



10th INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“TEN YEARS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”

On the Implementation of a Circular Economy: Role of Institutional Capacity Building

CEGLIA, D. ^{a,b*}, ABREU, M.C.S. ^{a*}, EVANS, S. ^c

a. Universidade Federal do Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará,

b. Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul

c. University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Corresponding author, mabreu@ufc.br*

Abstract

This paper aims to explore the role of institutional capacity building in the development of a circular economy. The study was conducted using open-end interviews with firms and other actors about the industrial symbiosis in the United Kingdom in the light of the particular conditions of the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) experience. A content analysis methodology was applied to the interviews results. Our survey indicates that limited institutional capacity building imposed real constraints of a circular economy. The phase-out of industrial symbiosis in the UK has raised several concerns that should be taken into account. Our results demonstrate that knowledge and relational resources and mobilization capacities were weakly developed. Increasing knowledge and relational resources enable companies to increase mobilization capacity. The design of circular economy should include critical importance of these institutional capacities which positively influenced its adoption as a long-term waste and resource availability solution among companies.

Keywords: *Industrial Symbiosis, Circular Economy, Industrial Ecology, Solid Waste Management, Institutional Capacity*
