



(ISDRS)



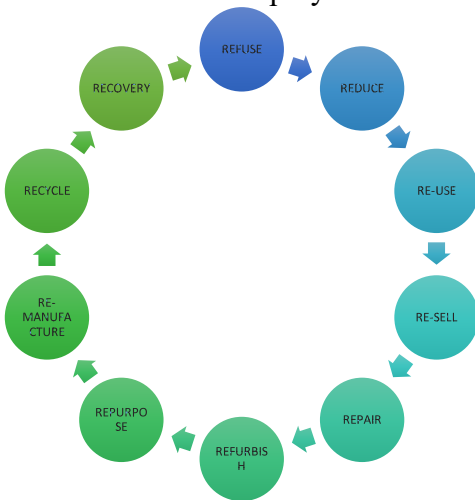
The circular economy and the sustainable development goals: economic opportunities & technology development.

Lead by Dr. Pauline Deutz (president ISDRS international sustainable development research society), professor of geography, geology and environment).

The basic concept of circular economy is beyond the linear economy whereby the ‘take-make-waste’ industrial model is altered to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. Resources are kept in use for as long as possible and the maximum value is extracted from them whilst in use, products are then recovered and regenerated at the end of each service life.

It is based out of three basic principles, design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems. It avoids the consumption of finite resources and unnecessary waste.

Circular economies employ the use of ‘the 10 r’s’;



Through the use of these ‘ten r’s’, unnecessary single use consumption methods are avoided, in turn benefitting both the environment as-well as ones’ way of thinking and their spending habits.

It encourages the production of goods which can be repurposed and re-used at a later time. In a circular economy, economic activity builds and re-builds. It recognises the importance of the economy needing to work effectively at all scales, globally and locally, individually and in organisations. It doesn’t aim to reduce the negative impacts of linear economies, it is a shift towards a

system that builds resilience in the long-term, generating opportunities both in the business and economic world providing environmental and societal benefits.

The Department of economic and social affairs promotes social dimensions of sustainable development. The 2030 Agendas’ main point being that we ‘leave no one behind’. Social inclusion is a vital standpoint for them. The Agenda is an important instrument for realising Sustainable development goals. Poverty needs to be cut in half but in all parts of society and in all minorities not as a total figure.

The Sustainable development goals are holistic, they explicitly recognise the interlinkages, circular economy can help integrate these sustainable development goals into society.

Professor Charles Dickie, NYU Public Health, challenges the systems approach in place. Dickie states the challenges to poverty, conflict, environmental conditions as being a result of a complex system that does not work properly. One must consider the entire context. The SDGs are intertwined reinforcing the ideal of looking at something as part of a whole. One action has a chain reaction to other departments and goals, by improving the situation of one topic, other areas feel knock-on effects. Dickie stated that problems are related and that by using resources more efficiently it in turn improves the outcome of public health and SDGs. Much like in a circular economy. Through working on one specific SDG, others benefit from this work. E.g. By improving access to clean water, standards of health are increased.

However, more research needs to be done to gather a wider picture on sustainable development. As it stands there is no scientific calculation in how to compare social sustainable development in relation to the other. The ISDRS are some of the main academics who are trying to do this.

Circular economy interlinks with so many of the SDGs. The idea of a circular economy is stretching out the uses of a specific item for as much as one can and as long as one can, looking at all the potential uses to extract the utmost benefits from it. Migration and integration link into this way of thinking.

Professor Salomone, University of Messina highlighted how there are advantages and uses to the influx of migrants and refugees onto the shores of countries such as Italy. Evaluating the

unexpected talents of migrants and the perspectives, knowledge and skills they possess into tertiary level education could provide extremely fruitful results.

Deutz' view on circular economy emphasises how valuable this approach is to society. Circular economy has gained increasing prominence as a tool which presents solution to some of the world's most pressing cross-cutting sustainable development challenges. It holds particular promise for achieving multiple SDGs, including; 6 (energy), 8 (economic growth), 11 (sustainable cities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 13 (climate change), 14 (oceans), and 15 (on life and land). Circular economy addresses root causes whereby waste and pollution don't exist by design, materials are kept in use and natural systems are regenerated, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is a zero-waste at both ends form of economic production.



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