



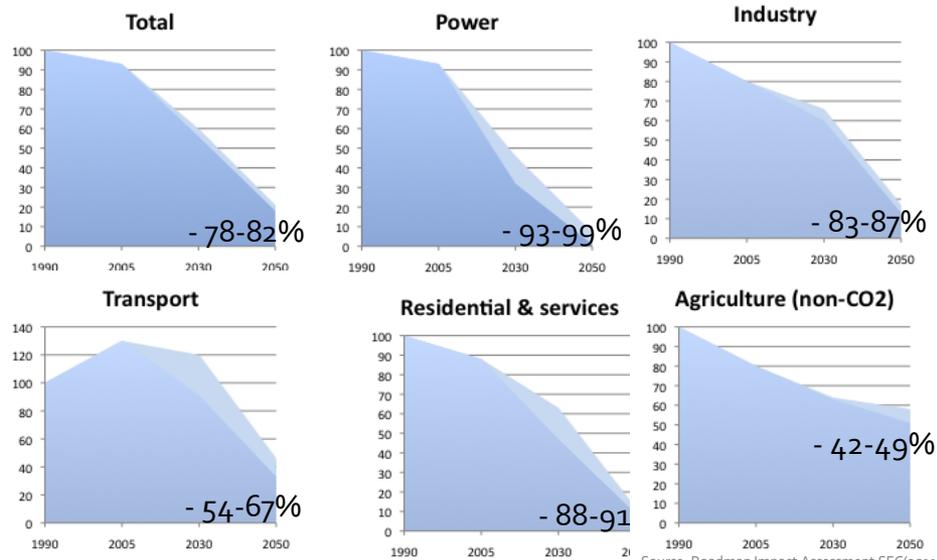
University  
of Ferrara



**inno4sd.net**  
Innovation for Sustainable  
Development Network

# The social, economic, environmental challenge

low-carbon economy requires a radical transformation...2050 EU targets...

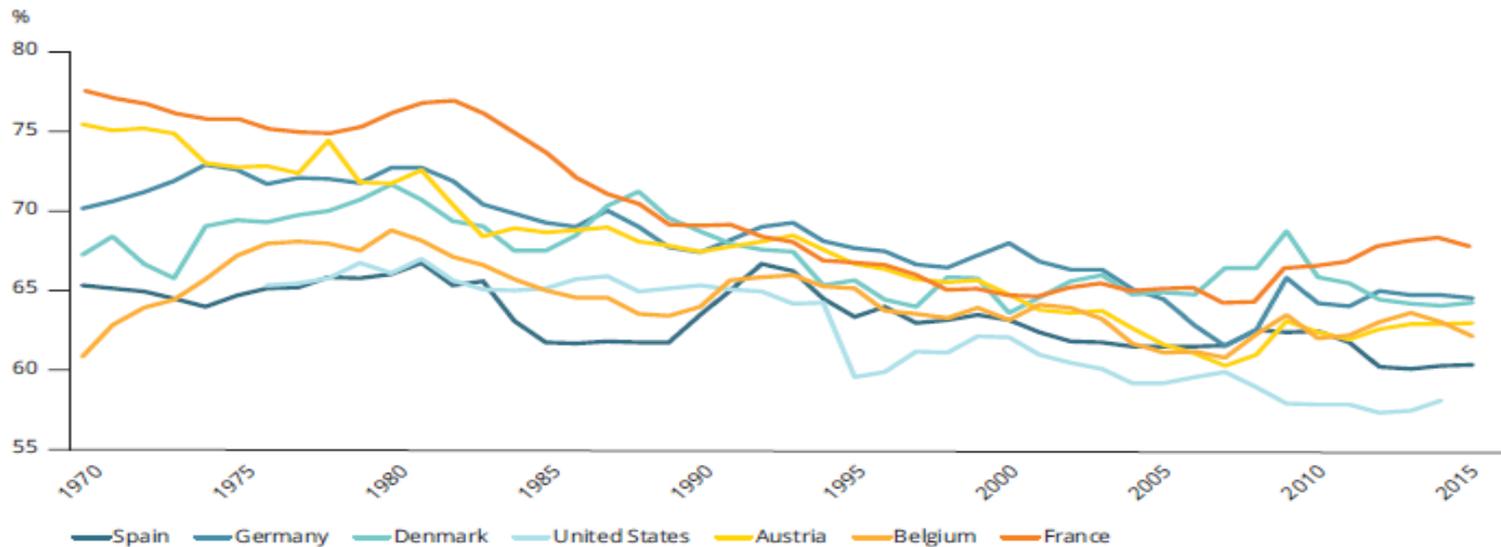


www.ceciliazoso.eu

Source: Roadmap Impact Assessment SEC(2011) 288

# Inequality, labor and capital issues

**Figure 3.1** Trend in the labour share of national income (%) 1970-2014



Source: Based on KLEMS data and calculated as labour compensation/(labour compensation + capital compensation).

