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**ReziProK**  
Resource-efficient Circular Economy –  
Innovative Product Cycles

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# Enabling circular B2B-textiles

## panel discussion

Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Conference 2020

Dec 1 2020

Ria Müller

Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW)



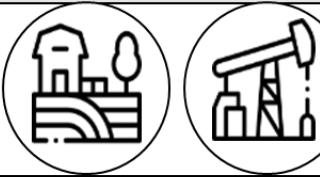


# B2B: huge quantities of identical textiles

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Extraction/manufacture  
of raw fibres



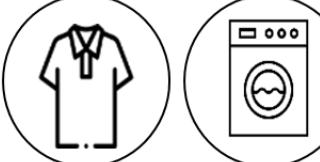
Production of the  
final product



Transport, Warehousing  
and Sale



Use



Disposal





# B2B: huge quantities of identical textiles

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(How) is ce  
applicable to the  
B2B-textile sector?

Müller, R.; Vogel, C., Schmidt, S.; Rubik, F.; Rilling, H.; Nebel, K. (2020). Kreislauffähige Berufskleidung und Bettwäsche für Gewerbe, Gesundheitswesen und die öffentliche Hand – Anforderungen und Nachhaltigkeitseffekte - Vorbereitungspapier zum Fachgespräch. Download via: [https://www.ditex-kreislaufwirtschaft.de/app/download/9016295714/DiTEx\\_Vorbereitungspapier\\_Produnktpraesentation.pdf?t=1601290793](https://www.ditex-kreislaufwirtschaft.de/app/download/9016295714/DiTEx_Vorbereitungspapier_Produnktpraesentation.pdf?t=1601290793)

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EINER RESSOURCENEFFIZIENTEN KREISLAUFFÄHIGEN B2B-TEXTILWIRTSCHAFT

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## project team:



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Hochschule Reutlingen  
Reutlingen University

HOHENSTEIN ●



WILHELM WEISHÄUPL



# 1 specific obstacles of the circular economy ... need specific response

Lacking

- knowledge about recyclable product design
- return structures for textiles

no cooperation: design > return



Innovative fibre-to-fibre recycling processes only small-scale



Restraint transfer of innovative contract models to other applications  
e.g. rent/leasing/contracting as in company car fleet, electricity supply, hygiene

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# 2

# Brief Introduction

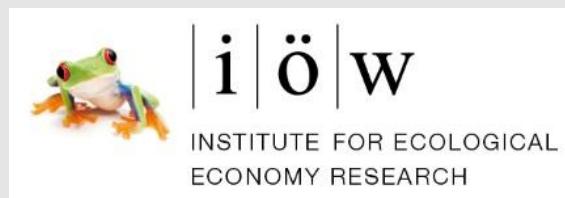
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Ina Budde



Sabrina Schmidt



Fabian Takacs



Martijn Witteveen



Kai Nebel



# 3 Agenda

## Design for circularity .... enabling circular B2B-textiles

Key-Messages

Ina | circular.fashion

Brief Experiences

Martijn | Dibella & Kai | Reutlingen Research Institute

20' Discussion

## Circular business models .... enabling circular B2B-textiles

Key-Messages

Sabrina | IÖW & Fabian | University of St. Gallen

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## Wrap-up learnings, final contributions and feedback

## Farewell & close





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EINER RESSOURCENEFFIZIENTEN KREISLAUFFÄHIGEN B2B-TEXTILWIRTSCHAFT

‘80% of the products impact is estimated  
to be decided in the design stage’

