, environmental, and social sustainability aspects.

Following this assessment, the region identified Circular Economy (CE) as a critical focus area for future development. Currently, a large portion of waste is burned rather than being broken down and repurposed, highlighting the need to not only manage waste more effectively but also to reduce its production.

The 'Sustainability County Møre and Romsdal' initiative promotes collaboration between the county and its municipalities on various sustainable development fronts. For the year 2022, all municipalities and county council departments were challenged with ensuring that at least one of their upcoming procurement processes aligns with CE principles. The

county council aims to facilitate this by sharing best practices on circular procurements¹. Additionally, in 2022, Møre and Romsdal County Council secured a spot as a "fellow" in the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI). This three-year EU network offers access to expertise, knowledge, and funding in the field of circular economy.

The county's active participation in CCRI meant that the OECD made contact in June 2023 and chose Møre and Romsdal as one of ten European regions to participate in a circular economy survey and policy dialogues, which will result in concrete recommendations based on experience from other regions in Europe. The report will be ready later in 2024.

Key actions in the project were: conducting a survey on circularity in the region (done by the county team), coordinating group interviews with key actors in the region in collaboration with the OECD, and producing a report with recommendations with practical guidelines for circular transition in the county. The Campus Kristiansund interns were involved mapping the relevant key actors and providing input on the OECD report. Next to that, the interns assisted in writing a project proposal for funding from Klimasats to perform a material flow analysis from in the county. Lastly, the interns developed a local circular economy project proposal in Kristiansund municipality, which received positive feedback and interest.

Methods

The mapping of the key actors that were relevant to include in the circularity policy dialogues was done in themes. For each theme, actors were included from both the private and the public sector, and from both small-scale and large-scale organizations/companies. The chosen themes to sort the actors and initiatives in for the policy dialogues were based on the ones that were also chosen in Zuid-Holland, a province in the Netherlands where the policy dialogues were previously executed. This

¹ European Commission. (2023, December 11). Circular resource management, Møre and Romsdal. <https://circular-cities-and-regions.ec.europa.eu/fellows/more-and-romsdal>

overlap in themes is important for comparison between the provinces later in the process. The final themes were:

- Representatives of the Region, including public procurement.
- Representatives from different Levels of Government
- Waste Management and Reuse
- Nature, Built environment and Spatial planning
- Business and Innovation (Ålesund)
- Blue and Maritime Economy
- Elected members in charge of Circular Economy

The relevant actors from these subgroups were invited for the policy dialogues with the international OECD team in Molde and Ålesund on the 16th and 17th of January 2024. In each policy dialogue, around ten actors joined in the end, which was also the goal set beforehand.

During the policy dialogues, the international OECD team had the lead in executing the dialogues. They shortly introduced themselves and the project, and let the participants shortly introduce themselves. After this, there was a discussion lead by questions by the OECD, while they tried to let everyone speak on the topics. Each policy dialogue lasted 1.5 hours.

The timeline of the full project looked as follows:



Figur 1: Timeline of OECD project
OECD Circularity

Analysis and Results

The OECD team is still working on the report, which is expected to be published before summer. However, interesting findings have already emerged from the circularity policy dialogues. When focusing on the challenges faced by the region regarding Circular Economy, the following themes were highlighted:

- A lack of urgency for circularity.
- Demographic factors.
- A growing economy with high living standards.
- Substantial waste per inhabitant.
- Logistics issues.
- A negative energy balance.

Recommendations from the OECD to the county so far are focused around three themes:

1. **People:** Enhance circular skills and build capacity.
 - a. Build capacity and understanding among local authorities about national environmental priorities and goals.
 - b. Build expertise internally on the circular economy within the public administration.
 - c. Participate in external networks and communities that focus on circular economy practices.
 - d. Promote collaboration with NGOs, industry organisations or research institutions.
 - e. Provide incentives, awards or recognition to individuals or teams that make significant contributions to the promotion of circular practices within the public administration.
 - f. Link circular economy skills development to career development.
2. **Regulation/Policy:** Drive change through policy measures.
 - a. Set regional targets for resource efficiency, waste minimisation and recycling.
 - b. Promote sustainable consumption patterns.
 - c. Circular procurement.

