

Circularity Dataset Initiative – May 29, 2020

Finalization of phase 1 and continuation

The Circularity Dataset Initiative's aim to develop an international industry standard that provides a regulated framework for circular data on products throughout the whole value chain is progressing smoothly. The report of phase one was submitted and highlighted several key achievements like the elaboration of a light PCDS in collaboration with a group of 30 international organizations (Dataset Working Group, DWG). The PCDS system is an outstanding solution, which aims at solving what had never been solved before i.e. a workable and standardized tool for facilitating the access and the exchange of circularity data throughout the supply chain, which is a key paradigm shift. In addition, the PCDS is intended to be completed on the basis of how the manufacturer designed its own product to be used, and not on how the next user in the value chain intends to use this product.

The Steering Group:

1. created a high engagement and a constructive dynamic in the DWG
2. developed a proof of concept that was tested and adopted by a series of companies and some of their suppliers
3. developed a Guidance Document for a light PCDS, which represents a strong basis for the development of a standard
4. developed a skeleton audit procedure and a guiding framework for the IT system, which serve as key inputs for further development
5. gained significant support for this initiative from many stakeholders including thought leaders and key leading circularity evaluators
6. gained active support from certification bodies such as the Cradle-to-Cradle Product Innovation Institute
7. identified potential pilot projects to demonstrate the added value of the PCDS and is collaborating with different platforms.

The achievements in phase 1 and the positive feedback received so far provide a strong impetus for the development of the PCDS as an international standard in the circular economy. The Ministry of the Economy therefore decided to continue to support the second phase of the PCDS project, which has as main objective to pilot the PCDS in different sectors and make it evolve based on the resulting feedback. In parallel the development of the standard, auditing system and data exchange protocol will be detailed.