

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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Abstract

It is believed that the first warnings of scientists and various organizations about the development of harmful effects on the environment appeared in the middle of the 20th century, and all of this with the progress and accelerated development of industry. The concept of sustainable development represents a strategy that unites development and environmental problems and points to the simple fact that we are fully connected to what surrounds us. Almost all activities developed by humans depend on the environment. It is important in order to find a way so that what we consume has as little impact on the natural environment as possible. Only what nature itself is capable of regenerating can be taken from nature.

As one of the solutions, the concept of circular economy was born, and represents a regenerative economic system within which production resources, waste, waste emission and energy outflow are reduced by slowing down and extending life cycles in production. This is achieved primarily by designing and creating products, in a way to extend their lifespan, but also by maintenance, servicing and recycling.

However, although there is no clearly defined area of measurement of the circular economy, the term itself creates economic, environmental and social benefits. Recently, the Eurostat methodology has developed a methodology for measuring the development of the circular economy, which is the key importance for monitoring sustainable development. Accordingly, the aim of the paper is to point out the importance of CE development in the Republic of Serbia. According to the available indicators, CE Serbia recorded data in the categories of five indicators. A higher level compared to the EU was recorded in the indicators Waste generation per capita and Generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes per GDP unit, while a lower level was achieved in the categories Resource productivity, Generation of municipal waste per capita and Material import dependency.

Keywords: Circular economy, sustainable development, Republic of Serbia.