

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PACKAGING WASTE IN SERBIA

Suzana Knežević, Jelena Ignjatović, Milan Glišić

*Academy of Vocational Studies Šabac, Unit of Agricultural and Business Studies and Tourism, Vojvode Putnika 56, 15000 Šabac, Srbija
e-mail: jignjatovic985@gmail.com*

Abstract

The circular economy, as the antithesis of the linear model of the economy, is considered an imperative for sustainable development and is one of the priorities of economic development in the Republic of Serbia, which will lead to a better economic perspective and sustainable economic growth. In the modern world, there is an increasing use of the circular economy, in which recycling is the leading instrument. Considering that the topic of our work is the importance of the circular economy in the management of packaging waste, it is packaging waste that can be recycled. In fact, packaging waste is any packaging or packaging material that cannot be used for its original purposes, except for residues created in the production process. Contemporary society is characterized by an increasing production of municipal waste, in which packaging waste represents a significant share. The management of packaging and packaging waste is connected with the concept of cleaner production, all with the aim of protecting the environment while respecting the principles of sustainable development. In Serbia, packaging waste is on average 14% glass, 25% plastic, 34% paper and cardboard, 5% metal, 21% wood and less than 1% of the rest. The recycling of packaging waste in accordance with the principle of producer responsibility is supported by seven operators of the packaging waste management system. Packaging waste management in Serbia is on the rise. The specific national goals for the Republic of Serbia in 2020 have been met for the reuse of waste in the value of 62.6% and for the recycling of waste in the value of 60%. Considering that the goal of our work is to point out the importance of the circular economy in the management of packaging waste in Serbia, we conclude that in the coming period we should continue the trend of waste utilization and strive to increase the number of operators.

Keywords: *circular economy, management, packaging, waste, Serbia.*