

The  
**FRANCE-FINLAND**  
CONFERENCE  
on the circular economy



Tuesday, May the 17th 2022  
at Eurooppasali

Malminkatu 16 00100 HELSINKI

# Saara Alakorva

*Researcher - University of Lapland*

Saara Alakorva is a doctoral candidate and university teacher at the University of Lapland, Faculty of Social Sciences. In her PhD research, Alakorva is interested in Sámi political history and contemporary Sámi political thinking. As a Sámi scholar herself, Alakorva has deep knowledge of issues of the modern Sámi society and she has a background in Sámi reindeer herding. She is co-editor of *The Sámi World* (Routledge, 2022).



# Agnès Cukierman

*Ambassador of France to Finland*

Agnès Cukierman has been Ambassador of France to Finland since 2020. For over 35 years, she has been working for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she has occupied different positions. Before being an Ambassador, she was the chief financial officer after being a Senior Auditor of the French General Inspectorate of Foreign Affairs and a First Deputy Budget Director. Previously, she was Head of Unit in the Human Resource Department. Agnès Cukierman also worked twice as a diplomat at the French Embassy in Moscow and in different political Departments in Paris.



# Kari Herlevi

*Director, Circular Economy for Biodiversity –  
The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra*

Kari Herlevi is Project director in the Circular economy for biodiversity focus area at the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. He is a multi-skilled circular economy expert. Before joining Sitra, Kari led the Green Growth programme at Tekes, which was associated with the circular economy and had a financing volume of more than 100 million euros. He also has experience of Silicon Valley, where he had the privilege of working with the best people in the field. Kari has master's degrees in finance and political sciences.





# Mira Jarkko

*Project manager, Cluster programme for Circular Economy  
City of Helsinki*

Mira Jarkko is (an expert on climate mitigation, circular economy and) the project manager for the Cluster program for Circular economy in the City of Helsinki. The Cluster enables new innovations and business opportunities in circular economy, especially in the building sector. There are currently about 80 businesses and organizations in the Cluster. City provided resources work as the main testbed, but privately owned property can also act as a platform for piloting new solutions through cluster-enabled cooperation.



# Anne Kaiser

*Sustainability Manager – Saint-Gobain Finland Oy*

Anne Kaiser is the Sustainability Manager of Saint-Gobain in Finland and Sustainability Coordinator for Saint-Gobain in Nordic and Baltic region. Anne is an experienced marketing and sustainability professional, holding a Master's Degree in both fields. Anne has worked in different sustainability management and consulting, marketing, R&D and sales positions in multi-national companies (Saint-Gobain, Ruukki, Ramboll). Anne focuses on creating awareness of real estate and construction industry's crucial role on mitigating climate change as well as circularity potential within built environment. She has gathered an extensive knowledge about built environment's sustainability potential over the construction value chain. Anne is a Chairperson of the board of Green Building Council Finland and Coordinator of EU-funded H2020 circular economy innovation project WOOL2LOOP.



# Emma Kari

*Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland*

Emma Kari is the acting Minister of the Environment and Climate Change in the Finnish government. She is also a Member of the Finnish Parliament since 2005 for her second term and Member of the Helsinki City Council since 2009. She acted as the Chair of the Finnish Greens Parliament Group prior to her selection as the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. She has also worked as a Special Advisor in the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in 2014 prior to her selection to the Finnish Parliament.



# Petrus Kautto

*Director, Programme for Sustainable Circular Economy  
Finnish Environment Institute Syke*

Dr. Petrus Kautto is Director for SYKE's Programme for Sustainable Circular Economy. He has extensive track record of generating policy advice and operation at the science-policy interface including working group for the Government strategic programme to promote the CE. Kautto holds a PhD from Aalto University School of Business and has more than 20 years research experience in the fields of circular economy, business and politics, regulation and policy analysis and appraisal.



# Johanna Kohl

*Director, Circular Bioeconomy Research Programme  
Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke*

Johanna Kohl (Adjunct Professor, Dr. Soc.Sc) works as Director of the Circular Bioeconomy Research Programme in Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke). She leads the research project portfolio and future developments of optimized material cycles, added value and new products from main and side streams and transition towards circular bioeconomy.

Kohl has over 20 years of experience on national and international strategic foresight. She is strongly connected with Circular Bioeconomy Alliance. She is also involved in the current Horizon Europe National Expert Group on Cluster 6 (incl Circular Economy). Member of the Uusimaa region council on research. Kohl is an active member on Circular Economy Innovation Ecosystem (Finnish RTOs), and also a member of the National Circular Economy Strategic Programme Implementation multi-stakeholder committee lead by the Ministry of Environment.





