

Launch of the ILO-Circle Economy-World Bank Initiative



# Understanding the circular economy

measuring, modelling and monitoring circular jobs

9 MAY 2023 | 13:30 - 15:00 CEST | ONLINE

[tiny.cc/GEN9May23](https://tiny.cc/GEN9May23)



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# DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A report by Circle Economy, ILO, and Solutions  
for Youth Employment of the World Bank

## DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

An overview of the existing  
evidence base

May 2023



[www.circle-economy.com/resources/decent-work-in-the-circular-economy](http://www.circle-economy.com/resources/decent-work-in-the-circular-economy)

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## SPEAKERS

By order of intervention.



**Casper EDMONDS**



Head of Unit, Extractives, Energy and  
Manufacturing, Sectoral Policies  
Department, ILO | Moderator



**Esther  
GOODWIN-BROWN**



Lead, Circular Jobs Initiative,  
Circle Economy



**Nandini KUMAR**



Consultant, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence  
for Sustainable Development



**Kadiatu A. SHERIFF**



YOUNGO Green Jobs Working Group |  
Founder and President, Golden Waste  
Solutions Enterprise Inc.



**Namita DATTA**



Program Manager at the Solutions for  
Youth Employment (S4YE) Program,  
World Bank Group



**Diana  
JUNQUERA CURIEL**



Director, Energy Industry and Just  
Transition, IndustriALL Global Union



**Robert MARINKOVIC**



Adviser, Climate Change, International  
Organisation of Employers



**Kari HERLEVI**



Head, Global Collaboration for  
Sustainability Solutions, Sitra




## Technical Information


- Throughout the event, you may raise your questions in the Q&A box
- Automatically translated subtitles in many languages are available through the captions button on the bottom left of your screen
- The recording, summary and documents will be made available on the event's website


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# JOBS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A JOINT CIRCLE ECONOMY,  
ILO & WORLD BANK  
INITIATIVE

# WHO WE ARE



Specialised UN agency

- Sectoral policies dept in collab with Green Jobs and research departments
- Focus areas: decent work, green jobs, just transition



World Bank Group's Program

- Based in the Jobs group at the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice.
- Focus areas: youth employment, entrepreneurship and digitalization.



International impact organisation

- Circular Jobs Initiative and Research & Development teams
- Focus areas: skills, quality of work, inclusive economy

# POTENTIAL OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Reduce  
**Global  
greenhouse  
gasses**  
by **39%**

Reduce global  
**resource  
extraction**  
by **28%**



Limit climate  
change to  
**1.5 degrees**  
Achieving Paris



Promote  
**innovation,  
entreprise &  
create decent  
jobs for all**

# WHY | THE PROBLEM

- **Impact** of circular economy strategies on and their **contribution** to **key agendas, sectors** and **countries** (particularly global south) not well known
- Circular economy indicators, estimates and interventions developed in **isolation** and with limited connection to **social outcomes** or **just transition**
- Lack of tools for integrating circular economy strategies into **just & inclusive** interventions, roadmaps, financing and international corporations → potential trade-offs





# WHAT | INITIATIVE PILLARS

Three year collaborative initiative, creating a global evidence base on decent jobs in the circular economy



## PILLAR ONE

### LANDSCAPING & MONITORING GLOBAL CIRCULAR JOBS

- Stakeholder mapping + outreach
- Systematic literature review
- Review of methodologies
- The first high-profile Review of Jobs in the Circular Economy



## PILLAR TWO

### SECTORAL & REGIONAL DEEP DIVES

- Sectoral (e.g. Textiles, e-waste, energy)
- Thematic (e.g. gender, youth, trade, skills)
- Regional (LMICs and MICs)