- d. Establish clear requirements in tenders.
 - e. Use life cycle analysis to assess the long-term consequences of each purchase.
 - f. Segment public tenders into parts that make it possible for SMEs to participate.
 - g. Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework for Green Public Procurement (GPP).
3. Cities: create industrial symbiosis hubs that act as centers of excellence for circularity.
- a. Identify companies that comply with the principles of the circular economy.
 - b. Identify/develop infrastructure with a focus on circularity.
 - c. Provide/identify opportunities for shared facilities such as waste sorting and recycling facilities, shared meeting places and storage space.
 - d. Centralized services such as renewable energy production, water treatment and waste management.
 - e. Renewable energy sources
 - f. Recycling and reutilization.
 - g. Attract companies that are committed to the principles of the circular economy.
 - h. Establish innovation hubs to promote collaboration and research and facilitate networking opportunities for businesses.
 - i. Collect data on resource use, waste production and other key indicators.

Discussion

The team in Møre and Romsdal performed some great policy dialogues, providing input for the OECD and the local community. This international collaboration raised awareness and emphasized the urgency of circularity in the county. Also, the anticipated spin-off projects in the coming years are a very positive impact!

At the same time, it was challenging to involve relevant key actors in the policy dialogues. Because it was not possible to involve every relevant actor, the selection made aimed to

be relevant and representative. Another challenge was the collaboration with the OECD, a large organization that also has many other projects to work on. The delay in the delivery of the report was thus expected.

To summarize the findings of the policy dialogues so far: there are already many existing initiatives, projects and networks that collectively respond to several of the recommendations from the OECD survey. However, the main question is: “how can we work more purposefully with the resources and projects that we already have?”

Taking the project forward, it is still important to provide feedback and input on the report the OECD is currently writing for Møre and Romsdal. Next to that, the interns hope their local Kristiansund circularity project proposal gains traction and continues. This proposal can be found in the appendices or by reaching out to one of us.

Appendix 1: Participants Policy Dialogues

Table 1: The Region Representatives

Organisation	Title
County Council - Legal Department	Constituted Head of Legal Department
County Council - Strategy and Management Unit, Planning Section	Head of Planning Section
County Council	Deputy Head of County Council
County Council - Transport/Mobility, Operations Section	Head of Transport Operations Section
County Council - Strategy and Management Department, Section for Sustainable Societal Development	Head of Sustainable Societal Development Section
County Council - Culture Department	Director of Culture
County Council - Competence and Business Department	Head of Business
County Council - Competence and Business Department	Director of Competence and Business
County Council - Competence and Business Department, Marine and Environment	Advisor Aquaculture
County Council - Competence and Business Department, Marine and Environment	Head of Marine and Environment Section
County Council - Transport/Mobility, Strategy Unit	Head of Strategy Unit

Table 2: Levels of Government

Organisation	Title
County Council	Head of County Council
Kristiansund Municipality	Chief Municipal Executive
Molde Municipality	Innovation and Transition Guide
Ålesund Municipality	Chief Municipal Executive
Norwegian Institute for Sustainability Research (NORSUS)	CEO & Senior Researcher
County Governor of Møre og Romsdal	Director of Environmental Protection
Tingvoll Municipality	Mayor
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) - Campus Ålesund	Vice-Rector Ålesund
The Research Council of Norway	Regional Manager, Møre og Romsdal

