

# Learning from comparative case studies – selected Green Economy cases from Finland, France, the Netherlands and Germany

Riina Antikainen, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

Pekka Leskinen, Laura Saikku, Kati Pitkänen, SYKE

Nils Droste, Berndt Hansjürgens, UFZ

Eleonore Loiseau, Irstea

Peter Kuikman, Alterra

Marianne Thomsen, DCE

Green Economy: Opportunities for Jobs, Growth and Innovation in Europe  
EPA Network event in Brussels, 5 June 2015

# Background

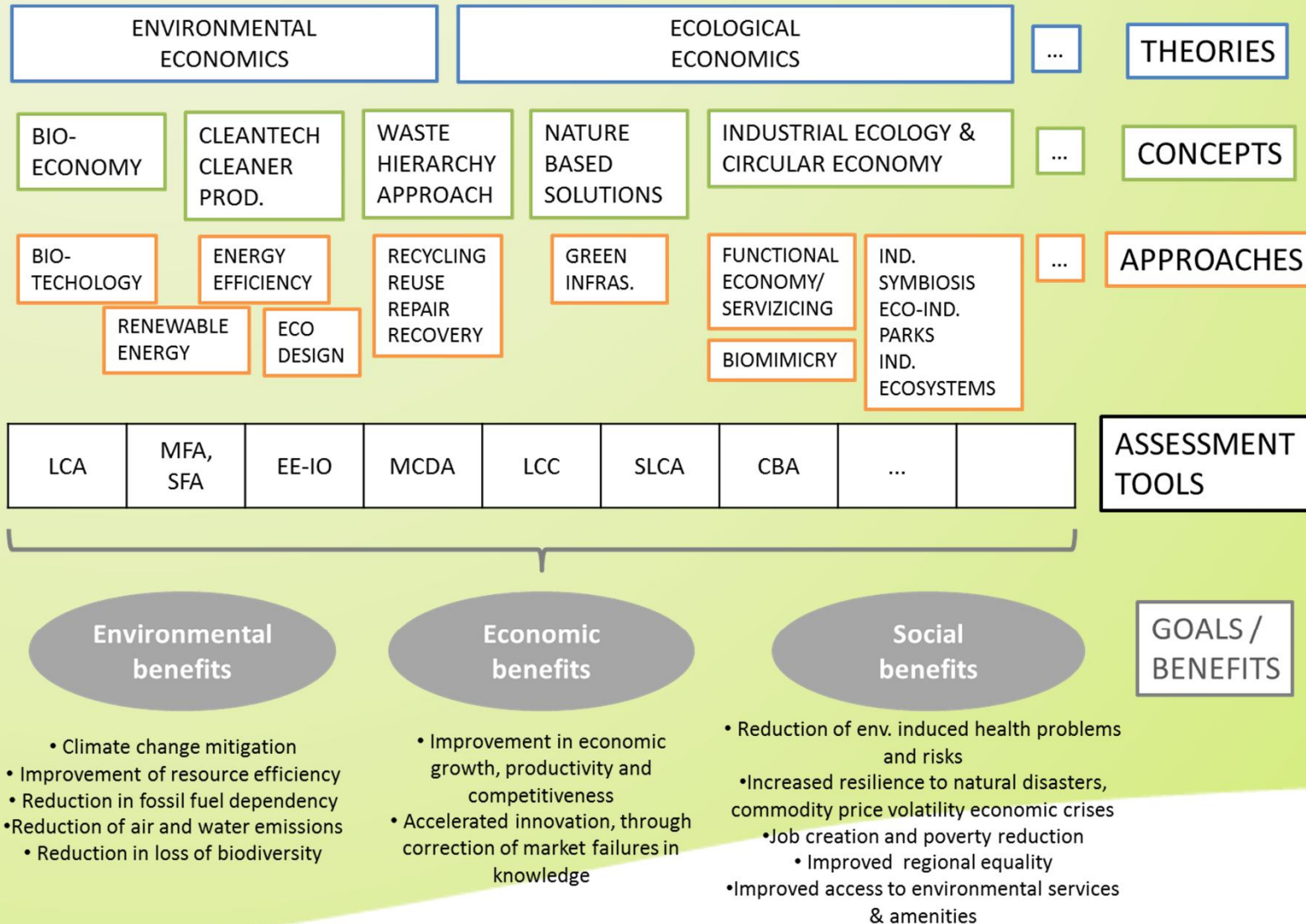
- Green growth, green economy and more recently also circular economy have been launched as a response to challenges in transition to sustainable (socio-economic and ecological) development
- More information is needed about real examples of a green economy transition
  - barriers, limiting/impeding factors, challenges
  - success factors and drivers
  - conditional/critical factors
  - impacts on the environment, economy and the society

