Circular Economy for Green Transitions
Virtual Training Workshop Report

IBC Green Transitions Training Programme

Webinar #3: Circular Economy for Green Transitions, 27 October 2022 (12-2pm CET)

The United Nations Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia

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Contents

Info www.unece.org/runcwelcome/issue-based-coalitions/environment-and-climate-change.html
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Introduction

A virtual training webinar for UN Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams on the topic of Circular Economy for Green Transitions was convened on 27 October 2022 by the United Nations Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia.

Circular Economy webinar objectives: This specific training aims to provide in-depth insights into the environmental as well as socio-economic opportunities of a circular economy. Focusing on selected priority value chains (construction, industry and agriculture) it aims to demonstrate potential intervention points and concrete best practice examples how circularity can be achieved under different framework conditions. The webinar also addresses the expected path dependencies and resistance against change when it comes to transformations from linear towards circular systems.

IBC representative, **Sara Radnaaragchaa (Regional Advisor, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - UNECE)** opened the webinar by presenting its background and objectives, and then recognizing the efforts from those responsible for the webinar's production - organizers from IBC, facilitation from IISD, and external experts.

Background on Green Transitions: The green transition is key to safeguard our planet's future allowing us to turn the fossil-fuel dependent economy to a green economy, in a new sustainable paradigm that drives sustainable development and peace. It is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and directly contributes to the achievement of most of the SDG targets. The Ukraine crisis has seriously affected the Europe and Central Asia region including an exacerbating energy crisis, increased pollutants, biodiversity loss and climate change. During this time, it is important to support member states of the region to turn environmental and climate challenges into opportunities and to make the Green Transition just and inclusive for all. The success of this transition depends on strong regional coordination, involving local authorities, state-owned enterprises, the private sector, civil society, research and education institutions, youth, the financial sector, and the development community.

Training Context: In response to the request by Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and the Development Coordination Office, the Issue Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia (IBC) offers the Green Transition Training Programme dedicated to RCOs and UN Country Teams in Europe and Central Asia. The Green Transition Training Programme further builds countries' capacities to design strategies and action plans for green transition. The content is based on the expertise and resources among the IBC members. The work is led by UNDP, UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO and facilitated by IISD, with contributions from the other IBC organizations and external experts.

The IBC Green Transitions Training Programme offers five webinars led by different agencies depending on capacity from September to November, with most having both a thematic and a sub-regional focus.

The main themes, identified through various consultations with the RCOs and UNCTs, are: (1) Sustainable Finance; (2) Energy; (3) Circular Economy; (4) Plastics; and (5) Enabling policies and strategic frameworks for Green Transition at the country level.

Expert Presentations and Discussion

Expert Presentations

Circular Economy experts convened by the UNECE presented on the status quo, opportunities, and programmatic guidance for UN Country Team:

Presentation – Part 1: Opportunities of a Circular Economy and its Status Quo • *Henning Wilts (Director of Circular Economy, Wuppertal Institut)*	Presentation – Part 2: Strategic and Programmatic Guidance for UN Country Teams Implementing a Circular Economy • *Magnus Bengtsson (Policy Lead, Hot or Cool)*

A summary of the presentations is provided under separate cover in the form of an IBC Guidance Note on the Circular Economy for Green Transitions. Guidance notes are posted to the IBC website approximately two weeks after the respective training webinar at: https://unece.org/IBC_Env_calendar-activities.

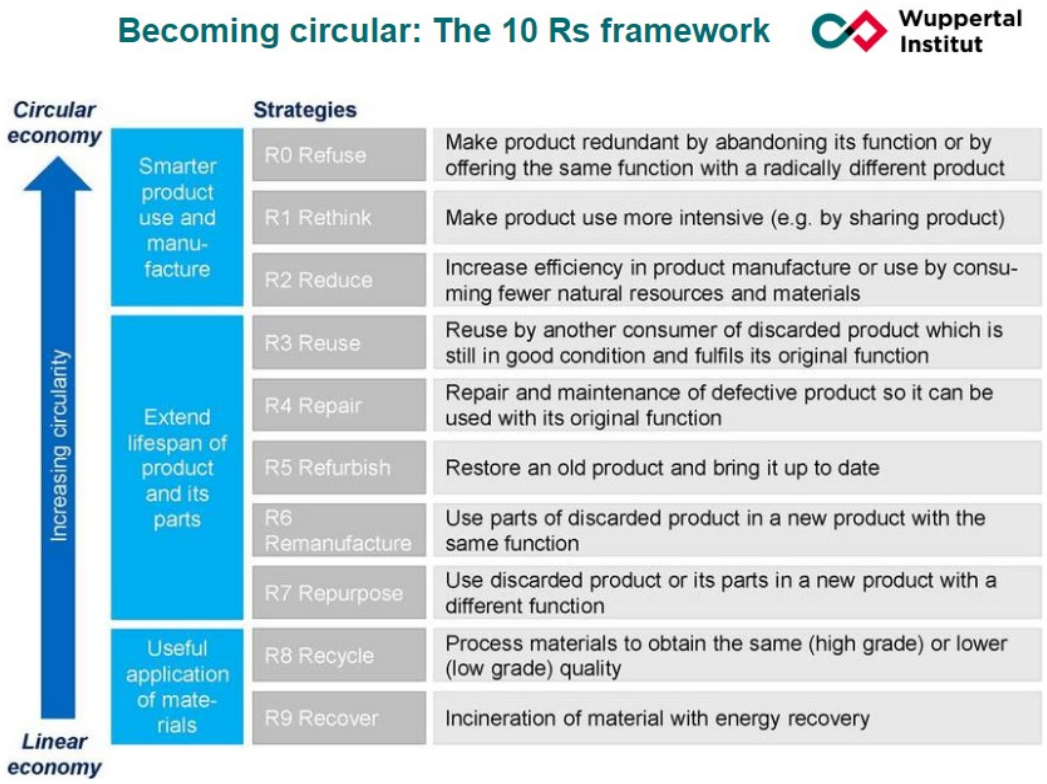
Question & Answer Session

Henning Wilts provided additional commentary on the 10 Rs framework (see figure on next page for reference):

