

EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP 2.0) and Europe's covid-19 recovery

Read About:

- Evolution of the EU Circular Economy strategy from 2015-2020 and centrality to Europe's covid-19 recovery roadmap.
- 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP 2.0) – new measures which seek to, by 2030, reduce the EU consumption footprint, double the EU's circular material use rate while boosting economic growth.
- Implications of CEAP 2.0 and circular opportunities for Ireland Inc. as part of covid-19 recovery.

Introduction

Investing in a circular economy is central to the EU's recovery from covid-19 (see [EU recovery roadmap 21/04/2020](#)). Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission (EC) President, has reiterated that this crisis is an opportunity to rebuild our economies and make them more resilient through green and digital technologies and capacities ([Euroactiv, 2020](#)).

Between 2015-2020, the European Commission (EC) has stepped up its' efforts to accelerate the transition to a circular economy by dedicating over €10 billion in public funding. Central to the EC's shift in economic strategy and policy are the following measures:

- [2015 Circular Economy Package – 'Closing the Loop'](#) – promoting a systemic value chain approach to 'close the loop' in production, consumption, and waste management.
- [2019 European Green Deal \(EGD 12/2019\)](#) – resetting the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges through a new growth strategy. States ambition to become the first climate neutral continent.
- [2020 Circular Economy Action Plan \(CEAP 2.0\) – for a cleaner and more competitive Europe](#).
- [2020 European Industrial Strategy](#) – which lays out how to capitalise on the green and digital transformations to empower industry and small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs).

Moreover, during 2015-2019 because of the implementation of circular activities in the EU - an estimated €147 billion in added value was generated representing around €17.5 billion worth of investments.

CEAP 2.0

In March 2020, a new EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP 2.0) was launched by the EC highlighting that *implementing circularity can increase the EU's GDP by an additional 0.5% by 2030 and create circa 700,000 new jobs.*

Implementation of CEAP 2.0 is envisioned through the development of:

1. Sustainable Product Policy Framework,
2. European Circular Dataspace,
3. EU consumer and product policies,
4. Environmental Footprint methodologies,
5. Green Public Procurement (GPP),
6. Extended Producer Responsibility schemes,
7. EU financial instruments,
8. Global Circular Economy Alliance

CEAP 2.0 aims to develop a range of measures and mechanisms to enable sustainable products to become the EU, starting with the following key value chains – Electronics and ICT; Batteries and Vehicles; Packaging; Plastics; Textiles; Construction and Buildings and Food, Water and Nutrients (*see [CEAP 2.0 implementation targets](#)*).

Circularity Opportunities & Ireland Inc.'s covid-19 recovery

An estimated 100 million tonnes of materials are used annually in Irish economy ([EPA, 2019](#)) and a 5% material improvement across the economy could yield €2.32bn p.a. for Ireland Inc. ([Coakley et al., 2013](#)). This opportunity is largely uncaptured by Ireland Inc. to date ([McCarthy et al., 2019](#)), evidenced by Ireland ranking as 1.7% circular (in 2016) in the EU circularity rate ranking relative to the EU average of 11.7% ([Eurostat, 2019](#)).

Implementing circularity has a key role to play in rebuilding the Irish economy as we seek to recover from covid-19. Circular strategies can deliver cost savings and create diversification opportunities from creating new products from resources previously regarded as waste - supporting job creation and economic growth.

Join CIRCULÉIRE to capitalize on circularity opportunities

CIRCULÉIRE – the National Platform for Circular Manufacturing, is the first cross-sectoral industry-led innovation network dedicated to demystifying, de-risking and delivering circular business model innovation – unlocking the value that resides in an Irish circular economy. Join Us!



Contact CIRCULÉIRE

Irish Manufacturing Research
Unit A
Aerodrome Business Park
Rathcoole, D24 WCO4
Ireland
circuleire@imr.ie
+353 1 234 5678
www.CIRCULÉIRE.ie
[@CIRCULÉIRE](https://twitter.com/CIRCULÉIRE)