

Methods of implementing circular economy policies in Romania

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Abstract

Romania has made significant progress in the transition to a circular economy, moving from simple concepts to the implementation of national systems and a clear legislative framework. Circular economy practices in Romania have mixed results, with major success in packaging collection, but also slow progress in municipal waste management. For our country to surpass the current circularity level of 1.3% and reach over 12%, the European average, essential structural improvements are needed. Research in the field of circular economy has evolved from theoretical studies to applied analyses on specific economic sectors, using combinations of academic methodologies and public monitoring tools. The main research methods include: documentary and policy analysis; quantitative methods and monitoring indicators; sector studies and applied research; participatory and innovation methods. Their main purpose is to substantiate the transition from the linear to the circular economic model, providing a database for political and economic decisions. In essence, the research aims to: identify obstacles (Gap Analysis); prioritize sectors; resource efficiency and cost reduction; methods aimed at changing consumer behavior; and substantiation of action plans.

Keywords: circular economy, recycling, industrial symbiosis, eco-design