# The role of policy

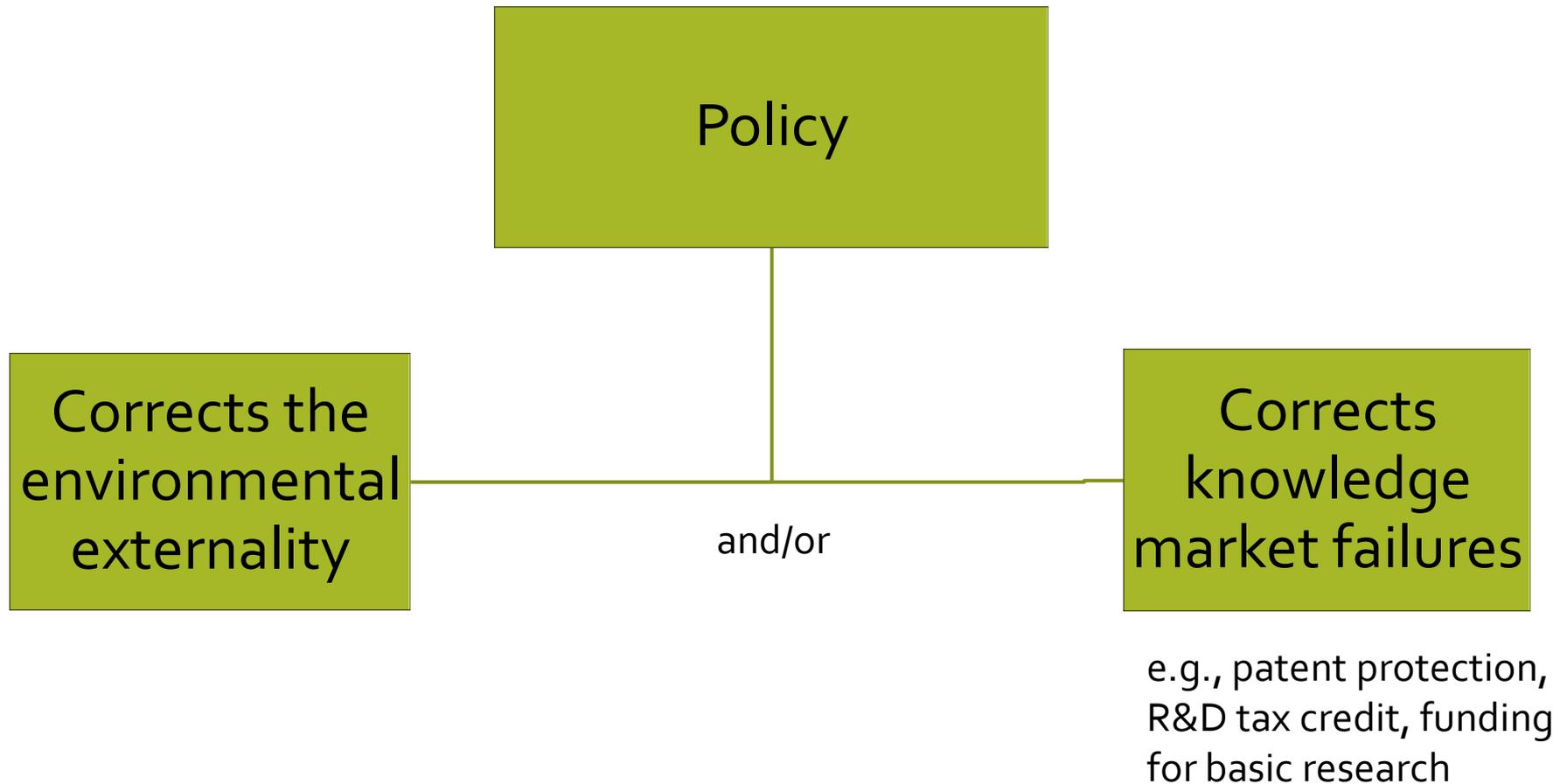
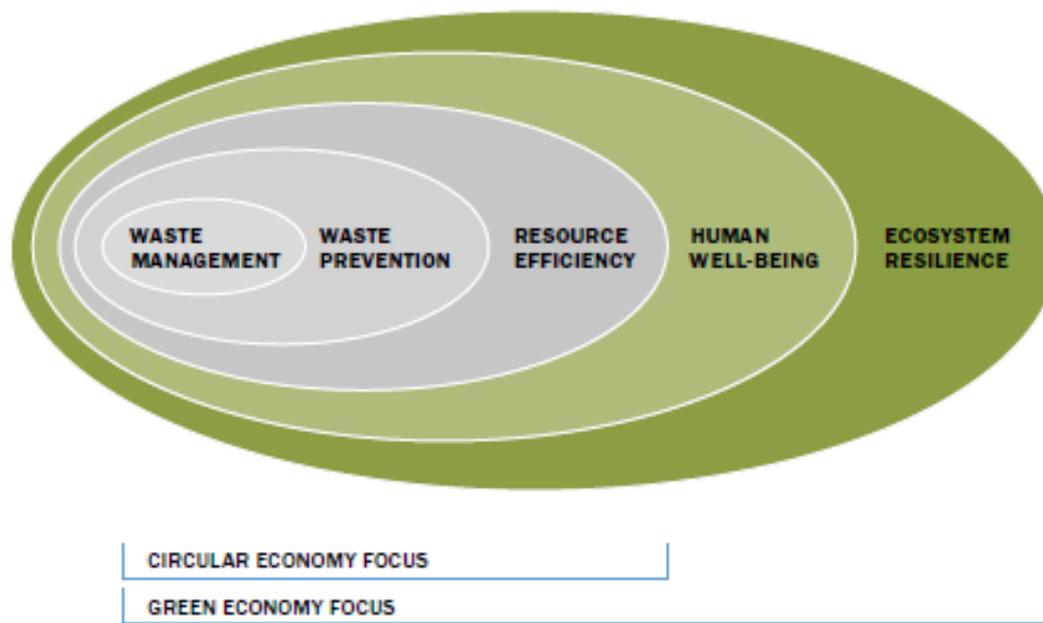




Figure 1.5: The Circular Economy within the Green Economy according to the EEA



Source: EEA, 2015 <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/europe/green-economy>



