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**Local resource based regional development opportunities and the
Hungarian waste sector: The case study of Pécs**

According to community based economic development researches, while the local capability based approaches are widely spread in the European planning and development practice (see S3 strategies, EU2020 etc.), in Hungary the subsidy driven local and regional development remains the dominant trend (Faragó–Mezei, 2017). Several times the local resources remain unused in Hungarian towns and villages, and from outside or from above driven developments lead to a kind of path dependency at the settlements (Mezei, 2016).

In the place based, bottom up development concept the local governments need a local resource based approach for the good strategic planning processes, for which they require exact local information about the groups, quality and amount of local resources. But which are the local resources? Nowadays the waste is one of the newly discovered and more widely spread local, regional resource, which could make connections to the Circular Economy approach. Thanks to the Europeanisation trends, the subsidies came from the EU Structural Funds, the multinational companies and the good knowledge transfer of the waste sector, the Hungarian waste management system became “European” in the last few years.

The paper deals with the “possibility” of Circular Economy concept in Hungary by analysing the change of the waste management practice of the City of Pécs.

The main challenges of the sector are the centralization process of the Hungarian waste management and local governmental systems, the average environmental attitudes of stakeholders, and the lack of participative planning and cooperation practice at local and regional level.

References

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