



# **Underpinning Circular Economy Progress in the Western Balkan Countries:**

A Comprehensive Policy  
Implementation Analysis

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# Acronyms

<b>BD BiH</b>	Brčko District
<b>CE</b>	Circular Economy
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EPR</b>	Extended Producer Responsibility
<b>FBIH</b>	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>GACERE</b>	Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency
<b>GPP</b>	Green Public Procurement
<b>KIWMS</b>	Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy
<b>NWMP</b>	National Waste Management Plan
<b>PRO</b>	Producer Responsibility Organization
<b>RS</b>	Republika Srpska
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WEEE</b>	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
<b>WB</b>	Western Balkans



# 1 Introduction

This research deals with the context and state of the Circular Economy (CE) in the Western Balkans (WB). To showcase the rationale that shaped the research we begin with contextualizing the critical global macro-trends. According to a United Nations (U.N.) report, by 2050 the world population will reach 9.2 billion.<sup>1</sup> We could consider, nearly half of the current world population (3.59 billion) is now considered middle-class, set to increase to at least 5.3 billion by 2030, as indicated by these trends.<sup>2</sup> Henceforth, as living standards rise, so will consumption and demand for more resource-intensive goods (e.g., more meat consumption, housing, retail, vehicles, etc.). In these terms, by 2030, the global demand will increase by at least 35% for food, 40% for water, and 50% for energy.<sup>3</sup> Despite having become more efficient at extracting value from raw materials, those improvements have not kept up with the rise in consumption. We already know that “we are now consuming about 1.75 times of the Earth’s carrying capacity, meaning we are using 75% more natural resources than we are renewing yearly. This appetite for scarce resources is only expected to grow in coming decades.”<sup>4</sup> While the WB countries do not differ from these trends, yet all of them are countries in transition, set to grow - as noted before - to the middle class and above. Therefore, they will increasingly need more resources.

“Now, think all of the above only as environmental issues? Incorrect. These are policies and business issues both directly and indirectly. We know that achieving such ambitious goals will not be easy. Yet, every challenge is an opportunity. The global economy depends on businesses stepping up in the face of global pressures with new forms of innovation and value creation. In this regard, the “circular” economy offers a powerful way forward: a massive shift from the standard “linear” ways of the economy to new principles of circularity.”<sup>5</sup>

WB countries are working to improve waste management and could benefit from the CE approaches, which consider systemic interdependencies and go beyond the tendency to look merely at just one aspect of the whole problem, waste. Establishing CE in the WB region finds itself in its developmental stages. On the bright side, the European Union (EU) accession goal provides impetus to leaving the wasteful linear economic model behind by shifting toward an implemented circular economy instead.<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, this research brings forward the need for both policy implementation and business innovation to be fully in line with each other for WB countries to be on the front line of CE momentum.

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1 Australian Academy of Science, ‘Population and Environment: A Global Challenge,’

<https://www.science.org.au/curious/earth-environment/population-environment> (accessed April 2, 2022).

2 Financial Times, ‘More Than Half the World’s Population Is Now Middle Class,’

<https://www.ft.com/content/e3fa475c-c2e9-11e8-95b1d36dfef1b89a> (accessed April 2, 2022).

3 European Commission, ‘Growing Consumerism,’

[https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/topic/growing-consumerism\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/topic/growing-consumerism_en) (accessed April 3, 2022).

4 Earth Overshoot Day, ‘Global Footprint Network,’ <https://www.overshootday.org/newsroom/past-earth-overshoot-days/> (accessed April 2, 2022).

5 P. Lacy, J. Long & W. Spindler, ‘The Circular Economy Handbook. Realizing the Circular Advantage’, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2020 (accessed April 2, 2022).

6 The Balkan Forum, ‘Circular Economy in the Western Balkans region: Waste Management as a Challenge’,

[https://thebalkanforum.org/file/repository/Circular\\_Economy\\_in\\_the\\_Western\\_Balkans\\_region.pdf](https://thebalkanforum.org/file/repository/Circular_Economy_in_the_Western_Balkans_region.pdf) (accessed April 5, 2022)

## 2 What is Circular Economy

As noted from a segment of documents on CE published in the WB that the present research has perused, authors tend to not always make the most out of messaging on circularity. Therefore, in an effort to be as comprehensive as possible, we have outlined in this chapter the key definitions of CE.<sup>7</sup> Definitions of CE are, of course, new in terms of how to put them into practice, but the notions are not. The CE concept relates to an economy in which products and materials *are highly valued*, unlike the traditional, linear economic model based on a ‘take-make-consume-throw away’ pattern. The CE model is based on the biological cycle, and in practice, a CE is assumed to reduce waste linkage to a possible minimum.<sup>8</sup> As such, the primary purpose of the CE is for the product when it reaches the end of its life; its materials are kept within the economy for further production of goods wherever possible. The provisions leading towards a CE include **reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling** existing materials and products.<sup>9</sup> In CE, what was considered ‘waste’ can be turned into a valuable resource for goods and services.

Generally speaking, a CE can be defined as a closed loop economic system. In this economy form, we use raw materials and resources less,<sup>10</sup> “components and products lose their value as little as possible; renewable energy sources are used, and system thinking is at the core of the production.”<sup>11</sup> “In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. [...] This model relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy.”<sup>12</sup> “Like raw materials and products, energy also lasts as long as possible in CE.”<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, part of this model is planned obsolescence, when a product has been designed to have a limited lifespan to encourage consumers to repurchase it.<sup>14</sup> For easier understanding, think of it as a fashion trend.

“In essence, firms must reject the “*take, make, waste*” approach in favor of keeping products and resources in use for as long as possible and; at the end of use, cycling (or “looping”) their components and materials back into the system in zero-waste value chains. *In other words, a circular economy eliminates the waste concept, fundamentally transforming how we produce and consume, creating a healthier, thriving*

7 The Balkan Forum, ‘Circular Economy in the Western Balkan’, 2021, [https://thebalkanforum.org/file/repository/Circular\\_Economy\\_in\\_the\\_Western\\_Balkans\\_region.pdf](https://thebalkanforum.org/file/repository/Circular_Economy_in_the_Western_Balkans_region.pdf). (accessed April 5, 2022).

8 P. Lacy, J. Long & W. Spindler, ‘The Circular Economy Handbook. Realizing the Circular Advantage’, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2020 (accessed April 5, 2022).

9 Ibid.

10 Ellen MacArthur Foundation, ‘What is the definition of a circular economy?’, 2011, <https://kenniskaarten.hetgroenebrein.nl/en/knowledge-map-circular-economy/what-is-the-definition-a-circular-economy/>, (accessed April 5, 2022).

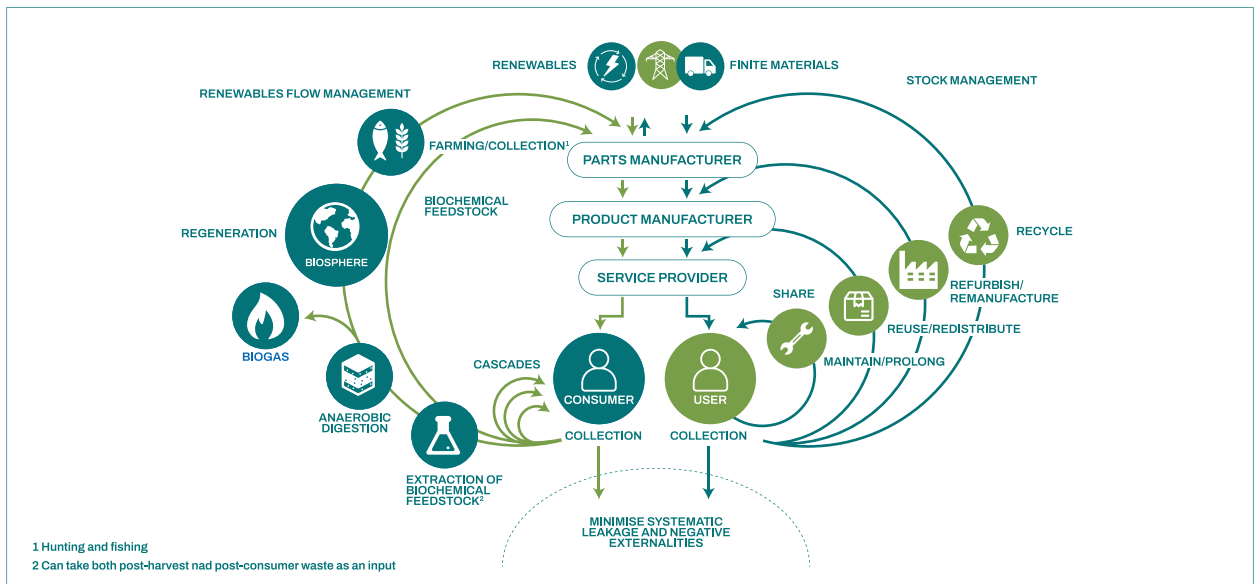
11 Ibid.

12 European Parliament, ‘Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits’, 2015, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20151201STO05603/circular-economy-definition-importance-and-benefits> (accessed July 7, 2022)

13 Ellen MacArthur Foundation, ‘What is the definition of a circular economy?’, 2011, <https://kenniskaarten.hetgroenebrein.nl/en/knowledge-map-circular-economy/what-is-the-definition-a-circular-economy/>, (accessed April 5, 2022).

14 European Parliament, ‘Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits’, 2015, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20151201STO05603/circular-economy-definition-importance-and-benefits> (accessed April 5, 2022)





**Figure 1.** Circular economy systems diagram<sup>15</sup>

*ecosystem circulating value throughout the economy and society.* By doing so, it fundamentally decouples economic growth from resource usage and recouples economic growth with societal progress—proposing a much-needed solutions framework for tackling our global challenges.”<sup>16</sup>

Yet, CE is not only related to society and the economy. In CE, toxic substances are also eliminated, and residual flows are separated into a biological and a technical cycle, making CE practices sustainable in the long term. Producers take back their products after use and repair them for a new useful life.<sup>17</sup> Hence, in this system, both important are that materials are recycled properly, but also that products, components, and raw materials remain of high quality in these cycles.<sup>18</sup>

“The CE is a systemic solution framework tackling global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution. It is underpinned by a transition to renewable energy and materials. The CE decouples economic activity from the consumption of finite resources. It is a resilient system good for business, people, and the environment altogether.”<sup>19</sup>

Finally, it is essential to note that today, the CE is not a concept to be reached, as the EU Parliament has already adopted a resolution on the new CE action plan in February 2021.<sup>20</sup> An important novelty in this action plan is the demand for additional measures to achieve full CE by 2050. The main tools to support the aim were more ambitious than recycling rules and compulsory objectives for materials utilization and consumption by 2030.<sup>21</sup> In order to catch up with the EU, the WB region, aspiring to join the EU, has to start the CE engines for a green shift as soon as possible.

15 Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 'Circular economy introduction'

<https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview>, (accessed April 7, 2022).

