



DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The existing evidence
base & ways forward
November 7, 2023

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AGENDA



01

CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOUNDATION –
CIRCULAR JOBS INITIATIVE

02

**FROM QUANTITY TO QUALITY OF
JOBS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

03

**DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR
ECONOMY: REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

04

WAYS FORWARD



We are a global impact foundation with an international team of passionate experts based in Amsterdam.

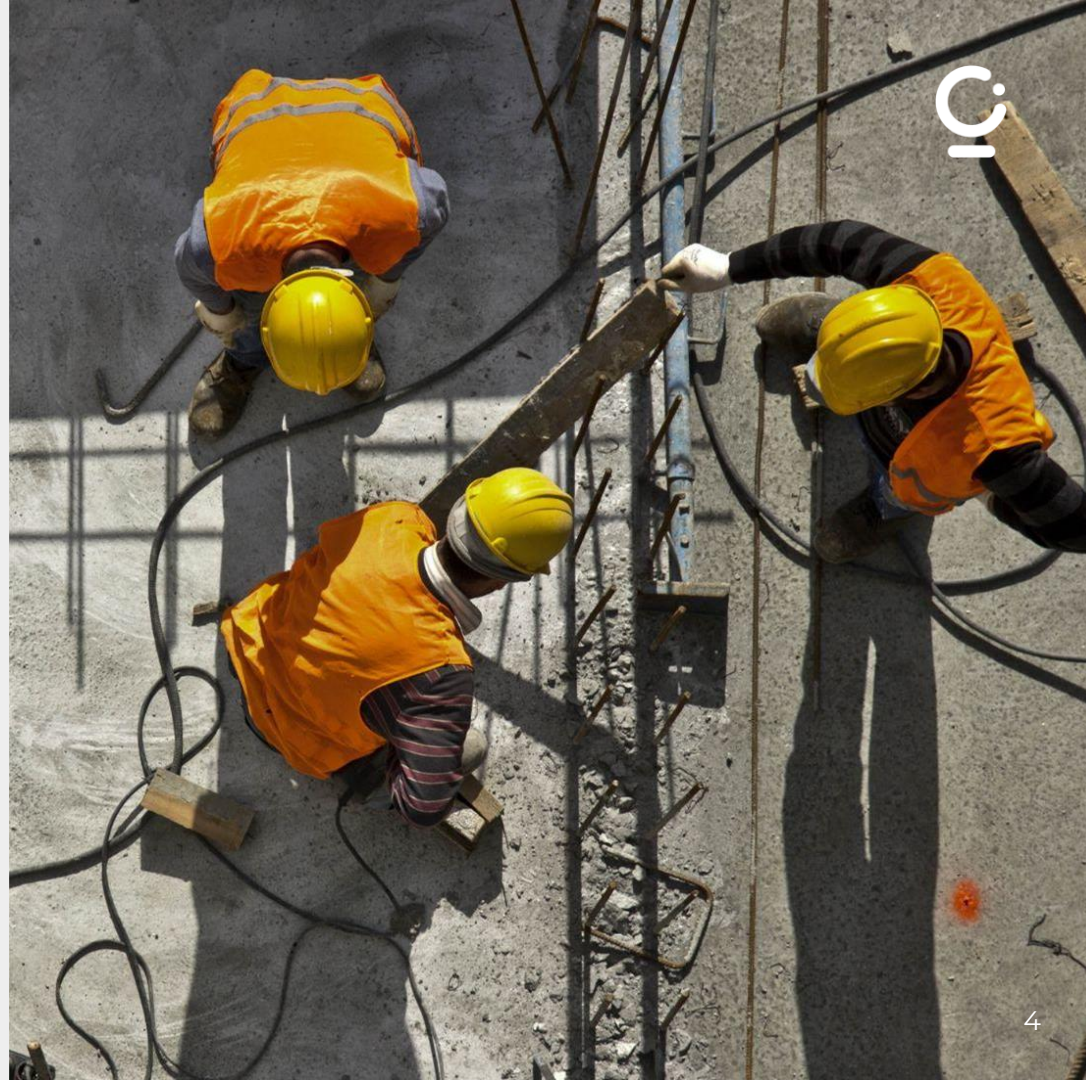
We empower government and industry with practical and scalable solutions to put the circular economy into action.

Our vision is an economic system that ensures the planet and all people can thrive.



