



SUSTAINABILITY AND LAW

Examination of the economic impact of the legal framework and policies addressing waste management and the transition to a circular economy in Dublin.

BY:

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ABSTRACT:

This research aims to explore the implications of limited population participation on sustainability, waste management, and the circular economy. Through this study, it became evident that the lack of accurate information about social programs and initiatives can significantly influence outcomes.

To advance sustainability goals, key strategies include enhancing eco-efficiency, which involves optimizing resource use and minimizing waste generation. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on closing material and waste loops, thereby eliminating waste and promoting resource conservation.

Adopting circular economy principles requires consumers to embrace a mindset focused on durability, longevity, and resource efficiency, rather than simply prioritizing convenience or immediate gratification.

In fact, there is not study pointing, studying and analysing the participation of the Individuals in social programs, or private corporations incentive programs. The paradigms that this individual, Such a residents, tourist, are daily facing and how accurate they find this programs on transition to a circular economy in Dublin.

As result it can be assumed that the information spread of the policies regarding sustainability and transition to circular economy, might affect on the correct implementation of it, and also if the experience and ideas of the individuals is not take in consideration the objectives and goal will be still complicated to achieve.

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Declaration

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The concept of sustainability traces back to ancient civilizations where societies recognized the importance of preserving natural resources for future

generations. Throughout history, indigenous cultures practiced sustainable living by harmonizing with their environment, demonstrating principles of conservation and respect for nature. However, it wasn't until the latter half of the 20th century that sustainability emerged as a formal concept in response to growing environmental concerns and socio-economic challenges. The Brundtland Commission's seminal report in 1987, titled "Our Common Future," played a pivotal role in popularizing the modern understanding of sustainability, defining it as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

1.2 Background of the Problem

Our current patterns of resource consumption and pollution have reached unsustainable levels, surpassing the Earth's natural capacity to replenish resources and absorb waste. This overexploitation of "natural capital" is occurring at an alarming pace, posing significant challenges to sustainability, HELEN LEWIS (2003).

Achieving sustainability necessitates a paradigm shift in how we approach production and consumption systems. This entails adopting innovative strategies that go beyond incremental changes and instead focus on transformative solutions. A critical aspect of this shift involves gaining a deeper understanding of the complex interactions between various environmental impacts.

Moreover, sustainability must address not only economic and environmental concerns but also social issues such as equitable access and justice. This holistic approach, often referred to as the "triple bottom line," recognizes the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental dimensions, HELEN LEWIS (2003).

To advance sustainability goals, key strategies include enhancing eco-efficiency, which involves optimizing resource use and minimizing waste generation. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on closing material and waste loops, thereby eliminating waste and promoting resource conservation. Furthermore,

transitioning from a focus on products to services and dematerialization plays a crucial role in reducing environmental footprints.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

As result, most of the studies regarding sustainability are unadequate to analyse the problem regarding the effectiveness of the circular economy policies also the sustainable strategies to mitigate the contamination and successfully transit to a circular economy. In fact, there is not study pointing, studying and analysing the participation of the Individuals in social programs, or private corporations incentive programs. The paradigms that this individual, Such a residents, tourist, are daily facing and how accurate they find this programs on transition to a circular economy in Dublin. This will provide to the Europe area, a insight of how the Europeans see this laws, policies, and social initiatives to support the sustainable products as well as the transition to a circular economy.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

As a result, many of the existing studies on sustainability fail to adequately address the challenge of assessing the effectiveness of circular economy policies and sustainable strategies to combat pollution while facilitating a successful transition to a circular economy. Notably, there is a noticeable gap in research focusing on the participation of individuals in social programs or private corporations' incentive initiatives. These programs play a crucial role in shaping the paradigms experienced by individuals such as residents and tourists on a daily basis. Understanding how these individuals perceive and evaluate such programs in facilitating the transition to a circular economy in Dublin is essential. This insight can offer valuable perspectives to the wider European community, shedding light on how Europeans view laws, policies, and social initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable products and transitioning to a circular economy. Such an exploration can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness and public reception of these initiatives, informing future policymaking and sustainability efforts across Europe.

1.5 Research Question and objectives

The objective of this research is to provide valuable insights into the sustainability, waste management and circular economy in Ireland focusing on the policies and laws that insensitive peoples participation into the transition in to circular economy.

Objectives

- (i) How policies in sustainability conditionate peoples participation toward the transition to circular economy?
- (ii) What ways can policies be improved by increasing and developing adequate programs from the peoples perspective?
- (iii) What are some consequences of lack of participation of population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy?.

1.5 Significance of the Study and Limitations

Engaging in analysis of sustainable behavior paradigms is essential for positively shaping societal dynamics. Such analysis enhances the allocation of resources, fosters equity, ensures long-term sustainability, and offers behavioral insights by examining the paradigmatic aspects of social issues, policies, and behaviors related to transitioning to a circular economy. Policymakers, researchers, and society as a whole can utilize the insights gained from analyzing sustainable behavior paradigms to guide decision-making, promote social advancement, and cultivate a future that is more inclusive and prosperous.

There are a few potential drawbacks to consider in this study. Firstly, due to time limitations, the relatively small sample size may limit the ability to generalize the study's results to develop theories. Secondly, qualitative research can be quite time-consuming, which might pose challenges in thoroughly analyzing all the collected data accurately within the available time frame.

1.5.1 Chapter plan

This section outlines how the various chapters are presented in the dissertation, providing a summary of the content covered in each chapter.

1.5.2 Chapter of Literature review

This chapter explores and evaluates the existing literature relevant to the research topic, examining various sources.

1.5.3 methodology chapter

The third chapter outlines the chosen research method and approach employed to address the research question and objectives. It also explains the rationale behind the selected data collection method, sampling strategy, ethical considerations, and study limitations.

1.5.4 Chapter of findings

This chapter presents and details the findings derived from the primary research conducted via semi-structured interviews. The analysis of these findings was carried out using a thematic analysis approach.

1.5.5 Chapter of Discussions

The fifth chapter examines the significance of the findings obtained from the important research in relation to the literature reviewed. Additionally, it explores implications, limitations of the study, and provides recommendations for coming research.

1.5.6 Chapter of conclusion

The concluding chapter consolidates all presented information and offers a conclusion on the discussed topic. Suggestions for the industry will also be outlined.

Chapter II Literature Review

Introduction

2. Sustainability and law *Examination of the economic impact of the legal framework and policies addressing waste management and the transition to a circular economy in Dublin.*

The aim of this chapter is to explore into existing literature concerning the research topic **Sustainability and law** *Examination of the social impact of the legal framework and policies addressing waste management and the transition to a circular economy in Dublin.* This chapter will analyze the concept of sustainability, focusing on the social ramifications of legal frameworks and policies connect to waste management and the transition to a circular economy in Dublin. In conclusion this section will analyse the progress in circular economy regarding waste management.

Nevertheless, the behaviors of local public entities have received little attention in research, despite their unique attributes.

2.1 Definitions of sustainability and background:

Sustainability refers to the practice of meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). It encompasses environmental, social, and economic dimensions, emphasizing the need for balance and long-term viability.

The concept of sustainability traces back to ancient civilizations where societies recognized the importance of preserving natural resources for future generations. Throughout history, indigenous cultures practiced sustainable living by harmonizing with their environment, demonstrating principles of conservation and respect for nature. However, it wasn't until the latter half of the 20th century that sustainability emerged as a formal concept in response to growing environmental concerns and socio-economic challenges. The Brundtland Commission's seminal report in 1987, titled "Our Common Future," played a pivotal role in popularizing the modern understanding of sustainability,

defining it as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). Since then, sustainability has evolved into a multidimensional framework encompassing environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic prosperity, guiding efforts towards achieving a more balanced and resilient world.