16 P. Lacy, J. Long & W. Spindler, 'The Circular Economy Handbook. Realizing the Circular Advantage', Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2020 (accessed April 5, 2022).

17 Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 'Circular economy introduction' <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview>, (accessed April 7, 2022).

18 J. Korhonen, C. Nuur, A. Feldmann, E. B. Seyoum (2018), 'Circular economy as an essentially contested concept', Journal of Cleaner Production, vol. 175, 2018, no. 544–552, (accessed April 6, 2022).

19 'The basics of the circular economy', [online video], Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2020, (accessed April 10, 2022).

20 European Parliament, 'European Parliament resolution of 10 February 2021 on the New Circular Economy Action Plan', 2021, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0040\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0040_EN.html) (accessed April 5, 2022)

21 European Parliament, 2021, 'How the EU wants to achieve a circular economy by 2050'

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20210128STO96607/how-the-eu-wants-to-achieve-a-circular-economy-by-2050> (accessed April 5, 2022)

### 3 European Union Policy Review on Circular Economy and its Monitoring Framework

The shift of the EU policy toward the CE principles started in 2008, when we can see the primary directives taking place. Until now, the main policy (which will be taken into consideration within this research for policy analysis) includes waste-related directives, such as the Landfill Directive (99/31/EC and EU 2018/850),<sup>22</sup> the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)<sup>23</sup>, Packaging Directive (94/62/EC and EU 2018/852)<sup>24</sup>, and Single-use plastic Directive (EU 2019/904).<sup>25</sup> The CE policy also includes directives on Ecodesign (2009/125/EC), followed by the Ecodesign Implementing Regulations (2019)<sup>26</sup> and Regulation on the EU Ecolabel (66/2010/EC).<sup>27</sup> Moreover, important directives include the Fertilizer Regulation (EU 2019/1009)<sup>28</sup>, Directive 2000/53/EC on End-of-Life Vehicles, and Directive (EU 2018/849),<sup>29</sup> together with the Direc-

tive 2006/66/EC on Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators and Directive 2000/53/EC on End-of-Life Vehicles and Directive (EU 2018/849).<sup>30</sup> Another directive also focused directly on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Directive 2012/19/EU) and Directive 2000/53/EC on End-of-Life Vehicles and Directive (EU 2018/849).<sup>31</sup> Finally, two more directives are taking place within EU policy regulations, Communication on Public Procurement for a Better Environment (COM/2008:400)<sup>32</sup> and Regulation on Minimum Requirements for Water Reuse (EU 2020/741).<sup>33</sup>

In terms of CE communication, the first CE action plan was firstly unveiled by the EU in 2015.<sup>34</sup> Initially, the plan consisted mainly of actions and initiatives to help Europe shift toward a CE and boost global

22 Directive (EU) 2018/ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste (Europa. EU)

23 Directive (EU) 2018/ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Europa. EU)

24 Directive (EU) 2018/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste (Europa. EU)

25 Directive (EU) 2019/ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (Europa. EU)

26 EUR-Lex - 32009L0125 - EN - EUR-Lex, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0400:FIN:EN:PDF>

27 EUR-Lex - 32010R0066 - EN - EUR-Lex, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0400:FIN:EN:PDF>

28 EUR-Lex - 32019R1009 - EN - EUR-Lex, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0400:FIN:EN:PDF>

29 EUR-Lex - 32018L0849 - EN - EUR-Lex, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0400:FIN:EN:PDF>

30 Ibid.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.

33 EUR-Lex - 32020R0741 - EN - EUR-Lex, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0400:FIN:EN:PDF>

34 European Commission, 'First circular economy action plan', [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/circular-economy/first-circular-economy-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/circular-economy/first-circular-economy-action-plan_en) (accessed April 11, 2022)

competitiveness; encourage sustainable growth, and create new jobs, being more voluntary.<sup>35</sup> After the launch of the 2015 CE plan, with 54 main actions to be delivered<sup>36</sup>, many steps have followed, together with the directives that we listed in the section above. In December 2019, the EC also embraced and promoted the Green Deal. The primary purpose of the document was for the EU to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. In March 2020, the EC embraced a new CE action plan, and in December 2020, a proposal followed the action plan for a new regulation on sustainable batteries, the first initiative to be delivered under the new action plan. Later on, in February 2021, the Global Alliance on CE and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) was launched.<sup>37</sup> Within the same year, in October, the EC adopted a proposal to update rules on persistent organic pollutants in waste, and in November, new rules on waste shipments were adopted immediately by the EC.<sup>38</sup>

As for the 2022 action plans, several initiatives were planned, including a legislative proposal for substantiating green claims by firms; a legislative proposal empowering consumers in the green shift; the EU strategy for sustainable textiles recently updated<sup>39</sup>; a sustainable products' policy initiative including revising the Ecodesign Directive; a review of requirements

on packaging and packaging waste in the EU; and an update of EU rules on industrial emissions.<sup>40</sup>

To see whether the directives are followed through, or more importantly, whether they are achieving their main aim, the EU has set up a monitoring framework. The CE Monitoring Framework<sup>41</sup> functions as a tool for monitoring the key trends and patterns to understand how the various elements of the CE are developing over time. Moreover, the monitoring framework helps to identify success factors in the Member States and to assess whether sufficient action has been taken. The monitoring results should form the basis for setting new priorities toward the CE long-term objective. They are not just relevant to policymakers but should inspire all and drive new actions, including all economic sectors.<sup>42</sup>

Monitoring progress towards a CE is a hard task. The shift towards a CE is not restricted to certain materials or sectors. It is a systemic change affecting the entire economy and involving all products and services. Ideally, indicators should primarily grasp trends in preserving the economic value of products, materials, and resources as well as trends in waste generation.<sup>43</sup> The nearest target and action from the EU are to deliver teachable results by 2030. The result will

35 Ibid.

36 European Commission, 2019, 'Closing the loop: Commission delivers on Circular Economy Action Plan', [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_19\\_1480](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_1480), (Accessed April 11, 2022)

37 UNIDO, 2021, 'Launch of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency', <https://www.unido.org/news/launch-global-alliance-circular-economy-and-resource-efficiency-0>, (Accessed on April 12, 2022)

38 European Commission, 2019, 'Closing the loop: Commission delivers on Circular Economy Action Plan', [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_19\\_1480](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_1480), (Accessed April 11, 2022)

39 European Commission, 'EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles', [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/textiles-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/textiles-strategy_en) (accessed April 12, 2022).

40 European Commission, 'Liste Des Points Prévus Pour Figurer A L'ordre Du Jour Des Prochaines Réunions De La Commission', 2022, [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/SEC\(2022\)2412?ersIds=090166e5ea13fe36](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/SEC(2022)2412?ersIds=090166e5ea13fe36) (accessed April 12, 2022)

41 EUROSTAT, 'Circular Economy', 2018, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy/indicators/monitoring-framework> (accessed April 12, 2022).

42 The Academy of Business in Society, 'European Commission monitoring framework for the circular economy' 2018, <https://www.abis-global.org/news/european-commission-monitoring-framework-for-the-circular-economy> (accessed April 12, 2022)

43 Ibid.

set a new role of research and innovation combined with a new form of governance. The target will always aim to reduce the EU consumption footprint, double its CE material use rate, and contribute to economic decarbonization by reducing the EU carbon and material footprint.<sup>44</sup>

Moreover, the key indicators covering each phase of the lifecycle of products, as well as competitiveness aspects, are regularly updated and listed below.

Today, the EU aims toward the CE for a cleaner Europe and more competitive CE innovation, and the WB countries have to raise their standards.

**Figure 2.** European Union’s Circular Economy indicators

Source: Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy, 2018<sup>45</sup>

Product and consumption	Waste management	Secondary raw materials	Competitiveness and innovation
EU self-sufficiency for raw materials	Recycling rate of municipal waste	Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand - end-of-life recycling input rates (EOL-RIR)	Private investments, jobs and gross value added related to circular economy sectors
Generation of municipal waste per capita	Recycling rate of all waste excluding major mineral waste	Circular material use rate	
Generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes per GDP unit	Recycling rate of packaging waste by type of packaging		Trade in recyclable raw materials
Generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes per domestic material consumption	Recycling of biowaste		
	Recovery rate of construction and demolition waste		

44 SDG Knowledge Hub, 'European Commission Adopts Circular Economy Action Plan', 2020, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/european-commission-adopts-circular-economy-action-plan/> (accessed April 12, 2022)

45 EUROSTAT, 'Circular Economy', 2018, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy/indicators/monitoring-framework> (accessed April 12, 2022)

## 4 Policy Instruments Underpinning the Transition to a Circular Economy

A supportive, well-functioning policy, and a robust regulatory framework is needed for the CE shift.<sup>46</sup> Thus, we have carried out purposely an ample analysis of policies and their evolution up to the present moment, only being able to use them efficiently to measure the progress and shift towards the CE. Similar monitoring frameworks are already being used by the EU.<sup>47</sup> In this regard, a tool was developed with 27 policy instruments that fall under 10 policy instrument groups, as shown in the table below (for more information on the tool, see Annex 1). The main tool goal is to identify the main policy gaps and bottlenecks in applying the circularity principles in the WB.

In this regard, for each WB country, a benchmarking against the EU-related *acquis* is conducted. The tool is precisely created using a systematic categorization of the identified policy instruments solemnly based on the type of instrument used. The tool will be further used to monitor CE progress in each country and can be updated yearly. Moreover, it is a useful instrument that can help all WB countries in identifying their gaps and key recommendations to drive and boost CE shift within the region.

**Table 1.** The 27 policy instruments that fall under 10 policy instruments groups

Separate collection	<a href="#">Separate collection (textile waste)</a> <a href="#">Separate collection (hazardous household waste)</a> <a href="#">Separate collection (bio-waste)</a> <a href="#">Separate collection (for plastic bottles)</a> <a href="#">Separate collection (waste electrical and electronic equipment - WEEE)</a>
Recycling target	<a href="#">Recycling target (for municipal waste)</a> <a href="#">Recycling target (for packaging waste)</a>
Extended Producer Responsibility - EPR	<a href="#">Extended Producer Responsibility</a> <a href="#">Extended Producer Responsibility (for packaging waste)</a> <a href="#">Extended Producer Responsibility (for single-use plastic products)</a> <a href="#">Extended Producer Responsibility (for waste electrical and electronic equipment)</a>
Deposit refund scheme	<a href="#">Deposit refund scheme (general)</a> <a href="#">Deposit refund scheme (packaging waste)</a>
Economic (dis)incentives	<a href="#">Incentives for product donation</a> <a href="#">Incentives and disincentives to promote waste prevention</a> <a href="#">Pay-as-you-throw scheme</a> <a href="#">Waste disposal tax</a>
Ecolabel	<a href="#">Ecolabel</a>
Green public procurement - GPP	<a href="#">Green public procurement</a>
Waste Prevention Program	<a href="#">Waste Prevention Programs</a>
Landfill restriction	<a href="#">Landfill restriction / Waste suitable for recycling and recovery</a> <a href="#">Landfill restriction/diversion target</a>
Market requirements	<a href="#">Ban on products with negative externalities</a> <a href="#">Product design requirements</a> <a href="#">Informative requirement</a> <a href="#">End-of-waste criteria for recycled materials</a> <a href="#">Minimum requirements of product reparability and recyclability</a>

46 K. Hartley, R. van Santen, J. Kirchherr, 2020, Policies for transitioning towards a circular economy: Expectations from the European Union (EU), Resources, Conservation and Recycling, Volume 155, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921344919305403> (accessed April 12, 2022)

47 Eurostat, 2021, 'Circular Economy Indicators', <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy/indicators/monitoring-framework>, (accessed April 12, 2022)

# 5 Circular Economy Policy Framework Analysis in the Western Balkan Region

As stated, to assess the progress of the WB countries on the CE policy framework, this research has used all indicators as laid out by the CE Monitoring Framework. Those are 27 policy instruments that fall under 10 policy instruments groups (see annexes 1 and 2). All policies were rated in three leading groups (No regulation; Regulation in place, but partly implemented; and Regulation in place, fully functioning).

