

A Comparative Study on Bottom-Up/Top-Down Circular Economy Adult Participant Information Sheet

Investigators Details:

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Section A

We would like to present our proposed study to you. Before you decide whether or not you would like to opt out of the study, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. This sheet provides all of the information about the study. Talk to others about the study before making a decision if you wish.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study involves a comparison between the ideas of the circular economy as proposed by different actors. We would like to do an academic comparison between the ideas behind an open source circular economy and that of the more common idea of the circular economy which doesn't consider open source principles. To do this, we would like to analyse the content of the community forum, which would make up a component of the data for this study.

Who is doing this research and why?

The research will be done by the three named researchers at the top of this form. Dr Sharon Prendeville will be the lead researcher, with support from Dr Jérémy Bonvoisin and Dr Benjamin Tyl. All of these researchers have expertise in the core ideas being studied. Dr Sharon Prendeville is a co-founder of the OSCE community and Dr Jérémy Bonvoisin is a community participant. There is no funding for this research.

The study is being undertaken because we believe that the circular economy debate is biased towards corporates and businesses, with less focus on citizen-led initiatives. Alongside this, the circular economy concept lacks nuance and we believe the concerns and activities of the OSCE community can address this problem.

Are there any exclusion criteria?

No.

What will I be asked to do?

This study does not require you to actively participate in any research activities. When the study is completed, members of the board of the OSCE and community members may be asked to respond to the study results as a means to consider the validity of those results.

Once I take part, can I change my mind?

Yes. Due to the nature of the discussion on the community forum, which will make up a component of this study, we propose that individuals choose to opt out, if this is your desire. This is because it is not possible to obtain opt-in from all contributors on the community forum.

Read this information and ask any questions you may have to ensure you are happy with the proposed study. However, if at any time, before, during or after the sessions you wish to withdraw from the study please just contact the main investigator. You can withdraw at any time, for any reason and you will not be asked to explain your reasons for withdrawing.

However, once the results of the study are aggregated/published/dissertation has been submitted (expected mid-late 2018), it will not be possible to withdraw your individual data from the research.

Will I be required to attend any sessions and where will these be?

No. As already stated, when the study is completed, you may be asked to respond to the initial study results as a means to consider the validity of the results.

How long will it take?

The whole research process is expected to take from 6-12 months, though this may be longer or shorter. This includes the development of the study design, analysis of the data, and publication of the final results.

What personal information will be required from me?

None.

Are there any disadvantages or risks in participating?

The Loughborough University risk assessment identified no risks.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

The data under analysis is publically available on the OSCE community forum and thus the nature of the security and/or privacy of the data is not a major concern. The analysed data will be stored at the main university premises for up to six years after the study. This data will also be submitted to the open access journal to which the study is intended to be published. This means that this data set may be accessible on some data repositories.

I have some more questions; who should I contact?

Dr Sharon Prendeville on the email address noted at the top of this form.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be published in an open access journal and disseminated among the researchers' networks. It is possible the study will also be presented in network

events and for relevant to the circular economy. The findings of the study may inform future projects in this area.

How will the information be used?

This information sheet is primarily directed to the core OSCE board members, though data from all community members will be analysed. The study is focused on using the publically available data hosted on the OSCE community forum. The data is already publically available on the community forum and no additional data will be asked of community members.

No personal information is being sought out for the purposes of this study. Nevertheless, if personal information is included it would be kept anonymous and confidential to the researchers. Quotes may be used in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs.

What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact the Secretary of the Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee, Research Office, Hazlerigg Building, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU. Tel: 01509 222423. Email: researchpolicy@lboro.ac.uk

The University also has policies relating to Research Misconduct and Whistle Blowing which are available online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/committees/ethics-approvals-human-participants/additionalinformation/codesofpractice/> .

Section B: Questions that you may wish to include on the Information Sheet, if relevant to your study:

Is there anything I need to do before the sessions?

No, you are not requested to participate in any sessions to support data collection. You may be requested to read the final study for validation purposes.

Is there anything I need to bring with me?

No.

What are the possible benefits of participating?

The benefits of this study are such that it would contribute to a broader and diversified academic discourse on the nature of the circular economy concept. It will likely lead to increased awareness of the activities of the OSCE community, including broadening awareness of the initiative as well as better understanding the impact of the community to date. It may also lead to additional benefits such as understanding of gaps/opportunities/issues.