Our current patterns of resource consumption and pollution have reached unsustainable levels, surpassing the Earth's natural capacity to replenish resources and absorb waste. This overexploitation of "natural capital" is occurring at an alarming pace, posing significant challenges to sustainability, HELEN LEWIS (2003).

Achieving sustainability necessitates a paradigm shift in how we approach production and consumption systems. This entails adopting innovative strategies that go beyond incremental changes and instead focus on transformative solutions. A critical aspect of this shift involves gaining a deeper understanding of the complex interactions between various environmental impacts.

Moreover, sustainability must address not only economic and environmental concerns but also social issues such as equitable access and justice. This holistic approach, often referred to as the "triple bottom line," recognizes the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental dimensions, HELEN LEWIS (2003).

To advance sustainability goals, key strategies include enhancing eco-efficiency, which involves optimizing resource use and minimizing waste generation. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on closing material and waste loops, thereby eliminating waste and promoting resource conservation. Furthermore, transitioning from a focus on products to services and dematerialization plays a crucial role in reducing environmental footprints.

In essence, achieving sustainability requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses the complex interplay between social, economic, and

environmental factors. By embracing innovative strategies and fostering collaboration across sectors, society can move towards a more sustainable future.

2.1.1 Waste Management and background

Waste management involves the collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of waste materials in a manner that minimizes environmental impact and maximizes resource recovery (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2020). It encompasses various strategies such as source reduction, recycling, composting, and landfilling, aiming to mitigate pollution and conserve natural resources.

2.1.2 Sustainability and Waste Management

Numerous authors and policymakers have attempted to elaborate on the concept of sustainability and devise actionable approaches since the publication of "Our Common Future". In "Beyond the Limits", a sustainable society is characterized as one capable of enduring across generations. Such a society is described as possessing the foresight, adaptability, and wisdom necessary to safeguard both its physical environment and its social support systems (Beatley, T. 1995).

The authors emphasize that social sustainability entails ensuring that everyone has sufficient and stable living standards. To achieve physical sustainability, society must adhere to three conditions outlined by economist Herman Daly:

Utilization of renewable resources should not surpass their capacity for renewal.

Consumption of non-renewable resources should not exceed the rate at which sustainable renewable alternatives are introduced.

Emission of pollutants should not exceed the environment's ability to absorb them (Beatley, T. 1995).

The management of waste constitutes a multifaceted sector due to its involvement in various domains. This complexity stems from the intersection of legislative frameworks, which encompass laws, regulations, guidelines, and delineation of responsibilities and competencies. Additionally, waste management interfaces with environmental considerations, focusing on the utilization of resources and strategies for their optimal management to minimize ecological impacts (Bamonti, S., Bonoli, A., & Tondelli, S. (2011)). Moreover, economic dimensions come into play, addressing issues such as the feasibility of reuse practices, methods of disposal, and tariff structures associated with waste management activities. Furthermore, urban planning aspects play a crucial role in shaping waste management practices within urban environments, considering factors such as spatial distribution, infrastructure development, and community engagement strategies (S. Bonoli, A., & Tondelli, S. 2011). Together, these linked elements contribute to the intricate nature of waste management, highlighting its significance as a critical area of study and policy intervention.

The significance of waste management extends beyond mere regulatory compliance; it holds profound implications for sustainability. By effectively managing waste, societies can mitigate environmental degradation, conserve resources, and reduce adverse impacts on public health and well-being. Moreover, waste management practices play a pivotal role in advancing sustainability objectives by fostering circular economy principles, promoting resource efficiency, and minimizing the generation of waste. Therefore, recognizing the importance of waste management within the broader context of sustainability is essential for informing policy decisions, fostering innovation, and fostering a more resilient and equitable future for generations to come.

2.1.3 Criticism Of Waste Management

An exceptionally elaborate and pressing challenge linked to the succeeding linear system revolves around the management of urban waste. Addressing the complexities within the urban waste sector necessitates systemic transformations, which, in turn, demand a holistic conceptual framework spanning across various perspectives and disciplines (Viva, L. et al. 2020).

This implies that tackling issues associated with urban waste management requires a comprehensive understanding that integrates insights from diverse fields and viewpoints. Such an approach is essential for developing effective strategies and policies aimed at fostering sustainable solutions to urban waste management challenges. By adopting a multidimensional perspective, stakeholders can better grasp the complexities inherent in urban waste management and devise innovative approaches to address them. This underscores the importance of adopting a holistic approach that transcends disciplinary boundaries to tackle the multifaceted nature of urban waste management effectively.

Many studies propose the examination of the process as a whole for example the study “Designing Circular Waste Management Strategies: The Case of Organic Waste in Amsterdam” which is Addressing urban waste management represents a pressing and intricate challenge for society. This paper proposes an innovative research methodology aimed at introducing a systemic approach to formulating circular waste management strategies. Urban waste management is a multifaceted system that necessitates a comprehensive yet tailored approach. Recognizing the significance of a holistic perspective, this paper reaches into the entire system, its components, and their interconnections, employing specific tools to lay the groundwork for a circular strategy. A toolkit is presented to transition from existing linear and fragmented waste management practices towards integrated and circular strategies. The proposed comprehensive methodology, comprising an outline, multipillar mapping, and synthesis, offers applicability across diverse locations and waste streams. This concept is exemplified through a case study focusing on Amsterdam's municipal organic waste management, highlighting the potential for effective implementation in real-world contexts. Integrating the principles of circular economy into waste management strategies is paramount for fostering sustainability and resilience in urban environments (Viva, L. *et al.* 2020).

This research methodology seeks to revolutionize urban waste management by adopting a systemic approach and integrating circular economy principles. This holistic perspective aims to address the complexity of waste management

challenges and provide comprehensive solutions. By examining the entire system and its components, and employing specific tools for analysis, the methodology enables the development of integrative and circular strategies. Through a case study focusing on Amsterdam's organic waste management, the study demonstrates the practical application and potential impact of embracing circular economy principles in urban waste management (Viva, L. *et al.* 2020). Ultimately, the purpose of this study is to underscore the importance of adopting a circular economy approach to waste management, offering insights and tools for transforming existing practices into sustainable and resilient systems. It proposed a new way of implementing circular economy whatsoever it do not analyze or propose a finding if the current programs or system are efficient or inefficient for society.

2.2 Legal Framework And Policies In Sustainability

From a policy perspective, the European Commission (EC) emphasizes the profound significance of sustainable development, extending its implications to Europe and beyond. Aligned with the Brundtland definition, the EC's stance on sustainability centers on both policy substance and the practical implementation of the concept. According to the EC, sustainable development should form the core mandate of all policymakers. Enhanced policy integration, supported by a systematic and transparent assessment of various options' costs and impacts, is deemed essential. This approach aims to ensure that policies complement each other, informed decisions are made regarding trade-offs, and environmental and social objectives are achieved without imposing excessive economic burdens. Furthermore, fostering openness is deemed crucial for facilitating constructive dialogue among stakeholders with differing interests, thereby paving the way for consensus-building on solutions and their subsequent implementation (European Commission 2001:3).

In addition to emphasizing the importance of sustainable development, the European Commission (EC) underscores the significance of the legal framework in advancing environmental goals. Within this framework, a series of EU Directives specifically address waste management, aiming to regulate and optimize waste handling practices across member states. Notable directives

include the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (1996/61/EC) along with others designed to foster sustainable waste management practices. These directives serve as essential tools for promoting environmental sustainability and harmonizing waste management standards across Europe. They provide a structured approach for member states to address waste-related challenges while ensuring compliance with overarching sustainability objectives. By establishing clear guidelines and standards, these directives facilitate the transition towards more sustainable waste management practices, thereby contributing to the broader goal of achieving sustainable development within the European Union.