After compiling the analysis for each country, we have broken down in percentage the policy implementation level in the WB. We should state that all countries have partly implemented the regulation or have no regulation at all, as none of the countries in the region has a fully adopted or fully functioning regulation underway. Below, are the analyses for each of the WB countries.

**Albania** has embraced numerous EU regulations as a prerequisite for opening EU accession negotiations. For Albania, now it is required to partly or fully transpose EU laws. Yet, besides having 78% of regulations in place, they are still partly implemented or struggle to function. One of the main developments is adapting the EU Directive on Waste Management. Albania has

adopted the Waste Landfill Directive through the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP).<sup>48</sup>

Yet, the recycling rate numbers are very low. The enforced mechanism is unclear and not fully implemented. Lack of funds is also an additional obstacle. Currently, the NWMP for 2020-2035 has a clearer objective in accordance with the EU directive stressing the introduction of enactment tools to public awareness and sustainably developing the infrastructure system for separation and treatment.<sup>49</sup>

Presently, Albania lacks regulation on separate collection (WEEE specifically),<sup>50</sup> recycling targets on packaging waste, a Waste Prevention Program, End-of-waste, Criteria for Recycled Materials, Minimum Requirements of Product Repairability and Recyclability, and also Incentives for Product Donation. A 2022 milestone for Albania is implementing the national law on plastics, where from June 1st, 2022, the production, sale, and introduction of plastic bags for individual use is banned.<sup>51</sup>

According to the European Environmental Agency country report<sup>52</sup>, the objective set in the NWMP for

48 European Environment Agency, 'Municipal waste management, Albania', Country fact sheet, 2022, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-management/municipal-waste-management-country/albania-municipal-waste-factsheet-2021/view> (accessed April 22, 2022).

49 Ibid.

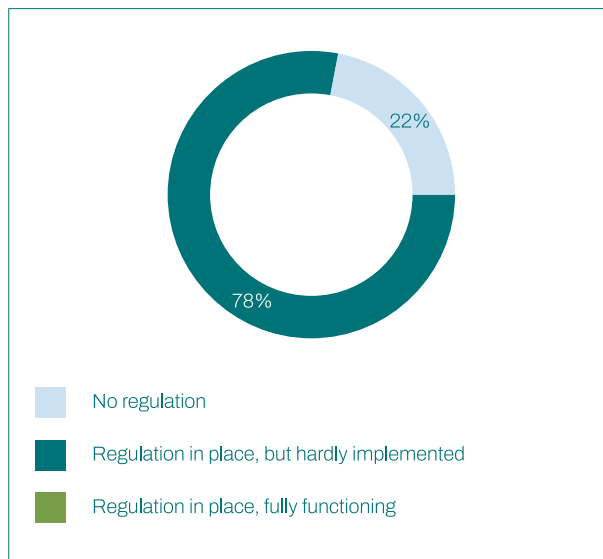
50 European Environment Agency, 'Overview of National waste prevention programs in Europe, Albania', 2021, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-prevention/countries> (accessed April 25, 2022).

51 Law no. 93/2018. For some changes and additions to law no. 9975, dated 28.7.2008, "On national taxes," as amended. <https://dogana.gov.al/dokument/2231/ligji-98-2018-per-disa-shtesa-dhe-ndryshime-ne-ligjin-61-2012-per-akcizat-ne-rsh> (accessed April 22, 2022).

52 European Environment Agency, 'Municipal waste management, Albania', Country fact sheet, November 2022, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-management/municipal-waste-management-country/albania-municipal-waste-factsheet-2021/view> (accessed April 22, 2022).

Albania complies with the EU Framework Directive. Even though objectives are clearly set for the 2020-2035 timeframe, this law still needs to be updated accordingly. The graph below shows the overall progress of CE policy in Albania until now.

**Graph 1.** Albania



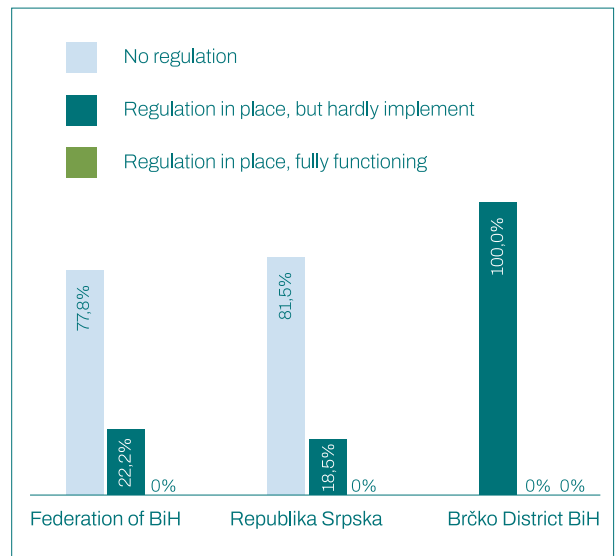
In the last decade, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** has set up a legal framework for policy instruments to contribute to sustainable and environmentally sound waste management. Yet, gap analysis towards the EU acquis shows a marked absence of policy instruments that can be used to boost the transition to CE. As presented in the Annexes 1 and 2 of this document some of those tools are incentives for waste prevention and separate collection. Additionally, they also include disincentives such as taxes and bans on certain waste disposal, prevention programs, green procurement, and special market requirements for targeted products.<sup>53</sup>

It is important to mention that in Bosnia and Herzegovina, environmental protection, including waste

management, is under the jurisdiction of the entities. Those are the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS) entity. Finally, the Brčko District (BD BiH) has also its own authority over this matter. Therefore, the entity governments are responsible for drafting and adopting their policies and regulations. In this regard, the transposition status of certain regulations is not always harmonized between the entities and the district.

The graph below shows the policy framework implemented within the three main regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH, RS, and BD BiH).

**Graph 2.** Bosnia and Herzegovina



Out of 27 policy instruments, FBiH transposed the ones related to EPR schemes for WEEE and packaging waste; Separate collection of WEEE, and Packaging waste recycling targets, followed by Ecolabeling and Disincentives (fees) for plastic bags. Targets for turnback and collection of WEEE<sup>54</sup> and packaging

53 VOLUNTARY REVIEW, 'Voluntary Review: Implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina', Sustainable Development Goals, 2019, [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23345VNR\\_BiH\\_ENG\\_Final.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23345VNR_BiH_ENG_Final.pdf) (accessed April 5, 2022)

54 Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 87/12 and 107/14

waste recycling<sup>55</sup> are well below the EU prescribed value. In 2018, the World Bank conducted a study on the review of the municipal solid waste management Sector, which indicated that FBiH needs to reform the existing EPR schemes.<sup>56</sup> FBiH adopted the ecolabel symbol in 2009 and so far, awarded only three firms. As for disincentives, in the FBiH, the decree on fees for plastic bags with suspenders<sup>57</sup> has been adopted. Data indicate that the introduction of fees in 2014 did not reduce the overall consumption of plastic bags.<sup>58</sup>

Bosnia and Herzegovina's RS entity transposed regulations related to the EPR packaging scheme and packaging recycling targets, Waste prevention programs, Ecolabeling, and Disincentives (fees) for special waste categories. EPR scheme functions in the same manner as in FBiH, and comprehensive analysis has also shown the need for reform.<sup>59</sup> Relevant programs “should include measures affecting the design and manufacturing of the product (ecodesign, waste prevention techniques) and measures that may affect consumption and use (economic tools, eco-labeling promotion, awareness campaigns, waste prevention through public procurement).”<sup>60</sup> Disincentives are designed through fees for special waste categories for producers, importers, or traders who

produce: plastic carrier bags, excluding biodegradable plastic carrier bags; batteries and accumulators; motor vehicle tires; WEEE; mineral and synthetic oils and lubricants; motor vehicles, except historical and collector's motor vehicles, as well as motor vehicles of diplomatic, consular and international missions.<sup>61</sup> So far, improvement in infrastructure for separate collection and recycling to be covered from the collected fees is not visible. BD BiH legislation does not address regulations related to any of the policy instruments relevant to the transition to CE.

Similar to other WB countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina did not adopt an explicit EU Directive on CE. Interestingly, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the business sector shows prominent progress towards CE practices (as we will see within the section below), whereas the policy interventions lag behind.

**Kosovo** has shown a positive approach in adopting directives toward the CE.<sup>62</sup> As indicated in Annex 1 of this document, within the analyses conducted, most policies were defined as in place but partly implemented. Similar to the Albanian case, these approaches also come from the fact that Kosovo also aims to achieve EU membership. This is reflected in

55 Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 88/11, 28/13, 08/16, 54/16, 103/16, 84/17 and 85/20

56 World Bank, 2018: Municipal Solid Waste Management Sector Review: Review of the Extended Producer Responsibility in Bosnia and Herzegovina for Packaging and Packaging Waste and WEEE

57 UNECE, 2018, 'Bosnia and Herzegovina Environmental Performance Reviews', [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr\\_studies/ECE.CEP.184.Eng.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/ECE.CEP.184.Eng.pdf), (Accessed on April 5, 2022) Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 09/14

58 Regional Activity Centre, 'Priority areas of intervention to curb marine litter from food and beverage plastic packaging in Albania, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and Montenegro', SCP/RAC 2019, [https://cener21.ba/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/91113\\_priority\\_areas\\_final.pdf](https://cener21.ba/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/91113_priority_areas_final.pdf) (accessed April 5, 2022)

59 I. Kremena, 'Municipal Solid Waste Management Sector Review: Strategic Directions and Investment Planning up to 2025 - Part A' Washington, D.C, World Bank Group, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/604171562139744120/Municipal-Solid-Waste-Management-Sector-Review-Strategic-Directions-and-Investment-Planning-up-to-2025-Part-A-Federation-Bosnia-and-Herzegovina>, (accessed April 5, 2022)

60 Regional Activity Centre, 'Priority areas of intervention to curb marine litter from food and beverage plastic packaging in Albania, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and Montenegro', SCP/RAC 2019, [https://cener21.ba/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/91113\\_priority\\_areas\\_final.pdf](https://cener21.ba/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/91113_priority_areas_final.pdf) (accessed April 5, 2022)

61 Official Gazette of RS, No. 70/20

62 The Kosovo Environmental program (KEP), 'Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy (2019-2028) and Action Plan (2019-2021)', July 2019, [http://kepweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/F\\_KEP\\_D0.00.20-Draft\\_Waste\\_Management\\_Strategy-2019-2028.pdf](http://kepweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/F_KEP_D0.00.20-Draft_Waste_Management_Strategy-2019-2028.pdf) (accessed April 18, 2022)



many directives promoting CE to be present in the country's legislation. Yet, even in Kosovo, the enactment process has its hindrances. Even though main regulations are in place, they are being only partly enforced; yet it is not harmonized according to the EU requirement. As presented in the Annex 1, in terms of EU regulations, Kosovo lacks policies regarding spathe rate collection, specifically the Separate collection regulations (Plastic Bottles Waste); the regulations regarding General Implementation on Deposit Refund Scheme; the Deposit Refund Scheme on Packaging Waste regulation; Waste Prevention Program Regulation; Ecolabel regulation as well as End-of-waste Criteria for Recycled Materials Regulation.