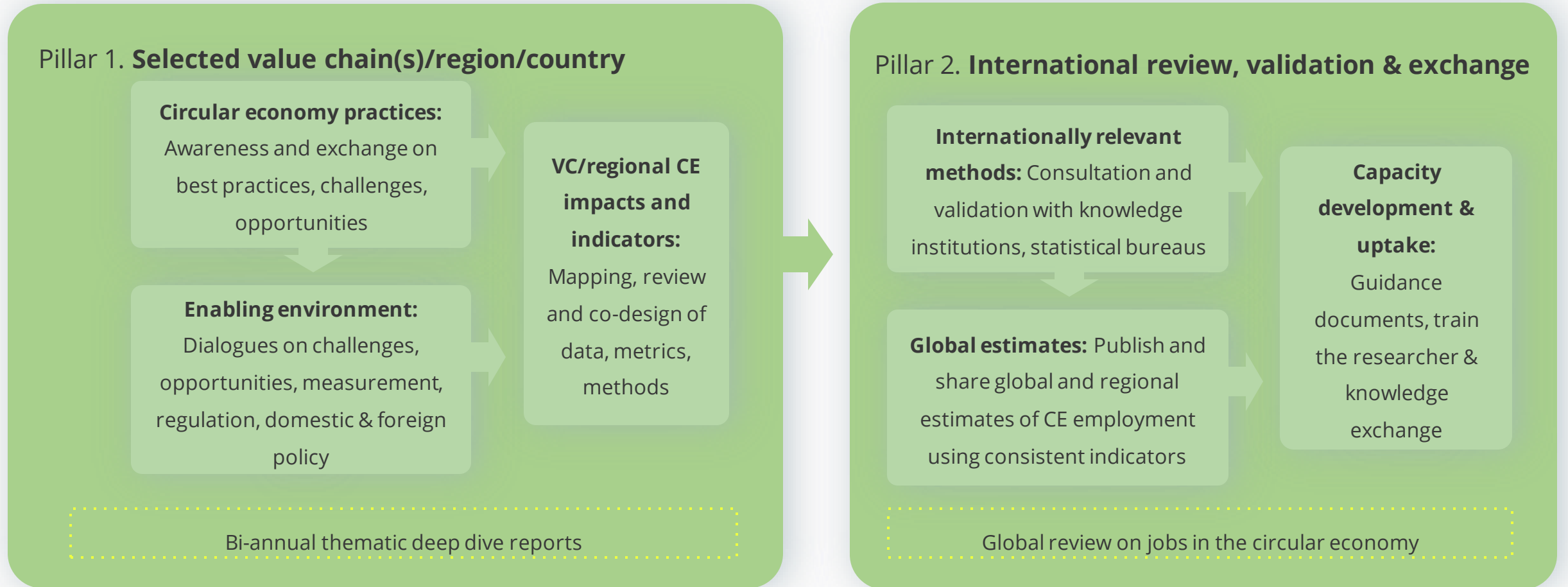


## PILLAR THREE

### KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND AWARENESS RAISING

- Seminars and learning exchanges
- Indicator guidance
- Capacity development
- Annual high-level events

**Overall objective:** To support an enabling environment for job creation, decent and sustainable work in the circular economy [in selected value chain/region/country].



**Specific objective:** Increased awareness among governments agencies, employers and workers and other key institutions of the social impact of circular economy interventions in [selected value chain(s)/region/country] and tools for measurement.

**Specific objective:** Governments, statistics offices and key research institutions have increased knowledge of and access to consistent and compelling evidence and indicators of decent work in the circular economy.

# INITIATIVE GOALS AND STRATEGY

**Develop** compelling evidence on current work in the circular economy and **support** pathways towards more environmental and economic policies and interventions which can **enable** a fair transition for all.

Four approaches:



Conduct **in-depth analyses** of the circular economy.



Develop consistent and rigorous **methodologies, assessments and indicators**.



Raise **awareness and share knowledge** about the circular economy and its potential for creating decent work.



Foster **partnerships and collaboration** among stakeholders.

# WHO | GLOBAL COMMUNITY

## Research institutions

**TNO**



Utrecht  
University



J-PAL



CHATHAM  
HOUSE

## Industry partners



Unilever

## Social partners



ITUC CSI IGB



IOE  
A powerful  
and balanced  
voice for business

## Ministries and public bodies



Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving



Niti Aayog

नीति आयोग  
National Institution for Transforming India



*Example organisations to collaborate on methodology development and deep dive reports*

# PROJECT IMPACT

Social and employment agenda is embedded in CE and climate

CE adopted as a mechanism for achieving key goals

Stronger political support for just & inclusive solutions

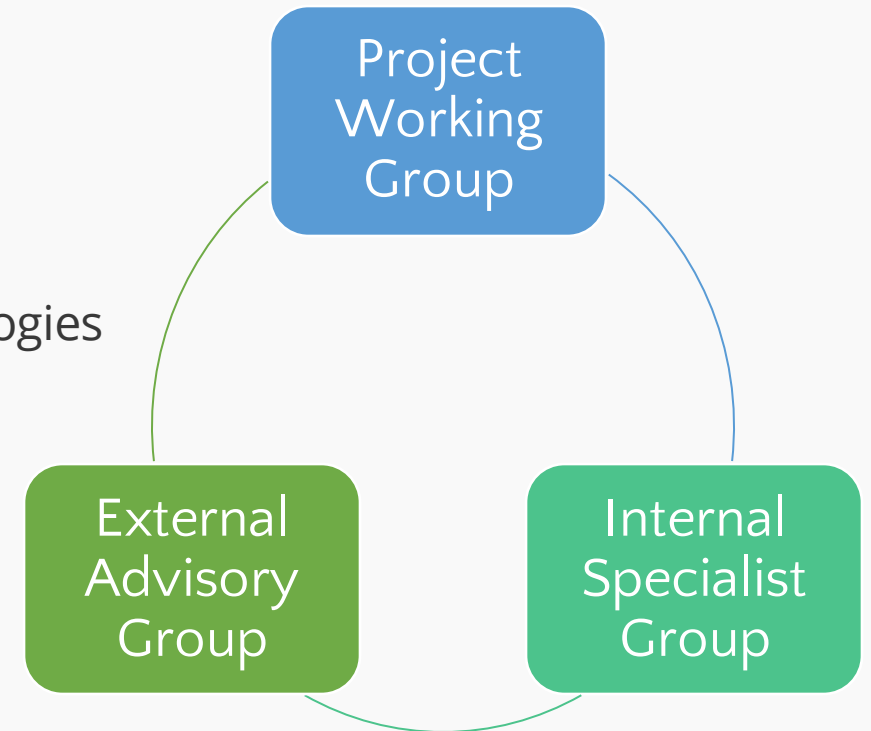
Enabling environment and policy-making for decent jobs in CE