# The Just Transition Mechanism: Making Sure No One Is Left Behind

The European  
Green Deal

January 2020  
#EUGreenDeal

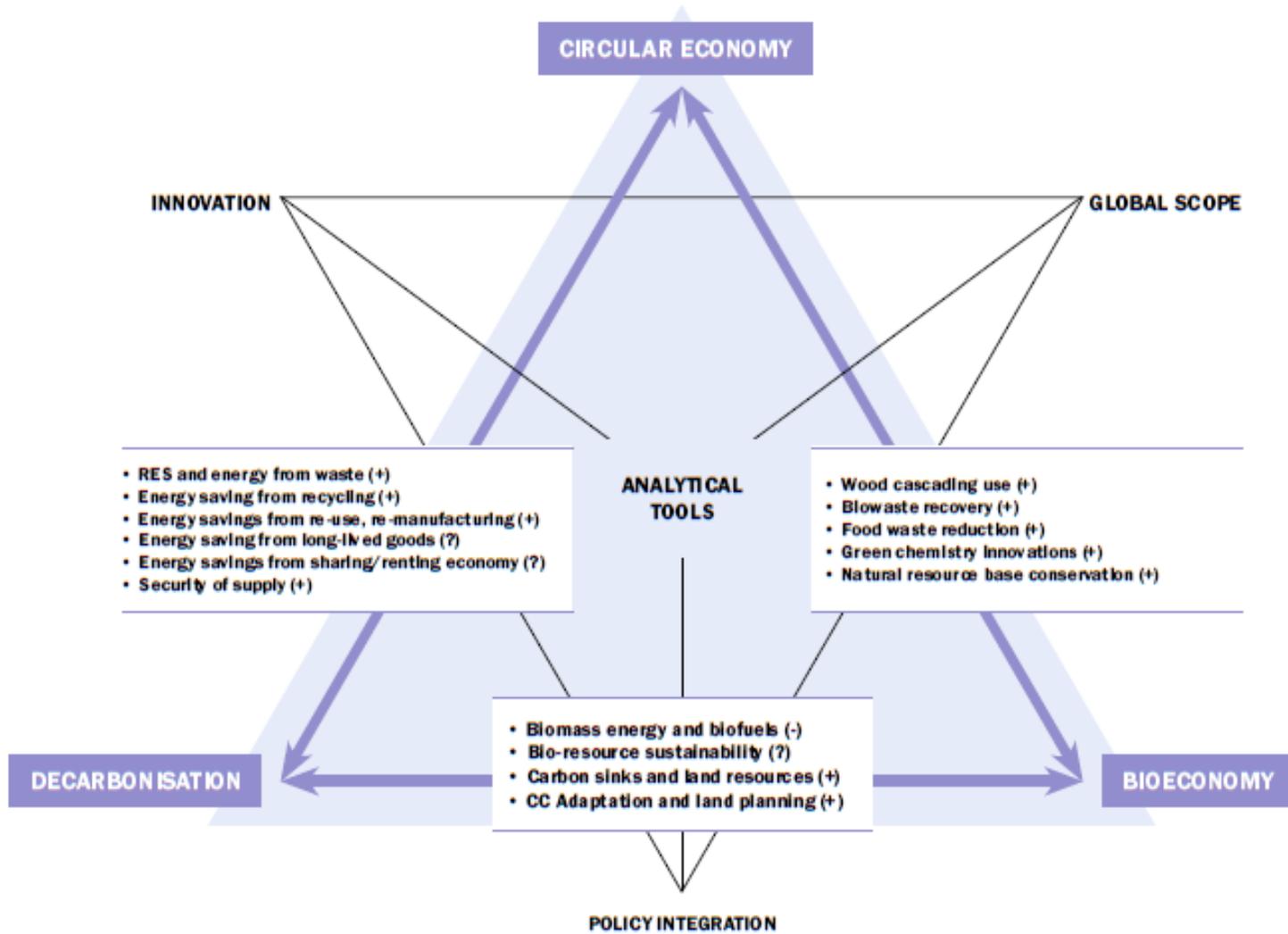


Figure 7.1. A sketch of the CE-DEC-BIO NEXUS

October 2019



# Report

## Towards an Innovation-Intensive Circular Economy. Integrating research, industry, and policies

Roberto Zoboli, Catholic University, Milan, and SEEDS

with contributions from

Nicolò Barbieri, University of Ferrara and SEEDS

Claudia Ghisetti, Catholic University and SEEDS

Giovanni MarIn, University of Urbino and SEEDS

Susanna Paleari, IRCRES-CNR

Edited by Stefano Pareglio, Catholic University, Milan, and FEEM

Figure 1.1. The Circular Economy according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

### OUTLINE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

#### PRINCIPLE

**1**

Preserve and enhance natural capital by controlling finite stocks and balancing renewable resource flows  
ReSOLVE levers: regenerate, virtualise, exchange

Renewables Finite materials

Regenerate      Substitute materials      Virtualise      Restore

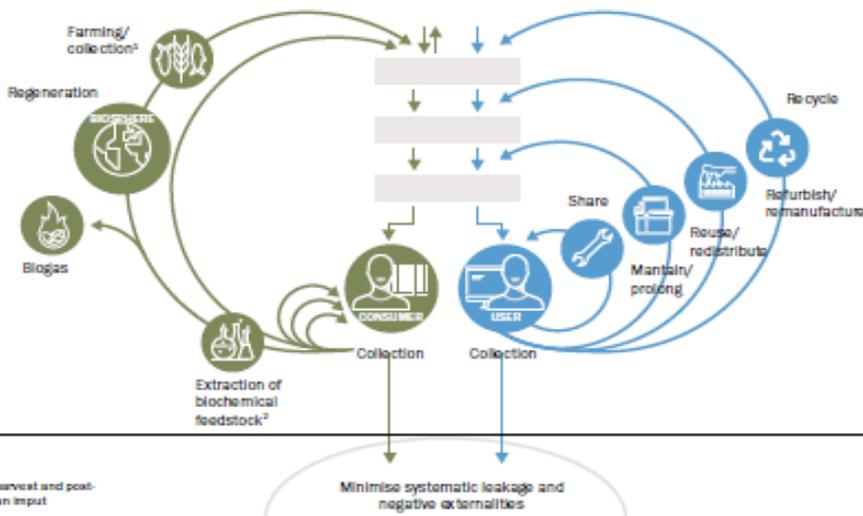
Renewables flow management

Stock management

#### PRINCIPLE

**2**

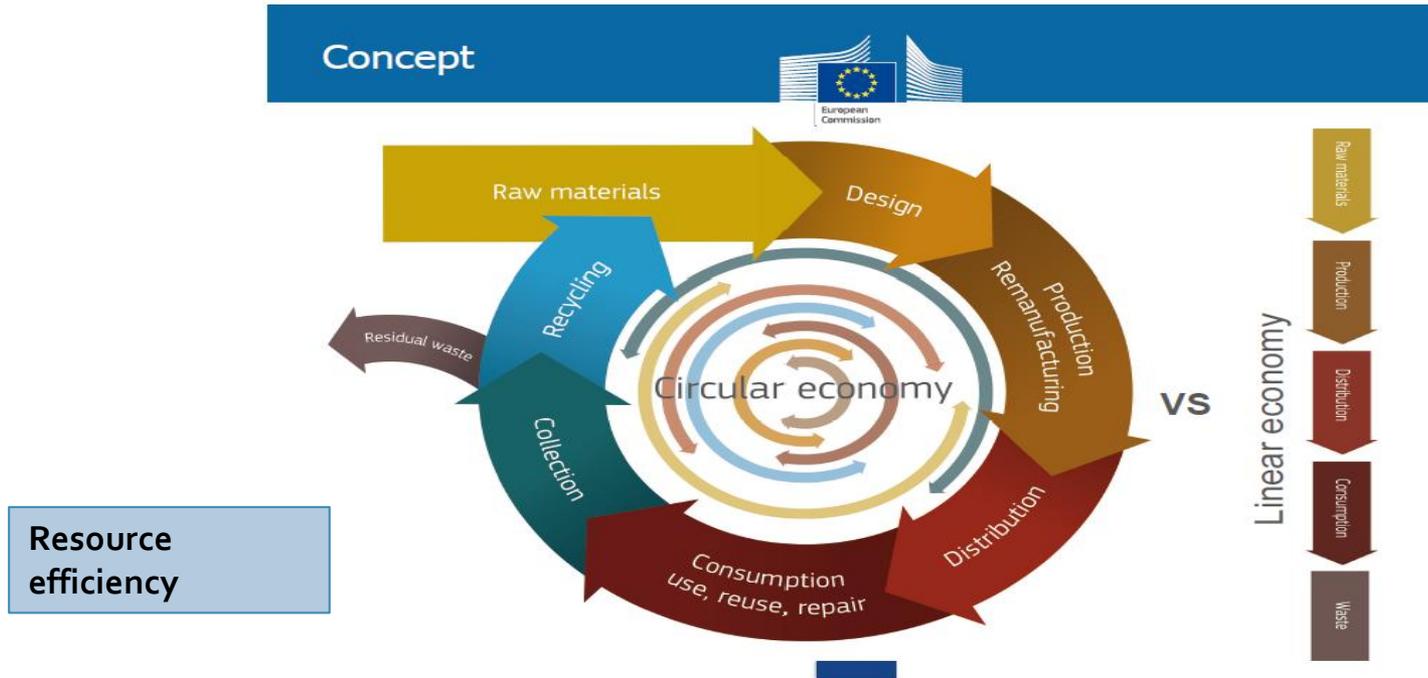
Optimise resource yields by circulating products, components and materials in use at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles  
ReSOLVE levers: regenerate, share, optimise, loop