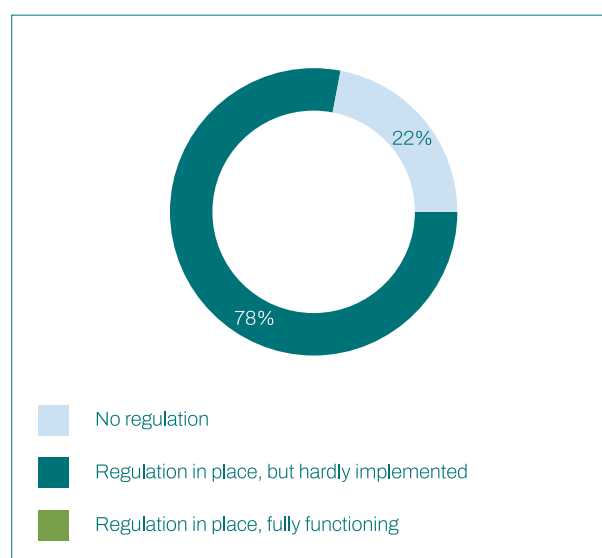
Moreover, it is important to mention that Kosovo has already set in place the Integrated Management Strategy 2019-2028 and the Action Plan (2019-2021), even though throughout the country it is still rare to come across separate waste collection and recycling. Collection practice is mainly implemented by individual pickers who collect recyclable materials such as plastics or metal.<sup>63</sup> According to the EEA report, Kosovo currently focuses on initial steps mainly on initiatives on bio-waste (composting).<sup>64</sup> Waste law still needs to be amended over the coming years to fully transpose the new Waste Directive.

According to the strategy, the following goals are also set: “bans and mandatory reduction targets will come into force for several types of plastic products, including cotton buds, cutlery, plates, straws, drink

stirrers, and sticks for balloons. Targets to reduce the quantity of other single-use plastic products such as plastic food containers”<sup>65</sup>

Mindful of the Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy (2019-2028), the next step for Kosovo is to move towards implementing the EPR, “initially focusing on packaging, and WEEE, batteries and cars.”<sup>66</sup> Targets for each of the specific indicators are taken into account within the report in this footnote.<sup>67</sup> Indeed, this strategy is an approach toward the EU directives<sup>68</sup>, but as we can also see from the graph below, it is not fully implemented. Kosovo has made some progress regarding the green public procurement, as the country had updated and improved standards for energy efficiency with real initiatives.

**Graph 3.** Kosovo



63 European Environmental Agency (EEA), ‘Overview of national waste prevention programs in Europe: Kosovo’, 2021, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-prevention/countries/kosovo-waste-prevention-country-profile-2021/view>

64 Ibid.

65 The Kosovo Environmental program, ‘Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2019-2028’, 2019, [http://kepweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/F KEP\\_D0.00.20-Draft\\_Waste\\_Management\\_Strategy-2019-2028.pdf](http://kepweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/F KEP_D0.00.20-Draft_Waste_Management_Strategy-2019-2028.pdf) (accessed April 19, 2022)

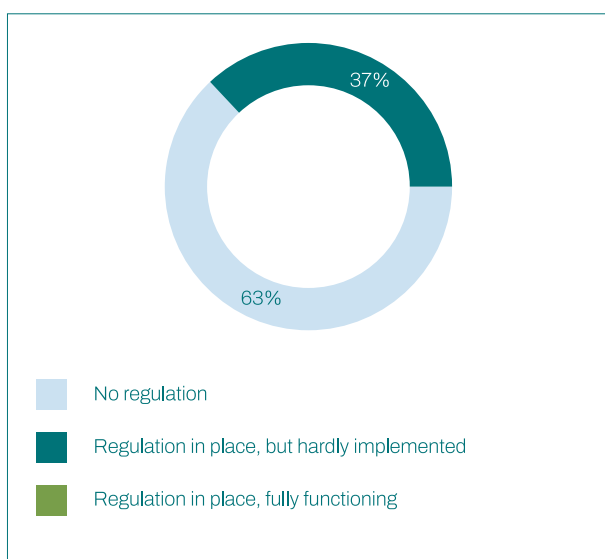
66 European Environmental Agency, ‘Overview of national waste prevention programs in Europe: Kosovo’, 2021, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-prevention/countries/kosovo-waste-prevention-country-profile-2021/view>

67 Ibid.

68 H. Bektashi, ‘Environmental laws in Kosovo: Implementation of the SAA’, University of Pristina “Hasan Prishtina”, 2020, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1048&context=ese> (accessed April 21, 2022)

**Montenegro's** EU accession negotiations as a candidate country were opened in June 2012. Still, Montenegro, in terms of CE policy, has not set in place many of the CE transition policy tools. Yet, it is important to mention that Montenegro has emphasized the shift toward the CE in its National Development Strategy<sup>69</sup> supported by the recently published 'Montenegro Roadmap towards the CE.'<sup>70</sup> From the monitoring instrument of policies that already have regulations set in place, even though only partially, Montenegro has shown progress. This has been achieved through Incentives and disincentives to promote waste prevention, Ecolabel, Waste prevention program, EPR for WEEE, EPR for packaging waste, General EPR, Recycling targets, and Bio-waste separation.<sup>71</sup>

**Graph 4. Montenegro**



In Montenegro, waste prevention incentive measures have not been designed nor implemented. Disincentive measures related to fees on plastic bags and bags made of biodegradable material have been introduced.<sup>72</sup> It should be emphasized that the draft version of the new law on waste management envisages a complete ban on the use of plastic bags.<sup>73</sup>

Significant activities on eco-labeling have not yet been implemented in Montenegro. Legal entities or individuals can apply for the ecolabel for the products or services that include reducing energy consumption, waste, natural resources consumption, etc.<sup>74</sup> The EU ecolabel can be awarded through a licensed auditor of an EU member state (for example, 14 tourism businesses in Montenegro have received the EU ecolabel).<sup>75</sup>

The Waste Prevention Program is an integral part of the National Waste Management Plan in Montenegro, and it sets the goals, measures, and monitoring indicators.<sup>76</sup> Waste prevention measures must contribute to sustainable changes in production or material use processes. These changes should lead to a

69 S. Muk, 'Montenegro report on the preparation of post-2020 strategy', Regional Cooperation Council, December 2019, <https://www.rcc.int/pubs/103/report-on-the-preparation-of-post-2020-strategy-in-montenegro> (accessed April 21, 2022)

70 G. Portali, 'Montenegro's Roadmap to a Circular Economy Launched', 04 April 2022, <https://gradski.me/lansirana-mapa-puta-crne-gore-ka-cirkular-noj-ekonomiji/> (accessed April 21, 2022)

71 CMS Law-Now, 2021, 'Factsheet: Waste Management in Montenegro', [https://www.retech-germany.net/fileadmin/retech/05\\_mediathek/laenderinformationen/Montenegro\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_final.pdf](https://www.retech-germany.net/fileadmin/retech/05_mediathek/laenderinformationen/Montenegro_Fact_Sheet_final.pdf) (accessed April 20, 2022)

72 Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning, and Urbanism, 'Decree on more detailed criteria, amount, and manner of payment of a special fee for waste management', 2013, <https://www.gov.me/dokumenta/50bfb0cf-d216-4c7c-b4e3-f3e6dc737a86> (accessed April 20, 2022)

73 Paragraph, 'NACRT ZAKONA O UPRAVLJANJU OTPADOM', 2019, <https://www.paragraf.me/dnevne-vijesti/17092019/17092019-vijest1.html> (accessed April 19, 2022)

74 EU-Ecolabel, 2021, 'How to get EU Ecolabel for your object?', <http://www.eu-ecolabel.me/en/how-to-get-eu-ecolabel-for-your-object.html>, (accessed April 20, 2022)

75 Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC) 'Priority areas of intervention to curb marine litter from food and beverage plastic packaging in Albania, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and Montenegro', 2020, <http://www.info-rac.org/en/communication/newsletter/newsletter-archive/med-news-02-2020/priority-areas-of-intervention-to-curb-marine-litter-from-food-and-beverage-plastic-packaging-in-albania-bosnia-and-herzegovina-and-montenegro> (accessed April 27, 2022)

76 Komunalno Cetinje, 'National Waste Management Plan in Montenegro for the period 2015-2020', <http://www.komunalnocetinje.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/DRZAVNI-PLAN-2015-2020-O-UPRAVLJANJU-OTPADOM.pdf> (accessed April 27, 2022)

reduction in waste generation from industrial production and other sectors. However, concrete waste prevention measures have not yet been implemented.

