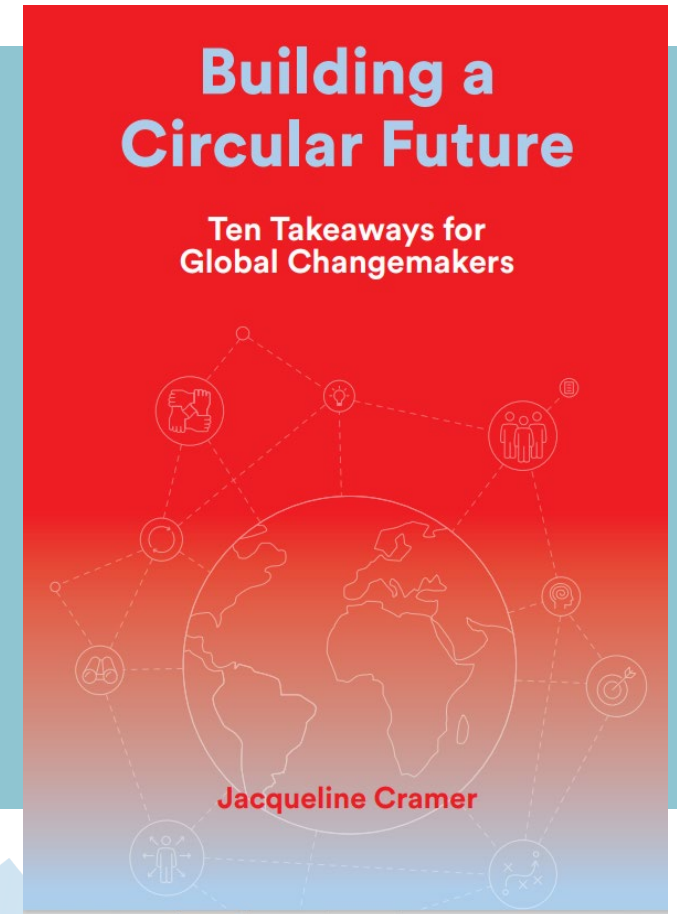


Effective governance of circular economies: An international comparison



PROF. DR. JACQUELINE CRAMER

Utrecht University, Member of the Amsterdam Economic Board, Board Chair of Holland Circular Hotspot and former Dutch Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment



The worldwide use of natural resources is growing at an alarming speed. If we maintain our present consumption and production patterns, we will need three Earths by the year 2050. The circular economy can bend this curve: it closes the loops of products, materials and resources, yielding the lowest possible environmental impacts, while using renewable energy sources and safeguarding the planet's biodiversity.

In this book, Jacqueline Cramer shows how network governance can power the circular economy. Network governance is about building a coalition of partners, which all fulfill a specific function in the network and are aligned by so-called transition brokers. By complementing conventional, public governance with this new form of governance, the best of both worlds is created. Network governance strengthens the positive forces in society and increases the support for circular economy.

Cramer shares her huge experience in implementing numerous circular initiatives in the Netherlands. As a practitioner and scholar, she has identified ten guiding principles for building circular initiatives, based on network governance. These guidelines can support everyone that wants to start or expedite a circular initiative.

Jacqueline Cramer is a member of the Amsterdam Economic Board, where she is actively engaged in circular economy initiatives. She is also a professor emeritus of sustainable innovation at Utrecht University. From 2007 to 2010, she was the Dutch Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. She holds numerous managerial positions, among which supervisory board chair of Holland Circular Hotspot and chair of the Dutch Concrete Agreement.



How Network Governance Powers the Circular Economy

Jacqueline Cramer

How Network Governance Powers the Circular Economy

Ten Guiding Principles for Building a Circular Economy, Based on Dutch Experiences



Digital download:
<https://amsterdameconomicboard.com/>


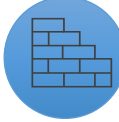

I have gained experiences in numerous circular economy initiatives in the Netherlands

Regional circular economy programme in:

Metropolitan Region
Amsterdam

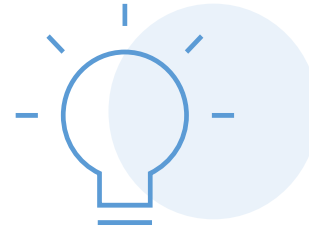
- **Two main strategies**
 - High-value recycling and reuse of major resource streams
 - Circular procurement