Another critical aspect highlighted in the EC document is the interconnection between production and consumption within the framework of sustainable development. The document underscores the growing emphasis on initiatives aimed at enhancing consumer education and fostering the cultural shift required to fully leverage the sustainability potential of intelligent technologies.

2.2.1 Recent Policies Changes

In recent years, there has been a noticeable trend towards the implementation and adoption of waste-related regulations by governments worldwide. These regulations serve the dual purpose of safeguarding the well-being of their populations and aligning with international agreements or protocols, such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, (Romero-Hernández, O. & Romero, S. 2018) By enacting these regulations, governments aim to mitigate these risks and promote sustainable waste management practices within their jurisdictions. Additionally, adherence to international agreements underscores a commitment to global efforts aimed at addressing pressing environmental challenges, including climate change. As such, the adoption of waste-related regulations represents a significant step towards achieving both domestic and international sustainability goals. Moreover, this trend highlights the increasing importance placed on environmental stewardship and the recognition of waste management as a critical component of broader sustainability initiatives, (Romero-Hernández, O. & Romero, S. 2018). Moving forward, continued collaboration and cooperation among governments, along with robust enforcement of waste-

related regulations, will be essential for effectively addressing the complex environmental and social issues associated with waste management.

2.3 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Circular economy, derived from principles of sustainability, emphasizes minimizing waste and maximizing the utility of resources by promoting reuse, recycling, and regeneration (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2020). Unlike the traditional linear economy where resources are extracted, used, and disposed of, the circular economy aims to create closed-loop systems where materials are continuously cycled back into production processes.

The idea of a circular economy has been present for several decades, with its roots extending back in history. Boulding (1966) advocated for a shift towards a circular model of resource flow within the economy, contrasting it with the prevailing linear approach. This concept emphasizes the importance of minimizing waste and maximizing the reuse and recycling of materials to create a more sustainable and efficient system. Boulding's insights laid the groundwork for subsequent discussions and developments in the field of circular economy. By highlighting the potential benefits of adopting circular practices, Boulding contributed to shaping contemporary discourse surrounding sustainable resource management. Since then, the concept of a circular economy has gained increasing attention and relevance in efforts to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. Embracing the principles of circularity offers opportunities to reduce resource depletion, minimize environmental impacts, and foster innovation in resource management practices, (European Academies' Science Advisory Council, 2015). Thus, acknowledging the historical context of the circular economy concept provides valuable insights into its evolution and significance in contemporary sustainability discourse.

2.4 Advantages

Research findings highlight numerous potential advantages associated with the transition to a circular economy model. These benefits encompass various

aspects and can significantly impact different sectors of society and the economy:

Enhanced Competitiveness: Embracing circular economy principles can lead to improved competitiveness for businesses. This is achieved through cost savings generated by reduced raw material consumption and energy dependency. Moreover, it facilitates better control over rising costs and enhances security of supply, ultimately strengthening businesses' resilience to market fluctuations.

Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation: The adoption of circular economy practices aligns with the objectives of EU climate change policies. By minimizing resource consumption and waste generation, a circular economy model can effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to efforts aimed at combating climate change on a regional and global scale (European Academies' Science Advisory Council 2015).

The transition to a circular economy presents opportunities for job creation across various sectors. These employment opportunities arise from the development and implementation of innovative solutions and technologies, as well as the expansion of industries related to resource recovery, recycling, and sustainable product design. Circular economy principles promote sustainable resource management practices, thereby reducing the environmental impact associated with resource extraction and waste disposal, (European Academies' Science Advisory Council 2015). By minimizing resource depletion and mitigating pollution, a circular economy contributes to preserving ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and safeguarding natural resources for future generations.

Transitioning from a linear to a circular economy opens up opportunities for new business models centered around the provision of services rather than the sale of goods. This shift encourages innovative approaches to product design, distribution, and consumption, fostering the emergence of businesses that generate revenue through service-oriented offerings, such as product leasing, sharing platforms, and waste management services.

2.5 Criticism

Circular business models necessitate substantial shifts in consumer behavior, presenting significant challenges to the widespread implementation of circular economy (CE) principles by companies. One of the key hurdles lies in altering consumer habits and preferences to align with the core tenets of circularity. For instance, circular business models prioritize prolonging the lifespan of products through practices such as maintenance, repair, and product upgrading Charter, (M.Ed. 2018). This places an increased emphasis on consumer involvement in the care and upkeep of their possessions, which may require a departure from traditional consumption patterns characterized by disposability and planned uselessness.

Adopting circular economy principles requires consumers to embrace a mindset focused on durability, longevity, and resource efficiency, rather than simply prioritizing convenience or immediate gratification. Encouraging consumers to adopt behaviors that support the circular economy involves raising awareness, providing incentives, and offering accessible resources and services for repair and maintenance. Additionally, promoting a culture of sharing, borrowing, and product leasing can help facilitate the transition towards more sustainable consumption patterns, Claudy, M., & Peterson, M. (2022).

However, changing consumer behavior is a complex and multifaceted process that involves addressing a range of factors, including social norms, cultural values, economic incentives, and individual preferences, (Claudy, M., & Peterson, M. 2022). Companies implementing circular business models must therefore invest in strategies that not only educate and empower consumers but also create incentives and remove barriers to adopting more sustainable consumption practices.

Despite the challenges associated with shifting consumer behavior, the potential benefits of embracing circular economy principles are substantial. By promoting resource efficiency, reducing waste generation, and fostering a more sustainable approach to consumption, circular business models offer opportunities for companies to improve their environmental performance, enhance customer loyalty,

and drive innovation in product design and service delivery. Thus, while consumer behavior may pose obstacles to the widespread adoption of circular economy principles, it also represents a crucial area for intervention and innovation in pursuit of a more sustainable future.

2.6 Government Circular Economy Engagement Framework: Uniting Programs, Initiatives, and Strategies for Sustainable Solutions.

Environmental Action Plans

Since 1973, the European Commission has periodically issued multiyear Environmental Action Programmes (EAPs), outlining forthcoming legislative initiatives and objectives for EU environmental policy. In May 2022, the 8th EAP came into effect, serving as the EU's collectively agreed-upon framework for environmental policy until 2030, (European Parliament. 2023).

It reaffirms the vision for 2050 outlined in the seventh EAP: ensuring universal well-being while adhering to the limits of the Earth's natural systems.

The latest programme builds upon and reinforces the environmental and climate goals outlined in the European Green Deal, focusing on six key priorities:

Achieving the 2030 target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and attaining climate neutrality by 2050.

Strengthening adaptive capacity, bolstering resilience, and reducing susceptibility to the impacts of climate change, (European Parliament. 2023).

Progressing towards a growth model that regenerates resources, disconnects economic growth from resource consumption and environmental deterioration, and hastens the transition to a circular economy.

Pursuing an ambition to achieve zero pollution, including in air, water, and soil, and safeguarding the health and well-being of European citizens.

Safeguarding, conserving, and rehabilitating biodiversity, while enhancing natural assets, such as air, water, soil, forests, freshwater, wetlands, and marine ecosystems.

Mitigating environmental and climate pressures associated with production and consumption, particularly in the domains of energy, industrial advancement, construction and infrastructure, transportation, and the food system.

2.7 Legal Framework Issues

The distribution of benefits resulting from the transition to a circular economy is expected to be uneven, with certain industrial sectors, businesses, regions, and societal groups experiencing losses while others stand to gain. For instance, industries involved in the production of virgin materials or low-quality consumer goods, often located outside Europe, may face job losses because of circular economy strategies, , (European Environment Agency, 2016).

