



Visioning Workshop 22.02.21 //

**Documentation &  
Letters from the Future**

# First clustered version of the Visioning Workshop Input

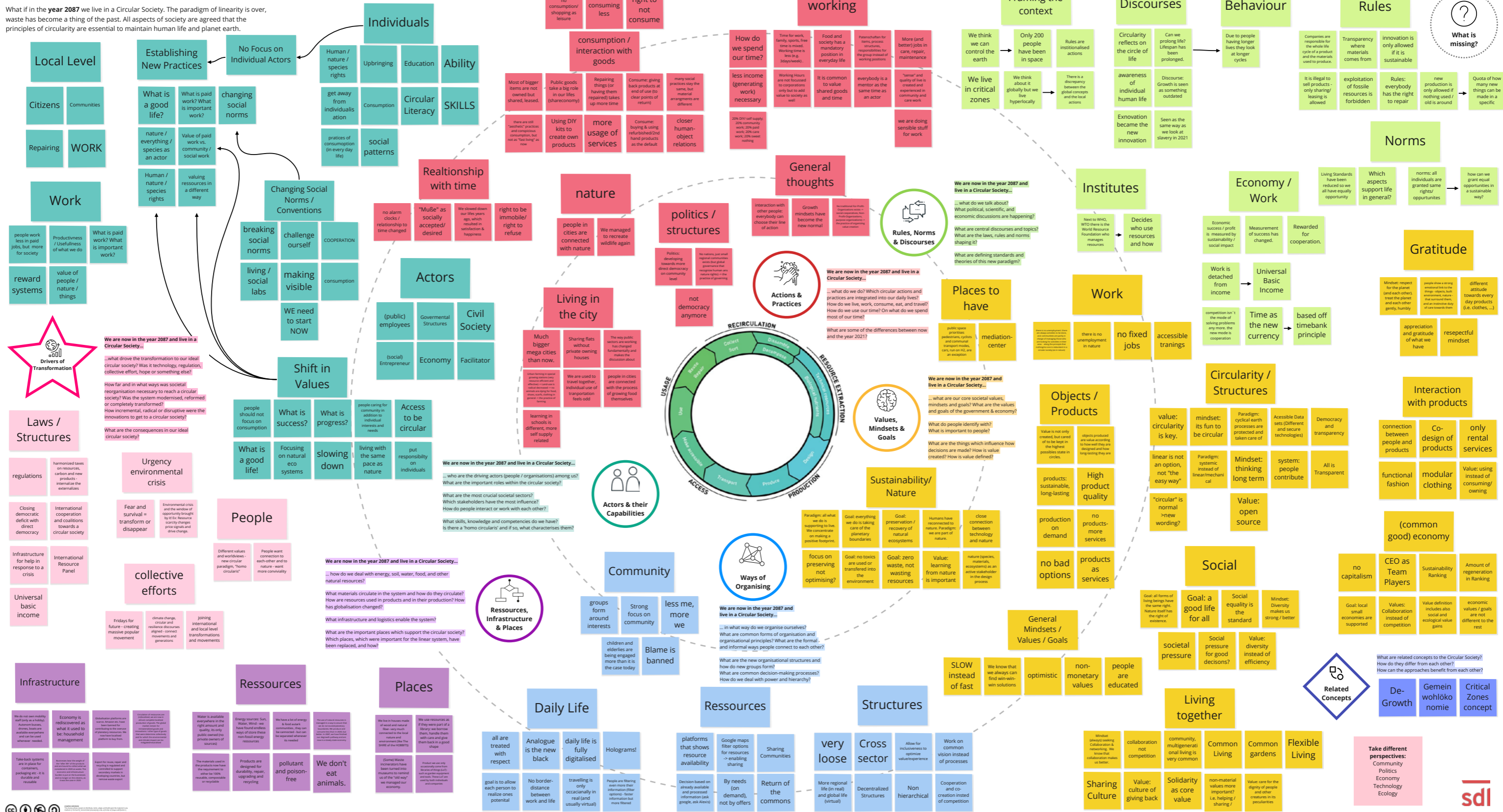
# CIRCULAR SOCIETY



# FORUM 2021

## In an ideal Circular Society...

What if in the year 2087 we live in a Circular Society. The paradigm of linearity is over, waste has become a thing of the past. All aspects of society are agreed that the principles of circularity are essential to maintain human life and planet earth.





## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

**Because of your efforts, our world now looks like this:**

I'm still enjoying the use of the modular repairable SEB hairdryer made back in 2021 (you can still find the parts online, and print them out at the local library) not to mention my beautiful energy efficient and self-sufficient CIRCLaus tiny house, also anno 2021, just outside Berlin, made of wood, where we enjoy our micro co-farm nearby and commute to the city once a week, otherwise working from home as bee-keepers and forest drone surveyors, and running the farm and local tool library (we're mostly all slashers or have portfolio careers now, not like in your day I guess). Our energy is all off-grid, my father came off the grid in his thirties, and we have smaller movable wind turbines for when it's really windy, so we can store a bit of extra power for those colder evenings.

Industry farming was finally fully abolished in 2041 – some of the older co-farmers here still remember those days, and it's taken us a while to get back to turkeys and hens which can actually walk again, but we did it,

and they now roam around quite content, knowing they may not even get eaten, fertilising the soil nicely for our beetroot and leek plants. The Americans here (many stayed on after the Tesla experiment) have Thanksgiving without turkey: nut roast and mushroom & pumpkin pie are the norm now, and we often celebrate it together, grateful for having made it and narrowly missed the climate cataclysm you all thought would take over back then.

My son occasionally asks me about the people back then who owned cars and houses, and wishes he could have his own red car for himself – I tell him there'd be nowhere to park it, and he'd need to know how to repair it. He's then quite happy with our shared beige H2-powered Taslaru which we share with the community, and with his modular e-bike. It's ok, you people made it, you can do it, just focus, think systems, cut out the competition stuff and inspire – with us. I hope this very long post-card gets to you – we stopped airmail long ago!

**Your friend from the circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

### Thank you for:

- comparing yourself less with others and their ambitions of consuming more and being successful in linear oriented companies
- thinking about things that you really need and want for yourself and not because others have them
- your frugality in the past, when others live in abundance
- trying new solutions

- your curiosity

- consideration of other humans , nature and things

### **Because of your efforts, our world now looks like this:**

slower with more consideration to ourselves and others.

## **Your friend from the circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for opening up yourself to resonance. Thank you for listening. Thank you for questioning yourself. Because of your efforts, the world got chance to interact, to disclose, to support.

World now looks very different. For individuals, for society, for economy. For all the other species so valuable on this planet. And mother earth itself.

For individuals, identities are no longer defined by salaries and time spend at the office. But by time spend with family, time spend for society, and for contributing to the whole.

For society, identity is no longer defined by GDP, industrialization and consumerism. But by happiness, access to a good life and sufficiency.

For economy, identity is no longer defined by higher, faster, further. But by good purpose, and with society and the environment in the middle.

We are looking in two directions. The past is our mirror. The future is our window. Let's open our windows to let in more light.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

thank you for your participation in this Visioning Workshop we did back in 2020 or 2021.

Because of your efforts and the movement this workshop spurred, we have finished the conversion to a circular society way ahead of what we deemed possible then.

As we now thrive and benefit from the new qualities we have found on our „spaceship earth“ it good looking back and acknowledging: actually it was easier than we had thought. But it needed enough people like you to believe in it and push forward, also when the going got tough.

Thx again!

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for taking the time to call out traditional economists and lobbyists and insisting that the way people, nature and things were valued, were destroying the world.

I realize that you had a difficult time ahead of you, when you started this movement, and that you went through a tumultuous time as the economic systems and economic thinking flipped away from growth, efficiency and exploitation, towards sufficient and inclusive modes of thinking and practicing valuing, care and circularity.

I hope that it can bring you some peace of mind to know that more-than-human species have legal rights in our world now, and that caring really is sharing.

Sincerely,

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for advancing the research on how to artificially develop meat in labs.

Because of your efforts even those you think they cannot give up on meat are empowered to live a sustainable life.

Even more important, because of your efforts we today live in a world that is characterised by no animal suffering, a better climate and energy balance.

Great joooob!

All the best,

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**





## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for thinking about us and our kids back in 2021 – despite all the other issues going on. It really paid off and it made a lot of sense.

Because of you this planet has really flourished since 2021.

Society feels a lot different from back then – more equal, fair and relaxed.

We found ways to use the potentials – of humans and of everything surrounding us.

Now we can focus on other issues and set new goals for every individual and our wellbeing.

Many thanks!

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for striving for social equality without exploiting our environment. Your ideas of a more sustainable future are the base of our collective mindset and the reason why we are still here.

**Because of your efforts, the world now looks like this:**

- regulations that only support sustainable innovation, regulations that make the exploitation of fossil resources impossible
- less competition, more acceptance
  - better mental health, well-being

- thoughts and actions are linked to an increased awareness of human life and the species around us
- equal opportunities for everyone

Cheers,

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for talking about the vision and promise of a Circular Society to every person that you have met in your life.