Initiatives of product chains

-  ○ Redesign and recycling of mattresses
-  ○ Sustainable concrete (ambition: climate neutral, smart, modular and circular building and 100% recycling in 2030)
-  ○ Sustainable fashion (circular design, reuse and high value recycling)

Ten lessons learned

Sparking the transition



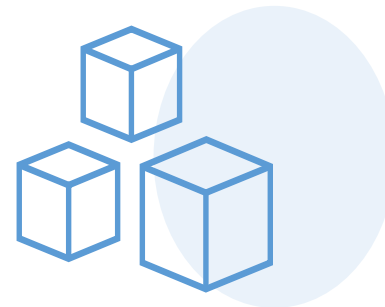
4 lessons

Context is key



3 lessons

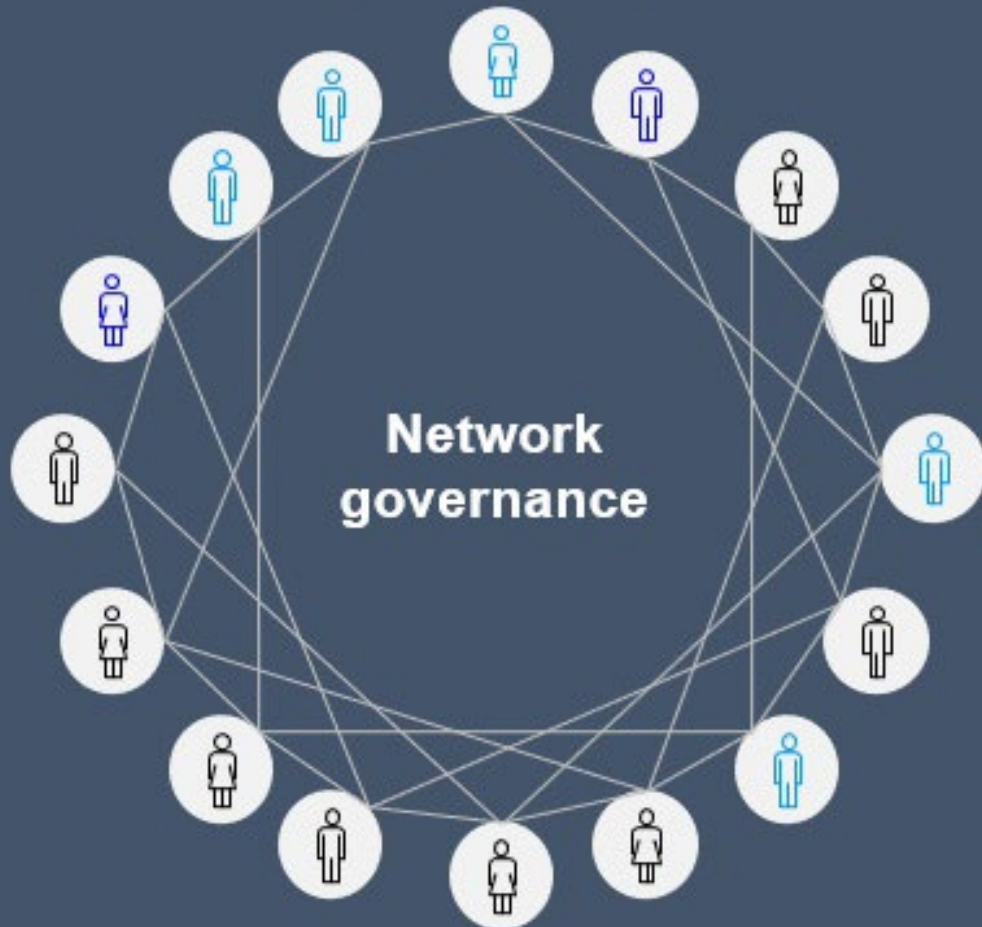
Successful implementation



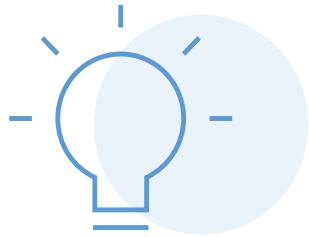
3 lessons



Public governance



Ten takeaways for global changemakers(1)