Effective policies will be essential to manage these potential adverse effects and ensure a fair and equitable transition.

Additionally, realizing the benefits of the circular economy will hinge on the timely development and implementation of appropriate skills and education initiatives. Adequate training programs must be developed and rolled out efficiently to equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in a circular economy context, (European Environment Agency, 2016). This includes training in areas such as waste management, resource recovery, product design for durability and recyclability, and sustainable business practices. By investing in education and skills development, societies can maximize the opportunities presented by the circular economy while mitigating potential challenges associated with its implementation.

2.3 IN IRELAND

The government is tackling two significant challenges that have hindered the advancement of the Circular Economy in Ireland. The first obstacle involves the absence of a comprehensive national policy framework, which would clarify the

interconnection between the Circular Economy and various governmental policy domains (Government of Ireland. 2022-2023). This framework would expose how Circular Economy principles align with different sectors of government policy and how policies within these sectors can contribute to fostering circularity.

There are several programs adopted by the Irish government to pursue the transition to the circular economy following the standards implemented by the European parliament.

The utilization of digital platforms that enable the sharing economy, such as DublinBikes and GoCar, has become firmly established. Additionally, there are numerous informal, self-organized networks at the local and community levels that facilitate the reuse of household items, exemplified by initiatives like local "Swap Groups" for exchanging baby clothes and toys, (Government of Ireland 2022-2023).

This cooperates with a well-developed and expanding network of public organizations or initiatives that receive public support, all of which are dedicated to fostering and advocating for the circular economy.

The National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) is an initiative of the Government of Ireland, overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), (Government of Ireland 2022-2023). Since its establishment in 2004, the NWPP has been instrumental in spearheading national-level initiatives aimed at waste prevention and advancing the circular economy agenda in Ireland. Through various funding programs, the NWPP supports the development of innovative solutions geared towards circularity in key priority areas, including but not limited to food waste, construction and demolition, plastics, agriculture, resources and raw materials, as well as local waste prevention efforts, (Government of Ireland 2022-2023).

Assisting households and communities in endeavors to "reduce, reuse, and recycle" is a focal point, with special emphasis placed on leveraging resources like MyWaste.ie, the official guide to waste management in Ireland. This

platform serves as a comprehensive resource to aid individuals and communities in adopting sustainable waste management practices, (Government of Ireland 2022-2023).

The Rediscovery Centre serves as a prominent national hub for promoting the principles of the circular economy in Ireland. By uniting the talents and knowledge of artists, scientists, designers, and craftspeople, the center operates with a shared commitment to sustainability.

Unfortunately, Ireland falls behind its EU counterparts in terms of overall circularity. In 2019, Ireland's circular material use rate, which measures the proportion of material recovered and reintegrated into the economy, stood at 1.6%, the second lowest in the EU, (Government of Ireland, 2022-2023). This contrasts starkly with the EU average of 11.9%, with the Netherlands leading at 28.5%. While various factors contribute to Ireland's performance, including its economic structure and geographical location, countries with robust national circular economy policies tend to fare better, (Government of Ireland, 2022-2023). These policies offer a consistent framework for governmental, private sector, and civil society engagement, outlining clear national goals and priorities for circularity. It is imperative for Ireland to identify national actions, in addition to EU-level policies, to accelerate its transition toward becoming a leader in the Circular Economy.

Conclusion of the literature review chapter

In examining the social impact of legal frameworks and policies related to waste management and the circular economy, it becomes evident that these concepts are intricately linked. The transition to a circular economy necessitates innovative approaches to waste management, highlighting the need for effective policies and programs that prioritize sustainability and social well-being. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for informing decision-making processes and fostering sustainable development in Ireland.

While there are significant efforts underway by various stakeholders to promote the circular economy in Ireland, it's essential to acknowledge the existing gap in legislation pertaining to this critical area. Unlike other countries within the

European Union, Ireland currently lacks a comprehensive legal framework specifically addressing the circular economy. This gap presents a challenge in terms of providing clear guidance and incentives for businesses and individuals to transition towards circular practices. Bridging this legal gap and implementing supportive policies will be crucial for unlocking the full potential of the circular economy in Ireland and overcoming barriers to its widespread adoption. Therefore, alongside the ongoing initiatives and collaborative endeavors, addressing this legislative gap should be a priority to ensure a more robust and effective transition towards a circular economy in Ireland.

The purpose of this paper is to understand the participation of the consumer Europeans or Irish residents or Tourist, in this case, withing the transition from linear waste management to a circular economy and how is this transition affecting or adapting towards the economy and population in order to achieve

Chapter III Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to outline the chosen research methodology for this study, explaining how it associates with the research objectives and justifying the approach taken. This section will cover various aspects including the research question and objectives, research paradigm, research strategy, method of data collection, and sampling strategy. Additionally, it will address ethical considerations and limitations of the study.

3.2 Research Questions and Hypotheses

The objective of this research is to provide valuable insights into the sustainability, waste management and circular economy in Ireland, focusing on the policies and laws that incentive peoples participation into the transition in to circular economy.

The investigation targets to answer the Examination of the economic impact of the legal framework and policies addressing waste management and the transition to a circular economy in Dublin. How policies in sustainability

conditionate peoples participation toward the transition to circular economy, and in which ways can be improved by increasing and developing adequate programs, from the peoples perspective.

To answer the research question, the following goals have been detected:

I.- How policies in sustainability conditionate people's participation toward the transition to circular economy?

II.- What ways can policies be improved by increasing and developing adequate programs from the peoples perspective?

I.- What are some consequences of lack of participation of population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy?.

3.3 Research paradigm

Burrell and Morgan (1979) defined paradigms as overarching theoretical assumptions that shape how social theorists approach their work. In simpler terms, paradigms are like lenses through which researchers view the world and develop theories as said in (Guba and Lincoln 1989, 2005, cited in Mertens 2012). These beliefs reflect the researcher's understanding of reality and their preferred methods for studying it. In essence, paradigms involve forming hypotheses based on how one perceives the relationship between science and society. These assumptions can be categorized into ontology, which pertains to the nature of reality, and epistemology, which concerns how knowledge is acquired and understood, (Mertens and Wilson 2012, cited in Mertens 2012).

Crotty (1998) defines ontology as the exploration of existence or being. In this context, ontological hypotheses clarify what the researcher considers to be reality, determining their understanding of how things exist and function, (Scotland, 2012)

Within the realm of ontology in research, two main approaches are recognized: the objective approach and the subjective approach, also known as constructivism, m (Holden and Lynch, 2004). The objective approach centers on social phenomena and meanings that are viewed as independent from the

individuals being studied. In contrast, the subjective approach suggests that social phenomena and their meanings are constructed and continually reshaped by the individuals involved in the social context, (Bryman, 2015).

On the other hand, Epistemology focuses on understanding the characteristics and varieties of knowledge, (Cohen et al. 2007, cited in Scotland, 2012).

It explores the processes involved in the creation, acquisition, and dissemination of knowledge, (Scotland, 2012), is split between interpretivism and positivism. (Taylor et al., 2015). In the first stage rees, (1980, cited in Lincoln and Guba, 1985) Positivism is defined as a group of philosophies that hold science and the scientific method in high regard, emphasizing objectivity in research. Equally, the interpretive approach examines social phenomena within their cultural and historical contexts, s (Al-Ababneh, 2020). Consequently, it views phenomena through the lens of individual perspectives, (Creswell 2009, cited in Scotland, 2012).

