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Workpackage:

WP4 Case studies

This document is about the methodology and selection of the case studies. It is meant as a guideline for the case studies, and together with the other reports in this work package can be a source of information for policy officers, interest groups and researchers evaluating or performing impact assessments of circular economy policies or specific circular economy projects. The methodology was developed to ensure that the case studies focus on the overall impacts of the circular economy. The frame of the methodology is a step-by-step approach, which will be described in sections 3 and 4 of this document. In Section 2, we describe the selection of the case studies. The methodology for the case studies is described in this document, whereas the case studies themselves, using this methodology, are provided in the workshop papers and will be summarized in the final report of this work package. The purpose of the case studies is to show how an analysis of the impacts of circular economy processes may go beyond the direct impacts. We do not only study the impact at a sector or chain level, but also focus on potential influences on society as a whole, i.e. for the environment, productivity in the sector and related sectors, consumers, imports and exports, and employment. Next to this, possibilities to scale up the circular process and enabling factors and barriers for implementation are analysed. Based on this also policy options are formulated. Many initiatives for the circular economy are still in a pilot phase. Therefore, future developments are important. For example, what are the effects of upscaling the business case, both for profitability and social effects? We propose to focus the analysis on expected developments of the business case and the final impacts when the transition has been completed.

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