Source: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>

- “The Circular economy offers an opportunity to reinvent our economy, making it more sustainable and competitive”
- “This will bring benefits for European businesses, industries, and citizens alike”

(European Commission, December 2015)



## Industrial Ecology and Competitiveness

### Strategic Implications for the Firm

Daniel C. Esty  
Yale Law School  
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies  
New Haven, CT, USA

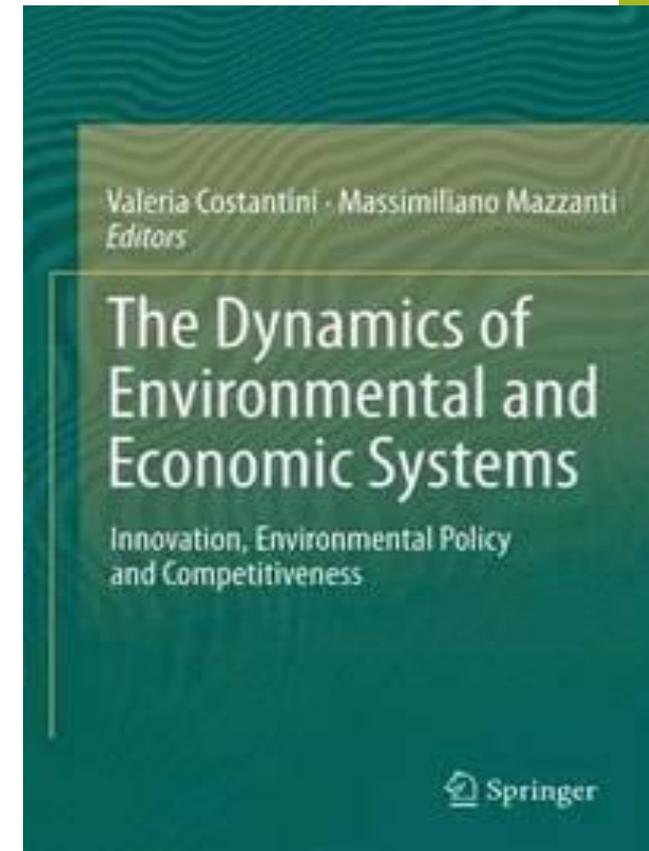
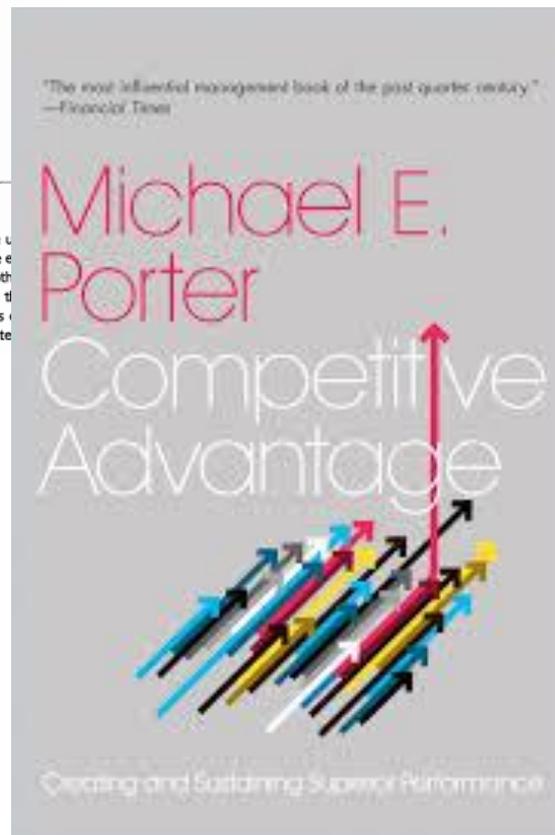
Michael E. Porter  
Harvard Business School  
Boston, MA, USA

#### Keywords

closed loop  
competitiveness  
corporate environmental  
management  
eco-efficiency  
externalities  
resource productivity

#### Summary

In the emerging field of industrial ecology one of the unsettled questions is the degree to which design for the environment, closing energy and materials loops, and other industrial ecology concepts apply at the firm level. In this article we examine this issue with a particular focus on whether industrial ecology can guide company strategy and efforts to enhance competitiveness.





ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Research Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/respol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/respol)



# Resource efficient eco-innovations for a circular economy: Evidence from EU firms



Giulio Cainelli<sup>a,d</sup>, Alessio D'Amato<sup>b,d</sup>, Massimiliano Mazzanti<sup>c,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *University of Padova, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy*

<sup>c</sup> *University of Ferrara, Italy*

<sup>d</sup> *SEEDS, Italy - [www.sustainability-seeds.org](http://www.sustainability-seeds.org)*

## Measuring eco-innovation for a green economy

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## The 'Maastricht Manual'

**René Kemp/Anthony Arundel/Christian Rammer/Michal Miedzinski/Carlos Tapia/Nicolò Barbieri/Serdar Türkeli/Andrea M. Bassi/Massimiliano Mazzanti/Donald Chapman/Fernando J. Díaz López/Will McDowall**

René Kemp is Professorial fellow at UNU-MERIT and Professor of Innovation and Sustainable Development at ICIS, Maastricht University. He coordinated the work for the Manual.

Anthony Arundel is Professorial Fellow at UNU-MERIT and adjunct professor at the University of Tasmania

Christian Rammer is Senior researcher at ZEW Department of Economics of Innovation and Industrial Dynamics, and director of ZEW annual innovation survey, the Mannheim Innovation Panel

Michal Miedzinski is Senior Research Associate, University College London, Institute for Sustainable Resources

Carlos Tapia is Senior researcher at TECNALIA Research & Innovation, Energy and Environment Division

Nicolò Barbieri is Researcher at the Department of Economics and Management – University of Ferrara“

Serdar Türkeli is Post-doctoral researcher at UNU-MERIT, Lecturer in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Coordinator of Innovation, Institutions and Development specialisation at UNU-MERIT/MGSoG, Maastricht University

Andrea M. Bassi Founder and CEO of KnowEdge Srl, Extraordinary Associate Professor of System Dynamics Modelling at Stellenbosch University, and Associate at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Massimiliano Mazzanti is Professor of Economic Policy and Lecturer in Environmental Economics, University of Ferrara

