



PBL Netherlands Environmental  
Assessment Agency

# Justice in circular policy

Examples from the Netherlands

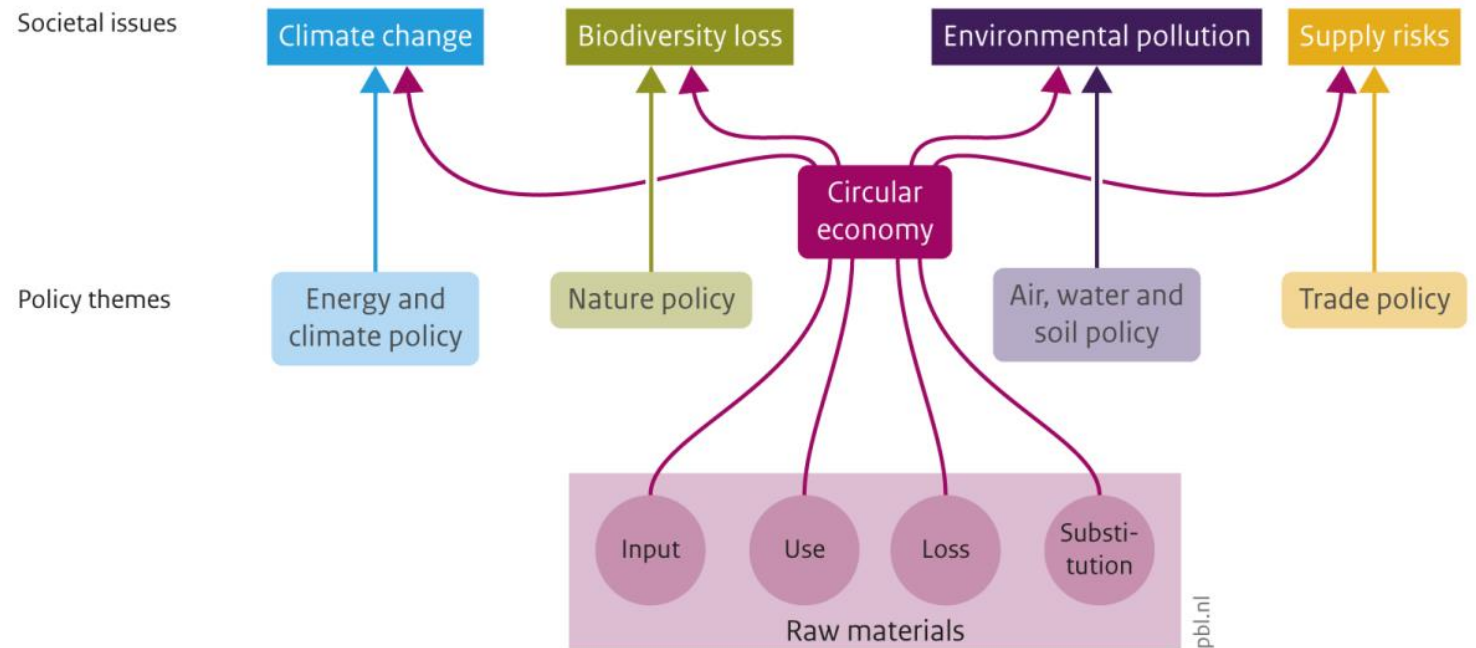
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# Outline

1. Context of CE and justice in the Netherlands
2. Approach: three case studies
3. Example: Right to Repair
4. Reflections

# CE in relation to Dutch policy themes

- National Circular Economy Programme (NCEP)
- Ambition: to realise a fully circular economy in NL by 2050
- Overarching goals of NCEP:
  - Decrease environmental impact (climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss)
  - Improve the security of supply for critical materials



Source: PBL



# Just transition in NCEP

Primarily in international context

→ Translating international agreements into national policy

Increasingly also “closer to home”