The EPR is prescribed by the Law on Waste Management but has not yet been implemented adequately due to the lack of by-laws and inapplicable provisions.<sup>77</sup> EPR for WEEE is not yet properly implemented<sup>78</sup>, since the extended manufacturers and importers' responsibilities were not adequately fulfilled. Inspection and control activities are insufficient, thus manufacturers and importers do not fully comply with legal measures. Although the EPR for packaging waste is legally defined, producers and importers do not properly comply with prescribed measures, as with the EPR for WEEE. A notable problem is the lack of regular inspections of producers and importers. Yet, beverage industries in Montenegro founded a limited liability company (RECOMONT) to create an efficient collection and recycling system of packaging waste.<sup>79</sup> There is a data deficit on whether firms are still demanded to pay costs for putting packaging on the market, but it indicates room for the sector to take more commitment.<sup>80</sup>

As for recycling targets, the Waste Management Law stipulates that 50% of the collected municipal waste should be recycled or reused (lower than the values set by the EU Waste Framework Directive). Yet, if the current recycling rate (only 2-3%) is considered, it can be concluded that Montenegro is far from meeting the target.<sup>81</sup>

The Waste Management Law stipulates that bio-waste should be collected separately by the local plans.<sup>82</sup> However, activities related to the separate bio-waste collection in Montenegro have not yet been implemented.<sup>83</sup>

**North Macedonia**, parallel to the Albanian case, is on the verge of opening EU negotiations as a candidate country. The policy and regulation transpositions have already begun and are showing some progress. Most of the CE regulations are taking place but are also only partly implemented.<sup>84</sup> Fully adopting and implementing the EU directives and policy to establish CE is a necessary step for the country aspiring to join the EU. Waste management has been the CE focus of the country and the green agenda transition and is fully stated in most of the regulations in place

77 Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), 'Priority areas of intervention to curb marine litter from food and beverage plastic packaging in Albania, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and Montenegro' 2019, <http://www.cprac.org/en/news-archive/general/scp/rac-releases-priority-areas-of-intervention-to-curb-marine-litter-from-food> (accessed April 22, 2022)

78 D.Hogg, T.Elliott, Th.Vergunst, W.Breusegem, C.Nicolopoulos, Ch.Kostani, M.Krivokapic, O.Miljanic, J.Mikalacki & I.Madzarevic, 'National assessment of the state of waste management and Roadmap for improving waste management in Montenegro', 2017, [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/pilot%20waste/Montenegro\\_mtn.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/pilot%20waste/Montenegro_mtn.pdf) (accessed April 22, 2022)

79 Eunomia, 2017, 'A Comprehensive Assessment Of The Current Waste Management Situation In South East Europe And Future Perspectives For The Sector Including Options For Regional Cooperation In Recycling Of Electric And Electronic Waste', [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/pilot%20waste/Montenegro\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/pilot%20waste/Montenegro_en.pdf), (accessed April 22, 2022)

80 Eunomia, 'Information Document for the preparation of guidelines to tackle single-use plastic items in the Mediterranean', 2021, [https://www.zerowastemontenegro.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/information\\_document\\_preparatio\\_of\\_guidelines\\_for\\_sups.pdf](https://www.zerowastemontenegro.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/information_document_preparatio_of_guidelines_for_sups.pdf) (accessed April 23, 2022)

81 'Domestic Waste Management in Montenegro', Zero Waste Montenegro, <https://www.zerowastemontenegro.me/waste-management-status-montenegro> (accessed April 25, 2022)

82 Eunomia, 2017, 'A Comprehensive Assessment Of The Current Waste Management Situation In South East Europe And Future Perspectives For The Sector Including Options For Regional Cooperation In Recycling Of Electric And Electronic Waste', [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/pilot%20waste/Montenegro\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/pilot%20waste/Montenegro_en.pdf) (accessed April 25, 2022)

83 Ibid.

84 Env.net, 2021, Regional Report: Chapter 15 & 27 Country Specific Report', [http://env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Progress-Report\\_2020.pdf](http://env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Progress-Report_2020.pdf) (Accessed April 25, 2022)

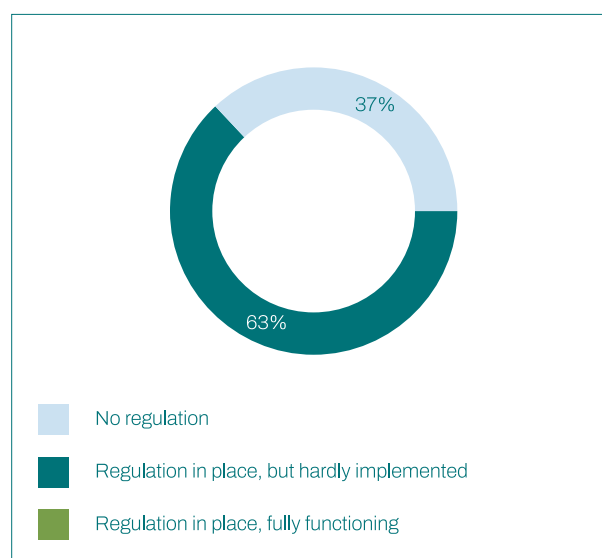
consisting in this direction. Some of the new initiatives toward regulations transposition in North Macedonia are the Law on Public Procurement, Law on Waste Management, and National plan and strategy for Waste Management.<sup>85</sup>

To embrace the EU directive, North Macedonia has recently invested in a new waste treatment plant for the municipality waste and to divert biodegradable waste from landfills.<sup>86</sup> This new initiative is fully in line with the Landfill Directive (99/31/EC and EU 2018/850).<sup>87</sup> Other initiatives taken from the government and other state or local institutions, are related to plastic. As of January 1, 2020, North Macedonia will no longer procure plastic products and single-use packaging but the lack of information on the present situation is an issue.<sup>88</sup> Many existing laws within the country have been updated to align with EU directives to meet accession criteria. For example, the Phytopharmacy law has been updated only recently in full accordance with the dedicated EU directive.<sup>89</sup>

As for national strategies, it is important to mention the Waste Management Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia 2008-2020 framework.<sup>90</sup> This strategy was planned for revision in 2021<sup>91</sup>, but the new strategy has not yet been published.

As presented in annexes 1 and 2, no regulations taking place in North Macedonia are related to the following issues: a separate collection of bio-waste; a separate collection of Plastic Bottles Waste; Recycling targets of Municipality Waste; General Implementation on Deposit Refund Scheme regulation; Deposit Refund Scheme on Packaging Waste regulation; Waste Prevention Program regulation; Ecolabel regulation; Landfill Restriction - Regulatory instrument; Landfill Restriction - Diversion Target Regulatory Instrument and Incentives for Product Donation regulation.

**Graph 5. North Macedonia**



<sup>85</sup> Government of the Republic of Macedonia, 2008, 'Waste Management Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia (2008 - 2020)', <https://www.moep.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Waste-Management-Strategy-of-the-RM-2008-2020.pdf>, (Accessed April 25, 2022)

<sup>86</sup> European Commission, 'New waste treatment plant to ensure a cleaner environment in Central Macedonia', 2021, [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/projects/Greece/new-waste-treatment-plant-to-ensure-cleaner-environment-in-central-macedonia#:~:text=Disclaimer-,New%20waste%20treatment%20plant%20to%20ensure%20cleaner%20environment%20in%20Central,matter%20away%20from%20landfill%20sites](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Greece/new-waste-treatment-plant-to-ensure-cleaner-environment-in-central-macedonia#:~:text=Disclaimer-,New%20waste%20treatment%20plant%20to%20ensure%20cleaner%20environment%20in%20Central,matter%20away%20from%20landfill%20sites) (accessed April 25, 2022)

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Beta/SeeNews, 2019, 'Gov't of North Macedonia to Stop Using Plastic Products as of Jan. 1', <https://betabriefing.com/archive/see-business/9324-govt-of-north-macedonia-to-stop-using-plastic-products-as-of-jan-1> (accessed April 26, 2022)

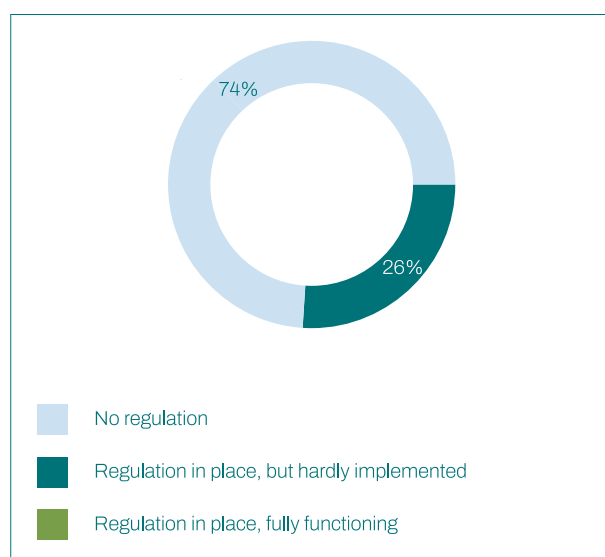
<sup>89</sup> European Commission, 2019, 'Twinning Fiche', [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Zentrale/Europa/EU-Twinning/April-Juni\\_21/Improvement\\_of\\_the\\_administrative\\_and\\_operational\\_capacities\\_of\\_the\\_plant\\_protection\\_authorities.pdf](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Europa/EU-Twinning/April-Juni_21/Improvement_of_the_administrative_and_operational_capacities_of_the_plant_protection_authorities.pdf), (accessed April 26, 2022)

<sup>90</sup> Government of the Republic of Macedonia, 'Waste Management Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia (2008 - 2020)', 2008, <https://www.moep.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Waste-Management-Strategy-of-the-RM-2008-2020.pdf> (accessed May 6, 2022).

<sup>91</sup> European Environment Agency, Municipal waste management North Macedonia, Country fact sheet, November 2021, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-management/municipal-waste-management-country/north-macedonia-municipal-waste-factsheet-2021/view>, (accessed May 6, 2022).

**Serbia** has started working on the adaptation of CE EU regulation, even though with limited progress<sup>92</sup> in the last year, as reflected in the country's outcome of policy enactment assessment. As presented in Annex 2, the main fields in which the directive and regulation can be defined as already in place. However, the partly implemented incentives and disincentives to promote waste prevention, Green public procurement, Ecolabel, EPR for packaging waste, Recycling target, and Separate collection of WEEE.

**Graph 6. Serbia**



Regulation related to incentives and disincentives for waste prevention focuses solely on the industry sector and treats special waste categories. Thus, incentives are given for the re-use and use of waste tires as

a secondary raw material, for the treatment of waste tires for energy, and for the production of reusable bags with suspenders. As for disincentives, fees are paid for introducing certain products on the market. Some of them include tires, products containing asbestos, batteries and accumulators, mineral oils and lubricants, and electrical and electronic equipment, while a special regulation<sup>93</sup> defines taxpayers and payment criteria for prescribed fees.<sup>94</sup>

Although the Law on Public Procurement<sup>95</sup> stipulates that companies are obliged to respect their obligations about environmental protection in executing public procurement contracts; in practice, green public procurement in Serbia is currently very rare and is applied mainly by CSO. According to the Public Procurement Office, since the entry into force of the new Law on Public Procurement in Serbia, no public institution has conducted green public procurement.<sup>96</sup>

The use of the Ecolabel, which could significantly affect applying green criteria in the public procurement process, has not yet come to life since the Ecolabel of Serbia is Type I, i.e., voluntary. This is evidenced by the fact that, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, since 2019, only four companies in Serbia have received the Ecolabel for a total of seven products (or production lines).<sup>97</sup>

92 'Country-Specific Report – Serbia', Environmental Network(env.net), 2020, [http://env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Country-Specific-Report-\\_2020\\_Serbia.pdf](http://env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Country-Specific-Report-_2020_Serbia.pdf) (accessed April 28, 2022)

93 The Decree on products that after use become special waste streams ("Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia", No. 54/2010, 86/2011, 15/2012, 41/2013 - other ordinances and 3/2014)

94 Serbian Chamber of Commerce, 'Incentives for the industry sector', 2021, <https://api.pks.rs/storage/assets/Podsticaji%20za%20sektor%20industrije%20-%202029.11.2021.pdf> (accessed April 28, 2022)

95 Law on Green Public Procurement ("Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia", No. 91/2019)

96 'Green Public Procurement in Serbia - Status and Perspectives, NALED, 2021; (<https://naled.rs/htdocs/Files/08318/Zelene-javne-nabavke-u-Srbiji-Stanje-i-perspektive.pdf>) (accessed April 30, 2022)

97 Serbian Chamber of Commerce, 5 green tools for sustainable business, 2019(<https://api.pks.rs/storage/assets/Brosura%20Zelene%20inicijative1.pdf>)

The Waste Prevention Program is prescribed by the Law on Waste Management<sup>98</sup> as one of the key planning documents, and the Ordinance on the list of measures for the prevention of waste generation<sup>99</sup>. It was adopted in 2019, and enacted several measures that should have an impact on (i) the general conditions of waste generation; (ii) the design, production, and distribution phase of the product; and (iii) consumption and stage of use of the product. Yet, there are still no indications that these measures are being implemented in practice.

