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(eds.)



**Proceedings of the**

**20th EUROPEAN ROUNDTABLE ON  
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND  
PRODUCTION**

**September 8 – 10, 2021  
Graz, Austria**

Graz University of Technology

StadtLABOR Innovations for Urban Quality of Life, Ltd.

under the auspices of the erscp society



# Imprint

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[www.tugraz-verlag.at](http://www.tugraz-verlag.at)

ISBN 978-3-85125-842-4

DOI 10.3217/978-3-85125-842-4



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# Preface

This e-book contains selected presentations from the "20th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production" which was held in September 2021 in Graz, Austria.

The Roundtable was first held in Graz in 1994 under the title "European Roundtable on Cleaner Production Programs" and returned this year with its 20th edition. In its almost 30 years, the Roundtable has taken place in many European countries and has contributed significantly to the development of research on sustainability.

In the first years, the focus was on clean technologies (cleaner production, pollution prevention, etc.) and their development and dissemination, but over time the focus has shifted to systemic issues. Currently, the Roundtable no longer focuses on technologies but instead on systems. Contributions to the Roundtable program range from design to production to consumption, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and resource efficiency throughout the whole cycle.

We now know that consumer behavior – individual and public - is a key issue in a new, more sustainable economic system. The Roundtable responded to this change by updating its name to "European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production". And of course, with the political pressure to restructure the global economic system toward a "CIRCULAR ECONOMY" and the propagated "Green Deal", the systemic aspect has gained even further importance.

With its 20<sup>th</sup> edition, a special focus was set on the role of cities in economic change. We considered both the citizens' perspective and engagement, as well as the role of administrations and politics.

The Roundtable also hosted the "Biannual Workshop on Advanced Energy Systems / BIWAES", which had previously been a separate series of workshops. This event highlighted the importance of new, more sustainable energy systems for the future of a livable planet; again, with a focus on the role of cities.

There was also a change in the way the event was presented. It is no longer a series of lectures, but instead an event with many workshops and interactive sessions. Nevertheless, the Roundtable continues to offer the opportunity to present, discuss and publish research results to young researchers. Several international research programs see erscp21 as an effective dissemination event and hold their consortium meetings in its environment.

The organizers - StadtLABOR Innovations for Urban Quality of Life Ltd. in cooperation with the Institute for Process and Particle Technology of the Graz University of Technology - have decided not to print the conference proceedings, but to make them widely available as an e-book with the publishing house at TU Graz. This is done in an effort to conserve resources.

The organization was actively supported by the erscp-society and the PREPARE group. Special thanks also go to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology for supporting the event.

We hope this publication is interesting to its readers and inspires innovative work in the future

Graz, September 2021

Hans Schnitzer for the whole organization team

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