In this study, the researcher has opted for a subjective and interpretive approach. This decision is based on the aim of analysing the importance of the context of policy and sustainability. Interpretivism operates on the belief that reality is subjective, diverse, and shaped by social constructs. In other words, understanding an individual's reality requires considering their unique experiences, which may vary based on their personal history or social context. Based on the experience of the individuals regarding the circular economy within their areas personal experiences and believes. Having as a priority or compromise the engaging in the sustainability programs or initiatives. Proving this way the efficiency of policy and the accurate of sustainability. This approach in order to fill the gap that exist in this topic.

3.4 Research strategy

The research strategy outlines a structured approach for addressing the research question. It delineates research objectives, identifies data collection sources, and considers potential research limitations, among other elements, (Al-Ababneh, 2020). Saunders et al. (2019) suggest that researchers commonly utilize various research strategies such as surveys, case studies, and in-depth interviews. There isn't a single superior research strategy; rather,

the choice of strategy should align with the research question, objectives, and selected paradigm.

The initial research approach, mentioned earlier, is surveys, recognized as a positivist method, (Al-Ababneh, 2020). Surveys involve collecting data by asking participants a series of questions about a particular topic. These questions are designed to explore the perspectives, convictions, and actions of a group of people, (Queirós et al., 2017). This method of research gathers data more promptly, accurately, and cost-effectively.

Case studies involve thorough examinations of situations or methodologies over an extended period, (Scotland, 2012). This type of research aims to comprehensively analyze the phenomenon or specific entity being studied, and it can utilize both quantitative and qualitative data for support, (Quinlan, 2011).

The third research strategy described above involves conducting in-depth interviews, which is the method selected for this study. This decision was made because research interviews entail meaningful conversations between individuals, during which the interviewer aims to address specific questions by actively listening and fostering rapport with the interviewee. Through these interviews, topics of interest are explored while explaining values, (Saunders et al., 2019)

Conducting interviews with participants is an effective method for gathering insights into their personal experiences, making it a common approach to studying the phenomenon under investigation, (Arghode, 2012).

3.5 Research Methods

The research methods involve three approaches for collecting data: quantitative and qualitative, which each focus on a single data-gathering technique, and multi-methods, which combine multiple data collection approaches, (Tashakkori, Teddlie 2003, AlAbabneh, 2020), and mixed-method, which demands merging both quantitative and qualitative data collection approaches, (Saunders et al. 2009, cited in Al-Ababneh, 2020). Method of quantitative aims to achieve

precise and dependable measurements that facilitate statistical analysis, (Queirós et al., 2017). Quantitative investigation adopts a methodical approach, utilizing algebraic and calculated analyses to test and compare theories against observed behaviors, (Muijs, 2011). Therefore, the quantitative approach seeks to generate knowledge by analyzing phenomena that can be measured to some degree, (AlAbabneh, 2020).

The qualitative method seeks to recognize difficult and unclear experiences and the meaning of events within a specific perspective, (Queirós et al., 2017). The aim of this phenomenological examination is to explore how individuals within a particular residents experience a certain condition and how they navigate the challenges that happen as a result, impacting various characteristics of their livings, (Habib Alshamri, 2021). Thus, this approximate expands the understanding of the reasons behind people's and communities' actions and enhances comprehension of the significance of elements within the community sphere, (Al-Ababneh, 2020).

In the context of this study, the researcher has opted for a qualitative method, as the primary aim is to delve into the significance of sustainability in dublin regarding the transition to circular economy.

3.6 Data Collection

In any research activities, analysing data is essential to address the research question. These records can be secondary, originally collected for a different purpose but repurposed to provide alternative insights or new interpretations for the specific research, (Bulmer et al. 2009). The other category of data is main facts, which consists of newly gathered information purposely for the analysis, (Saunders et al., 2019). Therefore, primary data refers to investigate that involves collecting original data using research implements designed specifically for a particular investigate area, (Malhorta, 2010).

Data collection is sourced from various possibilities, including surveys, semi-structured or formless conversations, and meet groups, (Axinn and Pearce, 2006). The initial data collection method has been discussed earlier in the

research strategy section. The data collected varies based on the research objectives and pertains to quantitative data and conclusions, (Quinlan et al., 2019).

On the contrary, focus groups are employed to study intricate behaviors, offering investigators the chance to interact with study participants. Data is gathered from group discussions during debates, e (Acocella, 2012). And allows the researcher to observe how individuals interact with each other, as they elaborate, articulate, support, and modify their thoughts through collect debate, (Wilkinson, 1998).

For this research, the chosen method of data collection is semi-structured interviews. This decision was made to prioritize the interviewee's perspective, fostering an environment of confidential and honest communication. It allows the interviewee ample time and space to articulate their viewpoint or provide detailed testimony regarding the researched phenomenon. This method aligns with our plan to gather information from individuals that will aid in analysing the main objective and justify the relevance of our research question, (Quinlan et al., 2019). Specifically, our investigation aims to assess the accuracy of the system for sustainability and policy analysis concerning the circular economy.

3.7 Sampling strategy

In 2009, Field described A sample is defined as a smaller yet descriptive group of units selected from a larger population, used to uncover insights about that people. It's important for the target population to be connected to the population mentioned in the investigate query, (Quinlan et al., 2019).

In qualitative research, the primary focus isn't on gathering a statistically representative portion of the population; instead, it's about obtaining a meaningful representation that encompasses individuals with diverse experiences and perspectives. This approach aims to reflect a wide range of available information, (Creswell and Creswell, 2018).

Researchers must choose between using a probability or non-probability sampling method, (Quinlan et al., 2019). The probability sample, often utilized in survey statistics, involves random sampling, (Yang et al., 2020). Non-probability sampling, also known as purposeful sampling, provides an opportunity for a deeper understanding and insight into the subject of the study and the inquiry reservation, (Patten, 2009).

In this case, the researcher will employ nonprobability sampling for the inquiry. For this investigation, the researcher has chosen purposeful sampling by taking place recorded semi -structured interviews as the primary method. The sample size is formed for 10 individuals resident in Dublin. To gain more insight the researcher has interview participants with different backgrounds, different time of living in the sector, and different group ages.

INTERVIEW	PROFESSION	YEARS LIVING IN IRELAND
PARTICIPANT 1	ELECTRICIAN	10 years
PARTICIPANT 2	BAR TENDER	15 years
PARTICIPANT 3	PUBLICIST	20 years
PARTICIPANT 4	STUDENT	2 years
PARTICIPANT 5	EMPLOYEE	11 years
PARTICIPANT 6	HOUSE KEEPER	20 years
PARTICIPANT 7	BUSINESS OWNER	25 years
PARTICIPANT 8	OPERATIVE	15 years
PARTICIPANT 9	DOCTOR	20 years
PARTICIPANT 10	TEACHER	20 years

The initial contact with the participants was made through email, following approval from themself to conduct the investigation. The consent form, available upon request, was provided to them. They were sent detailed information about the research along with the consent form (see **Appendix 1**). Upon explaining the reason for their selection, they agreed to take part in the investigation and scheduled interviews at their preferred times. They were online due to time limit and to make the participant more comfortable. Most of the interviews were not

recorded due to the willing of the participant to assure anonymise and privacy, however they were willing to be contacted to validate the information provided.

3.8 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

After the data collection stage, the subsequent step is the analysis of the data, which is crucial to ensure the accuracy of the results. Qualitative data analysis involves evaluating qualitative data, with the primary aim of creating a comprehensive narrative of the phenomenon being discussed, (Quinlan et al.

2019).

In this study, the researcher has opted for thematic analysis as the chosen approach. This decision was made because thematic analysis offers a systematic yet adaptable method for analyzing the data, (Braun and Clarke, 2006). Also, Excel was used to help keep track of the themes and important facts. The researcher needs to code the collected data pertaining to the research question to identify themes or patterns for further analysis (Saunders et al., 2019). Hence, the goal of thematic analysis is to identify recurring patterns that aid in comprehending a specific class of phenomena or events. (Robinson, 2021).