Community Objective, 2019



## Relevance of Circular Design

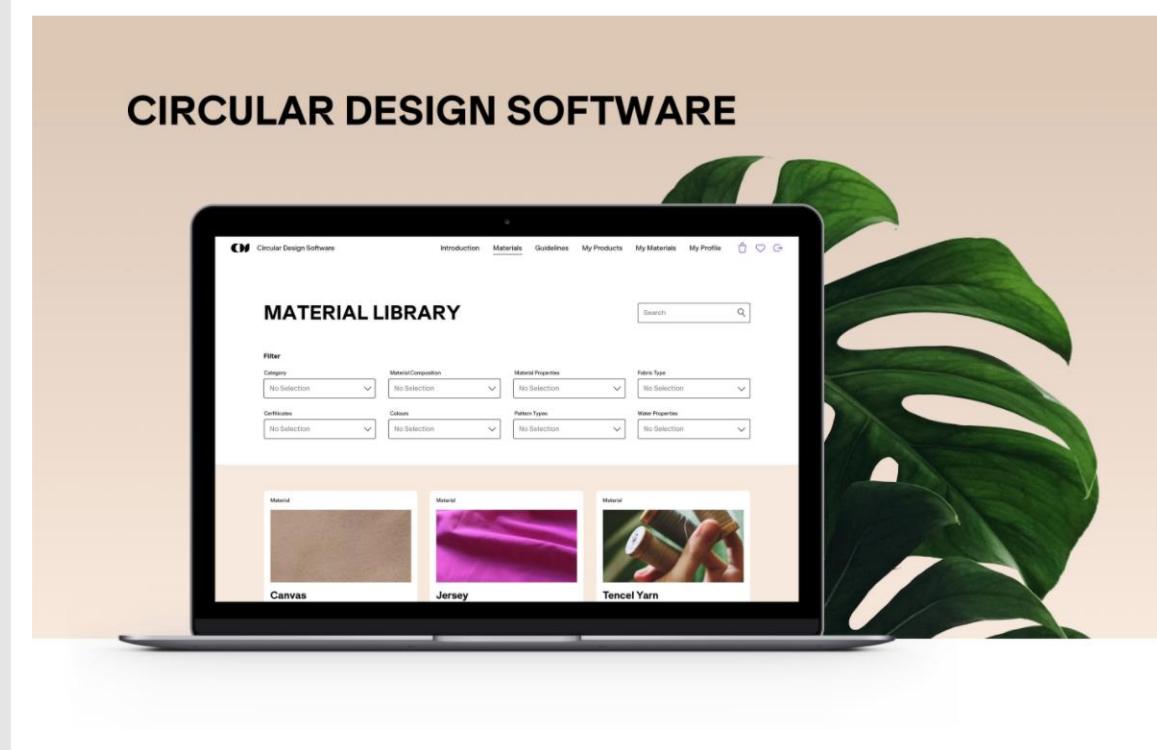
- <1% Fibre-to-fibre recycling
  - Specific **feedstock requirements**: Composition, dyes, colors, finishes
  - Recycling requirements mostly unknown, not designed accordingly
  - **Design decisions** and material data are **not communicated** to RSC
- 
- **No identification** of recyclable products at sorting stage
  - Hence 12% of all textiles are mechanically **down-cycled**
  - Instead of being regenerated to new fibres
  - **Huge potential** of design for material cyclability and longevity