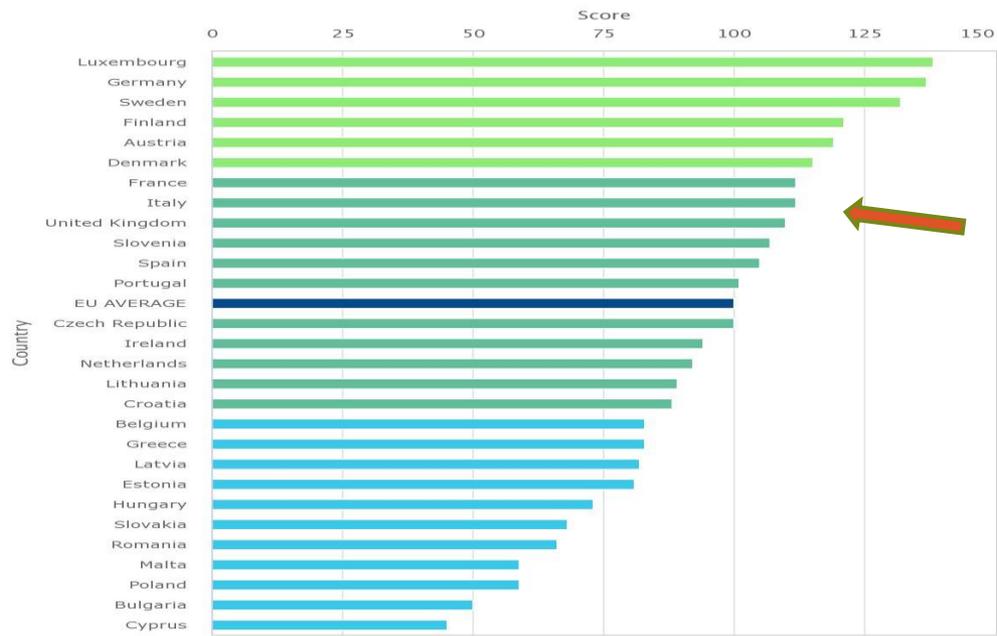
Donald Chapman PhD research fellow in Ecological Economics and Sustainability Transitions at KU Leuven

Fernando J. Díaz López is Director of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Network and Associate Professor Extraordinary on Sustainable Systems, at Stellenbosch University

Will McDowall is Lecturer and Researcher, University College London, Bartlett School Environment, Energy & Resources

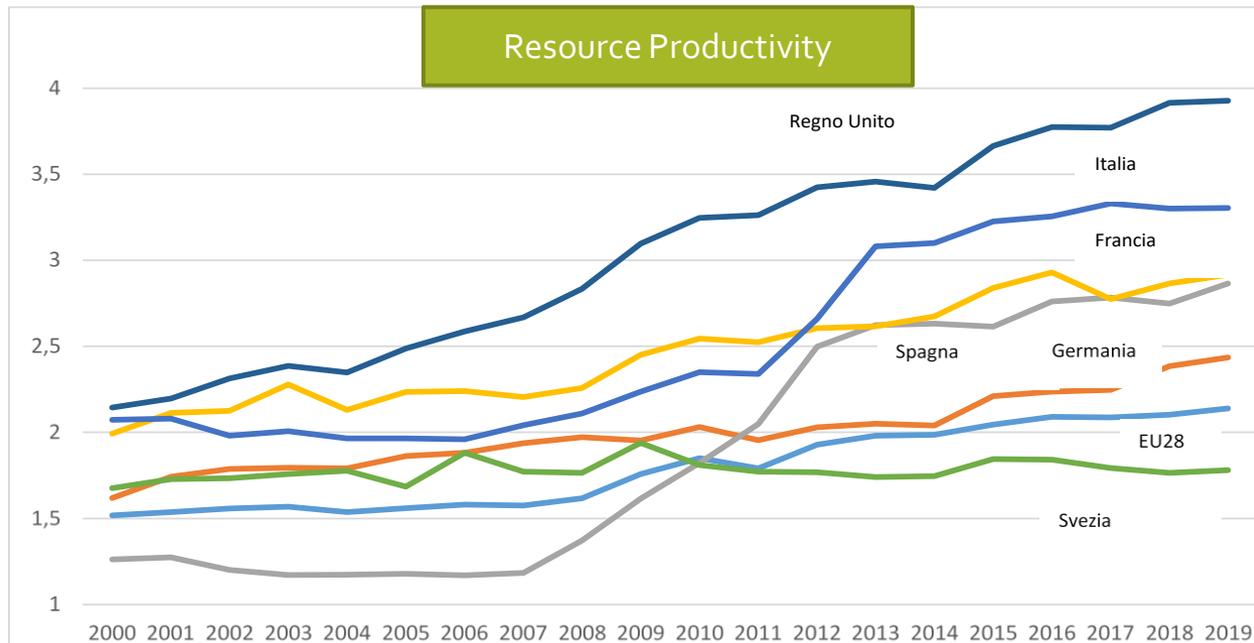
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Eco-Innovation Index, 2018



**Performance groups**

- Eco-I Leader
- Average Eco-I performers
- Countries catching up with Eco-I



The indicator is defined as the gross domestic product (GDP) divided by domestic material consumption (DMC). DMC measures the total amount of materials directly used by an economy. It is defined as the annual quantity of raw materials extracted from the domestic territory of the local economy, plus all physical imports minus all physical exports. It is important to note that the term 'consumption', as used in DMC, denotes apparent consumption and not final consumption. DMC does not include upstream flows related to imports and exports of raw materials and products originating outside of the local economy.

(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables>, accesso il 16 ottobre 2020)



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**Survey on Italian  
manufacturing (SMEs)  
circular and energy  
innovations  
2017 2018 (4600 firms)**

