



 **Mathieu LEPORINI**

From France to Finland 

Project: **Holistic approaches of circularity**

Research topic: **Sustainability Science**

Finnish Institution: **Sitra, University of Helsinki, HelsSus, Luke, Syke, University of Lapland**

French Institution: **CERDI (Clermont Auvergne University / CNRS / IRD) – European centre for Excellence on Sustainability**



Dates of mobility: **12/05/2022 to 25/05/2022**

Program: **France-Finland short mobility funding program**

## PRESENTATION

[Mathieu Leporini](#) holds a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from the [University Blaise Pascal - Clermont-Ferrand](#) (France) and began his career at the [CNRS](#) where he worked on European research projects related to climate change. He became during 4 years the Director of the European and International Affairs for Research of Clermont University and Avignon University and was also one of the National Contact Point for the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission, developing an expertise in local, national, European and international strategies for higher education, research and innovation systems. From 2012, he was the Resident Advisor for the European Union Delegation in Morocco for a European twinning project aiming at strengthening the National Research System of Research and Innovation in Morocco and at increasing cooperation with the European actors of Research Development and Innovation. He was then a scientific diplomat for the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. First as the Attaché for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France to Canada (Western Canada, in Vancouver) where he notably contributed actively to actions and discussions within the framework of the preparation of the Paris Agreement/COP21 and set up several structuring bilateral programs. Then as the Attaché for scientific and university cooperation at the French Embassy in Finland in Helsinki, where he notably initiated the new PHC-like program "Maupertuis" with Finnish Academies and Foundations, initiated the Chair of Excellence program with the Nokia Foundation in the field of artificial intelligence, and contributed to the bilateral cooperation on the topic of circular economy. Back in France and before joining the CNRS-Clermont University research unit CERDI and the European Centre of Excellence on Sustainability, he was the Director of the South of France Regional Research Centre of [INRAE](#) (French National Research Organism on Environment, Food and Agriculture) since 2019 and was responsible for missions at the national level on questions of international mobility strategies and sustainable development. Working within Erasme, the European Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Sustainability and based on all his professional careers and experiences, he is working and developing international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral research projects around several topics: Theory of Circularity, Complexity, Systemic approaches, Circular Economy,

Sustainability Science, Circular Cooperation and Indigenous, Traditional and Local Knowledge. Expert in cooperation, science diplomacy, management, sustainability and climate related topics, he organized and was a speaker and moderator to several international public events.

## ACTIVITIES IN FINLAND

**1- Initiation, co-organisation, keynote and panel discussion of the France-Finland conference on the circular economy 2022** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 15h-17h30 “From a circular economy to a circular society: a holistic approach towards a resilient and sustainable economy” : <https://www.france.fi/en/science-and-universities/the-france-finland-conference-on-the-circular-economy-2022/>

Europe already has plans for advancing the circular economy. But what is needed to create a circular society that brings us towards a resilient and sustainable economy? This event brought together Franco-Finnish speakers and experts on the circular economy and sustainability science, coming from different research disciplines and different sectors. The speakers included among others Ambassador of France to Finland Agnès Cukierman, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland Emma Kari, Under-Secretary of State from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland Petri Peltonen, Researcher at the European Centre of Excellence on Sustainability Mathieu Leporini, and Project Director of Circular economy for biodiversity at Sitra [Kari Herlevi](#). This event was a World Circular Economy Forum 2022 Side Event.

Proceedings: Leporini et al, 2022 <https://hal.science/hal-03850866/>

**2- Meetings in order to foster and develop possible future collaborations with Prof. [Sari Lindblom](#), Rector of the University of Helsinki, [Mika Sulkinoja](#) and [Tuula Sjöstedt](#), Sitra, LUKE researchers working on the Arctic and around sustainability, HelSuS Director [Susanna Lehvävirta](#), Syke representatives and University of Lapland researchers**

**3- Participation in the Sustainability Science Days of HelSuS**

**4- Concrete Outcomes:**

- I am now a University of Helsinki Visiting Scholar (2022 - 2025) at the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HelSus)
- Close collaborations with the UHel – HelSus Sustainability Course and my project of University Foundation Chair on Sustainability Science (Education pilar)
- Meetings for the creation of a formal EU network of Centres of Excellence on Sustainability Science
- Discussion around collaboration between UHel Africa Strategy and CERDI researchers
- Discussion about launching a possible global initiative on the nexus “Sustainability Science / Circular Economy / Local, Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge” with Sitra and UNDP.
- Participation in the WCEF 2022 Africa event
- Joint academic paper with Prof. Hanna Guttorn (in prep) on circularity principles
- Collaboration on the EU funded “Arctic Hubs” project with LUKE
- Collaboration on the Nordic countries project on circular economy and indigenous knowledge with University of Lapland
- Horizon Europe proposal submission (March 2023) with Luke as coordinator and Clermont Auvergne University as partner (and WP leader) on “Addressing biodiversity decline and promoting Nature-based Solutions in higher education”