02

THE CIRCULAR JOBS INITIATIVE



CIRCULAR JOB INITIATIVE

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



CIRCULAR JOBS



EDUCATION &
SKILLS



ENABLING
CONDITIONS

We guide industry and government in understanding how circular strategies impact:

- Demand for jobs & skills
- Conditions for better work and just transition



EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

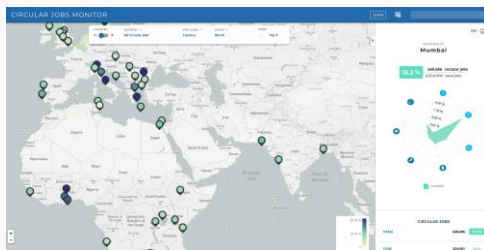
MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING



Competitiveness and innovation	
	Value Data Trend Metadata
Private investment, jobs and gross value added related to circular economy sectors	
Private Investments percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices	0.8 (2021)
Persons employed percentage of total employment	2.1 (2021)
Gross value added percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices	2.1 (2021)

Persons employed in recycling, repair, reuse and rental.

EU Monitoring Framework



Persons directly and indirectly involved in circular economy activities.

Circular Jobs Monitor

02

**FROM QUANTITY
TO QUALITY** *OF
JOBS IN THE
CIRCULAR
ECONOMY*



Circularity is, a means to an end.

An opportunity to **change how we live and work.**

But it is **not socially just by default.**





HOW CAN WE ENSURE CIRCULAR STRATEGIES CONTRIBUTE TO WELL-BEING WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES?





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SOLUTIONS
FOR YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT

JOBS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

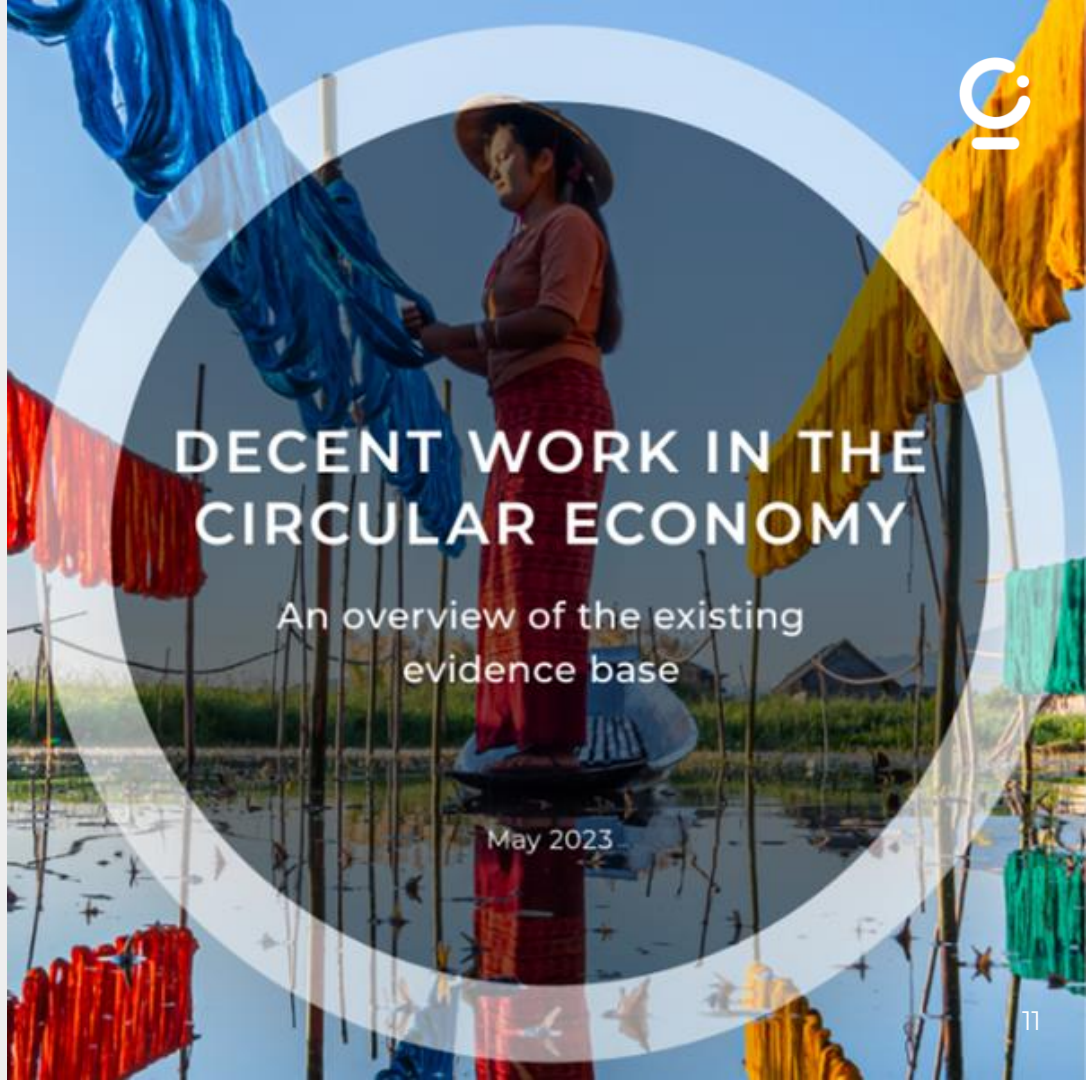
A JOINT CIRCLE
ECONOMY, ILO & S4YE
INITIATIVE

