Comment 1
Dear Author! My congratulations on making a nice and very coherent presentation. I would like to hear more from you on the same and see how you conclude your very useful research in the end.

Reply
Thank you!

Comment 2
Great ideas and nice presentation.

Reply
Thank you!

Comment 3
Circular economy (CE) is gaining more and more attention, and it comes with sustainability. SMEs, on the other, play a pivotal role in the growth and development of any economy. Placing SMEs within the framework of CE is a very interesting idea. I am keeping my fingers crossed to see what the final shape of your paper is.

Reply
Thank you!

Question No. 1
How will you define a circular economy in the context of your paper?

Reply
Circular Economy has many definitions, similar yet not the same. In our paper, and in the context of Circular Economy for SMEs, we adopted the following definition: Circular Economy is an economic system or a systemic approach to economic development, where products and services are traded in closed loops or 'cycles', an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, waste), aiming at keeping materials in use, with maximum utilization, and maximum saving of energy, while regenerating natural systems, keeping resources materials (and energy) in use.
continually, for as long as possible, while eliminating waste, recovering and regenerating materials at the end of prolonged service life. In place of the current linear model of production built on take–make–dispose or take-make-consume-throw away, the circular economy is restorative by design, leading the regeneration of natural resources, using and reusing them as efficiently as possible at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles, and finding value throughout the life cycles of finished products.

So, it is good if an SME recycles its papers and plastic waste, but to adopt circular economy principles, the SME will need to stop wasting. That is to say, virtualization will of communication and documentation so that clouds will be used instead of paper files, exchanging current paperwork communication to email and virtual communication. The SME will refrain from buying products that are packaged in plastic and will find ways to share, lease, and rent instead of owning in transport for instance. Integrated internal changes will take place gradually but steadily so that the SME is not after green washing or outer look as much as it is about inhouse cleaning of polluting and wasting processes and decisions.

Question No. 2
Can you tell what is peculiar to SMEs in a circular economy that is not relevant to big businesses?

Reply
We can say that SMEs have a more elastic structure compared to large companies. Compared to large-scale businesses with long-term goals, SMEs are more interested in daily activities and make short-term plans. Therefore, they can adapt to changes more faster than large sized business. This makes SMEs important for the circular economy.

All organizations should adopt the Circular economy business model, for sustainability to be a reality on the ground. But there is no one solution fits all in how to achieve that, and in which order to undergo the required changes. The size, the geographical location, the domestic sets of legislations and nosiness environment, the market, and other factors can play a big part in that decision. SMEs, in particular, are small, with a small budget and a number of staff, and less able to take risks, and more influential by their supply and demand chains, especially donors, government, and direct customers. Therefore, it is important to study SMEs regionally and nationally, in addition to studying them globally. It is also important for SMEs to receive support from legislative and administrative bodies in their country. That support can range from financial to supportive encouraging policies such as exemption of taxations and access to local and global funds, but also an assurance that the government is supporting that shift towards a circular economy, for the very same reason that in encompasses the big risk and investment of the SMEs small and only resources