Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular and Resource Efficient Economy in the UNECE Region

Policy options for harnessing the power of trade and economic cooperation: Key findings & way forward

Josip Pervan, UNECE Consultant
Circular Economy & Trade Nexus

- From one-way to two-way supply chains
- From global to more regional and local trade
- From analog to digital
- From trade in primary to trade in secondary materials
- From dependence to more resilience
- From trade in goods to trade in services
Policy Interactions

- Investment/Financing
- Digitalization
- Innovation
- Procurement
Specific Sectors

- Trade in Agriculture
- Trade in Textiles
- Trade in Services
- Trade in Critical Minerals
Regulatory Framework
Circular Economy and Transition Economies

- Circular Economy as a **recovery** strategy
- Combining **labor-intensive** and **innovative** activities
- Supporting **MSMEs**
- Addressing both **production and consumption**
- **Integration** into regional and global value chains
Ecological footprint and biological capacity per capita, region, past 10 years

![Graph showing ecological footprint and biological capacity per capita from 2008 to 2017. The ecological footprint is represented by a red line, and the biological capacity by a green line. The graph shows a general decrease in both metrics over the past 10 years.](image-url)
Some Recommendations

- **HS code** needs to be updated
- **Re-regulating trade** in waste/scrap, second-hand goods, remanufactured goods
- Eliminating environmentally harmful **subsidies** and disincentivizing consumption of virgin raw materials
- Revising the **Trade Facilitation Agreement**
- **Awareness** raising and advocacy
- **Exchange** of experiences
- **Research** & cooperation
- Integrating Circular Economy into strategies
- **Supply chains** as drivers of Circular Economy
- Transition to circularity needs to be **inclusive**
Food for Thought & Way Forward

- Circular Economy as a **misunderstood** and disregarded concept
- Circular Economy as a driver of **development**
- Circular Economy needs to be applied **universally**
- **Standards** and RoO as key drivers of the uptake?
- Transparency in the **supply chains**
- More or less **trade** in the circular economy?
- **Fragmentation** of efforts on all levels
- **Who** should drive the circularity?
Thank you!

Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE