

TRACK INFORMATION

Title: Inter-organisational collaboration for a better and “circular” future

Outline (max. 300 words):

This track calls for papers investigating the relationship between inter-organisational collaboration and Circular Economy (CE) initiatives. The papers should address how inter-organisational collaborations (e.g. open innovation initiatives) can influence the implementation of CE initiatives and how CE initiatives can favour or hinder inter-organisational collaborations.

In the last decades, economic growth has been sustained by technological innovations. These technological innovations often neglected the constraints imposed by our planet and the impact of human activities on the environment. Currently, technological and organisational trends are heading towards novel approaches that consider such constraints and reduce the impact of human activities on the environment. A much-discussed one is transitioning from a linear economy to a CE. However, progress in implementing CE initiatives has been slow so far, with the global economy becoming less rather than more “circular” (Circle Economy, 2021). A relevant reason behind such slow progress often is the lack of collaboration among the actors involved (Mignacca et al., 2020). Recent studies investigated the link between the implementation of CE initiatives and inter-organisational collaboration. For instance, Eisenreicht al. (2021) pointed out how a closed innovation approach often hinders the development of CE solutions. Moreover, Bocken and Ritala (2021) introduced the concept of open innovation strategy in the context of circular business models, highlighting that an open innovation strategy could provide a rapid scale-up of reuse initiatives.

Understanding the dynamics underlying the link between CE and inter-organisational collaboration is crucial. On the one hand, inter-organisational collaboration could be a cornerstone for implementing CE initiatives. On the other hand, CE initiatives could trigger inter-organisational collaboration and open innovation projects.

Despite the growing interest in both CE initiatives and inter-organisational collaboration, the research on their relationship is still in its early stages. Therefore, this track invites manuscripts investigating the link between inter-organisational collaborations and CE initiatives.

Indicate a maximum of 5 key topics to be addressed in the track:

Research questions of particular attention are:

- How do circular economy initiatives change according to the innovation approach (open vs closed)?
- Under which circumstances may open innovation stem from circular economy initiatives?
- How does the role of inter-organisational collaborations change between circular economy initiatives in mass-produced goods and complex products and systems?
- Do circular economy initiatives triggered by open innovation perform better than other circular economy initiatives, such as those that are entirely developed internally?
- Which are the micro-foundations triggering collaboratively developed circular economy initiatives?

This track remains open to any other related research questions as long as they shed light on the relationship between circular economy initiatives and inter-organisational collaborations. We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions.

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Is the Track part of a Special Issue? If so, please, indicate:
Journal: Creativity and Innovation Management
Title of the Special Issue: Creativity and innovation management to pursue circular economy
Key dates: The window for full paper submissions will be open from 30 January 2023 to 30 July 2023