# 1

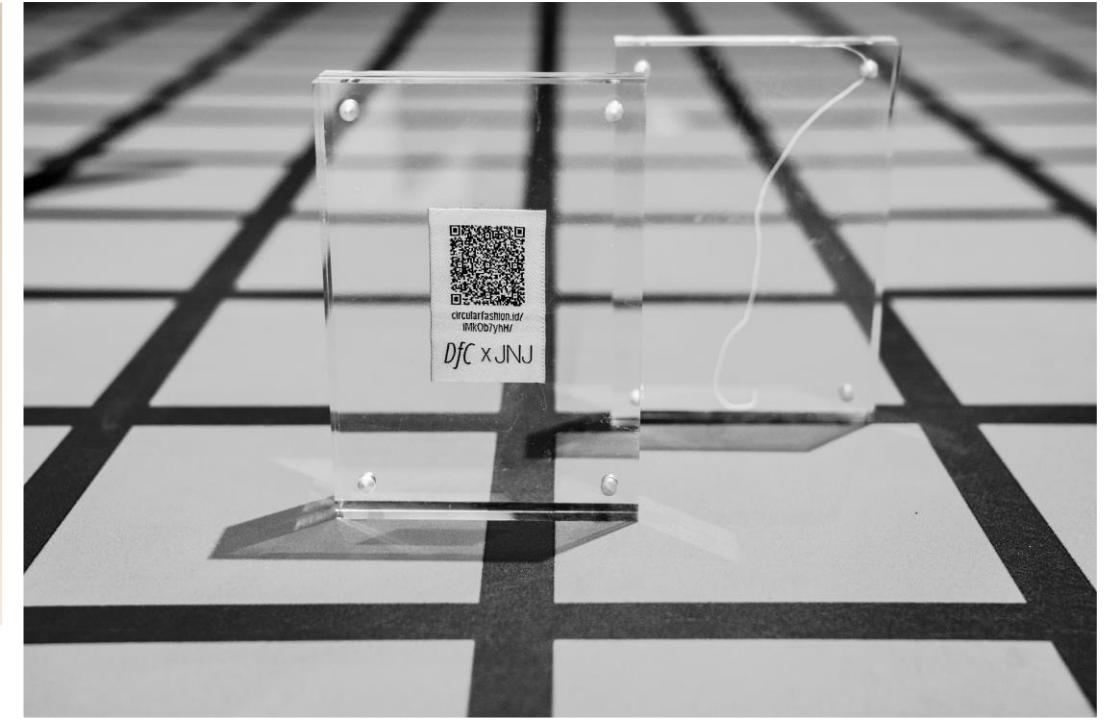
# Circular Design - Opportunities

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Translate recycling requirements into  
Circular Design Guidelines and material criteria  
Circular Material Library with textiles and trims



Make design decisions transparent and available  
for the reverse supply chain  
circularity.ID Open Data Standard

# 1

# Our Approach - Participative Design

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1. Market Dialogue on Requirements
2. Circular Design Workshop

3. Recycling Workshop
4. Circular Material Checks

5. Circular Product Checks
6. Prototype Development

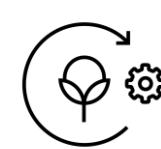
# 1

# Circular Product Check

## CIRCULAR PRODUCT CHECK

The interface displays five items with detailed descriptions:

- circularity.ID QR label**  
The circularity.ID transparently holds the full story of the garment from raw materials to finished product, to identify recycling possibilities.  
Colours: black, white  
Construction: twill  
100 % Polyester, recycled from PET bottles  
Country of production of raw material: Italy  
Country of production: Netherlands
- Organic cotton sweat**  
Brushed Sweat, OCS certified.  
Certificates: OCS certified  
Colour: black  
Construction: sweat  
100 % Organic cotton  
Country of production of raw material: Turkey  
Country of production: Turkey
- Elastic cord**  
It meets the standards of Oeko-Tex® Standard 100.  
Certificates: Oeko-Tex® Standard 100  
Colour: black  
Construction: sweat  
100 % Polyester  
Country of production of raw material: Turkey  
Country of production: Turkey
- Sewing thread**  
It meets the standards of Oeko-Tex® Standard 100.  
Certificates: Oeko-Tex® Standard 100  
Colour: black  
Construction: sweat  
100 % Polyester  
Country of production of raw material: Turkey  
Country of production: Turkey
- Stopper, Eyelet, Cord End**  
Certificates: None  
Colour: gunmetal  
Country of production of raw material: Turkey  
Country of production: Turkey



## WILHELM WEISHÄUPL

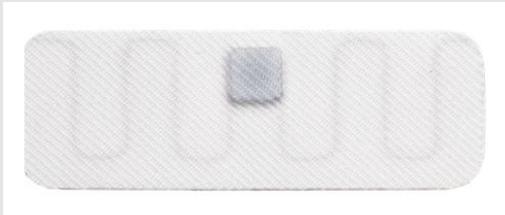
Verified Recycler Match: Products suitable for chemical polyester recycling and mechanical cotton recycling