Second wave next year on  
2019 2020

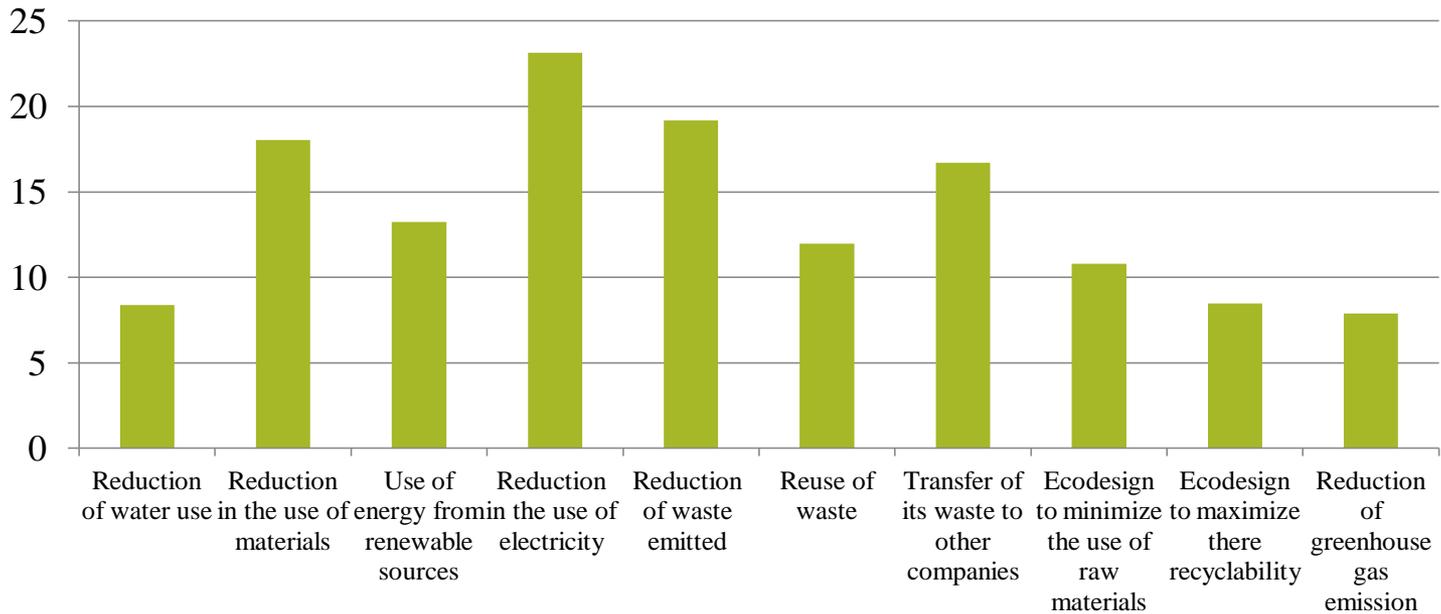


**Manufacturing is heavier.. But more innovative...**

**EU re-industrialisation strategy (vs?) climate and waste Targets**

**Environmental + industrial + innovation policy**

### % of Innovators by innovation typology



Source: Survey University of Ferrara- Cercis 2017-2018, own elaboration

# Complementarity is necessary

- Policy stringency, acceptability and credibility should further increase, but also complementarity
- knowledge complementarity 'culture'
  - Technological innovations
  - Organizational Innovations
  - Human resource management





ELSEVIER Journal of Accounting and Economics 19 (1995) 179–208

**JOURNAL OF  
Accounting  
& Economics**

## Complementarities and fit Strategy, structure, and organizational change in manufacturing

Paul Milgrom<sup>a</sup>, John Roberts<sup>\*, b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Department of Economics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6072, USA*

<sup>b</sup>*Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-5015, USA*

(Received September 1993; final revision received August 1994)

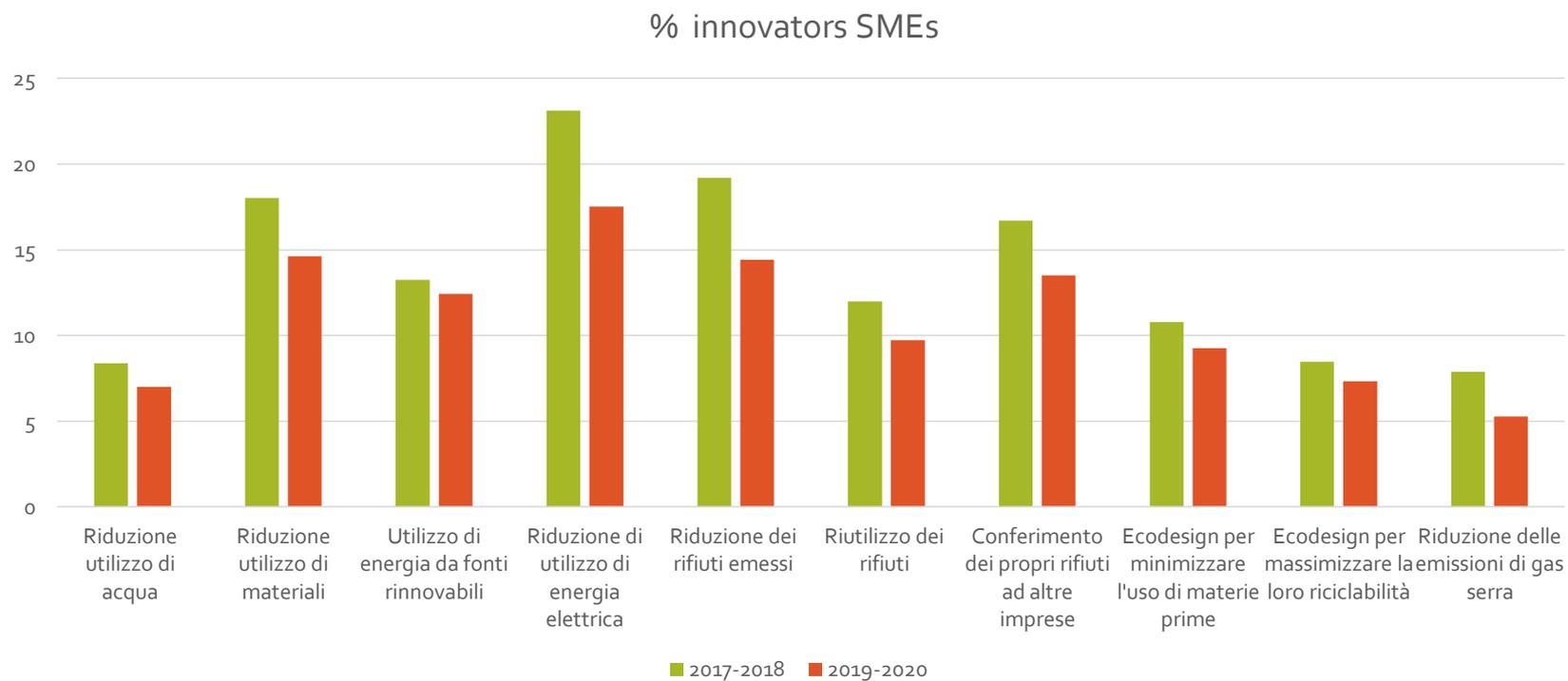
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### Abstract

The theories of supermodular optimization and games provide a framework for the analysis of systems marked by complementarity. We summarize the principal results of these theories and indicate their usefulness by applying them to study the shift to 'modern manufacturing'. We also use them to analyze the characteristic features of the Lincoln Electric Company's strategy and structure.



# Innovazioni circolari through COVID19



# BUSINESS MODELS IN SMES

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**Working  
Paper**  
**029.2020**

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**Which Innovations for  
Circular Business Models?  
A Product Life-Cycle  
Approach**

**Elisa Chioatto, Emy Zecca, Alessio D'Amato**

# Circular economy and different technological trajectories

- New Plastic economy (closing the loops within the firm and or creating consortia and agreements)
- Bio plastics from renewable sources and inventions

# Hybrid



  
**Buonristoro**  
VENDING GROUP

## Un cielo mille volte più blu!

# 10000



Abbiamo scelto di migliorare sensibilmente il contenuto ecologico dei nostri servizi.  
**Buonristoro usa solo Hybrid Cup** in tutti i distributori automatici di bevande calde.

Il progetto **Hybrid Cup**, ha permesso di **risparmiare in un anno\***, oltre **1.000 tonnellate di CO<sub>2</sub>** non immesse in atmosfera corrispondenti a oltre **400 tonnellate di petrolio risparmiato**, a favore di oltre **30.000 alberi**.

\*Grazie alla sostituzione dei bicchieri tradizionali.

