

## Call for Papers

### **Circular Economy: global issues, constraints and local solutions**

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The 6th report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Climate Change (GECC) published in March 2023<sup>1</sup> provides an inventory of natural resources following global warming. Recommendations are made in the direction of a reasoned management of resources, more particularly in the sense of the recycling of waste. A strong signal is given in the sense of awareness and institutional commitment. Therefore, reusing or recycling products could slow down the use of natural resources and contribute to limiting the loss of biodiversity. This is the whole point of the circular economy (CE), which aims to share, reuse, repair, renovate and recycle existing products and materials for as long as possible so that they retain their value. Particularly cited in recent years both by public policies but also in academic works, CE is not limited to waste recovery and recycling but aims more broadly to:

- Limit the use of natural resources as much as possible,
- Introduce the notion of reuse cycle or loop,
- Increase the efficiency of the economic system as a whole (rationalize the resources consumed) (Collard, 2020).

In a CE, exchanges are redefined between institutional actors (public actors, economic actors, civil society, researchers, managers), and new forms of contractual relations appear (such as direct relations between producers and consumers). The first works in the 1970s highlighted the importance of a transition towards new modes of production and consumption considering the scarcity of global resources (Kasmi et al., 2022).

Since Ellen MacArthur Foundation publicized this concept (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2012), a large literature has focused on studying the importance of the collaborative approach associating smart consumption/production throughout the value chain (Le Moigne, 2014) and Product-Service Systems (PSS) (Laperche, Merlin-Brogniart, 2020).

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<sup>1</sup> GECC report, 2023

CE is also characterized as an “umbrella” concept because it is difficult to define in terms of scope (Kirchherr et al., 2017). It nevertheless pools new approaches and models, all of which create value, bringing together functional economy and industrial ecology. Among the new models, we mention, among others, "industrial symbioses" (Diemer, 2016) in which several companies create a network of exchanges between different entities located in a territory on the basis of an evolving and dynamic contractual dependence. .

The actors around eco-circularity practices are very varied and the scale deployed is large and still discussed. It can be analyzed on very fine scales such as industrial areas or even within the company (Ghisellini et al., 2016). All fields in which the circular economy is positioned can be considered (waste management, functional economy, extended producer responsibility sectors, etc.). The legislative and regulatory framework of CE (taxes, incentives, etc.) is also a major factor in promoting an institutional environment conducive to circular innovation practices.

The links maintained between innovation and the circular economy are twofold: innovation enables the acceleration of the economy towards eco-circularity practices and eco-circularity is an important lever for sustainable innovation ( Vence et al., 2022). More broadly, various works have considered circular economy approaches as innovative territorial approaches to sustainable development (Maillefert, Robert, 2017; Gallaud, Laperche, 2016). Its regional and local articulation is beginning to be mentioned with regard, in particular, to the key role of local authorities in the implementation of public policies in favor of the transition of territories towards the circular economy (Brotons, 2017). With an objective of economic development, territories seek to stimulate innovation to generate local attractiveness, create jobs in order to improve the wealth and well-being of populations, and reduce negative externalities on the environment (Torre, 2015). Finally, the formal, informal, structured or less structured articulation of innovative practices in the transition to CE will undeniably bring together new actors and new models of social innovation. This connection calls for the construction of relational networks that characterize these exchanges and highlights the importance of the different actors who structure these systems and facilitate relations. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) finds meaning in it through the actors it mobilizes around collective solidarity or personal services (Boutillier et al., 2019, Rijpens, De Beys, J., 2022). The SSE plays a pioneering role in the reuse, repair and reuse sectors and remains a key player in the governance of the circular economy.

However, these innovation practices, more or less territorialized, are sometimes constrained, on several levels: on the macroeconomic level, the viability of eco-circular practices is affected by the variation of the global economic and geopolitical balances. Rising raw material prices have a direct impact and technical solutions to address circularity issues and design product life cycle and optimal production scenarios are not always available (Arfaoui et al., 2020). On a microeconomic scale, there is the question of qualified personnel to design these circular models or that of the initial investment costs. Another obstacle to note is linked to the conflicts of interest of local actors which, as shown by Torre and Wallet (2014), make it difficult for local projects to collaborate and succeed. Civil society can show resistance due to the negative externalities and health risks it denounces (Bourdin et al., 2019). One of the issues raised also concerns the destruction of jobs that it generates in the face of the emergence of circular sectors and their impacts on other industrial sectors. Finally, the idea of infinite recycling seems illusory due to numerous technical constraints (energy recovery for example) or outlets (linked to the role of demand).

This special issue of *Market et Organizations* will place circular practices at the heart of issues related to local dynamics: business models, eco-design practices, industrial symbioses, but also territorial and spatial inclusion of these practices, in order to highlight the socio-economic and capacities to make the different actors cooperate (Niang, 2021). But these practices will also be put under constraints by evoking in a contextualized way their difficulties of realization and sustainability.

The theoretical and conceptual questions, which are not exhaustive, can be the following:

- How do eco-circularity practices drive innovation dynamics? How can the latter constrain them?
- How do innovative eco-circularity practices fit into a given territory?
- What are the different forms of innovation observable in eco-circularity practices?
- How do public policies support innovative eco-circularity practices?
- What are the observable practices when individuals join a community group sensitive to eco-circular issues?
- How do eco-circularity practices promote or constrain environmental issues?
- To what extent can social innovations modify the behavioral intentions of individuals sensitive to environmental issues or correct the behavioral intentions of individuals who perceive themselves as being “eco-anxious”?

All contributions in economics, management or economic sociology, with an empirical, theoretical, quantitative and qualitative dimension are welcome. All of the work presented aims both to enrich the subject with new practices, dynamics or strategies around these themes, to contribute to in-depth reflections on the key players in their practices, but also to discuss public policies in terms of governance or better support for territories in terms of ecological transition policies.

#### **Calendar :**

- 15/10/2024: submission of abstracts (1500 words) accompanied by three to five keywords.
- 15/10/2024: return of the evaluators
- 04/15/2025: deadline for submission of complete articles
- 15/07/2025: date of response from the evaluators
- 31/10/2025: date of submission of revised articles
- 1st semester 2026: publication of the special issue

#### **Abstracts and texts should be sent to:**

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