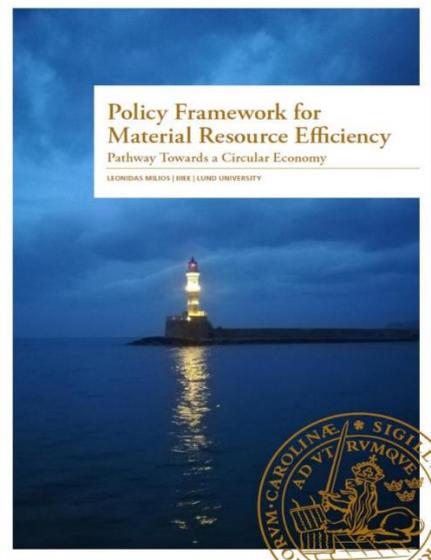


New dissertation maps the EU's resource efficiency policy

Policy Framework for Material Resource Efficiency: Pathway Towards a Circular Economy, Leonidas Milios, 2020 March 30, Lund: The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics. 136 p.



In a new dissertation from Mistra REES, Leonidas Milios, Lund University, has analyzed the EU's policy for the circular economy. The aim has been to map existing regulations and instruments in order to identify legal and political gaps and analyze opportunities for policy improvement to promote the transition to a more sustainable and resource-efficient economy. Among other things, the study provides suggestions for what additional policy measures could increase the pace of the EU's work towards a more resource-efficient and circular economy. Resource efficiency is one of the cornerstones of the European Commission's green endowment – the major investment that aims to make the EU climate neutral by 2050. At the same time, the green endowment will be a central part of the EU's economic growth policy in the coming years. Among other things, the study states that Sweden currently lacks an overall resource efficiency strategy and that so far, there is no national action plan for increased resource efficiency.

The Swedish circularity policy is instead manifested by a patchwork of different regulations and instruments – a structure that is recognizable from many other EU countries. An important conclusion in the dissertation is that a more coherent policy is needed to be able to realize the EU's vision of a circular and resource-efficient economy. Not least, it must be easier for citizens and businesses to find information and knowledge about circularity and reuse.

Leonidas also highlights the possibility of requiring reused products through public procurement. Another proposal that is being discussed is the establishment of a national reuse target in parallel with various forms of support measures for commercial actors in reuse. The policy proposals submitted can either be used individually or combined in a more comprehensive policy action program. The dissertation contains, among other things, a discussion of the effect of various policy instruments, and provides several examples of national initiatives in resource efficiency and circularity. The dissertation lays the foundation for continued research on how bottlenecks in national and European legislation and policy can be remedied to strengthen the EU's political work in the circular economy.

“Policies and instruments play a central role in realizing the vision of a more resource-efficient and climate-smart economy, not least when it comes to creating incentives for reuse and repair and thereby creating more circular product flows.”

Leonidas Milios