03

DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: *REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS*



Scan to learn more about
the initiative and download
the report



DECENT WORK IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

An overview of the existing
evidence base

May 2023

THE EXISTING EVIDENCE BASE



- 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)

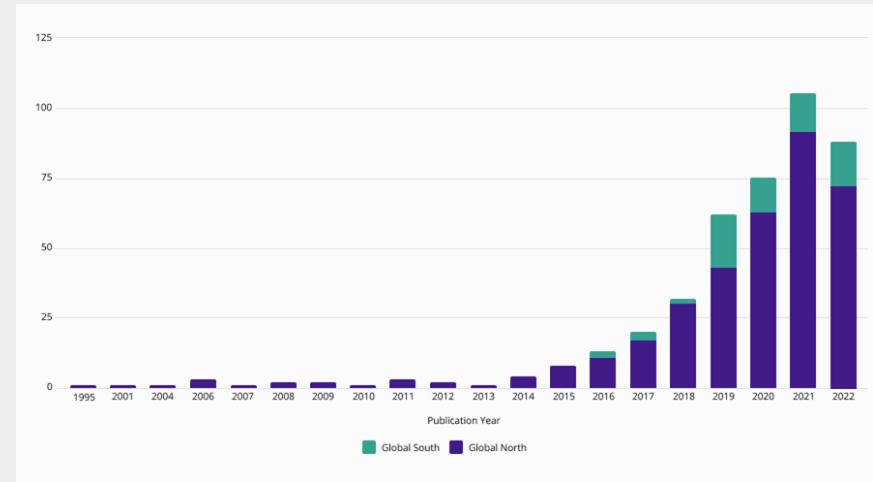


Figure 1. Publications that combine decent work and circular economy concepts between 1995 and 2022 from the perspective of countries in the Global North and the Global South.