# NEXT STEPS



- Launch of systematic review, *Decent Work in the Circular Economy*
  - WCEF, Helsinki, June
- Establish strategic partnerships
- Begin in-depth review of methodologies



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# DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: AN OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING EVIDENCE BASE

Esther Goodwin Brown  
Circular Jobs Initiative Lead, Circle Economy  
[esther@circle-economy.com](mailto:esther@circle-economy.com)



# RATIONALE AND APPROACH

As CE gains momentum we need to know what it entails for **workers** around the world

1

**What do we know about [decent] work in the circular economy?**

→ *Systematic review of the evidence base*

2

**What are the opportunities and challenges for promoting decent work in the circular economy?**

→ *Analyse of key trends, opportunities and challenges*

3

**How could better evidence bolster efforts towards a just and inclusive circular economy?**

→ *Gap analysis and recommendations*

## EVIDENCE BASE | **EVOLUTION & TRENDS**

- Between 1995-2022, 30,543 academic papers were found on the topic of circular economy
- 1.4% (425 papers) addressed decent work and the circular economy, peaking in 2021 (105 papers)
- 84% of the studies reviewed focused on the Global North
- Global South focused reports largely related to waste management
- 80% macro-level analysis, compared to 11% for micro-level (industry) and 9% for meso-level (firm)

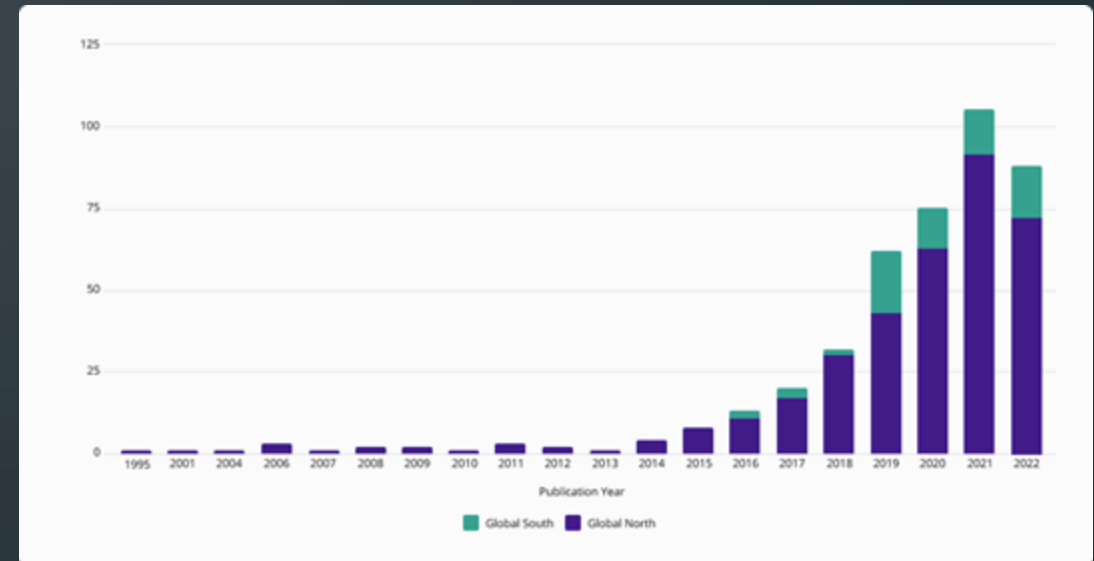


Figure 1. Publications that combine decent work and circular economy concepts between 1995 and 2022 from the perspective of countries in the Global North and the Global South.