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# 1

# Key Insights & Outlook



- Higher **quality demand** for recycled B2B textiles than for fashion
- Availability of circular textiles and **need for innovation** identified
  
- Recycling of pilot products - **fibre-to-fibre** vs. bottle-to-fibre
- **Chemical recycling** as opportunity, **infrastructures to be established**
- B2B as enabler for economically **viable volumes** as recycling input
  
- Enhancing **tracking IDs** beyond laundry function for efficient sorting
- Using **circularity.ID Open Data Standard** and enriching with lifecycle data

# Discussing ... Design for circularity

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Requirements to develop full B2B-market potential:

*How to realize the B2B-market potential of fully recycled virgin equivalent textiles? ... concerning*

## Product Specifications

How to guarantee ...

- that products meet quality demands in textile services (rental/leasing)?
- an appropriate timeline for a fully recycled virgin equivalent textile?
- that also the recycled materials meet high quality demands?

## Market incentives

Which policy mix suits – from voluntary actions to legal regulations?

Customer acceptance/  
willingness to buy.

Measuring/tracking/  
reporting of  
sustainability effects

- Will proved LCA for each product (range) be applicable?
- Does LCA necessarily include logistics and recycling processes?



## Short Break

See you back in a few minutes.

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# Circular Business Models

... enabling circular B2B-textiles

Interdisciplinary Circular Economy  
Conference 2020

**Fabian Takacs** (University of St.Gallen)  
**Sabrina Schmidt** (IÖW)



University of St.Gallen



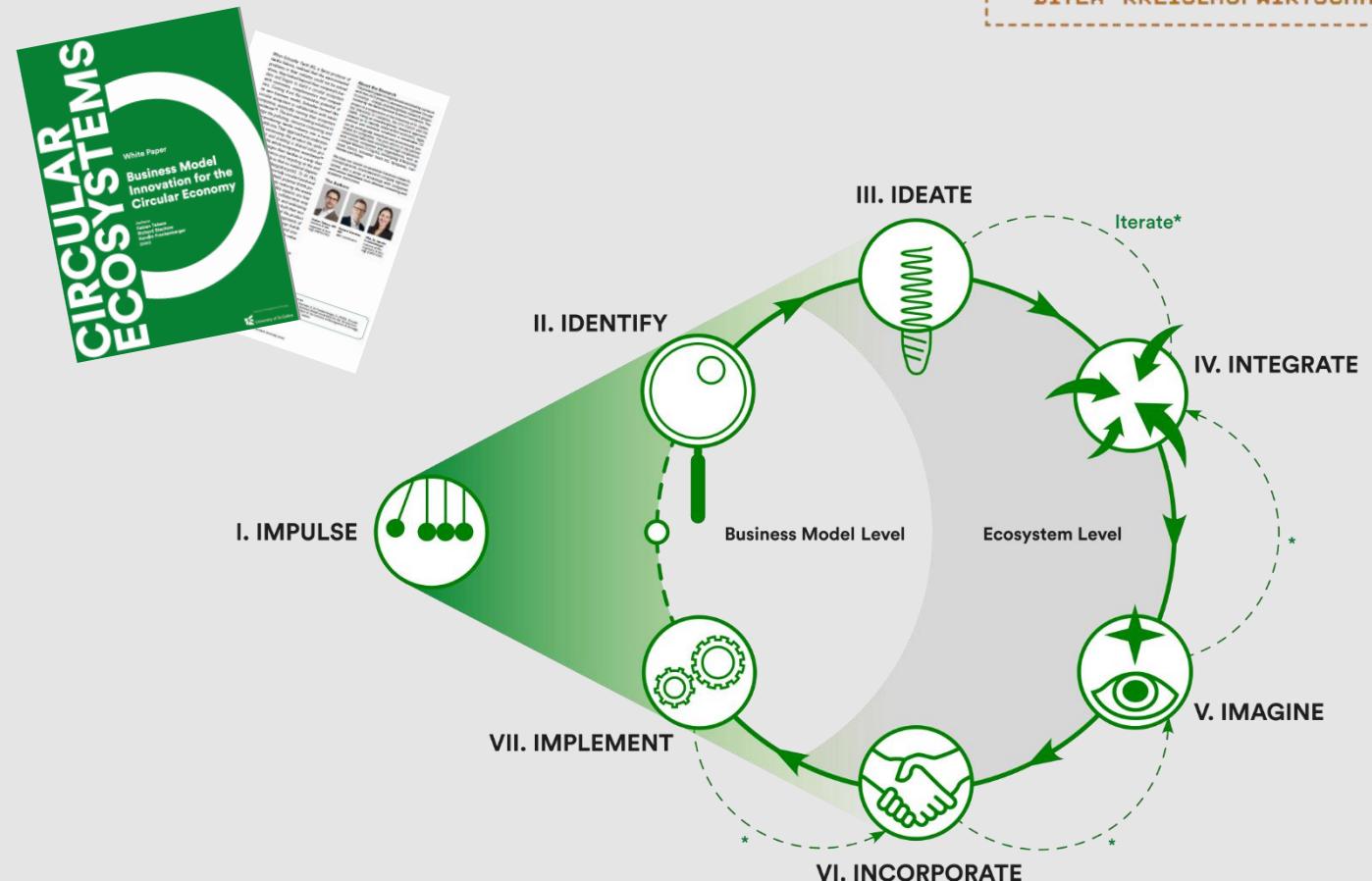
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**Navigator process** for step-by-step implementation of circular economy in the corporate context