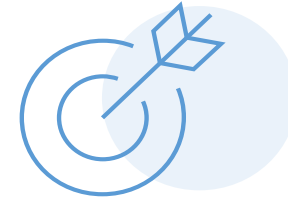
1. Combining public and network governance enhances the transition to a circular economy



2. Network governance needs transition brokers



3. Receptivity to network governance depends on the socio-cultural and political context



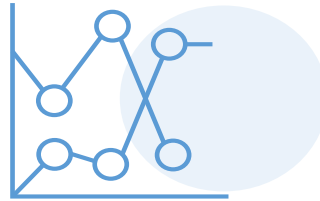
4. The governance of a circular economy is country-specific



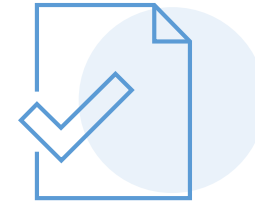
Ten takeaways for global changemakers(2)



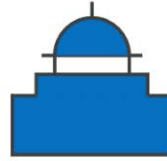
5. Effective governance of a circular economy depends on three general key determinants: leadership of government, involvement of actors and receptivity to network governance



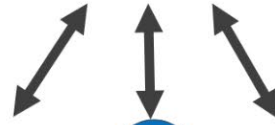
6. Specific drivers can enhance effective governance (e.g. market pressure through supranational policies; international companies committed to promoting a circular economy worldwide)



7. Utilising the strong aspects of a country's governance and mobilising the most relevant actors and adequate drivers increases the effectiveness of circular initiatives



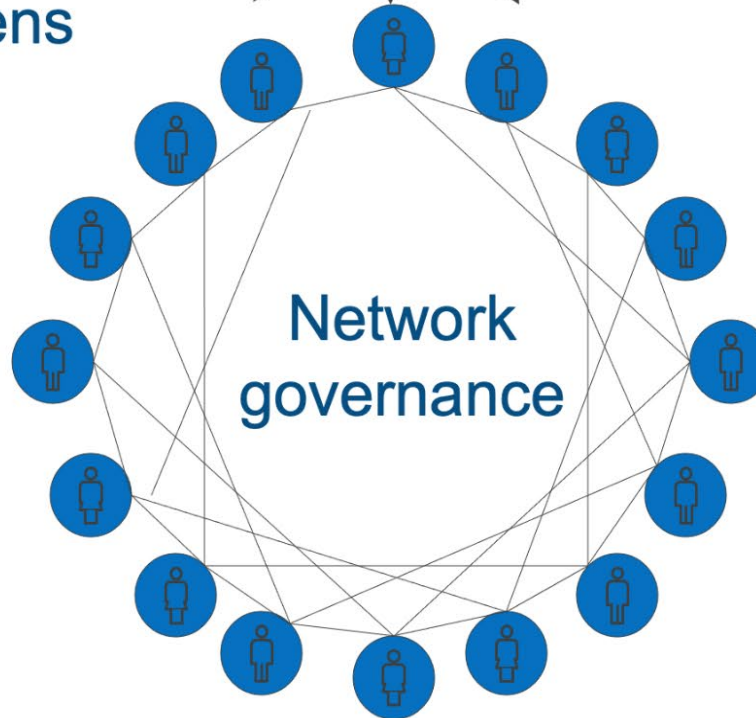
Public governance



Involvement of industry, local government, NGOs, citizens (high/medium/low)

Governmental Leadership (strong/weak)

Drivers for network and public governance



Receptivity to Network Governance (high/medium/low)



8. Four main avenues can be distinguished to move to a circular economy

Starting point

Government CE leadership: **strong**
Involvement industry: **medium/high**
Network governance: **medium/high**

Government CE leadership: **limited**
Involvement industry: **medium/high**
Network governance: **medium/high**

Government CE leadership: **strong**
Involvement industry: **low**
Network governance: **low**

Government CE leadership: **limited**
Involvement industry: **low**
Network governance: **low**

Prospects for developing CE

Conditions for starting and accelerating CE are favourable, but several obstacles should be removed to get all actors on board.