Because of your efforts, the world now looks like a world where all the individuals feel part of something bigger than themselves and have a great sense of responsibility, collectiveness, and respect to all species and resources.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Work is no longer valued according to how much economic growth it generates. It is valued according to what contribution it makes to ensuring a just and sustainable life.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for being impatient and a pain in the neck to your fellows. It must have been like this...

But because of your efforts, our oceans still have coral reefs! And they turned out to be the birthplace for a new intelligent species, that helped us to understand the oceans in the much better way than before...

Best!!!

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for always believing that we can transform the current growth paradigm and linear economy.

Because of your efforts, the world now looks like this: Ecology, economy and social issues go hand in hand. We humans are a large, diverse and respectful community and have found ways to treat each other and our natural world well.

Resources are not wasted - neither natural nor social.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



**DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,**

Thank you for the appreciation of social services.

**Because of your efforts, the world now  
looks like this:**



**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

I just wanted to thank you for all your efforts in 2021. We know you did not have it easy. You would have liked to have seen what your efforts brought, but it sounds as if your message was not in style. That's what we learn when studying the history of your time.

It is part of our structures to emphasise gratitude. Part of that appreciation is to look back to see the efforts the previous generations made for us to achieve prosperity.

This helps us to stay appreciative and to make sure there are no relapses into a negative or destructive state.

I speak for everyone in our community in professing our gratitude and to show your efforts are not in vain.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**





**DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,**

you are thinking on a more social, sustainable  
and justice world. Let me tell you it will be  
hard work but finally it will come to a good end.  
I hope this motivates you to continue,  
don't give up.

Regards and take care,

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for changing your habitus, although people around you do not always can relate. Because of your efforts, the world now looks like this: We've overcome some of your stupid habits, from that we know they where stupid but we sticked to.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

thank you for pushing circularity,  
talking about it, making it a topic!

**Because of your efforts, the world now  
looks like this:**

The earth circular systems are now widely  
respected and protected and our economy now  
mimics the earth circular systems. Our circular  
society now managed to live inside the planetary  
boundaries and all what we do supports live,  
ours and that of the other creatures.

What we produce and how we produce mimics  
nature, all is recyclable or biodegradable and  
goes back into cycles.

Sunny greetings

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



## DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,

Thank you for starting a global transformation of the United Nations.

Thanks to your efforts, we now have a global governance of the earth that is truly democratic and carried out directly by a group of 150 randomly selected citizens rather than nation states.

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



**DEAR CIRCULAR PIONEER,**

thank you spreading the idea of a circular economy. It gave me something to believe in, it enabled me to differentiate between good and bad. It helped me to take the right decisions so that I can leave a happy life.

