

International webinar ECLAC- YABT

Productive transformation with circularity

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Introduction

For ECLAC and for the youth hemispheric agenda, the promotion of a proposal for productive transformation based on a circularity scheme is a priority. We understand circularity as a model of productive transformation based on the efficient use of resources, technological innovation, and collaborative development between actors in value chains. This also means supporting the design of action plans to promote the transition of value chains towards the development of a circular economy.

In the analysis of progress towards circularity, it is important to consider the current economic situation. In terms of the health crisis resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic, it has not come to an end and its effects seem to be mid to long term. However, the current situation can help drive a recovery based on sustainable and inclusive economic development that reduces instability, and addresses low output growth, growing inequality, and the environmental crisis. A proposal that contributes to the 2030 agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, and to the decarbonization of the region's economies, which contribute 8.3% of global emissions. The growing adoption of ESG criteria, currently a worldwide trend, is also a step in that direction.

The so-called green productive transformation demands an effort with a strong innovative component both in the development of instruments and policies aimed at promoting initiatives aligned with the circularity of economies, which also includes innovative forms of financing these processes, and in the construction of a culture that promotes and supports the economic, social, and environmental transformations that are required in targeted educational societies and programs. As countries implement their circularity strategies and raise awareness among different groups in society, new opportunities emerge for different economic sectors.

To face the current environmental crisis, economies require a holistic approach in the process of generating innovations that consider their carbon footprint and social impacts.

In this scenario, the contribution of digital transformation will be key. For instance, the use of the technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution can allow a less carbon-intensive recovery, the optimization of energy consumption through the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence is an example of this.

On the other hand, the reconfiguration of infrastructure using 4.0 technologies such as the means of transport electromobility, more efficient distribution of energy, a more resilient construction, and in general the use of technology in the design of urban systems and smart cities.

The role of governments in creating regulatory standards and frameworks to accompany the development of new technologies is also key.

We are talking about a paradigm shift where there are coordinated efforts (governments – companies – civil society and academia) that accompany the change in citizen culture and business models. In a

circular economy new business models are expressed in the efficient use of resources, the reduction of waste, the improvement of added value of resources, the extension of the useful life of materials and the development of new alliances and collaborations with unconventional actors.

An innovation in the ways of financing circularity processes, access to new sustainable financing mechanisms such as thematic bonds or ESG bonds, which in the last two years have grown substantially.

Finally, the construction of methodologies and frameworks that includes the development of sustainable taxonomies that allow the measurement and comparability between the different agents and the creation of value curves which is essential, as well as the design of KPIs or key performance indicators, the development of national circular economy plans and the cooperation and interaction between the different economic sectors.

Para la discusión de estos temas y otros relacionados con la transformación productiva y la economía circular en cadenas de valor contamos con 4 excelentes panelistas quienes nos hablarán de los temas desde la perspectiva de sus proyectos o negocios.

Debido a que tenemos que ser eficientes con el uso del tiempo la dinámica del panel será primero una presentación general de cada uno de nuestros panelistas sobre la perspectiva de circularidad de su negocio o proyecto tendrán 4 minutos para realizarla y posteriormente una ronda de preguntas para cada uno de ellos. De manera de dejar unos minutos para preguntas del público.