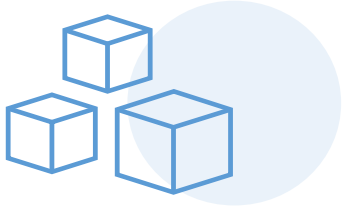
Starting CE is relatively easy. Proactive companies can start CE, but acceleration requires mobilisation of additional drivers and actors.

Starting CE is relatively easy. Government can implement policies but needs support from relevant actors for implementing top-down measures.

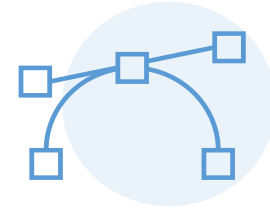
Starting CE is complicated. Kick-off possible via first movers in industry (and others), but mobilisation of additional drivers and actors, including government, is crucial.



Ten takeaways for global changemakers (3)



9. Regular reflection on progress helps to keep the right focus



10. Exchanging experiences and cooperation between countries can accelerate the worldwide transition to a circular economy

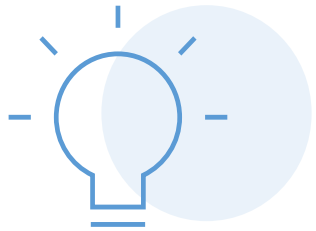
Thank you for your attention!

Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Cramer



Sparking the transition

Lessons learned (1)



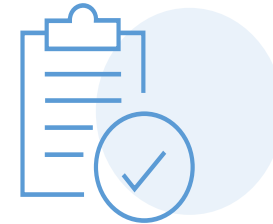
1

The transition starts with a shared sense of urgency. No actor can realize a circular initiative alone



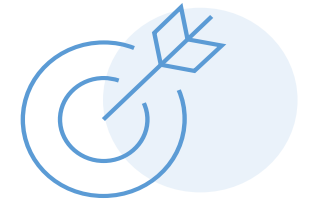
2

The implementation occurs in four subsequent, but cyclic phases (preparing, building, scaling and mainstreaming)



3

The tasks to be performed for each circular initiative are roughly the same, but case specific



4

Building a circular economy is a journey with a clear destination, but without a predetermined path

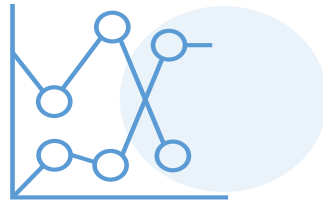
Context is key

Lessons learned (2)



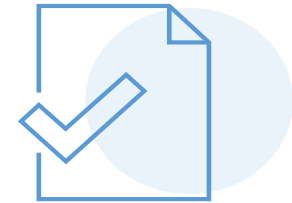
5

Focus on the most promising and far-reaching innovations. Select frontrunners in industry as lead



6

Map the key drivers and preconditions for successful implementation at the start

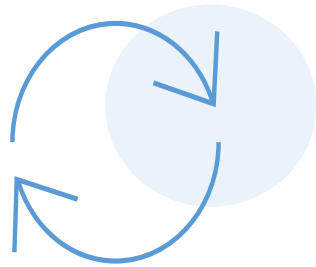


7

Identify the relevant actors and assess their willingness to join forces at the start

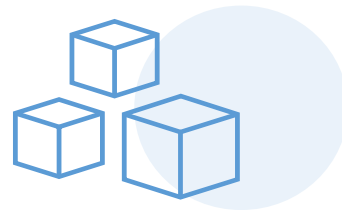
Successful implementation

Lessons learned (3)