The Waste Management Law introduced the “extended producer’s responsibility” and fees for putting specific product types on the market, including packaging and special waste streams, such as tires, products containing asbestos, batteries or accumulators, mineral and synthetic oils and lubricants, electrical and electronic equipment and passenger cars. Currently, there is only one packaging waste scheme in Serbia, within which seven operators organize activities for collecting and recycling packaging waste, generated by households, businesses, and industry. Although producers must pay fees, there are “no official dedicated separate collection or EPR schemes in place for other product categories or waste streams”, such as WEEE. There is no data on how the fees paid are used to collect and manage these waste types.<sup>100</sup>

The Packaging Reduction Plan prescribes national targets for recycling packaging and packaging waste, which for the period 2020-2024 amount to 56%—60% (below EU targets). Mindful that the current recycling rate in Serbia is overall very low, it is uncertain to what extent it is possible to achieve these targets.<sup>101</sup>

As for the separate collection, the goal is set only for separate collection of electrical and electronic waste. According to the Ordinance on the list of electrical and electronic products<sup>102</sup>, it amounted to 4 kg per capita yearly until the end of 2019. The collection targets prescribed by Article 15 of the Ordinance are defined in accordance with Directive 2002/96/EC and do not comply with the current Directive 2012/19/EU (Article 7), prescribing enacting the “producer responsibility” principle, and defines yearly minimum collection targets. The Ordinance does not define who is responsible for achieving these targets. As there is no official data on the electrical and electronic equipment waste collection (no system is in place for separate collection of WEEE), it is not possible to determine the extent to which this target has been achieved.<sup>103</sup>

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98 “Official Gazette of RS”, No. 36/2009, 88/2010, 14/2016, and 95/2018 - other law (accessed April 30, 2022)

99 “Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia”, No. 7/2019 (accessed April 30, 2022)

100 ‘Municipal waste management country profiles 2021 - EEA cooperating countries’, European Economic Area (WWA), 2021, (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-management/municipal-waste-management-country/serbia-municipal-waste-factsheet-2021/view>) (accessed April 30, 2022)

101 Republic of Serbia, 2020, ‘Regulation on the establishment of the Packaging Waste Reduction Plan for the period from 2020 to 2024.’, <https://leap.unep.org/countries/rs/national-legislation/regulation-establishment-packaging-waste-reduction-plan-period>, (Accessed April 22, 2022)

102 Ordinance on the list of electrical and electronic products, measures to prohibit and restrict the use of electrical and electronic equipment containing hazardous substances, manner, and procedure of waste management of electrical and electronic products (“Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia”, No. 99/2010)

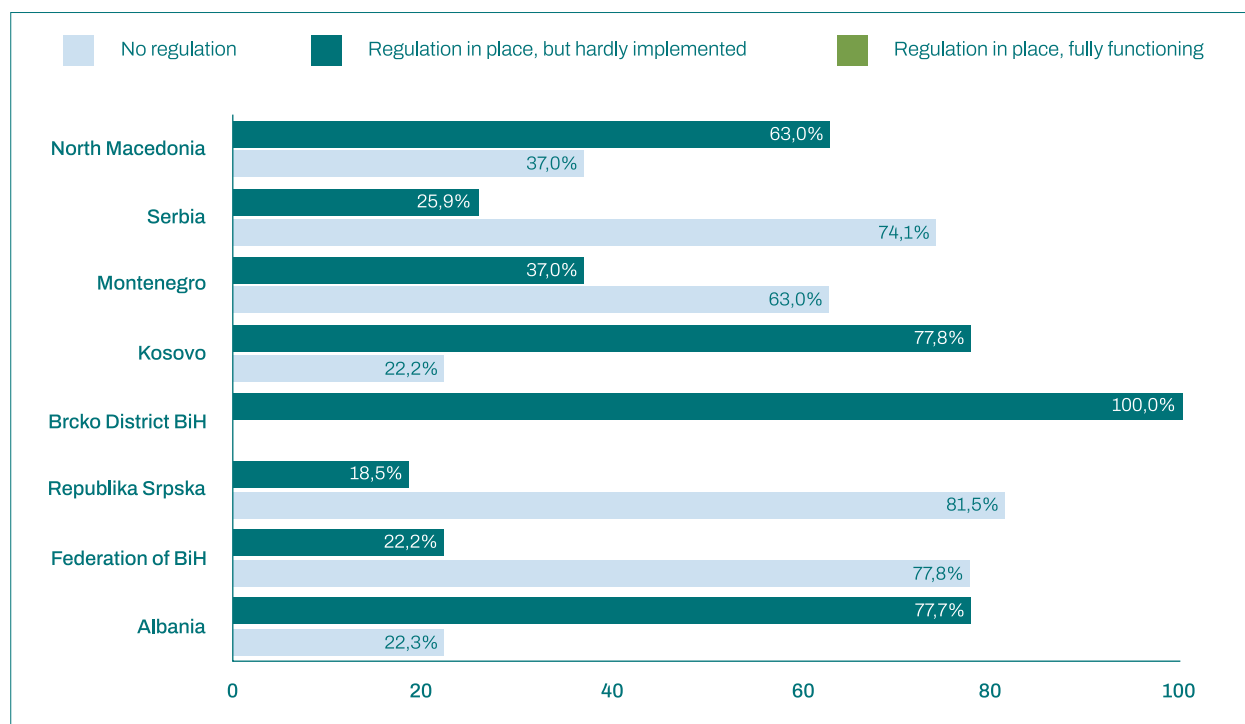
103 ‘Analysis of the state of electrical and electronic waste management in the Republic of Serbia’, GIZ, 2018, (<https://naled.rs/htdocs/Files/01854/Analiza-stanja-upravljanja-elektrcnim-i-elektronskim-otpadom-u-Republici-Srbiji.pdf>) (accessed May 5, 2022)

## 5.1 Implementation Status and Gap Analysis towards the European Union Policy Framework on the Circular Economy

In October 2020, WB countries agreed to set forward the WB Green Agenda, in line with the European Green Deal. This deal was a step forward for the region but also a commitment embedded in the Economic and Investment Plan backed by the green and digital transition. The WB agreed to start the green transition within the Green Agenda. This has been kick-started especially in the field of decarbonization, CE, depollution, sustainable food system, and rural areas, and finally, biodiversity.<sup>104</sup> Altogether, the six WB countries adopted the Sofia Declaration on the WB Green Agenda, followed by a 2021-2030 implementation action plan. Yet, despite this pledge, both policies taking place and translation into action are still facing challenges.

Analysis of policy implementation regarding CE within the EU policy framework has shown that most of the countries have regulations taking place but only partially implemented. None of the WB6 shows full regulations taking place nor fully functioning. Countries like Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia have the most regulations, mainly due to pre-accession requisites by the EU rather than taking a fully proactive incentive on CE transition. In contrast, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia have fewer regulations taking place. On the other hand, Montenegro is also facing challenges regarding policy implementation even though it is an EU candidate country.

**Graph 7.** Circular Economy policy implementation in the Western Balkans



104 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans', European Commission, 2020, [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2020-10/green\\_agenda\\_for\\_the\\_western\\_balkans\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2020-10/green_agenda_for_the_western_balkans_en.pdf) (accessed April 29, 2022)

## 6 Good Practices of Circular Economy in the WB Region

Good practices can illustrate circularity by understanding how businesses and companies have begun to shift towards CE innovation and how they are embracing CE values.<sup>105</sup> Also, this is an important indicator of how the main engine of the economy, businesses, and companies, can also deliver added benefits for executing the CE. This can be achieved via pioneering procedures (creative design, industrial operations, consumption patterns, waste management, etc.), meaning to see CE as an opportunity for the WB and EU market positioning. In this part, we will be given the similarities and the contrasts between each of the WB countries, in terms of CE-based business innovations and best practices. This part of the research will illustrate comprehensively all the practices with their distinctiveness and likenesses.

In some WB countries, there is a combination of human-friendly and environment-friendly business initiatives, having both a social impact and raising awareness about waste. In North Macedonia, for example, there is a citizen initiative in collaboration with the organization 'Vistinski dela na ljubeznost' called the 'Retweet a meal'<sup>106</sup>, and there is in Serbia an initiative about food waste called 'Plate by plate'.<sup>107</sup> Both of those initiatives have been initiated by citizens themselves and then with the help of private firms or even governments.

Reusable bags are tougher and more resilient than single-use plastics, as they last the longest. This also means there is a lower number needing to be disposed of, reducing the amount ending up in landfills or our oceans, also lowering their harm to marine life or animals.<sup>108</sup> The WB countries have already started this practice using handmade designed bags made from natural materials that aim to reduce the use of plastic bags. Montenegro has started to employ reusable eco-friendly bags 'Cegerica', a company that has been doing these similar good practices for about two years.<sup>109</sup>

Moreover, in all WB countries, some of the sectors have been using at least one of the CE pillars. An innovative approach in Montenegro is combining technology with the environment. 'MOJE DRVO' has been offering for more than 4 years environmental services to raise awareness about planting trees and making them much more interesting through technology. This practice allows people and firms to plant a tree on public green spaces in Podgorica that are mapped out within the 'My tree' app.<sup>110</sup>

105 Board of innovation, 'Circular Economy business models explained', <https://www.boardofinnovation.com/circular-economy-business-models-explained/>, (accessed April 30, 2022)

106 Facebook, 'Retweet a meal', <https://www.facebook.com/retvitniobrok> (accessed May 14, 2022)

107 Facebook, 'Plate by plate', <https://bankahrane.org.rs/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

108 Ausie Bread Bags, 2021, 'Do Reusable Bags Help the Environment?', <https://www.aussiebreadbags.com.au/blogs/news/do-reusable-bags-help-the-environment#:~:text=Reusable%20bags%20are%20tougher%20and,or%20animals%20caused%20by%20them.> (Accessed May 14, 2022)

109 Facebook, 'Cegerica', <https://www.facebook.com/cegerica/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

110 Podgorica.me, 'MOJE DRVO', <https://podgorica.me/stranice/moje-drvo> (accessed May 14, 2022)



Decreasing the waste from old furniture is a good practice. This has been made available in some countries like North Macedonia<sup>111</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>112</sup>, and Montenegro.<sup>113</sup> It is a good way of raising awareness also, whereas some of these good practices give a chance to the customer to personally go to workshops and redesign or re-using their furniture with the help of the companies. All WB countries have had practices linked to these initiatives for many years.

