



CirThink

Embedding Circular Economy Thinking in HEIs Through University and Industry Partnerships

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NEWSLETTER 2

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A transdisciplinary Higher Education basic Curriculum

The Erasmus+ project CirThink aims to embed the idea of the circular economy in Higher Education as a transdisciplinary basic competence field. Building on the findings of the project presented in CirThink (2021), the curriculum on circular economy (Franke & Remmele, 2022) for higher education institutions was developed. The curriculum is aimed in particular at lecturers and is intended to help with the systematic integration of circular economy thinking into academic teaching.



HEI Governance Model

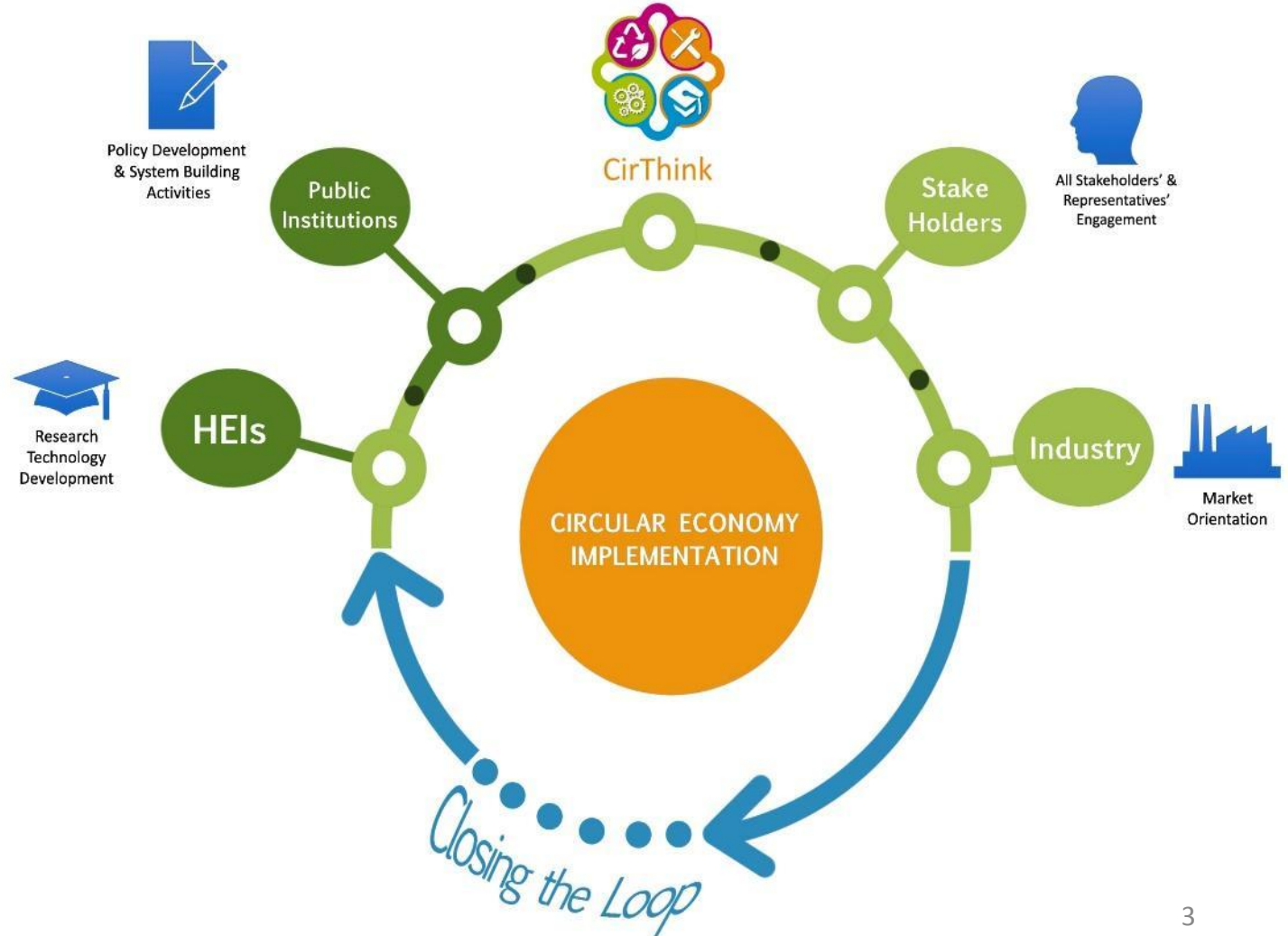


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The circular economy is more than resource efficiency and recycling. It delivers the framework for evolving new governance and business models that aim to raise the value, the use and the longevity of materials, products and assets. In addition, a shift to a more circular economy will require to holistic policy actions and essential investments. The use of progressive technology and fundamental behavioral changes are also required. Thus, Stakeholders' involvement will be essential because they have important responsibilities in the successful achievement of the desired goals.

In this context, public policies, business investments, or consumer preferences alone will not be enough. For this reason, effective university and industry involvement and cooperation and all supporting involvement will be needed. This model proposes a model method for this process:

By making all participants be a part of the cycle, prioritizing tasks and by assigning equal and priority responsibilities to them, the loop can be closed.



Project Meeting in Freiburg



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On 17 + 18 March 2022 we met in Freiburg at the Freiburg University of Education for our first face to face project meeting. During the meeting, the focus was on the exchange of content as well as the networking of the project partners. For this purpose, we exchanged information about the different Intellectual Outputs (IOs) on both days. The slots were prepared by the respective responsible project partners of the IOs. For example, MSKU prepared the exchange on IO1, which was completed during the meeting. PHFR also prepared a work phase on IO2. During the working phase, the project partners developed slides on Circular Economy, which subsequently resulted in revised part of the learning material. As part of the meeting, the participating project partners visited two institutions in Freiburg that dealt with the circular economy and circular economy practices.



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