3.9 Validity and Reliability

Reliability pertains to the consistency, trustworthiness, and replicability of the findings obtained from a research study, (Nunan, 1999). Credibility is a key aspect of qualitative research as it ensures the accuracy of the gathered information, (Creswell and Creswell, 2018). Validity concerns verifying the credibility of the research conducted, assessing whether the evaluation of the study aligns with its intended purpose, (Zohrabi, 2013).

The utilization of semi-structured interview for this research is supporting any aspect of it to rely on the qualitative analysis. To ensure the reliability and validity of this study, the entire research process has been thoroughly

documented. To the privacy of the participants, they were provided with a privacy form that they sign before participating. This to assure privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity. However, all the interviews were properly transcribed and stored by the researcher. The participants were assure that the recording made would not be analyzed without any of their prior consent. To safeguard and evaluate the data objectively, presenting the insights and perspectives expressed by the participants in the most reliable manner possible.

3.10 Consideration regarding ethics:

Ethics involves conducting research with integrity, sincerity, and ensuring safety. This includes identifying potential harms and risks that may arise as a result of the research and the approach used during its conduct, (Quinlan et al. 2019).

The researcher ensures that all participants in this study voluntarily opted to participate and provided informed consent before the interviews. They were informed about the study's purpose as well as the potential risks and benefits associated with participating in the research. While all research investigations carry some level of risk, this study is considered to involve minimum danger.

All the interviews were designed to not generate conflict of interest on the participants. They were told that the interview could be stopped at any time To safeguard the privacy of the participants, their names were not disclosed in the study, nor were they discussed with the research supervisor.

3.11 Limitations:

There are several potential limitations to consider in this study. Firstly, due to time constraints, the relatively small sample size may limit the generalizability of the results for theory-building purposes. Secondly, the timewasting nature of qualitative research may pose challenges in thoroughly analyzing all the collected data within the available timeframe, another limitation of this study is that some individuals declined to participate, even though the research is not directly related to any to any organization but rather to the broader sustainability

and circular economy sector. Also, the interviews were taking some online and some in person, were recorded but the researched agreed to keep in privacy the content and not disclose anything without any further notice to them. Some of the participants refused to be recorded. In this case the interview was transcript.

METHODOLOGY CONCLUSION

This chapter outlines the research inquiry, goals, and deep-thinking methodology of the study. It also specifies the strategy and methods employed to conduct the primary research in order to address the objectives. Furthermore, the chapter concludes by addressing the reliability and validity of the research, as well as ethical considerations and limitations. With the methodology established, the subsequent section will analyze the research findings.

CHAPTER IV: PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to outline and explain the results of the primary research carried out by the researcher via survey. This study focuses on analysing the policy and law, its impact on the residents and everyday experiences. The findings are categorized based on the key themes identified during the interviews using a thematic analysis approach.

Three pertinent themes emerged from the analysis of the collected data, along with several sub-themes. These findings are structured as follows:

I.- How policies in sustainability conditionate people's participation toward the transition to circular economy?

II.- What ways can policies be improved by increasing and developing adequate programs from the peoples perspective?

I.- What are some consequences of lack of participation of population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy?.

A copy of the interview format to get primary information is available in **appendix 2** the full access of the transcript upon request

4.2 the economic impact of circular economy understanding on the individuals participation

Individuals participation in order to boost the transition to circular economy is fundamental in sustainability, is an essential benefit to reach government goal of participation as described in the literature review, (Government of Ireland 2022-2023). Despite is connected to the incentive and policies addressing the transition to circular economy, individuals might not fully understand the purpose, in consequence they tend to not participate at all and not get involved on the initiatives, this is the conclusion given by the government of Ireland due to their own results.

4.2.1 The importance of flowing information regarding sustainability.

The impact of circular economy understanding for responder 1: *“Yes, I am familiar with the concept of the circular economy, which emphasizes minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency through recycling, reuse, and reducing consumption.”* And as commented before, individuals participating, on sustainability programs that might have an economic impact on the transition to circular economy, but they need to somehow know how to be involved or feel involved on the social programs. Most of the participants commented that they have a good understanding of what is sustainability and what is circular economy.

“Sustainability, to me, means using resources efficiently to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves responsible consumption, waste reduction, and environmental conservation”. (Participant 4)

“Sustainability, to me, means ensuring the well-being of both the environment and human health for current and future generations. It involves adopting practices and policies that minimize harm to the planet while promoting social and economic equity” (Participant 9)

Despite the fact that they know what sustainability means they find it difficult to apply in a positive way by their own, for example some of them tested that it is sometimes complicated to find initiatives or to detect them in their daily life, and that way contribute more on the transition to circular economy.

“I have encountered challenges in properly disposing of waste in Dublin, especially when it comes to understanding what can and cannot be recycled and finding convenient disposal options.” (Participant 8)

Participant 3 commented if he had more information about any program, activity or initiative he would like to participate more actively *“I'm somewhat familiar with Dublin's current sustainable and waste management initiatives, although I may not be as well-informed as long-term residents or professionals in the field.”* *“No, I haven't actively participated in Dublin's waste reduction or recycling programs in the past year, but I'm interested in getting involved in the future”*

4.2.2 Economic impact

One of the interesting findings of this research is that most of the participants were ready to be actively involved in the circular economy transition, but when trying on the daily routine they realized did not have the adequate information to have an impact on the results. As the government of Ireland stated, that the incursion or involvement of the individuals to reach the goals in sustainability was fundamental and was not being stimulated or adequate this research is filling the gap on what the experiences and paradigms of the individuals are.

“In my opinion, Dublin could enhance its sustainable waste management strategies by increasing public awareness through educational campaigns, improving access to recycling facilities, and implementing stricter regulations on waste disposal.” (Participant 6)

Some participants commented that they don't feel there is a useful communication channels to be actively involved in the initiatives.

“Yes, I believe Dublin council should invest more resources in promoting composting and organic waste reduction programs, as these initiatives are essential for achieving long-term sustainability goals.” (participant 7)

“In my opinion, Dublin could enhance its sustainable waste management strategies by increasing public awareness through educational campaigns, improving access to recycling facilities, and implementing stricter regulations on waste disposal.” (Participant 8)

4.2. 3 the role of the social programs on individuals’ participation

The perspective of the individuals regarding the knowledge of laws and regulations, policies and practices, is some how limited, due to the lack of information that they are able to reach. Even though they were able on some cases to be participant in some programs like “cycle to work scheme” but not as much as desired due the lack of time and effort involved.

“I am aware of various programs regarding sustainability, such as community clean-up events, recycling awareness campaigns, like cycle to work scheme, and initiatives aimed at reducing plastic waste” (Participant 9)

“I am aware that there are incentives or rewards offered by the city to encourage sustainable waste management practices, although I may not be familiar with all of them.” (participant 10).

“I am aware of various incentives or rewards offered by the city to encourage sustainable waste management practices, such as discounts on composting bins or incentives for businesses to recycle” (Participant 5).

Participant 4 which is the only individual that has been living in Ireland for less than one year stated that he has detected some bias on the communication regarding sustainability and the transition to circular economy, “Dublin's communication regarding waste sorting and recycling guidelines could be clearer and more effective, especially for newcomers or those without prior knowledge of recycling practices”

4.3.1 Understanding the need of law and guidelines for adequate practices.

As presented on the literature review, the individual behaviour toward the law, policy, guidelines and best practices is crucial. However, changing consumer behavior is a complex and multifaceted process that involves addressing a range of factors, including social norms, cultural values, economic incentives, and individual preferences, (Claudy, M., & Peterson, M. 2022). The statements

given by this specific group of residents of Dublin gives the idea of them all are aware of it, and they tentatively participate on the transition to circular economy, although seems to be impossible.