Table 3: Waste Management, Reuse and Recycling

Organisation	Title
Attvin (Årim/Bingsa Recycling)	CEO
Kirppis	CEO, Owner & Founder
Tafjord Kraftvarme AS	Managing Director, Energy Recovery
County Governor of Møre og Romsdal	Director of Environmental Protection
Kontorvarehuset (KVH)	Department manager & Business developer
Molde Municipality - Citizen Lab (Innom)	Innovation and Transition Guide
Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture (NORSØK)	Researcher
Norwegian Waste Management and Recycling Association [Avfall Norge]	Senior Advisor & Head of Operative Circular Projects team
Molde University College	Professor

Table 4: Nature, Built Environment and Spatial Planning

Organisation	Title
Høvdning Real Estate	CEO
County Council - Strategy and Management Unit, Planning Section	Planning Coordinator
County Council - Construction and Property Department	Head of Construction and Property
County Governor of Møre og Romsdal	County Forester
Centre for Sustainable Land- and Nature Management (SEBAN) / Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)	Researcher (SEBAN) & Research Station Manager, Division of Forest and Forest Resources (NIBIO)
County Council - Transport/Mobility, Road Administration (Formerly employed at The Norwegian Public Roads Administratio)	County Road Manager
County Council - Strategy and Management Unit, Planning Section	Climate and Environment Coordinator
Ode	Head of Public Affairs
The Norwegian Public Roads Administration (NPRA) - Transport and Society Division, Mid-Norway Transport Department	Department Director

Table 5: Business and Innovation

Organisation	Title
Norsk Hydro - Sunndal metal plant	Plant Manager in Sunndal, Technical Director Business Unit Recycling, & Vice President

The Confereration of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO)	Regional Manager, Møre og Romsdal
Spilka Industry	CEO
County Council - Skaparkraft	Project Manager
Circular Norway	Co-Founder & former Managing Director (-2018)
Innovation Norway	Director of Møre og Romsdal Department
iKuben	
Plasto & Wonderland	Head of Marketing and Development (Plasto)
The Foundation for Industrial and Technical Research (SINTEF) - SINTEF Manufacturing, Department of industrial ecosystems	Project Director
Skift	CEO
Gjørund Harbor and Commercial Area [Gjørund fiskerihavn og næringsområde]	Project Manager

Table 6: Blue and Maritime Economy

Organisation	Title
NCE Blue Legasea (Marine industry cluster)	Project developer "Land møter Hav"
County Council - Transport/Mobility	Head of Transport Operations Section
Beach Cleanup Week Initiative [Strandryddeveka]	Climate Coordinator & Senior Engineer (County Governor of Møre og Romsdal)
GCE Blue Maritime Cluster	Head of Projects
Hofseth International AS (seafood company)	CEO
Møre og Romsdal County Council	Advisor
Bluewild (seafood company)	CEO

The Norwegian food research institute (Nofima)	Senior Scientist & Leader of "Production biology" research group
Møreforsking (Møre Research)	Researcher

Appendix 2: Project Proposal Circular Economy Kristiansund

Project Proposal: CIRKRI – Circular Economy in Kristiansund Municipality

Keywords: sustainability, circularity, responsible consumption, KPIs



Project team



Mo Zijlmans



Julia Volchkova



Maria Victoria
Silva



Martin Kleiven-
Jørgensen

Project Overview

The CIRCKRI-project is intended as a local supplement to the regional project on circularity led by the OECD, supported by the Møre og Romsdal county council and the United Cities Internship Program. While the OECD-project so far has revealed a range of circular economy (CE) initiatives across the county, CIRKRI delves into the efforts and challenges within the organization of Kristiansund municipality. By systematically examining the current landscape of circular practices, areas of improvement and ways of measuring progress, our goal is to ensure more comprehensive action towards circularity at the local, municipal level.