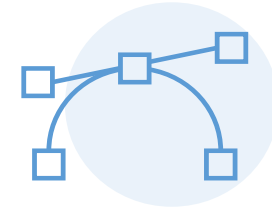
8

Develop new circular business models that benefit all consortium partners



9

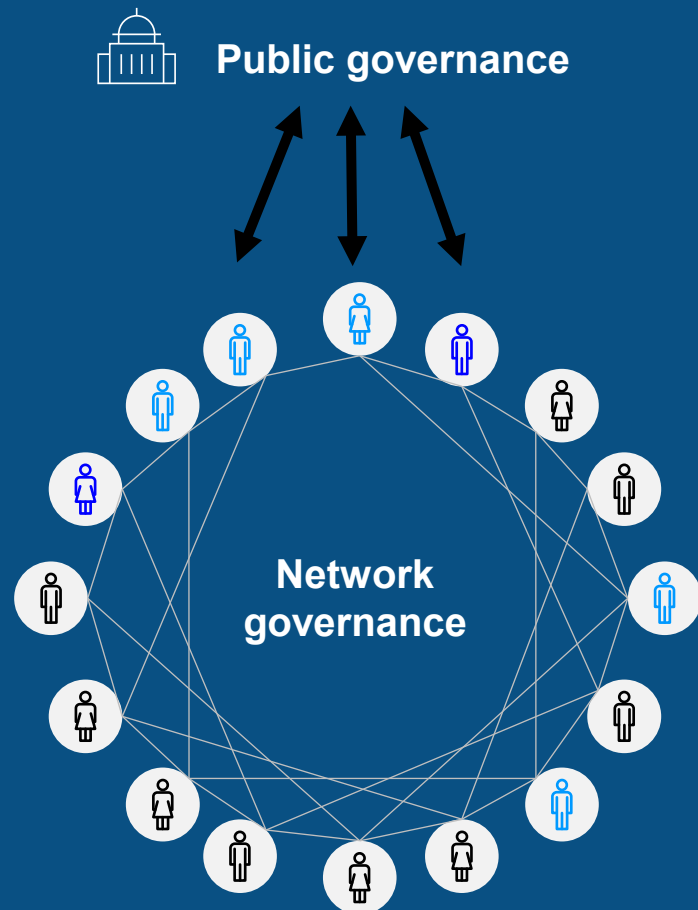
Orchestration through intermediaries ('transition brokers') can accelerate circular initiatives



10

Build a consortium of relevant network partners and agree upon a transparent division of labour

Relation between public governance and network governance





The most important drivers and barriers for the CE transition

Drivers

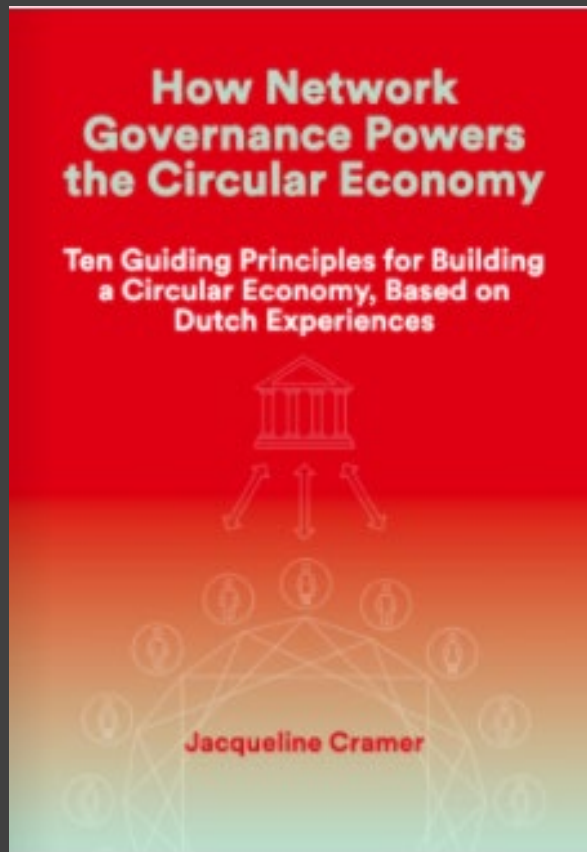
- EU policies on CE (both for EU member states and for those countries exporting to Europe)
- Proactive international companies that have the ambition to implement CE worldwide
- Ambitious leadership of the national government
- Framing CE as an innovative approach with positive ecological, social and economic impact

Barriers

- Silo thinking in government and short-term orientation
- Risk avoidant attitude in government and industry
- Lack of cooperation between partners in product chains (connecting the manufacturing countries with consumer market countries and vice versa)
- Lack of CE knowledge and ability to visualize the potential of CE

You can download the book
by Jacqueline Cramer via

www.amsterdameconomicboard.com





**Thank you for
your attention**

Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Cramer