

MONITORING PROGRESS IN EUROPE'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY

THE BELLAGIO PROCESS

THE OBJECTIVE

Europe's new Circular Economy Action Plan, "For a cleaner and more competitive Europe", signals monitoring of this policy as a key element to ensure meaningful change of our reality. Built on the European Green Deal and the 2020 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, the action plan calls for improved metrics to monitor the progress towards circularity. This monitoring should cover the interlinkages between circularity, climate neutrality and the zero-pollution ambition. Indicators on resource use, including consumption and material footprints to account for material consumption and environmental impacts associated to our production and consumption patterns, will also be further developed and will be linked to monitoring and assessing the progress towards decoupling economic growth from resource use and its impacts in the EU and beyond.

The Bellagio process is an initiative taken by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) to explore possibilities to scale up best practice and set up monitoring principles for Europe and thus contribute to the objectives of the new Circular Economy Action Plan.

THE PROCESS

This initiative is designed as a process of discussion, with a series of online webinars, during the spring and summer 2020 that will then consolidate the experience in a Workshop on 14-16 October 2020 in Bellagio (Italy).

The learnings of the process will be distilled in a Declaration of Principles that will be endorsed by the high-level segment of the conference in its last day.

The envisioned structure for the sessions planned for Bellagio in May basically focused on the following elements:

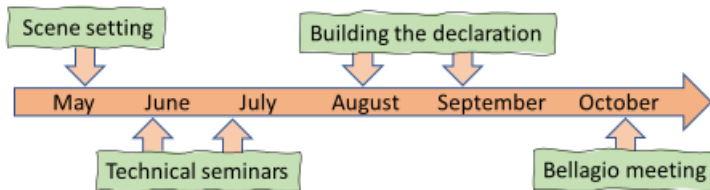
- Build a shared sense of purpose
- Look at experience and needs from a national, sub-national, company, sectoral, etc perspective
- Gradually distil this into principles on what to do and good practice on how to do monitoring
- Agree on principles at high level segment.

The webinar proposal tries to mimic this overall logic.

The 'Bellagio process' aims at building consensus on 'What to Monitor' and use best-practice examples as well as innovative ideas to identify shared principles on 'How to Monitor'. These principles will then form the basis for further developments around indicators and monitoring frameworks in support of the Green Deal.



TIMELINE



DETAIL OF ACTIVITIES

	<h3>Webinar 1 – Scene Setting</h3> <p>The ‘what to monitor’ question</p>
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Aim: This first webinar aims to identify the broad elements of what to monitor. It will need to look at the overall logic of the Green Deal, how it links to the broader SDG framework, how it links to all pillars of sustainability and how it is expected to guide policy developments at different levels.

Speakers: Speakers should represent the ‘Monitoring Demand Side’ such as the European Commission (to represent the Green Deal), the International Community (OECD, UN or similar to link to SDGs), representatives of Industry, Consumers, etc.

Audience: All the expected attendees to the physical meeting in Bellagio as this is building shared sense of purpose for all.

Timing: Meeting could be timed to coincide with the original plan for Bellagio (early May), but it could also happen earlier. Duration ca. 2 hours.

Structure: Mainly a one-way presentation from experts with limited Q&A given a rather large number of participants.

	<h3>Webinar 2 – Monitoring Experience</h3> <p>The ‘how to monitor’ question</p>
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Aim: Explore best practice along a number of different dimensions. Each block is a webinar in its own right to gather further data on what works and what does not work. It will deepen the ‘what’ discussion with a focus on what is practically possible. For each block we may want to include a ‘provocateur’ to try to look at possible new elements.



- National experience
- Sub-national experience
- Sectoral experience (plastics, textiles, construction, electronics)
- Company level experience

Speakers: People with experience in each area who can add realism to the discussion on ‘how’. Many possible speakers already identified in the Bellagio agenda.

Audience: A small number of expert participants and the ‘Bellagio writing group’ consisting of EEA, ISPRA and possibly a few others to be identified (advisory group).

Timing: To happen over the weeks following webinar 1. As each webinar is independent of others it is simply a practical question to decide when it can happen. May until end June. Each webinar ca. 2 hours

Structure: Each sub-webinar is composed of a presentation part with Q&A followed by intensive discussion with the ‘writing group’ in order to extract the best learning from each stakeholder group.



Webinar 3 – Extracting the experience Towards a declaration

Where the first webinar builds a shared sense of direction and the second set of webinars provides technical input on experience and best practice, the aim of the third set of webinars is to extract the relevant principles from this ‘dataset’. The exact form this will take depends on the clarity of the advice provided by the previous phases of the process. It will, however, include the ‘Bellagio writing group’ as defined in the second block of webinars. The expectation is that a small number of sessions can be used to shape the different parts of the declaration. The expectation is to have a stable draft of the declaration ready by 1 September to allow national delegations time to discuss it at home and ensure a proper mandate to discuss it further during the Bellagio meeting itself.



Bellagio Workshop Culmination of the Bellagio process

The webinar process essentially mimics the process foreseen during the Bellagio meeting itself. The meeting will therefore change from being the singular point where all evidence is presented and everything needs to happen, to a set of sessions that can be used to broaden the understanding of the declaration, refine the wording of the different guiding elements as well as ensure a proper buy-in to the principles.





Overall, the meeting will continue to have the elements that are parallel to the webinar structure, but with a strengthened emphasis on elements that appear to require more analysis following the discussions in the writing group.

The agenda will thus still include sessions to establish the policy framing – something that will be important in the wake of the Covid19 crisis and its political fallout. It will furthermore contain discussions on the relevance of the principles to specific national circumstances, sectoral realities and international frameworks. Finally, the meeting will include sessions to elaborate the declaration text further to prepare it for the high-level segment that will close the meeting with an expected agreement on a set of principles on the monitoring framework for circular economy.