SDG Alignment

Work on enhanced circularity within Kristiansund municipality can be aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Local progress on selected SDGs will be addressed through CIRKRI, which is crucial to achieve the 2030 Agenda:

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- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth as CE initiatives often lead to the creation of new SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure as CE practices require innovative solutions and development of sustainable infrastructure.
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities as CE initiatives often contribute to more sustainable and resilient urban development.
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production as this goal, combined with sustainable resource management, are important prerequisites for a successful CE.
- SDG 13: Climate Action as CE practices often result in lower carbon emissions and contribute to climate mitigation.
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals is reflected by the fact that strong collaborations within Kristiansund municipality and beyond is fundamental for the implementation of functional systems to support CE.

Background

According to the Circularity Gap report, Norway currently only has a circular economy for 2.4%, while the average global economy is 8.6%². In addition to restructuring business and industry, changes in the public sector will play an important role for increasing Norway's circularity³. The need for a systems change is becoming increasingly acknowledged by public institutions. Møre og Romsdal, aiming to become the leading sustainability county in Norway, has identified CE as a main focal area particularly suitable for joint, regional cooperation⁴. Although several initiatives promoting CE are present in the region, common challenges include fragmentation, lack of plans for upscaling, and insufficient knowledge sharing across the region. To meet the county's goals, it is crucial that municipalities dedicate efforts to addressing the topic locally.

According to The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), a strong interdisciplinary understanding of the connection between climate, nature and CE is

² <https://www.circularity-gap.world/norway>

³ <https://www.adviso.no/aktuelt/sirkulare-anskaffelser--hva-er-det-og-hvorfor-er-det-viktig/>

⁴ <https://mrfylke.no/tenester/berekraft/>

important when implementing CE at the local level. In their guide for municipalities and county councils, KS suggests that CE should be integrated into an existing climate- and environment plan or as a separate thematic plan⁵. However, Kristiansund municipality has yet to develop a climate- and environmental plan or thematic plan on CE, instead stating that they aim for having a climate- and environmental perspective across all their operations⁶. The importance of CE has been acknowledged in their municipal action program (2023-2026), which includes goals of investing in, and operating infrastructure assessed from a sustainable life cycle perspective, as well as increasing circular waste management⁷. Nevertheless, there is seemingly a lack of a holistic approach to circularity which includes more specific plans for initiation, coordination, measurement, and upscaling of efforts across different departments within the organization of Kristiansund municipality. A sustainability advisor within the organization explained that current CE efforts are usually dependent on a few passionate individuals spread across different departments, while at the overall level, “any information about CE is good information at this point”. This emphasizes the importance of initiating work with mapping out CE-efforts currently in place within the municipality, how these efforts are connected to each other and to the broader context of climate- and environment-related questions, as well as areas for improvement.

Objectives

CIRKRI aims to map out the state of CE in Kristiansund municipality and to connect certain initiatives that are currently taking place. Next to that, a goal is to make suggestions for improvement regarding CE within the municipality, and ways of measuring it. It will be crucial to focus more on the system level and to aim to create an overarching framework.

⁵ <https://www.ks.no/fagomrader/samfunnsutvikling/miljo/sirkular-okonomi/veileder-for-sirkular-okonomi/sirkular-okonomi-i-styrings--og-ledelsesprosesser/trinn-1--utarbeid-en-temaplan-for-sirkular-okonomi/>

⁶ https://www.kristiansund.kommune.no/_f/p1/iee0515d1-2949-48bf-a048-8f5317f9f058/forslag-til-planstrategi-2024-2027-og-planprogram-for-kps-2024-2036.pdf (page 21)

⁷ https://www.kristiansund.kommune.no/_f/p1/i55689b60-6f9e-49f1-8c10-67fb994708be/handlingsprogram-2023-2026-vedtatt-i-bystyret-15122022.pdf

Deliverables

- Documentation of the status on circular economy in Kristiansund municipality.
- Resource bank & knowledge sharing: Identification of existing resources on CE that could be useful for Kristiansund municipality.
- Start identifying indicators for measuring CE in Kristiansund to support decision-making and evaluate economic strategies.
- Possibly: provide suggestions that are tailored to local context.