“In my opinion, Dublin could enhance its sustainable waste management strategies by increasing public awareness through educational campaigns, improving access to recycling facilities, and incentivizing sustainable practices in households and businesses.” (participant 4)

“I’m willing to actively engage or volunteer in community-led initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable waste management practices in Dublin. It’s important for individuals and communities to work together toward a more sustainable future.” (Participant 4)

“Dublin could improve its sustainable waste management strategies by implementing more community-based recycling initiatives, expanding composting facilities, and increasing public awareness through education campaigns.” (Participant 1)

Participant 3 believes that even though he is aware that Dublin council and the government of Ireland has made an investment of million of euros to transit to the circular economy successfully he is recommending to invest even more to include every one and do it more participative and less connected to law, polices and guidelines.

“I believe Dublin council should invest more resources in promoting composting and organic waste reduction programs to further enhance its sustainable waste management efforts”.

4.3.2 consequences of the lack of self-awareness regarding sustainability in individuals

In the literature review was stated that the implementation of the programs regarding sustainability might provide a participation of individuals and at the same time they must know that the government is Assisting households and communities in endeavors to "reduce, reuse, and recycle" is a focal point, with special emphasis placed on leveraging resources like MyWaste.ie, the official

guide to waste management in Ireland. This platform serves as a comprehensive resource to aid individuals and communities in adopting sustainable waste management practices, (Government of Ireland 2022-2023).

“I’m willing to actively engage or volunteer in community-led initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable waste management practices in Dublin. It’s important for individuals and communities to work together toward a more sustainable future” (Participant 2).

“I would like to engage or volunteer initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable waste management practices in Dublin. As a business owner, I understand the importance of contributing to the community and protecting the environment for future generations.” (Participant 8).

Most of the participants in this interview tested that one of the principal consequences and will is to have engagement with the initiatives or programs that are taken from the policies and laws provided by the government. Sustainability tent to be unreachable when the same policy maker are creating dense understanding on the individuals.

4.4 Bad Implementation of the policies

In total the responses of the participant let the interpretation of the research to understand on their own experience exist a bad implementation of the policies, by not providing the accurate information or the necessary tools to get the community an adequate engagement to be able of full filling long and short term goals.

The collective feedback from the participants sheds light on how they perceive the implementation of policies. It reveals a common sentiment among them: a lack of effectiveness in the execution of these policies. Participants express frustration over inadequate provision of accurate information and essential tools necessary for fostering community engagement. As a result, they feel unable to fully participate in achieving both short-term and long-term objectives. This insight underscores the importance of ensuring that policies are not just

established but also effectively communicated and supported with the resources needed for community members to actively contribute to their success.

4.5 Conclusion of the findings chapter

The discoveries made in this study provide valuable insights into how the shift towards a circular economy affects the economy and how people view sustainability. It gives us a sight into what individuals think about sustainability and how their perceptions can either boost or deter initiatives and programs aimed at promoting it. Connecting these findings with what previous research has already shown us, the next step is to examine deeper into these insights. We will explore what actions can be taken based on these conclusions, identify any limitations we may encounter, and put forward new ideas to further advance our understanding and implementation of sustainable practices.

CHAPTER V: DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

Having reviewed the findings presented in the preceding section, this chapter aims to interpret and assess their significance within the context of the literature review. Additionally, it will highlight certain implications and limitations of the study and propose recommendations for future research endeavors.

5.2 Findings

The goal of this study was to provide valuable insights into the economic impact of the transition to circular economy in Ireland, taking in consideration one of the pillars of the economy that is the individual. The findings suggest that the policies and the correct spread of the information regarding the circular economy programs, either affect or stimulates the participation of the people in the sustainability initiatives.

To answer each query, four objectives were selected, and each of them will be critically evaluated and linked to the findings and the literature review in the next section.

5.3 Discussion

5.3.1 Objective 1 - to explore the advantages of sustainability in the population

The findings in this study for the objective number 1 stated that two clear advantages of the sustainability in the population perspective. Is a clear and good incentive for the community's future engaging all the benefit possible. All the participants agree on the importance of creating sustainable initiatives. They all know the existence of social programs regarding sustainability and is not longer a tabu or a myth. For this reason, participating on sustainability is important even more provide an adequate communication dynamic to make it more accessible. This supports the argument of the regulations serve the dual purpose of safeguarding the well-being of their populations and aligning with international agreements or protocols, such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, (Romero-Hernández, O. & Romero, S. 2018) that proclaimed the importance of alignment but not being able of having a source where the individuals experiences were taking in consideration.

After analysing all the results, it can be concluded that the level of awareness of the participants or individuals regarding the sustainability and transition to circular economy might affect to the economic impact that the social programs are having by not reaching the goal stipulated on the objectives laws, policies and guidelines.

5.3.2 Objective 2 to identify in which ways policies can improve peoples participation regarding sustainability initiatives.

The next objective is to evaluate how can the policies improve the dynamic participation of the people regarding the sustainability initiatives. The result

reflects the individuals are more self-aware of the sustainable initiatives and the transition to the circular economy since they get the accurate information of how they can engage and what will it be the cost. Recognizing the social programs provided from the government laws and adapting their behaviors towards the objectives. Therefor individuals make an effort to understand how to participate actively the result show that in law and policy the most important issue is the result and the process of the implementation of the social program that even thought a law is well structured if the individual do not adapt it to its routing I will not be worth from the individual point of view.

The result validate what analyzed on the literature review chapter that Encouraging consumers to adopt behaviors that support the circular economy involves raising awareness, providing incentives, and offering accessible resources and services for repair and maintenance. Additionally, promoting a culture of sharing, borrowing, and product leasing can help facilitate the transition towards more sustainable consumption patterns, Claudy, M., & Peterson, M. (2022).

As result it can be assumed that the information spread of the policies regarding sustainability and transition to circular economy, might affect on the correct implementation of it, and also if the experience and ideas of the individuals is not take in consideration the objectives and goal will be still complicated to achieve.

5.3.3 Objective 3 To determine the consequences of lack of participation of population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy.

The final objective is to determine the consequences of lack of participation of the population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy. In this study all the participants agreed on the fact that it can be crucial for the long term if the individuals do not know the accurate information regarding social programs, and initiatives it can be bias from the beginning. This statement declare that they are aware of their active participation is essential for the future

and the economic impact is also tested, this could lead on bringing more people to participate or discourage them to do it.

This is confirmed by the statement that the researcher did on the literature review chapter that the urban planning aspects play a crucial role in shaping waste management practices within urban environments, considering factors such as spatial distribution, infrastructure development, and community engagement strategies (S. Bonoli, A., & Tondelli, S. 2011). Where community engagement is one of the pivotal factors but never properly studied.

5.5 Limitations

There are limitations of the paper to discuss. The first one is that the researcher find a considerable gap on the topic question with a considerable amount of missing information as well as the number of participant is limited due to the time consumption for the research. Also, the information could be biased. Another limitation is the geographical area of research, the participant were selected due to their time living in the country but not because of the area where they live or the profession where they work. The results might not present the total areas of Dublin or Ireland, additional research will be needed to determine that. Due to the lack of time and transportation disponible some participants were on a rush of time, that might not lead to the appropriate answer of the inquiries.

5.6 Recommendations for future research

In the future researches, mixed-method study could be adequate and recommend in order to measure the levels of participation as well as the economic, social, political impact of the sustainability and the transition to circular economy, also the level of knowledge on the topic of the participants as the time pass by so they can participate with more knowledge regarding the topic and be more accurate. Also, a longitudinal study would be useful to know how the experience are being modified over the time while the level of participation in sustainability increases.

