

Reflection on graduation

At the start of my graduation track, the circular economy (ce) hype just started. I wanted to contribute for to a more sustainable world and was tempted by the enthusiastic introductions of the CE graduation track. In order to focus on the area where I thought most impact could be made, I chose to focus on housing associations (ha) and ce. Housing associations own a large part of the Dutch housing stock. If a change could be made there, lots of homes could be made more efficient. I wanted to reseacht how ha's could use ce for making their housing stock more sustainable.

As research approach, case studies were chose. In this way examples of leading ha's could provide lessons and tips for other ha's that are looking to implement ce. Cases where ha's mention the ce were selected and analysed. This however led not to workable results. The ha's did mention ce in their projects, but the ce was never fully applied. The lessons and tips that I looked for could not be found in the cases that were studied. In the feedback sessions with my mentors, we came to the conclusion that the research should be headed another way. It was clear that the ce projects of the ha's were only partly matching the ce definitions. This meant that no analyses could be made about the consequences of a complete project. Therefore the research shifted to the question to what extend ce was used in the ce projects of ha's and how they relate to sustainability and cradle to cradle. In this way the research was made feasible again and could be elaborated based on the already gathered data.

When shift in the research from the enthusiastic start to a more critical attitude towards CE was made earlier in the research progress, other questions could have been asked in the interviews. This however does not change the findings of the research based on the gathered data.

During the graduation process, I received feedback both on content and structure. The feedback on the theory part was processed by looking for new literature on the topics that were missing, or lacking and add that to the body of text. For the structure feedback also examples were given of how the case studies could be structured. I uses this feedback to restructure the report to match the examples. This made the report more structured and logical.