Best,

**Your friend from the  
circular society future.**



Roadmapping Workshop 25.02.21 //

**Documentation**

# First clustered version of the Roadmapping Workshop Input



## Roadmapping Workshop / 25.02.21

### TODAY

### THE FUTURE

Take different perspectives: Community Politics Economy Technology Ecology	What do we have today? What do we already have to build on for our way to a Circular Society?	What hurdles do we face on the way to a Circular Society?	Steps for next year What next steps can be taken within the next year?
<b>Actions &amp; Practices</b>	<p>What are today's circular actions and practices? In what sense do people already live, work, consume, eat, travel the way they would in an ideal Circular Society?</p> <p><b>Activism &amp; movements</b>: Veganism, FFF, Clean Ups</p> <p><b>rules &amp; discourses</b>: Regulators, sufficiency discourses</p> <p><b>actions &amp; practices</b>: reuse is common practice, sharing economy, zero waste consumption, repair economy, repair-actives</p> <p><b>Spaces &amp; Infrastructure / Actors</b>: transition towns, Maker Labs, Solawi, Accelerator for sustainable startups</p>	<p><b>trapped in the niche</b>: still in a niche, short-term funding for niche projects</p> <p><b>legal barriers</b>: legal barriers for reuse of waste, open source, misleading pricing (subsidies)</p> <p><b>lack of shared understanding</b>: different understanding of new values, split in society</p> <p><b>knowledge barriers</b>: lack of understanding about the Open Source movement, knowledge gap</p> <p><b>lack of transparency</b>: no eco-transparency, low transparency and "open design"</p>	<p><b>Open Source Hardware (Fund)</b>: create a network of networks, learn from other movements, build circular Spaces/spaces of experimentation, easy / free access, Do it!</p> <p><b>build a critical mass!</b>: create vision and future scenarios (using the platform), Strengthen community and build critical mass, real experiments and projects, more research</p> <p><b>learning spaces</b>: education, build political movement, inspect and adapt</p>
<b>Values, Mindsets &amp; Goals</b>	<p>What are existing values, mindsets and goals of people, economy &amp; society which point towards Circular Society?</p> <p><b>Health</b>: wellbeing, mental growth</p> <p><b>Wealth</b>: wealth of nations from indigenous peoples, Pluralism, system thinking, Eco-centrism, Theory of Planetary Boundaries, with to save longer with planet</p> <p><b>transition movement</b>: fridays for the future, Repair-Café, Slow movement, Peace Movement, Sustainability, SDGS?!</p> <p><b>creativity ability to change</b>: Utopism, save spaces, Zero Waste Attitude</p> <p><b>ability &amp; willingness to connect</b>: Care and cooperation, solidarity, Democracy and deliberation, Commons</p>	<p><b>economic growth and competition narratives</b>: Survival of the fittest, Higher, faster, stronger, Growth, Profit</p> <p><b>egomism &amp; anthropocentrism</b>: egoism, consumption, Utilitarianism, individualism</p> <p><b>Path dependency</b>: existing structures, aversion against change, leaving the comfort zone</p> <p><b>Detachment</b>: Disengagement and disconnection, missing connections, Lack of connection and shared values, Lack of connection to the future</p> <p><b>lack of global cooperation</b>: scaling local but not thinking global!</p> <p><b>Lack of Political Clarity</b>: no pluralism, Linearity, Optimism</p>	<p><b>create vision and future scenarios (using the platform)</b>: create a common vision, create a common future</p> <p><b>Strengthen community and build critical mass</b>: create a common vision, create a common future</p> <p><b>real experiments and projects</b>: Participate in practical laboratory to experiment, create a common vision, create a common future</p> <p><b>more research</b>: Closing research gaps, Defining more research gaps</p> <p><b>Build political movement</b>: inspect and adapt</p>
<b>Ways of Organising</b>	<p>In what way do people already organise themselves? What are ways of organising practices of Circular Society?</p> <p><b>Circular Cities</b>: libraries, democracy, markets in allocation organisations, commons, sharing initiatives, second-hand markets, education</p> <p><b>urban mining</b>: social co-operatives, Offentliche Beschaffung, several alternatives / non-researched, transdisciplinary research, participation processes in urban planning</p> <p><b>Data basis</b>: Miro-Boards, GaiaX</p>	<p><b>legal frameworks/ regulatory policies</b>: Stärkung des Verbraucherschutzes, Incentives for consumers, market incentive structures, Herstellernachwuchs</p> <p><b>Loss of skills and knowledge over generations</b>: general practices are "forgotten" / not passed on to the next generations, education on ALL LEVELS</p> <p><b>economic system</b>: competitive and profit-driven economy, economic value over all</p> <p><b>comfort zone</b>: demand-driven, demand-driven, demand-driven</p>	<p><b>raise awareness / build critical mass</b>: raise awareness of the value of the circular economy, raise awareness of the value of the circular economy</p> <p><b>change laws and rules</b>: incentives for products, organisations and activities, changing laws and regulations</p> <p><b>democratisation of organisations</b>: democratisation of organisations, democratisation of organisations</p> <p><b>integrate CE in education system</b>: integrate CE in education system, integrate CE in education system</p>
<b>Actors &amp; their Capabilities</b>	<p>Who is already pushing towards Circular Society today? What are their circular skills and knowledge (circular literacy)?</p> <p><b>policy makers</b>: representation of public interests, designers of products, services, infrastructures, civil society</p> <p><b>Tech startups</b>: Purpose Companies, Tech startups, Purpose Companies</p> <p><b>Leading Heads</b>: NGOs, Environmental NGOs, NGOs</p> <p><b>Who is missing at the forum?</b>: H2020 funds for teaching are often not apply</p>	<p><b>Who is missing at the forum?</b>: H2020 funds for teaching are often not apply</p> <p><b>policy makers</b>: representation of public interests, designers of products, services, infrastructures, civil society</p> <p><b>Tech startups</b>: Purpose Companies, Tech startups, Purpose Companies</p> <p><b>Leading Heads</b>: NGOs, Environmental NGOs, NGOs</p> <p><b>What is missing at the forum?</b>: Awareness in society, Material Diversity, How to and for research, Narratives, How to get faster?, Everyday life</p>	<p><b>raise awareness / build critical mass</b>: raise awareness of the value of the circular economy, raise awareness of the value of the circular economy</p> <p><b>change laws and rules</b>: incentives for products, organisations and activities, changing laws and regulations</p> <p><b>democratisation of organisations</b>: democratisation of organisations, democratisation of organisations</p> <p><b>integrate CE in education system</b>: integrate CE in education system, integrate CE in education system</p>
<b>Resources, Infrastructure &amp; Places</b>	<p>What materials already circulate in the system? What are their infrastructures? What are central places?</p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b>: OPNV, Normen/Standards, CC, Glas, Papier, Euro-Kisten, Wissen</p> <p><b>Ressources</b>: Glas, Papier, Euro-Kisten, Wissen</p> <p><b>Privatisierung &amp; Kapitalismus</b>: Privates, Kapitalismus, Blindheit</p> <p><b>knowledge action gap</b>: Wissen, Blindheit</p> <p><b>lack of standardisation</b>: keine Standards, keine Standards</p> <p><b>prices do not show costs</b>: Kosten, keine Standards</p> <p><b>Patente</b>: Patente</p>	<p><b>Privatisierung &amp; Kapitalismus</b>: Privates, Kapitalismus, Blindheit</p> <p><b>knowledge action gap</b>: Wissen, Blindheit</p> <p><b>lack of standardisation</b>: keine Standards, keine Standards</p> <p><b>prices do not show costs</b>: Kosten, keine Standards</p> <p><b>Patente</b>: Patente</p>	<p><b>infrastructure</b>: infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure</p> <p><b>interdisciplinary collaboration platforms</b>: interdisciplinary collaboration platforms, interdisciplinary collaboration platforms</p> <p><b>new policies, laws, rules</b>: new policies, laws, rules, new policies, laws, rules</p> <p><b>attractive alternatives</b>: attractive alternatives, attractive alternatives</p> <p><b>mind shift</b>: mind shift, mind shift</p>
<b>Rules, Norms &amp; Discourses</b>	<p>What are today's circular laws, rules and norms? Which discourses and topics already lead towards a Circular Society?</p> <p><b>discourses</b>: Universal Basic Income, CSF, CE and CS laws</p> <p><b>CE and CS certifications</b>: Cradle to Cradle Certifications, Cradle to Cradle Certifications</p> <p><b>Ownership vs use</b>: Ownership vs use, Ownership vs use</p> <p><b>understanding of value and its measurement</b>: understanding of value and its measurement, understanding of value and its measurement</p> <p><b>Norms: Consumption</b>: Norms: Consumption, Norms: Consumption</p>	<p><b>Ownership vs use</b>: Ownership vs use, Ownership vs use</p> <p><b>understanding of value and its measurement</b>: understanding of value and its measurement, understanding of value and its measurement</p> <p><b>Norms: Consumption</b>: Norms: Consumption, Norms: Consumption</p>	<p><b>new institutions, certification systems and facilitation laws</b>: new institutions, certification systems and facilitation laws, new institutions, certification systems and facilitation laws</p> <p><b>education</b>: education, education</p> <p><b>Lobbying in government</b>: Lobbying in government, Lobbying in government</p> <p><b>A visible movement</b>: A visible movement, A visible movement</p>