→ NCEP aims for more stringent policy and acceleration of transition

→ Increasing urgency for just transition

# Three policy cases



## Deposit on cans and bottles

- > *recycle*
- > National policy



## Biobased housing construction (redesign)

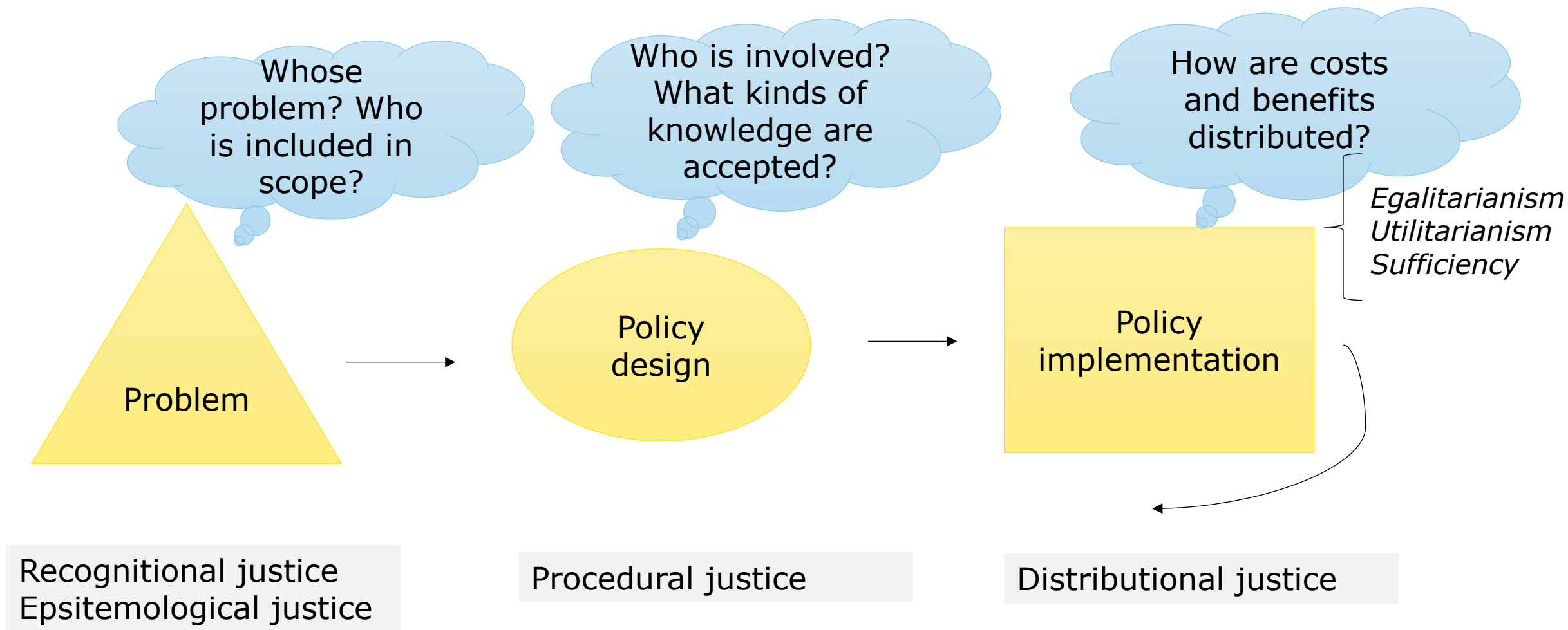
- > *redesign*
- > Local experiments aimed at shaping national policy



## Right to Repair (repair)

- > *repair*
- > EU directive, to be implemented

# Justice dimensions in the policy process



# Example: Right to Repair - problem

*Whose problem? Who is included in scope?*

- › Right to Repair was placed on European policy agenda by action coalitions, such as Right to Repair Europe
- › Despite success, action coalitions remain critical:
- › → of small scope
- › → of how criteria such as “affordable” will be implemented

# Example: Right to Repair – policy design

*Who is involved? What kinds of knowledge are accepted?*

Public consultation (331 reactions); surveys and experiments among retailers and consumers

1. Consumer request for repair
2. European repair information form
3. European Online Platform for repair
4. Extension of liability period

- White goods
- Electronics
- Other goods with light batteries



# Example: Right to Repair – policy implementation

*How are costs and benefits distributed?*

Implementation depends on member states

- + Normalizing repair
- + Longer use = lower costs for consumers
- + Job creation in repair sector
- Small appliances, toys and clothing excluded
- Efforts and costs might be higher than expected

# Reflections: Right to Repair

- › Novel, high-R policy with an interesting design, that has the potential to further normalize repair
- › To further transition scope could/should be widened
- › Implementation by member states is crucial: for inclusion, access, justice



# Reflections: justice in circular policy

1. Justice requires an integral approach
2. Starting point is not neutral
3. Policy design is political
4. Policy is made by a diversity of actors
5. Justice as instrument or as principle?





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# Thank you!



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# References

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