



**10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy of Baltic Sea Region
12-13th of June, 2019
Gdańsk, Poland**

SUMMARY REPORT

Seminar: *Localising Circular Economy - Creative solutions for challenges of our time*

Time: 13 June 2019, 13.15 - 14.45

Transition to circular economy requires common efforts in all directions and of all actors, from national to local governments, from innovative business sectors to specialists in designing creative solutions. In particular, sustainability and cultural aspects cannot be seen as separate sectors on their own, but must be integrated into the common efforts of bringing about the change towards sustainable economies that benefit people, planet and prosperity. We will be successful in implementing this shift only if we break our sectorial and governance silos, and will collect the already existing ideas and implement them into our own contexts.

The seminar engaged actors from different Baltic Sea Region (BSR) countries and different levels of governance. These experts showcased good examples which have adopted creative and/or innovative sustainable solutions in supporting the transition to circular economy.

Maciej Hofman, from the EU Commission, provided an overview of how the cultural sector supports the implementation of the EU Circular Economy strategies, and showcased projects and good practices on cultural hubs and competitions for material designers.

Ugis Zanders, from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia, highlighted the role of public procurement in the path towards sustainability, and illustrated existing tools of circular public procurement in the construction and IT sectors

Charlotte Lundqvist, from the municipality of Umeå in Sweden, showcased in practice how Umeå made use of the creativity and citizens' engagement developed during the year as European Capital of Culture to redefine the municipalities' goals and address them towards sustainability

Nina Alkærsg Jensen, from Kalundborg Symbiosis Center in Denmark, stressed the role of the private sector in the industrial symbiosis example. Dialogue with the local authorities and the citizens is key, as is the need for flexibility and innovation when adapting to new market opportunities



Henryk Stawicki, Design Strategist at Change Pilot in Poland, demonstrated how designers are already providing circular solutions by using recycled and recovered materials already in the early design phase, by optimizing the production to reduce material use, and by improving the performance of products for longer life cycle

Aizhan, participant of the Youth Camp of the EUSBSR, explained how the game of Maritime Spatial Planning helped her understand the complexity of landscape design. The skills learnt from this holistic approach can be applied to any field of strategic planning and she will use them in her professional life