D.A.E.M. SPA  
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Tel. 051.713556 - fax 051.713259 - daem@buonristoro.com

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800-226110



Local example of a small firm, cooperating with other firms



(Social capital)



Reduce but also rethink the plastic value chain

Plastics used for 7 years and after that almost fully recovered

Leasing, sharing economy, repair and reuse, closed loops, etc..

BIOLOGICO ORGANIC BIOLOGISK

5 elements

Lentils and bell peppers crumbles

**BEAN GRANOLA**

LEGUMI, VERDURE E PASTA MADRE CON **LENTICCHIE e PEPERONI**

«Non togliamo e non aggiungiamo nulla alle nostre materie prime.»

PLASTIC FREE PACK



- ACETO BALSAMICO TRADIZIONALE DI MODENA DOP
- AMARENE BRUSCHE DI MODENA IGP
- CILIEGIA DI VIGNOLA IGP
- MARRONE DI CASTEL DEL RIO IGP
- PATATA DI BOLOGNA DOP
- AGNELLO DEL CENTRO ITALIA IGP
- OLIO EXTRA VERGINE DI OLIVA DI BRISIGHELLA DOP
- SCALOGNO DI ROMAGNA IGP
- VITELLONE BIANCO DELL'APPENNINO CENTRALE IGP
- FORLÌ
- CESENA
- RIMINI
- SQUACQUERONE DI ROMAGNA DOP
- OLIO EXTRA VERGINE DI OLIVA COLLINE DI ROMAGNA DOP
- FORMAGGIO DI FOSSA DI SOGLIANO DOP
- CASCIOTTA D'URBINO DOP



# Food sector: smoothies and snacks (a bioeconomy circular business model)

- Input: fresh fruits (process of production max 12 degrees)
- **Use of PLA (polymer made from renewable resources) bio plastic for bottles** (constraint: currently limits of production), need of higher prices for petroleum based products, lower subsidies to fossils...
- **Use of legumes and vegetables for snacks**
  - Legumes also have a value for rotations in cultivating lands, legumes consumption is actually declining even if health and social value is high..
  - Fiber consumption...

# RECENT RESEARCH

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## INSIGHTS INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISSN 2669-0195 (online) <http://jssidoi.org/IRD/>

2022 Volume 4 Number 1 (March)

[http://doi.org/10.9770/IRD.2022.4.1\(4\)](http://doi.org/10.9770/IRD.2022.4.1(4))



**Publisher**

<http://jssidoi.org/esc/home>



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## INNOVATIONS AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

**Davide Antonioli<sup>1,4</sup>, Elisa Chioatto<sup>2,4</sup>, Massimiliano Mazzanti<sup>3,4</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3</sup> *University of Ferrara – Department of Economics and Management (Ferrara, Italy), V. Voltapaletto, 11, 44121, Ferrara, Italy*

<sup>4</sup> *SEEDS Sustainability, Environmental Economics and Dynamic Studies, Italy*

*E-mails:*<sup>1</sup> [davide.antonioli@unife.it](mailto:davide.antonioli@unife.it); <sup>2</sup> [elisa.chioatto@unife.it](mailto:elisa.chioatto@unife.it); <sup>3</sup> [massimiliano.mazzanti@unife.it](mailto:massimiliano.mazzanti@unife.it)

*Received 15 January 2022; accepted 13 March 2022; published 30 March 2022*

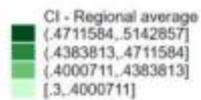
**Abstract.** The introduction of innovative practices compatible with the objectives of the circular economy is one of the main enablers for transforming current production patterns towards more sustainable and competitive systems. Understanding whether and to what extent firms are introducing circular-oriented innovations allows monitoring where we stand in the circular transition and thus which further efforts are needed to achieve a resource-efficient economy. This study is based on data from two surveys on Small and Medium Enterprises: the first one reaches 4565 companies located throughout Italy (in the two-year period 207-2018) and the second one focuses on 1603 companies operating in the Emilia-Romagna region (in the three-year period 2017-2019). The analysis is aimed at offering a broad insight into the role of firms in the circular economy transition, focusing on the identification of innovative practices. Despite the complexity of the transition, the study highlights the importance of the circular economy in the regional development process.

## INSIGHTS INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISSN 2669-0195 (online) <http://jssidoi.org/jesi/>

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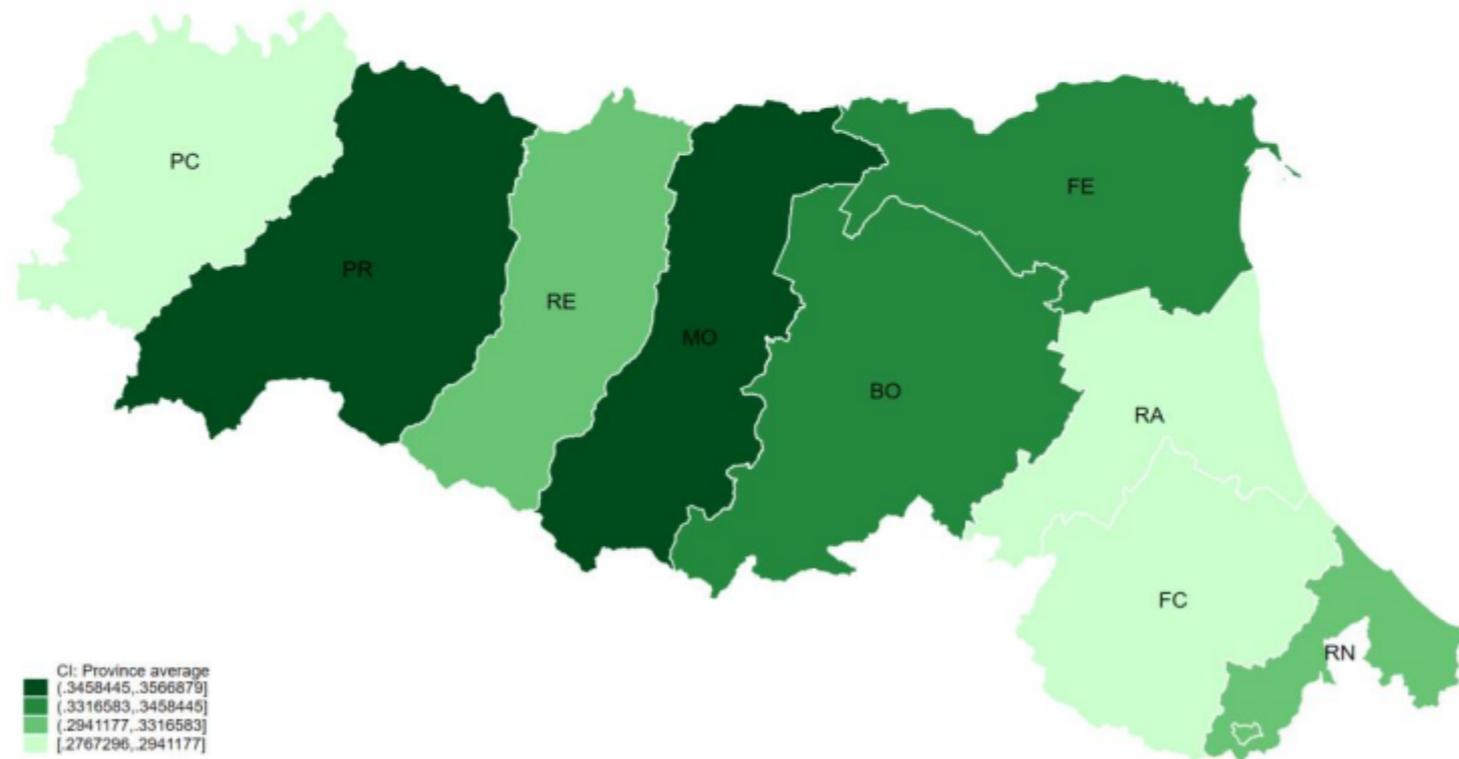