Plastic is resorted to so often, despite we are aware it can harm the environment.<sup>114</sup> Producing purses, clothing, and shopping bags from plastic bags is one of Bosnia's practices, also making toys with recycled plastic. One good practice consists of collecting plastic bags to produce women's bags and make-up bags, pencil cases, protective suits, travel bags, sports bags, raincoats, dog raincoats, and tablets and laptops cases, cardigans, backpacks. This practice also provides employment opportunities for people with disabilities<sup>115</sup>, which impacts positively the environment and the local communities' socio-economic status. Another practice is producing toys from biodegradable materials. Toys contain about 90% of plastic, and it takes about 400 years to decompose, while bioplastic takes just months to decompose.<sup>116</sup> Similarly, within the plastic sector, a firm named 'Plas-

tika'<sup>117</sup>, has been in this industry for more than 16 years in Kosovo. This firm recycles plastic waste and produces re-granules, contributing to the private sector's effort to enhance Kosovo's emerging recycling sector. Also, a good practice in North Macedonia is the young firm called 'Art Cycle of Recycle'.<sup>118</sup> This firm makes jewelry from plastic bottles and contributes towards raising awareness that plastic can be re-used creatively, and reduce related waste. 'Ekotvorine.ba'<sup>119</sup> is another good practice example that helps raise awareness and increase recycling activities to create functional products for daily use and encourage eco-habits.

As we already may know, the fashion industry is responsible for around 2-4 percent of all man-made greenhouse gas emissions, and that percentage is set to grow. Fashion is making a sizable contribution to warming the planet. The fashion industry was accountable for 2.1 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, according to a report about the fashion impact on Climate by McKinsey.<sup>120</sup> Good practices in some WB countries are working towards reducing the impact that fast fashion trends are bringing within the region. A few initiatives are making good progress in the region. Most of them collect used clothes through special containers and try to re-use, recycle or upcycle them. For instance, a firm called

111 Facebook, 'Retro furniture Ana' <https://www.facebook.com/Retro-namjestaj-Ana-1903818499837043> (accessed May 14, 2022)

112 Facebook, 'Wood Surgery', [https://www.facebook.com/selimoviclejljaa/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/selimoviclejljaa/?ref=page_internal) (accessed May 14, 2022)

113 Spink.mk, 'Spin furniture', [http://www.spin.mk/?fbclid=IwAR1n69RLBmta2YPGZ9w4IjAPK9\\_u\\_MYcej60y1DCBC6BTN0QFXX90dRLbo](http://www.spin.mk/?fbclid=IwAR1n69RLBmta2YPGZ9w4IjAPK9_u_MYcej60y1DCBC6BTN0QFXX90dRLbo) (accessed May 14, 2022)

114 K.Chidi Ujeh, 'The negative environmental effects of plastic shopping bags', <https://www.ibanet.org/article/76F-8D2A9-1A1D-4A2F-8A6F-0A70149FD4D5#:~:text=The%20maj>, (accessed April 5, 2022)

115 Kesa.ba, 'Kesa doo Sarajevo', <http://www.kesa.ba/> <https://www.facebook.com/Kesa-doo-Sarajevo-112351470158523> (accessed May 14, 2022)

116 Facebook, 'Bioplastic Toys BH', <https://www.facebook.com/Bioplastic-Toys-BiH-108034058410768> (accessed May 14, 2022)

117 Plastika-ks, 'Plastika', [https://plastika-ks.com/en/?page\\_id=152](https://plastika-ks.com/en/?page_id=152) (accessed May 14, 2022)

118 Facebook, 'Art Cycle of Recycle', <https://www.facebook.com/Art-Cycle-of-Recycle-103979765457275> (accessed May 14, 2022)

119 Facebook, 'Ekotvorine.ba', [https://www.facebook.com/ekotvorine.ba/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/ekotvorine.ba/?ref=page_internal) (accessed May 14, 2022)

120 A.Berg & A.Granskog & L.Lee & K.Hendrik Magnus, 'How the fashion industry can urgently act to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions, 2020', <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/retail/our-insights/fashion-on-climate>, (accessed April 2022)

'Kopche'<sup>121</sup> located in North Macedonia has been working in this field for about four years. Another similar practice in Serbia is the firm 'RETEX'<sup>122</sup>, working in this industry for more than twelve years, contributing to reducing the amount of textile waste that is disposed of disorderly. Moreover, a practice with the same aim of reducing waste and slowing down the fast fashion industry is by the Bosnian firm 'Hljeb od tekstila', working in this industry for more than seven years. Profit is gained through collecting, reusing, and placing on the market cheap textile products, which is further used to finance the public kitchen "Obrok ljubavi (Meal of Love)".<sup>123</sup>

Products are not the only option towards a CE transition; services play an important role too. Awareness of the importance of sustainable transport and mitigating the negative impact on the environment, as well as climate change, is growing. These practices are also gaining momentum in the WB for quite some years now, such as the 'e-Bike center'<sup>124</sup> firm, engaged in renting electric scooters and electric bicycles to citizens in Sarajevo. Another eco-friendly service is 'Climathon', a circular action for climate change "dedicated to improving the quality of life by solving traffic problems."<sup>125</sup>

Many wood products can be recovered for re-use or recycling. The importance of wood recycling has also

reached countries like Albania and Serbia, where several good practices are implemented, reducing the use of this resource. 'Media Print'<sup>126</sup>, for example, makes new paper out of waste created by cutting paper and. Paper recycling has several advantages over wood. The same initiative is practiced in Serbia by an entity named 'Feplo d.o.o.'<sup>127</sup> It is also worth mentioning as a good practice within the recycling of raw material from wood, a practice in Albania called 'Punime Gips'<sup>128</sup>, processing their own waste for more than three years.

Mushroom growing technology is the only biotechnological method that profitably converts cellulose waste into quality food. Fungi can play a key role in a circular, zero-waste economy.<sup>129</sup> Circular production, in the case of 'Ecofungi' is an example also providing the so-called multiple cash flow, the most important factor distinguishing circular from recycling production.<sup>130</sup>

In most WB countries, we can see common initiatives regarding practices related to the waste management industry. As one of the most concerning regional issues, firms have started to see CE as an opportunity for many years; some companies have been on the market and operating for more than 12 years. Some WB businesses are working to improve waste management and are seeing benefits from the

121 Facebook, 'Kopche', <https://www.facebook.com/kopce> (accessed May 14, 2022)

122 'RETEX', <https://www.reciklazatekstilauzice.com/index.php/sr/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

123 Facebook, 'Meal of Love', <https://www.facebook.com/HLJEB-OD-TEKSTILA-Sarajevo-843992082345937/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

124 'e-Bike Center', <https://ebike.ba/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

125 Instagram, 'Climathon', <https://www.instagram.com/climathonpodgorica/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

126 'Media Print', <https://mediaprint.al/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

127 'Feplo d.o.o.', <https://www.feplo.rs/index.html> (accessed May 14, 2022)

128 Facebook, 'Punime Gips', <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Product-service/Punime-Gipsi-Malvin-Hasme-ma-2211965669039694/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

129 Utrecht University, 2021, 'Becoming circular and sustainable', <https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/in-depth/becoming-circular-and-sustainable> (Accessed May 14, 2022)

130 'Ecofungi', <https://www.systemekofungi.com/> (accessed May 14, 2022)

CE approaches. Countries have started to change their attitude towards entrepreneurship and innovation within the CE approach and have already begun to impact economic growth and development. Still, more incentives should be directed by policies to fully support a growing trend of CE business approaches, as well as innovation in terms of CE entrepreneurship in the region.

## 7 Conclusion: Common Challenges to the Circular Economy Implementation and Priority Areas of Intervention

The CE transition requires actions and policies; more importantly, it seeks synergy among all stakeholders involved. In the praxis of governance, a common way to steer the transition to a different state proceeds through setting targets<sup>131</sup>, that can be systematically monitored to see if progress is there or not. Thus, this report seeks to set a measuring tool that can track the long-term progress of policy implementation underpinning the WB CE transition.

Despite that the CE concept circulates widely as an idea and ideal, with stakeholders, scales, and different sectors identified, the actual implementation is somehow limited and still very fragile.<sup>132</sup> These challenges grow in the case of transition economies such as the one in the WB region.

CE policy framework implementation analysis in the WB has shown that most countries have regulations taking place, but only partially implemented. None of the countries shows full regulations taking place nor fully functioning. Policy transition towards the implementation of CE is slow.

In stark contrast to policy progress, the diversity regarding innovative business approaches regarding CE indicates an open-minded approach from the business sector for more than 10 years, with a great variety of circular business models with different approaches to circularity. In this regard, rather than helping the economy and business transition toward CE practices, policies in the region have shown that it is slowing the process, by presenting further challenges to circular business model developments. Some of these include technical barriers such as inappropriate technology, or lack of technical support and training; economic barriers such as capital requirements, high initial costs, or uncertain return and profit; institutional and regulatory obstacles such as a lack of a conducive legal system, or a deficient institutional framework.<sup>133</sup>

Policies are going forward only on paper in countries where the pre-accession mark is mandatory, and even if they are partly in place, they are not fully functioning or not functioning at all. The private sector is way ahead of policies; official entities lag behind (for example, absent separate collection infrastructure at the local level leaves firms without first materials to work from).

131 P. Morsetto, 2020, 'Targets for a circular economy: Resources, Conservation and Recycling', Volume 153, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921344919304598> (Accessed May 14, 2022)

132 H. Corvellec, A. F. Stowell, N. Johansson, 2021, 'Critiques of the circular economy', <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jiec.13187> (Accessed May 14, 2022)

133 Ibid.

Creating an incentivizing legal framework is not enough. A systematic concept and portfolio of investments is needed to attract funds to the CE, which would be offered at business fairs and business meetings. Chambers, development agencies, and relevant ministries should jointly contribute to creating such an offer.

Secondary and higher education should encourage innovation and critical thinking in the skills necessary for developing the CE. We need an education approach closely connected to the economic system, which serves the economic development, by educating new staff ready for the labor market, with innovative and entrepreneurial capacities.

The government should design support programs and propose funding mechanisms and instruments for micro, small and medium enterprises to help them in transition. Moreover, the state should establish an incentivizing atmosphere for potential entrepreneurs (mostly young people) to develop CE-based business models. In the WB region, there are still abandoned or partially used industrial zones that, with the improvement of infrastructure, can be turned into business incubators for the CE. Furthermore, academia contributes to the CE transition by improving knowledge and skills on this issue and conducting research and development, which requires support from governmental incentives and funding.