**1) Promote broad dialogues, participatory and democratising processes to collectively define and strive for good economic practices and living in a sustainable future. Strengthening the CS community and building a critical mass by e.g. :**

- inviting diverse groups to collaborate and reach more people outside the “sustainability bubble”
  - addressing policy and decision makers as well as citizens
  - strengthening the CS discourse in the business community
  - making use of collaboration platforms (like CSF), e.g. for collaborative roadmapping process
  - building a political movement / lobbying group
  - democratising organisations
  - fostering direct democracy on a local level
- 

**2) Promote CS experimentation, research and learning spaces, to test, develop and experience new practices, organisational forms, processes and rules as well as forms of dealing with resources and togetherness by, e.g.:**

- establishing unconditional and long-term funded real-world labs
  - making open spaces accessible
  - establishing Circular Centres in each city for information and action
  - fostering circular cities and circular rural communities
  - fostering circular literacy in education system
- 

**3) Promote the introduction of supportive legislation and incentives, e.g., in the form of subsidies for circular practices and rewards for cooperation, as well as an open source infrastructure to encourage transparency, participation and (social) innovation for a Circular Society, e.g.:**

- by setting up and making use of collaboration and open source platforms (like CSF)
- by enabling the use of Open Source Hardware: Transfer the idea of a prototype fund for open source software to the area of hardware
- by transferring the “public money = public code” – principle to other public funded spheres





We will continue to work with the outcomes from the visioning and roadmapping workshop. If you want to follow the updates, have a look at the forum's network: <https://www.circularsociety.de/>, join the active community: <https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/935L5VQ> or subscribe to the Hans Sauer Foundation newsletter: <https://www.hanssauerstiftung.de/newsletter/>