Future studies should be taken part by increasing the participation of individuals to other cities in Ireland or other countries in Europe. And, more important information to generate if the findings would be reproduced in a bigger investigation project.

5.7 Conclusion of the discussion chapter

This chapter dip into the findings discussed in the preceding section. On compare, the relationship of the conclusions displays the value and advantages the economic impact of sustainability and the transition to a circular economy as well as pointing out the levels of participation and its economic consequences. The next chapter will offer a summary of the outcome primary their worth and significance.

Chapter 6 – Conclusion

6.1 Conclusion

The present study examined the economical impact of the transition to circular economy, focusing in how the individuals engage in sustainability. The researcher look for leave a study where can be found the economical impact this means the lack of participation of the individuals is the reason why in not being successful the initiatives provided on the policies and laws. This study found that even when the government invest in the initiatives and social programs to encourage the transition to the circular economy, this tent to fail, due to the lack of participation of the population, so can be pointed that the failure of results generate that the investment Is not useful so can be interpreted as the economical impact, the bad results in return.

The first goal to this investigation was stated that two clear advantages of the sustainability In the population perspective. Is a clear and good incentive for the community's future engaging all the benefit possible. All the participants agree on the importance of creating sustainable initiatives. They all know the existence of social programs regarding sustainability and is no longer a tabu or a myth. For this reason, participating on sustainability is important even more provide an adequate communication dynamic to make it more accessible.

Another goal was to evaluate how can the policies improve the dynamic participation of the people regarding sustainability initiatives. The result reflects the individuals are more self-aware of the sustainable initiatives and the

transition to the circular economy since they get the accurate information of how they can engage and what will it be the cost. Recognizing the social programs provided from the government laws and adapting their behaviors towards the objectives.

The last goal was to determine the consequences of lack of participation of the population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy. In this study all the participants agreed on the fact that it can be crucial for the long term if the individuals do not know the accurate information regarding social programs, and initiatives it can be bias from the beginning. This statement declare that they are aware of their active participation is essential for the future and the economic impact is also tested, this could lead on bringing more people to participate or discourage them to do it.

This research aims to explore the implications of limited population participation on sustainability, waste management, and the circular economy. Through this study, it became evident that the lack of accurate information about social programs and initiatives can significantly influence outcomes. Participants unanimously agreed that active engagement is vital for long-term sustainability. Furthermore, the economic ramifications of participation were examined, revealing that this factor can either encourage or deter individuals from taking part in such initiatives. These insights underscore the importance of informed and active involvement in shaping future sustainability efforts.

6.2 Recommendations, Implications, and Implementation Plan

The next recommendations are made based on the researcher findings:

- I.- How policies in sustainability conditionate people's participation toward the transition to circular economy?
- II.- What ways can policies be improved by increasing and developing adequate programs from the peoples perspective?
- I.- What are some consequences of lack of participation of population on sustainability, waste management and circular economy?.

6.3 Individual learning Declaration

Having this study has been one challenging academic goal that I have done. I have acquired beneficial knowledge of how is the process to complete a research in general, but significantly on how to carry out a methodology chapter, which appears to be complicated at the start. I found the interview process to be enjoyable, as it provided an opportunity to delve deeper into the perspectives of the study participants. Given the topic at hand, it was fascinating to learn their thoughts and insights. Through conducting this research, I have come to realize the importance of focusing not only on the end goal but also on the smaller steps required to reach it. This approach can make the tasks more enjoyable and ultimately contribute to achieving significant objectives.

I have choose this topic because I have a background in law and I understand how law, policy and guidelines work and I also understand how important is the participation of the individuals for it. Also, sustainability is a very complex topic and is also very important to discuss.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Title of the research: *Examination of the economic impact of the legal framework and policies addressing waste management and the transition to a circular economy in Dublin.*

Researcher: *Jose Luis Limas Perez*

Contact number: *08334843228*

Email: *x22195394@student.ncirl.ie*

I would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in a study. Please do your speed to thoroughly read all the provided information and feel free to decide whether or not you would like to participate in the research.

My name is Jose Luis Limas Perez and I'm currently studying Master of science in international business at National College of Ireland.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to explore the individuals experiences regarding the impact of participation in the transition in to circular economy regarding the sustainability projects, Initiatives, guidelines, policies and the overall performance.

Participants

You have been requested to participate in this study because your expertise, qualified experiences, and particular view are expected to provide significant and relevant insights for the investigation.

Procedure

Participation in this study is voluntary and entails the following:

You will engage in an interview consisting of 18 open-ended questions.

The interview will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and is expected to last between 30 minutes to 1 hour.

The questions are open-ended, allowing you to discuss any relevant topics or concerns and provide additional information as needed. The interviewer may request elaboration on your responses.

The interview will be scheduled at a time convenient for you by the end of February 2024.

The interview will be recorded for accuracy.

You are free to choose not to answer any questions or to end the interview at any point if you feel uncomfortable.

Potential risks and benefits of participation:

This investigation is considered to pose very minimal risk. Participants may feel uncomfortable answering certain questions, and the duration of the interview may be a concern for some individuals. However, there are potential benefits to participation, including contributing to valuable research and sharing insights that may inform future studies or practices.

Confidentiality:

Your talk will be documented only with your explicit consent, ensuring the accuracy of the qualitative analysis of the collected data. Additionally, selected quotes from the transcription may be added in the final authored thesis to support key points derived from the interview, with your approval. All information provided by participants will be kept confidential and securely stored in the investigator's home office. Your replies will not be shared or discussed with any other participants in the study, and your individuality will remain anonymous in the student's paper.

Information Storage:

Contracted agreement forms and initial acoustic records will be securely stored on a private personal computer until after the researcher's degree has been awarded. Records of conversations, with all identifying information removed, will be retained for an additional two years thereafter. Under freedom of material statute, participants have the right to access the information they have furnished at any time.

Results of the study

The results of this paper will form a thesis, which will be submitted to the national college of Ireland as part of the MA in international business programme.

If you have any inquiries, please contact the student.

Participant consent

I have carefully read the information provided above and hereby consent to participate in this study. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this form for my records.

Signature participant

date

Participant name prin

APPENDIX 2: Interview questionnaire

- 1.- How long have you been living in Ireland?
- 2.- what is your profession?
- 3.-What area of Dublin do you currently live?
- 4.- what does sustainability means to you?
- 5.- How familiar are you with Dublin's current sustainable and waste management initiatives?
- 6.- On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the accessibility of recycling facilities in your neighbourhood?
- 7.- Do you believe Dublin's waste management efforts effectively address the city's environmental concerns?
- 8.- Have you encountered any challenges or obstacles in properly disposing of your waste in Dublin?
- 9.- Are you aware of any incentives or rewards offered by the city to encourage sustainable waste management practices regarding recycling ?
- 10.- are you familiar with the concept circular economy?
- 11.- Do you know any program regarding sustainability?
- 12.- can you mention any?
- 13.- Have you actively participated in any of Dublin's waste reduction or recycling programs in the past year?
- 14.- Are you aware of any incentives or rewards offered by the city to encourage sustainable waste management practices?
- 15.- How would you rate the clarity and effectiveness of Dublin's communication regarding waste sorting and recycling guidelines?
- 16.- Do you think Dublin council should invest more resources in promoting composting and organic waste reduction programs?
- 17.- In your opinion, what improvements could Dublin make to enhance its sustainable waste management strategies?
- 18.- Are you willing to actively engage or volunteer in community-led initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable waste management practices in Dublin?