Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)–European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

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**European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform:**

**What is the Platform and how can stakeholders take part in it?**

The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform is a virtual open space whose aim is to promote the transition to a circular economy by facilitating policy dialogue among stakeholders and by disseminating activities, information, and good practices on the circular economy. Stakeholders will be able to take part in the Platform by participating in the annual conference and by interacting on the website to look for good practices, to engage with other stakeholders and to share their own good practices and events.

**Who can become a member of the Platform?**

The Platform is a virtual open space. As such there is no specific membership related to it. Interaction with the Platform will happen through a public website available in the fall 2017.

**Who is running the Platform?**

The Platform is a joint initiative of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Commission. The EESC provides for the Secretariat of the Platform and the website.

**How is the Platform's website going to work?**

The Platform’s website will feature circular economy-related content such as national strategies and good practices, published studies and events relevant to the circular economy. The website will be participatory and user friendly and it will foster the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices.

The Platform’s website will be built initially from the contributions of the applicants to the call for expressions of interest. However, once ready, all stakeholders are invited to submit good practices that will be made available to others.

The Platform’s website will be ready by the fall 2017.

**Which activities are funded by the Platform?**

The Platform is neither a funding tool nor a financial instrument and does not have a dedicated budget for funding projects and initiatives.

**Coordination Group of the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform:**

**What is the Coordination Group?**

The Coordination Group is the group created via a call for expression of interest to provide guidance to the Platform’s activities, reinforce the interaction between stakeholders, supervise and facilitate the exchange of good practices and, last but not least, foster European debate on issues related to the circular economy.

**Who can become a member of the Coordination Group?**

Membership of the Coordination Group is reserved to existing network/platform/organisation specialising in the field of circular economy. These include:

- **Multistakeholder groups** typically gathering businesses, trade unions, not-for-profit associations, local authorities, academic organisations, etc.)
- Stakeholders groups of **national or multinational businesses** or of **trade unions**, qualified either by a sector or along the value chain.
- **Stakeholders groups of regional or other sub-national authorities** such as cities, local and municipal authorities or their representation offices.
- **Universities, schools, research centres or think tanks** and other similar bodies performing academic, research and/or educational activities in a network.

These organisations will have to prove their capacity to engage with stakeholders across sectors and to demonstrate their broad vision of the circular economy.

The networks, platforms and organisations should already have a pool of identified best practices in the circular economy and have proven experience in sharing them with other stakeholders. These networks, platforms and organisations are expected to share these good practices with the Platform.

The networks, platforms and organisations need to appoint a representative with experience in representing his/her organisation and willing to proactively participate in the Coordination Group.

**Can an individual company, trade union or a city be member of the Coordination Group?**

No. Individual companies, individual trade unions or individual public authorities cannot be member of the Coordination Group. As stated in its Terms of Reference (ToR), the Coordination Group will bring together circular economy-related:

- Multi-stakeholder networks/platforms;
- Groupings/organisations of businesses, of trade unions and from civil society;
- Networks of national, regional and local public authorities/bodies;
- Organisations from the knowledge and research communities, think-tanks, universities.

Private companies and public bodies will be represented in the Coordination Group if they are members of the networks selected as member of the Coordination Group. Moreover, private companies and public bodies are encouraged to contribute to the activities of the Platform by submitting good practices, sharing related events and by engaging with other stakeholders.

**What is expected from the future members of the Coordination Group?**

Members need to be proactive and show their constant and regular commitment to disseminating the concept of the circular economy at national; regional and local level, to reinforce the cooperation among stakeholders and to provide a framework for exchange and discussion. They need to be confident that they can dedicate sufficient energy and resources to their role as laid out in the Terms of Reference (ToR):

- provide guidance to the Platform’s activities;
- reinforce the interaction between stakeholders;
- supervise and facilitate the exchange of good practices;
- foster European debate on issues related to the circular economy.

The Coordination Group is meant to be a dynamic group mobilising networks with activities stretching to the members of the networks and beyond. Regular meetings of the Coordination Group requiring the presence in Brussels are not foreseen as a core activity of the Coordination Group. Nonetheless, the members will meet at least once a year.

**Which expenses are covered for being member of the Coordination Group?**

Most of the activities of the Coordination Group will not require that the members meet in person and whenever possible they will rely on on-line tools managed by the Secretariat. Nonetheless, the members of the Coordination Group will meet at least once a year. Travel and accommodation expenses incurred by participants in this annual meeting of the Coordination Group shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force at the Commission within the limits of the available budgetary appropriations. There will not be other reimbursement available.
How is the Coordination Group related to the Platform?

The Coordination Group coordinates the activities of the Platform. It is supported in its tasks by a Secretariat run by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The members of the Coordination Group contribute to gather best practices on circular economy, to raise awareness about existing national, regional or local strategies, to identify challenges and opportunities for the transition to a circular economy among policy makers, businesses, trade unions, civil society, etc.

How can I submit a good practice on circular economy?

A network or an individual company/public authority will be able to submit its own good practice via the website. As indicated in the Terms of Reference (ToR), the Coordination Group will supervise and facilitate the exchange of the good practices submitted.