KEY THEMES - CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES



Labour market and
sectoral transformation



Working conditions &
informality

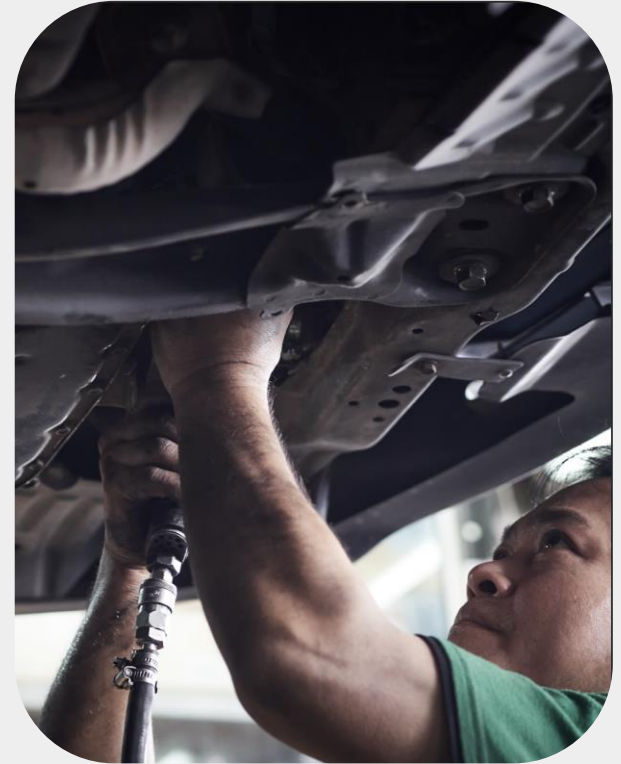


Skills development

LABOUR MARKET TRANSFORMATION

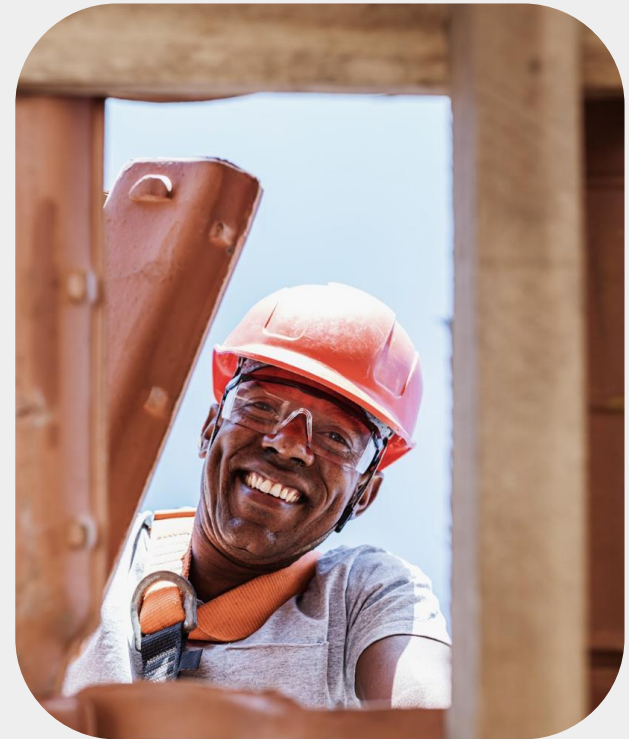


- **Job creation is CE's main social contribution** - though estimates differ and regional research on job transformation or loss is lacking
- **Identifying key CE sectors** such as maintenance, recycling, repair, and reuse **is crucial for enhancing regional competitiveness.**
- **Limited CE impact-analyses on North-South dynamics** - Mapping and monitoring CE strategies across existing value chains and trade arrangements is becoming an imperative



WORKING CONDITIONS & INFORMALITY

- **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 of CE strategies
- **Global North bias** - Circular strategies often exclude the ubiquitous informal economy, particularly from the Global South.
- **CE can create opportunities for social inclusion along emerging value chains** - by improving collective bargaining and rights at work, e.g. through EPR schemes



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **Circular jobs face similar hurdles as green** - including market skill gaps and underinvestment in women's enterprises
- **Policies should proactively support women** – as mid-skilled, male-dominated fields face job shifts.
- **The empowerment potential for youth in circular jobs remains unexplored**, especially in areas with high youth unemployment.



04

WAYS FORWARD



1

More granular inclusive evidence of work in the circular economy:

- Analyse the CE's impact on different regions, marginalized groups, and at the local level.
- Establish and implement globally applicable indicators.

2

Conduct global and socially just research and policy-making:

- Exchange best practices and perform thorough country-level and value chains analyses
- Investigate necessary policy measures and indicators to aid in design and impact evaluation.

3

Foster joint advocacy and partnerships for data and knowledge:

- Collaborate with local and international entities to revise industrial classifications, addressing the omission of the CE in existing datasets
- Guarantee that CE advocacy includes socioeconomic outcomes.



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May 2023

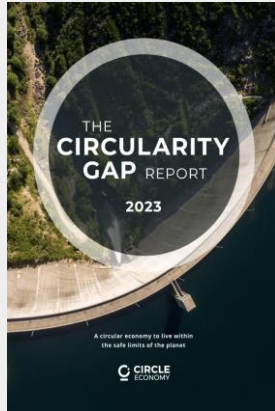
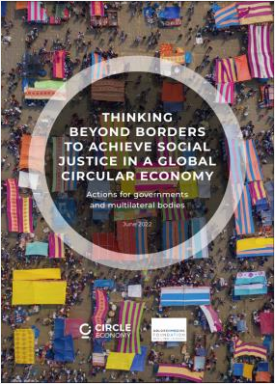
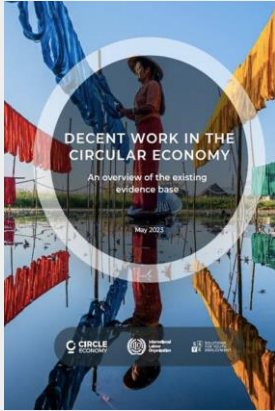
Download the report here:



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S4
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RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO EXPLORE FURTHER





THANK
YOU!

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