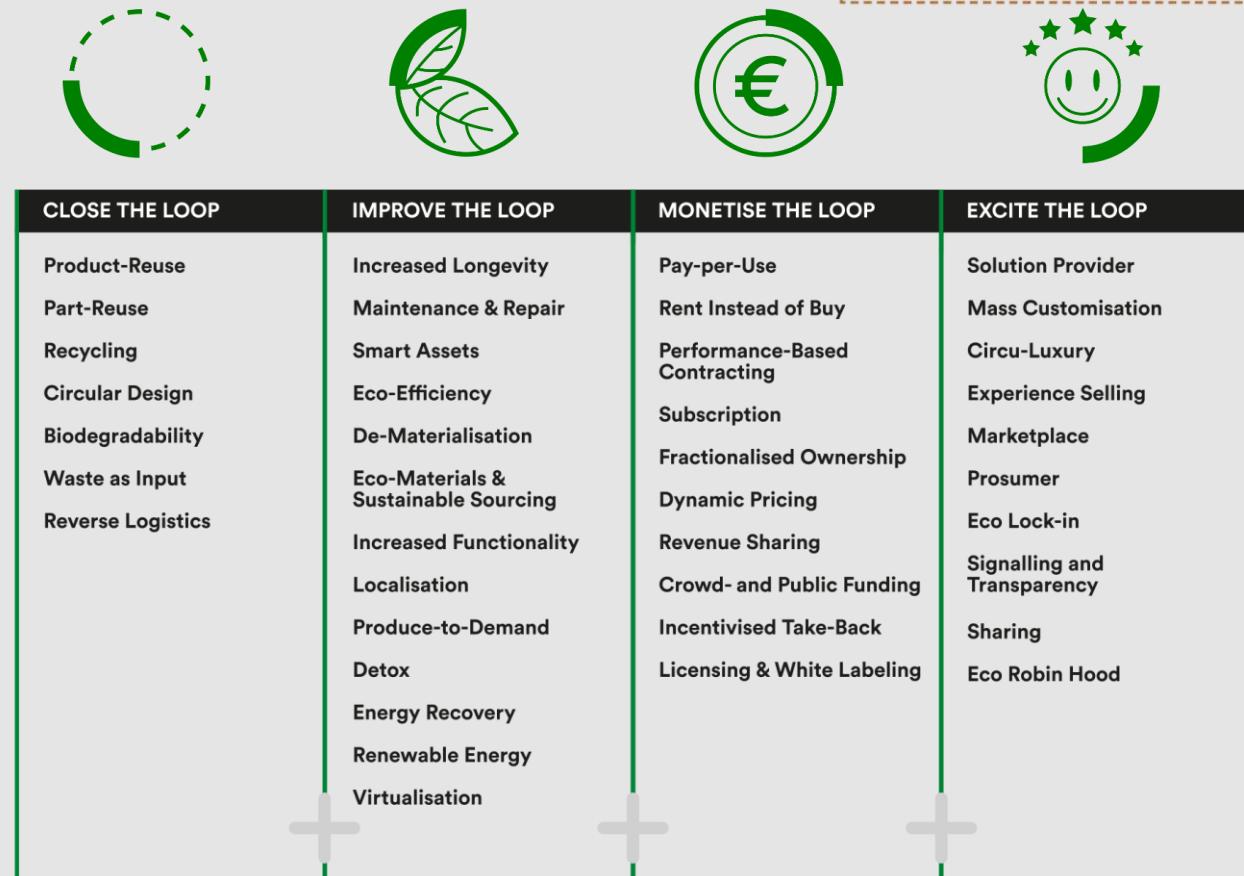
### Insights:

1. Common **vision** among the partners
2. **Design** as a key
3. **Time horizon** of planning is crucial
4. **Orchestrator** – a group of people who feel committed
5. Circular **ecosystem** – from competitor to partner
6. **State pressure** facilitates transition



# Four steps to a circular solution

- The interplay of *different Circular Economy Patterns* enables the construction of a circular ecosystem
- Important: bringing together the sustainable closing of the loop and the business management context



# 2

# The textile service can close the loop for workwear and flat linen.



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Müller, R.; Vogel, C., Schmidt, S.; Rubik, F.; Rilling, H.; Nebel, K. (2020). Kreislauffähige Berufskleidung und Bettwäsche für Gewerbe, Gesundheitswesen und die öffentliche Hand – Anforderungen und Nachhaltigkeitseffekte - Vorbereitungspapier zum Fachgespräch. Download via: [https://www.ditex-kreislaufwirtschaft.de/app/download/9016295714/DiTEx\\_Vorbereitungspapier\\_Produnktpraesentation.pdf?t=1601290793](https://www.ditex-kreislaufwirtschaft.de/app/download/9016295714/DiTEx_Vorbereitungspapier_Produnktpraesentation.pdf?t=1601290793)

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“Oil” by Eucalyp is licensed under CC BY 3.0.

## Legend

- Use of recycled materials
- Use of durable components as a contribution to product life cycle extension
- High-quality chemical fiber-to-fiber recycling
- Tracking solution
- Innovative Circular Business Models

## 2

# The textile service can close the loop for workwear and flat linen.

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## Legend

- Use of recycled materials
- Use of durable components as a contribution to product life cycle extension
- High-quality chemical fiber-to-fiber recycling
- "Smart label" as digital tracking solution
- Innovative Circular Business Models

# Discussing ... Circular business models and digital tracking ... knowledge transfer into B2C-applications



## digital tracking requirements

### Transfer & application of project findings from B2B > B2C [textile samples, business modell findings etc. from wear2wear and DiTex]

- What can the fashion industry learn from B2B systems?  
Where are the differences and how to tackle them?
- What are the most significant barriers to the introduction of sustainable, circular solutions?
- With regard to a macro-level-perspective on circular economy:
  - Do you consider the development of more technical options rather as a solution or a problem?
  - How to introduce the concept of “sufficiency” as a reasonable B2C-approach,  
meaning to the textile industry and to private consumers?

# Wrap-up

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## Learnings?

Final contributions from our panelists

## Your feedback



# Vielen Dank.

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