It is also essential to mention the importance of the Quadruple Helix Model (QHM), in which multiple stakeholders in the WB should be part of an innovation ecosystem where knowledge is exchanged. This would contribute to the development of eco-innovations facilitating CE and which can further help to fast-forward WB CE transition. The role of QHM

stakeholders is critical in supporting this transition by the collaborative actions of firms, academia, government, and society to minimize natural environment impacts.<sup>134</sup>

The civil sector should influence policies, encourage innovative solutions, cross-sectoral partnerships, green and social entrepreneurship, and provide capacity building. At the same time, the media have a significant role in creating a public opinion on all important social issues, including CE, participation in capacity building, creating a positive impression, and motivation via presenting and promoting examples of good practice.

Finally, from a specific policy/decision-making angle, targets can be used to set a roadmap to implement CE successfully in the WB. As with every transformative process, the WB needs targets to guide change towards a successful CE transition and see it as an opportunity, not only a legal obligation for EU accession.

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134 G. Durán-Romero, A. M. López, T. Beliaeva, M. Ferasso, C. Garonne, P. Jones, 2020, 'Bridging the gap between circular economy and climate change mitigation policies through eco-innovations and Quintuple Helix Model', <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0040162520310726> (Accessed May 14, 2022)

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# 8 Annexes

## 8.1 Annex 1: Overview of EU policy instruments that boost transition to circular economy

No	Policy instrument	Type of instrument	Directive or Regulation	Provision
1	Separate collection - Textile Waste	Regulatory instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to set up (establish) separate collection of textile waste (2025).</li> </ul>
2	Separate collection - Hazardous Household Waste	Regulatory instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to set up (establish) separate collection of hazardous household waste (2025).</li> </ul>
3	Separate collection - Biowaste	Regulatory instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to ensure that biowaste is collected separately or recycled at source (for example, composting, digestion) or collected separately and is not mixed with other waste types (2023).</li> </ul>
4	Separate collection - Plastic Bottles Waste	Regulatory instrument	Singleuse plastic Directive (EU 2019/904)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to establish the separate collection of at least 77% of single-use plastic bottles (2025).</li> <li>Countries to establish the separate collection of at least 90% of single-use plastic bottles (2029).</li> </ul>
5	Separate collection - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment	Regulatory instrument	Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment and Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles and Directive (EU 2018/849) Amending Obligations on End-of-Life Vehicles, Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators, and waste electrical and electronic equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to separately collect 65% of WEEE from 2019.</li> </ul>
6	Recycling targets - Municipality Waste	Regulatory instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to prepare to re-use or recycle at least 55% of municipal waste (2025).</li> <li>Countries to prepare to re-use or recycle at least 60% of municipal waste (2030).</li> <li>Countries to prepare to re-use or recycle at least 65% of municipal waste (2035).</li> </ul>
7	Recycling targets - Packaging Waste	Regulatory instrument	Packaging Directive (94/62/EC and EU 2018/852)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to recycle at least 65% of all packaging waste (2025).</li> <li>Countries to recycle at least 70% of all packaging waste (2030).</li> </ul>
8	General Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	Regulatory instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to introduce bottom-level prerequisites for EPR (2023).</li> </ul>

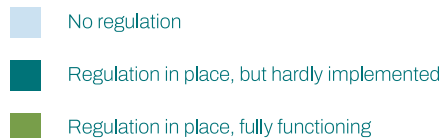
9	EPR Packaging Waste	Regulatory instrument	Packaging Directive (94/62/EC and EU 2018/852)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to take in charge 100% of packaging by EPR scheme (2024).</li> </ul>
10	EPR on Single Use Plastic Products	Regulatory instrument	Singleuse plastic Directive (EU 2019/904)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to establish EPR schemes for certain plastic products (food and beverage containers, bottles, cups, packets and wrappers, light-weight carrier bags, and tobacco products with filters and fishing gear) (2023)</li> </ul>
11	EPR for Electrical Waste and Electronic Equipment	Regulatory instrument	Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment and Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles and Directive (EU 2018/849) Amending Obligations on End-of-Life Vehicles, Batteries, and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators, and waste electrical and electronic equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to establish EPR scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment.</li> </ul>
12	General Implementation on Deposit Refund Scheme	Economic instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to make use of economic instruments to provide incentives for the application of the waste hierarchy. This, inter alia, includes deposit-refund schemes to encourage the efficient collection of used products and materials.</li> </ul>
13	Deposit Refund Scheme on Packaging Waste	Economic instrument	Packaging Directive (94/62/EC and EU 2018/852)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to take measures to encourage the increase in the share of reusable packaging placed on the market. This, inter alia, includes deposit-refund schemes.</li> </ul>
14	Waste Prevention Program	Regulatory instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to establish waste limitation schemes including specific food waste prevention frameworks</li> </ul>
15	Ecolabel	Informative instrument	Regulation on the EU Ecolabel (66/2010/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This regulation stipulates that: “EU Ecolabel may be awarded to products and services which have a lower environmental impact than other products in the same group. The label criteria were devised using scientific data on the whole of a product’s life cycle, from product development to disposal. The label may be awarded to all goods or services distributed, consumed or used on the EU market whether in return for payment or free of charge, on condition that the ecological criteria have been clearly established. It does not apply to medicinal products for human or veterinary use, or to medical devices.”</li> </ul>
16	Green Public Procurement	Informative instrument	Informative instrument Communication Public Procurement for a Better Environment (COM/2008: 400)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This communication states that countries are stipulated to: “– endorse the proposed approach and method for setting common GPP criteria, the political target, and the recommended tools for more and better green public procurement, – implement these through national GPP strategies and increased cooperation, and when implementing EU funding mechanisms. By 2010, 50% of all tendering procedures should be green, where “green” means “compliant with endorsed common “core” GPP criteria.”</li> </ul>

























































































































17	Landfill Restriction – Waste suitable for recycling and recovery	Regulatory instrument	Landfill Directive (99/31/EC and EU 2018/850)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to introduce restrictions on landfilling from 2030 of all waste that is suitable for recycling or other material or energy recovery (2030).</li> </ul>
18	Landfill Restriction - Diversion Target	Regulatory instrument	Landfill Directive (99/31/EC and EU 2018/850)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to limit the share of municipal waste landfilled to 10% (2035).</li> </ul>
19	Ban on Products with Negative Externalities	Regulatory instrument	Single use plastic Directive (EU 2019/904)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This directive stipulates the following: “Countries to ban plastic products with negative externalities (cutlery; plates; straws [...]cotton bud sticks; beverage stirrers; sticks to be attached to and to support balloons; food containers made of expanded polystyrene; products made from oxo-degradable plastic) (2021).”</li> </ul>
20	Product Design Requirements	Regulatory instrument	Single use plastic Directive (EU 2019/904)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to place on the market plastic bottles that contain at least 25% of recycled content (2025).</li> </ul>
21	Informative requirement	Informative instrument	Single use plastic Directive (EU 2019/904)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to place on the market certain plastic products (sanitary items; wet wipes; tobacco products with filters; and drinking cups) that contain markings on waste treatment options and environmental impacts of waste (2021).</li> </ul>
22	End-of-waste Criteria for Recycled Materials	Regulatory instrument	Fertilizer Regulation (EU 2019/1009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an (organic) fertilizer bears the CE marking, it no longer constitutes waste (for the definition of waste see Directive 2008/98/EC).Organic fertilizers are manufactured, among other things, from recycled biodegradable waste from the food industry or from non-animal agricultural by-products.</li> </ul>
23	Minimum Requirements of Product Reparability and Recyclability	Regulatory instrument	<p>Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC) and EU Ecodesign implementing regulations (2019)</p> <p>Draft regulation Ecodesign requirements for household dishwashers;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These regulations fix the minimum requirements of energy efficiency or even reparability and recyclability for certain products put on the EU market (dishwashers, laundry machines, etc.) and which also imposes new rules on manufacturers since the 1 March 2021:</li> <li>Spare parts for refrigeration devices (refrigerators, freezers, wine cellars, etc.) must be available for 7 years after purchase.</li> <li>Spare parts must be available for 10 years after the purchase of washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers.</li> <li>Manufacturers must assure the delivery of spare parts within a waiting period of 15 days.</li> <li>Manufacturers must provide consumers with a list of spare parts available on the internet. Manufacturers have the obligation to clearly explain through the documentation the defects that may occur, how to carry out repairs, and their cost.</li> <li>Manufacturers must guarantee that the parts of the appliance can be replaced with classic tools.</li> </ul>

24	Incentives for Product Donation	Economic instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to make use of economic tools to provide encouraging measures for the implementation of the waste hierarchy. This includes, but not exclusively fiscal incentives for the donation of products, in particular food.</li> </ul>
25	Incentives and Disincentives to Promote Waste Prevention	Economic instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to make use of economic tools to provide incentives for the implementation of the waste hierarchy. This, for instance, encompasses economic incitements and dissuasion as to encourage waste limitation and boost distinct collection patterns.</li> </ul>
26	Pay-as-you-Throw scheme	Economic instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The directive 2018/851 stipulates the following: Countries “to make use of economic instruments to provide incentives for the application of the waste hierarchy. This, inter alia, includes pay-as-you-throw schemes that charge waste producers based on the actual amount of waste generated and provide incentives for separation at source of recyclable waste and for reduction of mixed waste.”</li> </ul>
27	Waste Disposal Tax	Economic instrument	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC and EU 2018/851)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries to make use of economic instruments to provide incentives for the application of the waste hierarchy. This, inter alia, includes taxations on garbage processing and disposal to embody the environmental expenses of litter processing, and contribute to finding alternatives to the most damaging processing ways (trashyard, incineration without energy recuperation) by making these techniques more expensive.</li> </ul>







No	Policy instrument	Albania	Federation of BiH	Republika Srpska	Brcko District BiH	Kosovo	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Serbia
13	Deposit Refund Scheme on Packaging Waste								
14	Waste Prevention Program								
15	Ecolabel								
16	Green Public Procurement								
17	Landfill Restriction – Waste suitable for recycling and recovery								
18	Landfill Restriction - Diversion Target								
19	Ban on Products with Negative Externalities								
20	Product Design Requirements								
21	Informative requirement								
22	End-of-waste Criteria for Recycled Materials								
23	Minimum Requirements of Product Reparability and Recyclability								
24	Incentives for Product Donation								
25	Incentives and Disincentives to Promote Waste Prevention								
26	Pay-as-you-Throw scheme								
27	Waste Disposal Tax								



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[buildgreenalbania.org](http://buildgreenalbania.org)



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[yih.org](http://yih.org)



[universum-ks.org](http://universum-ks.org)



[zid.org.me](http://zid.org.me)

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LogEx Community was established in December 2021 as a partnership between universities and academics, civil society organizations, and business actors from the Western Balkan region, and the region's diaspora. LogEx works to address the gap between higher education and the employment marketplace in the WB region to facilitate shared learning and collaboration, build human capital, strengthen circular economy, and reduce unemployment and out-migration.