# Susanna Lehvavirta

*Research Director, Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science  
University of Helsinki*



Susanna Lehvavirta is the Director of Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS). She is an interdisciplinary scholar, versatile researcher and project director.

She runs research projects concerning urban nature, socio-ecological systems related to it, and nature conservation under climate change. Her background is in plant ecology, but during her career she has developed a more holistic understanding and a way of thinking, which is demonstrated in her research on a wide range of topics, including ecology, environmental aesthetics, user perspectives, recreational psychology, jurisprudential perspectives, life cycle analyses, economy, geography and philosophy. She has led several research projects, which have combined urban nature perspectives with human point-of-view, as well as nature protection with climate change research. The Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science participates in accelerating sustainability transformation in the society and advancing the transition to more sustainable solutions through inter- and multidisciplinary research and education. At its centre lies dialogue and cooperation with different actors in the society.

# Mathieu Leporini

*Researcher, European Center of Excellence on Sustainability*



Mathieu Leporini holds a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences and began his career at the CNRS where he worked on European research projects related to climate change. He worked as the Director of the European and International Affairs for Research of Clermont University and Avignon University. From 2012, he was the Resident Advisor for the European Union Delegation in Morocco. He was then a scientific diplomat for the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs in Vancouver, Canada and in Helsinki, Finland, where he notably contributed to the bilateral cooperation on the topic of circular economy. Back in France, he was the Director of the South of France Regional Research Centre of INRAE and was responsible for missions at the national level related to international mobility strategies and sustainable development. Working within Erasme, the European Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Sustainability, he is working and developing international, interdisciplinary and intersectorial research projects around several topics: Theory of Circularity, Complexity, Systemic approaches, Circular Economy, Sustainability Science, Circular Cooperation and Indigenous, Traditional and Local Knowledge.

# Teemu Loikkanen

*Researcher - University of Lapland*

Teemu Loikkanen is a PhD student in sociology and junior researcher at the University of Lapland, Faculty of Social Sciences.

In his research he has examined Circular Economy, especially in relation to waste infrastructures and various types of waste. Particularly he is focused on the position of individuals in CE and has examined it by developing the concept of waste citizenship.



# Petri Peltonen

*Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland*

Petri Peltonen is Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. In this capacity, he oversees policy development and implementation in the sectors of industry, enterprise and innovation as well as foreign direct investments.

Prior to taking his current position in 2016, Petri Peltonen was Director General of the Enterprise and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Technology Department at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

From 1996 to 2006, he worked at the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation (Tekes), most recently as Executive Director and member of the management team. From 1987 until 1996, he held several technology development positions at the European Space Agency (ESA) in the Netherlands and in the electronics industry in Finland.

Within the scope of his duties, Petri Peltonen takes part in several national and European functions such as the boards of Business Finland, Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra) and the Nordic Investment Bank. He also acts as the European Commission's SME Envoy for Finland.

Petri Peltonen holds M.Sc. and Lic.Tech. degrees from Tampere University of Technology. He is an invited member of the Finnish Academy of Technical Sciences.



# Organised by:



# With the participation of:



This conference is a World Circular Economy Forum Side event.





# The

# FRANCE-FINLAND

# CONFERENCE

## on the circular economy

## Programme

### 15.00 Introduction (15 min)

- Welcoming words from **Agnès Cukierman**, Ambassador of France to Finland
- Welcoming words from **Emma Kari**, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland
- Welcoming words from **Petri Peltonen**, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

### 15.15 Keynote (20 min):

- **Mathieu Leporini**: From a circular economy to a circular society: a holistic approach towards a resilient and sustainable economy

### 15.35 Panel discussion (10 min each + 30min)

- **Kari Herlevi**, Director, Circular Economy for Biodiversity – The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
- **Susanna Lehvävirta**, Research Director, Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science - University of Helsinki
- **Anne Kaiser**, Sustainability Manager – Saint-Gobain Finland Oy
- **Mira Jarkko**, Project manager, Cluster programme for Circular Economy – City of Helsinki
- **Saara Alakorva** and **Teemu Loikkanen**, Researchers - University of Lapland
- **Petrus Kautto**, Director, Programme for Sustainable Circular Economy - Finnish Environment Institute Syke
- **Mathieu Leporini**, Researcher, European Center of Excellence on Sustainability  
Moderator: **Johanna Kohl**, Director, Circular Bioeconomy Research Programme - Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke

### 17.10 Closing remarks