

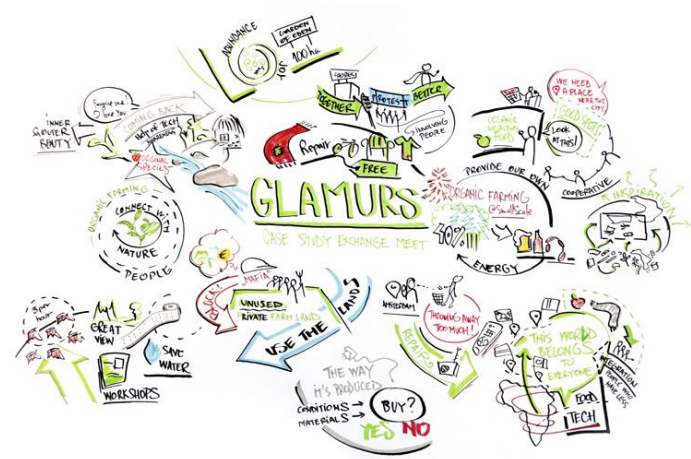
# Circular Economies from the Grassroots

Wouter Spekkink – Assistant Professor in Governance  
Department of Public Administration and Sociology (EUR)

19 November 2020

# Nice to meet you!

- Assistant professor with DPAS, EUR since Sept. 2019
  - TU Delft (2015-2016)
  - Sustainable Consumption Institute in Manchester (2016-2019)
- PhD obtained at EUR, focused on Industrial Symbiosis
- Interested in:
  - Sustainability and governance
  - Process-oriented methods



*Erasmus*

# Why “Circular Economies from the Grassroots”?

## OUTLINE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### PRINCIPLE

# 1

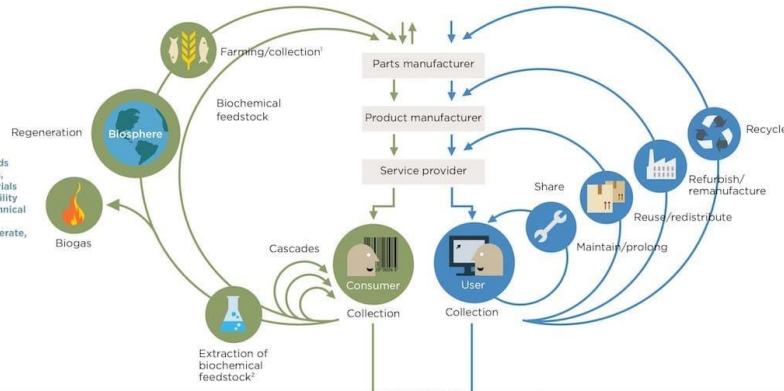
Preserve and enhance natural capital by controlling finite stocks and balancing renewable resource flows  
ReSOLVE levers: regenerate, virtualise, exchange



### PRINCIPLE

# 2

Optimise resource yields by circulating products, components and materials in use at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles  
ReSOLVE levers: regenerate, share, optimise, loop



### PRINCIPLE

# 3

Foster system effectiveness by revealing and designing out negative externalities  
All ReSOLVE levers



1. Hunting and fishing  
2. Can take both post-harvest and post-consumer waste as an input  
Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, SUN, and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment, Drawing from Braungart & McDonough, Cradle to Cradle (CCC).



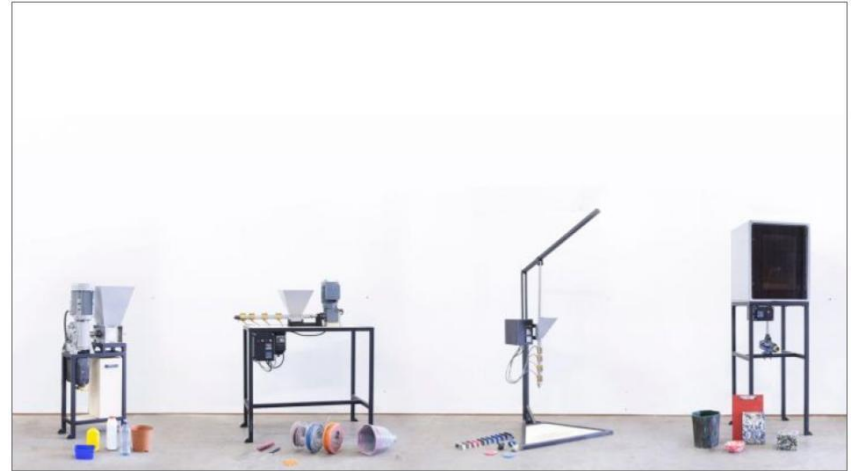
According to this view, your main role (as consumer / user) is to read green certificates and consume 'circular products and services'.

# Examples of Circular Economies from the Grassroots

## Repair Cafés



## Precious Plastic



<https://www.sci.manchester.ac.uk/research/projects/coordination-of-grassroots-innovation-networks/>

*Erasmus*

# Why are these kinds of initiatives important?

- Maintaining, reshaping and spreading 'endangered practices'
- We are not just consumers / users, but active participants in the circular economy
- Promoting visions of how we live *together* in sustainable futures
- Creating a livelihood for people in many different parts of the world based on sustainable practices
- *They provide a different vision of the place of 'people' in circular economies*



*Erasmus*

**THANK YOU**

A photograph showing the words "THANK YOU" spelled out using ten light-colored wooden blocks. Each block has a single letter in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The blocks are arranged in a single row on a thick, weathered wooden plank. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural setting like a forest or garden. The lighting is warm and even, highlighting the texture of the wood.