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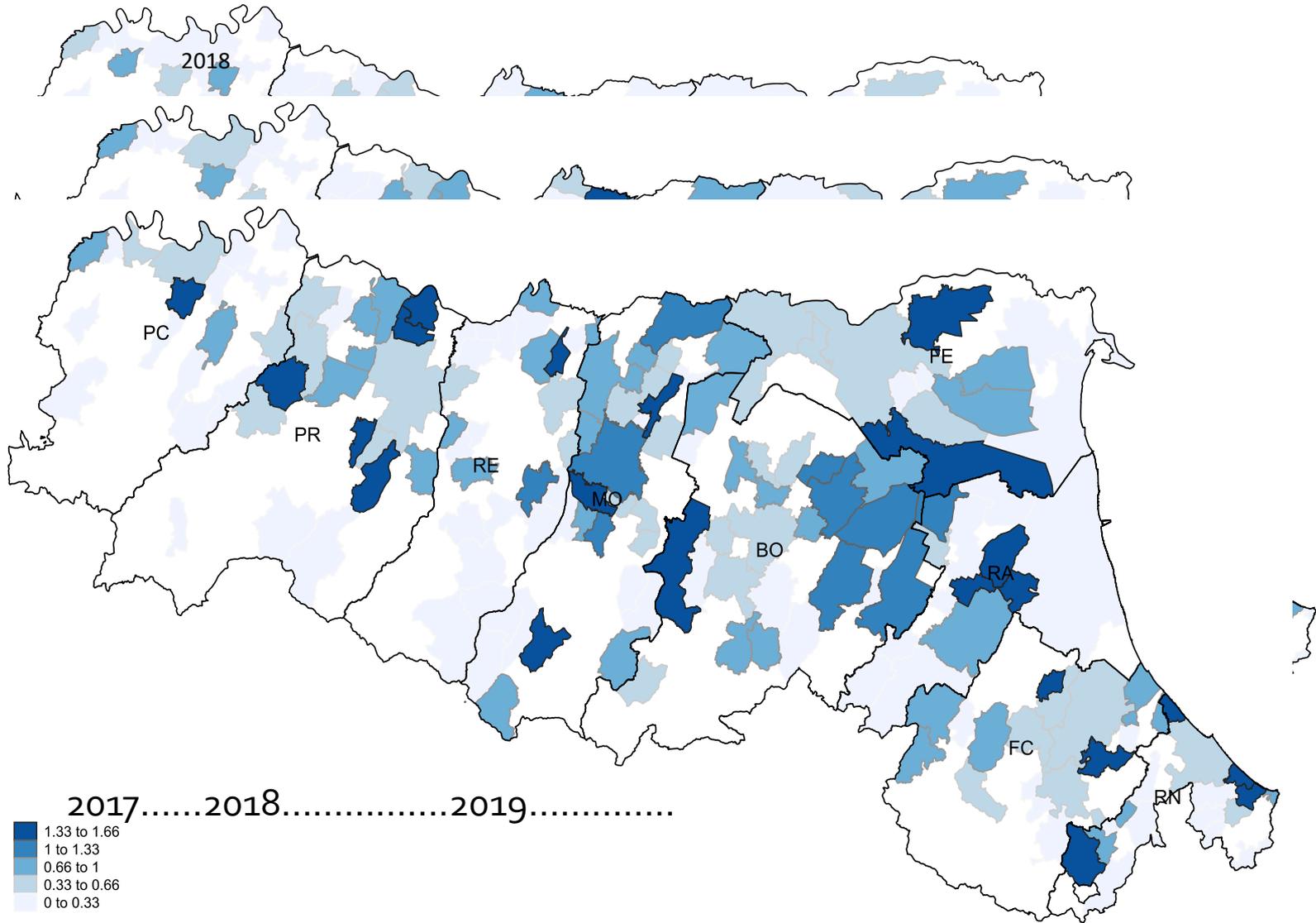
2022 Volume 4 Number 1 (March)

[http://doi.org/10.9770/IRD.2022.4.1\(4\)](http://doi.org/10.9770/IRD.2022.4.1(4))



**Figure 5.** Distribution of circular innovation (CI) in the different provinces of Emilia-Romagna

*Source:* Regional Survey, Cercis, 2020



February 2022



**Working  
Paper**

**06.2022**

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**Adoption of Eco and  
Circular Economy-  
Innovation in Italy:  
exploring  
different firm profiles**

**Massimiliano Mazzanti, Francesco Niccoli, Stefano Pareglo,  
Marco Quatrosi**

February 2022



# Working Paper

07.2022

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## **Innovation, Circular economy practices and organisational settings: empirical evidence from Italy**

**Davide Antonelli, Claudia Ghisetti, Stefano Pareglio, Marco  
Quatrosi**

# Sustainable production: The economic returns of circular economy practices

Davide Antonioli<sup>1,2</sup> | Claudia Ghisetti<sup>2,3</sup> | Massimiliano Mazzanti<sup>1,2</sup> |  
Francesco Nicoli<sup>2,4</sup> 

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University of Ferrara and SEEDS—Centre for  
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<sup>2</sup>Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Milan,  
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<sup>3</sup>Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca,  
Milan, Italy

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University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy

## Correspondence

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Email: francesco.nicoli@unife.it

## Abstract

Assessing the economic consequences of sustainable production choices aimed at reducing negative environmental externalities is crucial for policy making, in light of the increasing interest and awareness experienced in recent EU policy packages. This assessment is one of the goals of the current work, which tries to provide new empirical evidence on the economic returns of circular economy practices, drawing on previous literature on the underlying determinants of greener production choices, which are stated to differ from standard technological innovations as they are subject to a knowledge and an environmental externality. Using an original dataset on approximately 3000 Italian manufacturing firms, we provide evidence on the relations among innovations related to the circular economy concept and economic outcome in the short run. The evidence shows that in the short run, it is difficult to obtain economic gains from circular economy related innovations when taken in isolation, especially for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), who may also experience negative returns.