



Joint European Social Partners project on Circular Economy, 14 October 2021

Karoliina Rasi, Confederation of Finnish Industries

- The circular economy seeks to answer a truly fundamental question: that we live here on earth beyond our means.
- An economy based on over-consumption of natural resources has an impact on both biodiversity and the climate.
- Companies can move into a circular economy with a variety of business models, but they have in common the value cycle.
- The fact that the value of a material or product is maintained or even increased in the business development cycle. Without it, business will not grow and be profitable.

Finland, a few cases

- According to the Commission, less than 40% of Waste electrical and electronic equipment WEEE is currently recycled (the recycling rate for precious metals in the EU is around 11%, for light rare earths 7%, for heavy rare earths 6%, for germanium 2% and for gallium 0%).
- The EU economy and industrial production are increasingly dependent on imports of Critical Raw Materials.
- **The goal is to provide Finland with a scalable and replicable new type of export product - “Urban Mining” - for the global SER treatment market, which can be used to efficiently recover critical raw materials from various industrial waste streams.**
- **The processing capacity of a commercial plant would correspond to about 30% of the annual volume of circuit boards separable in Europe from computers, laptops and mobile phones.**



Finland, a few cases

- Waste textiles in the EU: in 20 years we produce textile waste 20 times more.
- Only 1% is recycled.
- ”Every second on truckfilled with textile waste burned or landfilled.
- In Finland, a few innovative startups creating new fibre of wood-based cellulose with much less water and emitting less CO2 than producing cotton for example does.
- Recycling textile fibre
- The largest waste textile recycling plant in Scandinavia opened in October 2021 – enables the recycling of end-of-life textiles into new raw material





Social partners to work together

- Raising awareness
- Encouraging youth to study new areas
- Upskilling and re-skilling