# KEY THEMES - CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES



Labour market and  
sectoral transformation



Informality



Work reallocation and  
skills development



Working conditions and  
social dialogue



Gender and social  
equity

# LABOUR MARKET TRANSFORMATION

- **Job creation is a key social contribution** of the CE - yet projections vary and few studies focus on improving job quality and conditions
- **Enabling sectors for regional competitiveness** - Identifying enabling activities is key for regional competitiveness alongside maintenance, recycling, repair, and reuse
- **Impact-analysis for North-South coordination** - Mapping and monitoring of CE strategies across existing value chains and trade arrangements to maximise benefits for all



## SOCIAL EQUITY

- **Circular jobs subject to similar barriers as green** - including skills mismatches, investment in female-led businesses, gender bias in law and care
- **Proactive women-centric approach to policy development** - to boost job opportunities for women, including reallocation of mid-skilled, male-dominated occupations
- **Potential to empower young people untapped** - particularly in regions with high levels of youth unemployment



## WORKING CONDITIONS

- **Limited knowledge of CE impact on existing working conditions** - Strong focus on OSH in waste and recycling, overlooking other aspects of decent work
- **Informal and atypical work largely unquantified** - concerted efforts needed to understand the potential implications and devise effective interventions
- **CE creates opportunities for social inclusion along emerging value chains** - collective bargaining systems needed to effectively improve working conditions and rights at work





# WAYS FORWARD

1

## More granular inclusive evidence of work in the circular economy

- Study impact of CE across regions, on marginalised groups and on local level
- Identify and adopt globally relevant indicators

2

## Global and social justice-led research and policy

- Share best practices and conduct deep dives - countries and value chains
- Examine policy measures and indicators need to support design/impact assessment

3

## Joint advocacy and data partnerships

- Data partnerships with local and international bodies to review industrial classifications and overcome omission of CE in current datasets
- Ensure circular economy advocacy includes socioeconomic outcomes

Download the report here:



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2023**

**30 MAY - 2 JUNE**

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# **INNOVATING AND UNLOCKING FINANCE FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

**11 MAY 2023 | 16:00 - 17:30 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS & ONLINE**





# GEN @ 2023 BRS COPS

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## CONFERENCE

**Connecting the dots:  
Youth and the National  
Implementation Plans  
(NIPs) | BRS COPS 2023  
Side Event**

**09 MAY 2023 18:15 - 19:45**  
CICG | Room 3 & Online  
IPEN

- Chemicals and Pollution
- SDG3 | SDG12

## CONFERENCE

**Abuse of Article 11 to  
escape the Basel  
Convention's Plastics  
Amendments | BRS COPS  
2023 Side Event**

**10 MAY 2023 18:15 - 19:45**  
CICG | Room 3 & Online | YouTube  
Basel Action Network, CIEL

- Chemicals and Pollution
- SDG3 | SDG12

## CONFERENCE

**Advancing a Human  
Rights-based Approach  
to Pollution for People  
and the Planet | BRS  
COPS 2023 Side Event**

**10 MAY 2023 13:15 - 14:45**  
CICG | Room C & Online  
OHCHR, UNEP, UNDP, ILO, UNECE, FAO,  
Minamata Convention on Mercury, UN  
EMG, GEN

- Chemicals and Pollution | Human Rights  
and Environment
- SDG12

## CONFERENCE

**Unlocking MEAs'  
Potential: Supporting  
Parties' Environmental  
Action through Data and  
Knowledge Management  
| BRS COPS 2023 Side  
Event**

**10 MAY 2023 18:15 - 19:45**  
CICG | Room 11-12 & Online  
BRS, Minamata Convention on Mercury,  
CITES, InforMEA, GEN

- Chemicals and Pollution
- SDG17

# WHAT'S NEXT?

 [genevaenvironmentnetwork.org](https://genevaenvironmentnetwork.org)



CONFERENCE

## Innovating and Unlocking Finance for Nature-based Solutions

11 MAY 2023 16:00 - 17:30  
Palais des Nations | Room XXIV & Online  
EU, IUCN, GEN

- Green Economy | Nature
- SDG8 | SDG9



2023 Geneva Dialogues on Human Rights and Climate Change

CONFERENCE

## 2023 Geneva Dialogues on Human Rights and Climate Change

17 MAY 2023 14:00 - 18:00  
Palais des Nations, Room XXII & Online |  
Webex  
OHCHR, CIEL, Earthjustice, FES,  
Luxembourg

- Human Rights and Environment



CONFERENCE

## World Environment Day Celebration | Multilateral Solutions to End Plastic Pollution

05 JUN 2023 11:00 - 13:30  
International Environment House II  
(Chemin de Ballexert 7-9, Châtelaine)

- Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
- SDG3 | SDG12 | SDG13 | SDG14 | SDG15

Launch of the ILO-Circle Economy-World Bank Initiative



# Understanding the circular economy

measuring, modelling and monitoring circular jobs

9 MAY 2023 | 13:30 - 15:00 CEST | ONLINE

[tiny.cc/GEN9May23](https://tiny.cc/GEN9May23)



International  
Labour  
Organization