# 9 cases in Finland, France, the Netherlands and Germany



PARTNERSHIP FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

# Green economy leans on several theories, concepts and approaches, and aims to create multiple benefits



	Cleantech	Bioeconomy	Ren. energy	Energy efficiency	Material efficiency	Waste hierarchy	Recycling, reuse, repair, recovery	Functional economy	Ecodesign	Industrial ecology	Nature based solutions
HINKU (Finland)	X		X	X							
Jyväskylä (Finland)	X			X	X		X	X			
Wood construction (Finland)		X		X					X		
BIODECOL (France)	X	X	X							X	
Miniwaste (France)					X	X	X				
Industrial Symbiosis in Dunkirk (France)						X	X			X	
MoorFutures (Germany)											X
Energiewende (Germany)	X		X	X							
Healthy Sand (Netherlands)							X				X



# Transition towards a green economy is often based on win-win solutions

- Straightforward **win-win solutions** identified especially in successful **local level cases** (Healthy sand; Dunkirk)
- Market barriers especially in the pilot phase: **cost-effectiveness** in comparison to traditional alternatives, **market structures** (e.g. wood construction)
- **External financial support critical** to plan and launch an experiment → may turn into a **barrier** if case becomes too reliable on external resources (e.g. Jyväskylä, Miniwaste)
- New funding mechanisms to **engage the private sector** and the **general public** (MoorFutures)

## R&D has significant role in bringing new solutions and in verification of the benefits

- Technological development and new technologies needed to solve technological **barriers** and enhance **cost-effectiveness** (e.g. Energiewende, Dunkirk)
- Valid and reliable **impact assessments** to estimate/prove benefits and for publicity (Biodecol, Hinku, MoorFutures, Healthy sand...)

# Coherent support of national and European policies is required to pave the way towards a green economy

- Regulatory barriers and drivers in Green Economy
  - > multi-level & cross-sectoral policies and harmonization
- Strategic role of policy and public bodies: long-term commitment, consensus, credibility and reliability (e.g. Energiewende, MoorFutures, Dunkirk)



Green economy cases in practice can be very diverse in terms of sector, scale, stakeholders and aims.

Networks and social capital are crucial in successful implementation despite of scale and context

- Good **leadership** and **coordination**
  - potential barrier if not secured after pilot/project phase (e.g. Hinku, Miniwaste, Biodecol, Dunkirk)
  - Role of intermediary organisations
- Commitment of relevant **stakeholders**
  - can be supported by contracts (e.g. Hinku, Dunkirk)
- **Social capital** embedded in networks (Dunkirk, Miniwaste, Healthy sand, Biodecol)

Potential trade-offs among multiple goals, across sectors and international leakage need to be taken into account

- Local resistance and NIMBY may lead into conflicts and become barrier (e.g. Energiewende, Biodecol)
- Public perception and image important for general acceptance and demand

# Demonstrations on green economy in practice are important

- commitment and mutual trust between actors within the networks as well as public demand for green economy solutions is crucial and reduces the risk of conflicting interests
- more examples and systematic upscaling of good practices and lessons learned
  - within different approaches and concepts
- monitoring, impact assessment and evaluation

The presentation is based on the results of ongoing project  
**Bioeconomy and green engineering as  
foundations for future circular & green economy  
(PEER GE)**

More information: [riina.antikainen@ymparisto.fi](mailto:riina.antikainen@ymparisto.fi)