

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE NORDIC - BALTIC REGION:

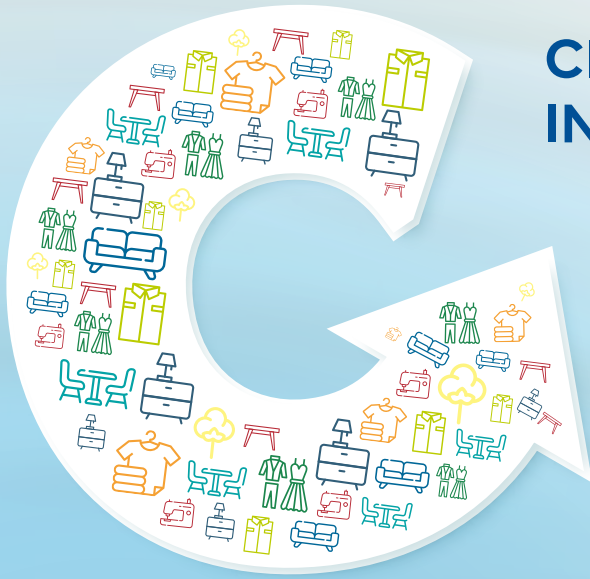
# HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

10th September, 2019

ALTUM Conference Hall  
(Dome Square 4, Riga, Latvia)

**#CircularEconomy**

**#SustainableTextilesEU #CircularProcurement #CircularPP**



Organised by Latvian Environmental Investment Fund, Green Liberty, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Latvia, Stockholm Environmental Institute and Embassy of the Netherlands to Latvia

The purpose of the event is to continue the dialogue about progress towards circular economy in public and private sectors among the main stakeholders - consumers, suppliers, policy makers and legislators, as well as academic and nongovernmental experts and media.

The role of local governments is to promote and implement circular economy through innovative procurements, while the role of entrepreneurs is to develop smart and sustainable business models, products and services.

For too long, our societies have relied on a linear economic model, where we take natural resources, make products and - after a brief period of time - discard them as waste. This inefficient modus operandi depletes natural resources, requires large quantities of energy, creates waste and is not sustainable.

Circular economy offers an alternative model where products are not discarded as waste after they stop being used, they preserve as much value as possible for as long as possible - by prolonging working life, sharing, repairing, reusing, recycling and using them as raw materials for the production of new products. This approach reduces waste, energy consumption, saves natural resources, creates new jobs and is more cost-effective.

The conference is organised in cooperation with EU Interreg BSR project "Using innovation procurement and capacity building to promote Circular Economy (Circular PP)" and the Nordic-Baltic collaboration project "Towards Nordic-Baltic circular textile system: an analyses of post-consumer textiles in Baltic countries, recommendations for policy interventions and sector development" funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Please register till 4<sup>th</sup> of September

» REGISTRATION HERE «

Supporters:

 Nordic Council of Ministers'  
Office in Latvia

 Zajā brīvība

 LATVIJAS VĒRTĪBĪGĀS INVESTĪCIJAS FONDS  
LATVIAN ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT FUND

 Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region  
Circular PP

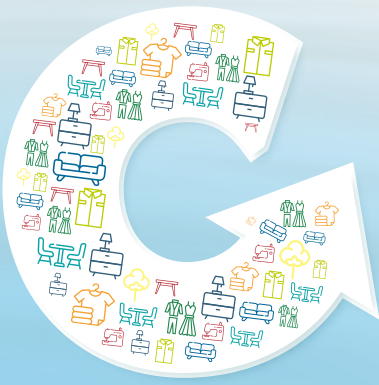


 NDPC  
Northern Dimension  
Partnership on Culture

 Kingdom of the Netherlands

PROGRAM





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#SustainableTextilesEU #CircularProcurement  
#CircularPP

## AGENDA

**Moderator: Viesturs Celmiņš, Anthropologist**

**9:30 Coffee & Registration**

**10:00 Opening remarks**

- Juris Pūce, Latvian Minister of Environment and Regional Development
- Stefan Eriksson, Director of Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia
- Govert Jan Bijl De Vroe, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Latvia

**10:20 Circular Economy – opportunities and barriers**

- Rudīte Vesere, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
- Barbara van Offenbeek-Kuipers, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

**11:00 Future of Textiles in Circular Economy**

- Elis Benediktsson, *Nordic innovation* (tbc)

**11:30 Future of Furniture in Circular Economy**

- Mervyn Jones, *Sustainable Global Resources Ltd*

**12:00 Lunch**

**12:40 Introductory presentation of a practical example: Tor Sjödin, Soeco Kontorsmöbler**

**13:00 PANEL: Why Circular economy?**

- Alise Ābola, Pavasara mēbeles, Founder-designer
- Katrīna Zariņa, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, board member
- Jana Simanovska, Latvian Environmental Investment fund, environmental expert
- Alda Ozola, Ministry of Environment and Regional Development, deputy state secretary
- Gints Kukainis, Mayor of Smiltene

**13:40 Introductory presentation of a practical example from the region: Els Lenting, Dutch centre for circular textiles**

**14:00 PANEL: How Circular is the Nordic Baltic Value Chain in textiles?**

- David Watson, *PlanMiljø*, senior consultant
- Dace Akule, *NGO Green Liberty*, sustainable fashion expert
- Janis Aizbalts, *SIA Eco Baltia vide*, director
- Kaj Pihl, *Humana International*, environmental and recycling advisor

**14:40 Wrap-up**

**15:00 Refreshments and networking**