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Standards for Circular Economy

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- 🌐 **The need for standardization of Circular Economy**
- 🌐 **Existing standards**
- 🌐 **ISO/TC 323 “Circular Economy”**



Zenon Foltynowicz, Czy możliwe jest ujęcie gospodarki o obiegu zamkniętym w ramy norm? *Is it possible to standardize a circular economy with a standard framework?*

w: *Gospodarka o Obiegu Zamkniętym. Racjonalne Gospodarowanie Zasobami*,
Red. J. Kulczycka, Wydawnictwo IGSMiE PAN, Kraków, 2019, p.19

The need for standardization of circular economy

The *Circular Economy* is a paradigm which will help the society move towards *sustainable development*.

1. lack of consensus on terminology and CE definition

among scientists, politicians, and practitioners studying trends, gaps and convergence of CE literature: there are more than **114 different definitions of CE** which were **coded on 17 dimensions**:



there is a need to standardize the CE definition

Kirchherr, J., Reike, D., Hekkert, M. (2017b). Conceptualizing the circular economy: An analysis of 114 definitions. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 127, pp. 221-232



2. important aspect requiring unification is the method of measuring CE performance - **how to measure the progress of the transition towards a CE?**



Circular economy indicators

- in the last few years numerous indicators have been developed,

It was found that **55 sets of CE indicators** have been reviewed and classified about different purposes, scopes and potential usages.

- they are inconsistent in their scope, objectives and possible applications



The standardization is needed also for circular economy indicators



Existing standards

So far **two national standards** regarding the Circular Economy has been launched.

BS 8001:2017 – “*Framework for implementing the principles of the circular economy in organizations – Guide*” has been developed and launched in May 2017 by **British Standards Institution (BSI)** “= **a world’s first standard on the CE.**

Has been criticized because it foresees that only organizations are responsible for choosing the appropriate CE indicators.

XP X 30-901 – “*Circular economy – Circular economy project management system – Requirements and guidelines*” launched in October 2018 by **French Standard Institute (AFNOR).**



The French Standard Institute norm XP X30-901

The standard is based on the **three sustainable development dimensions**:

- * **environmental** – reduce the environmental impact,
- * **economic** – increase resource-use efficiency,
- * **societal** – improve the well-being of internal and external interested parties.

The seven circular economy areas of action concerned:

- * Ecodesign,
- * Industrial symbiosis,
- * Product lifetime duration,
- * Responsible consumption,
- * Efficient management of end-of-life products and materials,
- * Sustainable procurement,
- * Functional or service economy.

The French norm has a chance to be internationalized

There are positive moves that bring the European Union and ISO closer together to develop a single harmonized standard for CE.

In 2018 the ISO initiated new technical committee, **ISO/TC 323 “Circular Economy”**, to elaborate the new standard for the circular economy.

The ISO adopted standard definition of CE (provided by Ellen MacArthur Foundation) in the ISO 20400:2017 standard “**Sustainable procurement – Guidance**” as “**economy that is restorative and regenerative by design, and which aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles**”.

Dziękuję za uwagę

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