- As a starting point, the key question for every country should be - *what is the optimal solution for our framework condition*? There is no silver bullet – no single strategy that fits for everyone.
- Several technologies are already available for recycling - it's quite clear how to do it. Biomass could be a perfect starting point for a lot of circular economy strategies, and other strategies might offer even more relevant opportunities. However, implementing new strategies is also much more complex – e.g., the reuse of packaging requires recycling technology, a logistics system, standards for sanitation and a washing infrastructure.
- There are always trade-offs. Therefore, it's interesting to look at the full range of strategies available to become more circular, and then decide what the focus should be - together with relevant stakeholders.

Magnus Bengtsson added:

- The 10 Rs framework is a rough 'rule of thumb'. It is experience-based.
- In principle, the strategies higher up in the framework should lead to systems with lower environmental impact, but that's not always the case. E.g., Should a 20-year-old air conditioner be reused, or is it better to scrap it and buy a new one that's much more energy efficient and requires less resources? Often, when most of the impact is in the *use* phase rather than in the *production* phase, it's better to replace old appliances - especially where there is technological innovation - so that the performance improves over time.
- Similarly, *reuse* is often used as a pretext for shipping used products (e.g., cars and electronics) to low-income countries. While this can present benefits, some countries lack sufficient infrastructure to collect and treat these items safely - so they end up being harmful. Is that a good reuse? Or would it be better to collect and recycle these items in high income countries that have the capacity to deal with these materials in a safe manner? There's no obvious answer. To define a common vision of the optimal solution, it is important to: have capacity for systems thinking; conduct quantitative analysis; and have proper dialogue with all the stakeholders.



Question from Marika Palosaari (UNEP): What are some examples of upstream solutions that are applicable to the region?

Answer by Magnus Bengtsson:

- Upstream solutions are basically those shown in the upper part of the 10 Rs framework - everything above *recycling* (*recycling* and *energy recovery* are the lowest options).
- There are numerous examples where companies are now adopting *reuse* models - e.g., reusable cups instead of single-use cups for beverages; reuse of garments and apparel - there are entire industries built around the second-hand use of products.
- *Refurbishments* and *Repair* are also becoming common.

Question from Roberto Martin: what is the role of public policies in encouraging producers and consumers to adopt these 10r strategies?

Answer by Henning Wilts:

- That is exactly the question*: What kind of enabling framework conditions are needed for it to make sense for companies and consumers to switch from linear to circular systems*?
- The key challenge is how to steer investments - make it more secure for the industry to invest in more circular systems.
- Policy makers must create the push for everyone to become more circular. The national circular economy strategies currently developed in a lot of countries are the key enabler.
- See these useful reports on circular economy policy frameworks:
    - EEA Report, 2016. Circular Economy in Europe (prepared by the Wuppertal Institut).
    - OECD, 2018. RE-CIRCLE: resource efficiency and circular economy

Comment by Magnus Bengtsson:

- Governments need to tilt the playing field in favor of circular systems - instead of the incumbent industries, the bad linear solutions, and the use of new materials and resources. Often virgin materials are cheap partly because of government subsidies and partly because extractive industries don't have to cover the real costs of the damage they do to natural systems. This undermines the profitability of new circular businesses.
- Economics is one part. But lots of other things are also needed - e.g., comprehensive policy frameworks; education and awareness building, technical standards and regulations, etc.

- There is no single, easy solution - but those are some of the things that we need to build on.

Plenary Panel: Solutions & Experience Sharing on Circular Economy

The second hour of the training webinar featured discussions with panellists working in three different priority value chains (construction, industry and agriculture). The session was moderated by Henning Wilts *(Wuppertal Institut).*

Panellists:

- Mr. Milan Veselinov (CirEkon, Serbia): Circular Economy in the construction sector
- Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer (University of Lund): Circular industrial value chains
- Ms. Marit Nilses (Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE): Circular agriculture: Preventing food loss and waste

Summary of Challenges, Barriers, Good Practices, and Lessons Learned

Panellist:	**Mr. Milan Veselinov** (CirEkon, Serbia)	**Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer** (University of Lund)	**Ms. Marit Nilses** (Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE)
Topic:	**Circular Economy in the construction sector**	**Circular industrial value chains**	**Circular agriculture: Preventing food loss and waste**
Challenges:	• Lack of knowledge in the region on circularity concepts • Detaching from old narratives established and shifting toward innovative circular economy mindsets	• Tradeoffs when shifting to more strategic recycling (i.e., reducing downcycling and improving secondary steel) • Lagging policy sector	• Minimize the use of external inputs closing nutrient loops • Reduce negative discharges to the environment • Minimize food loss and waste • Increase the use of agricultural byproducts
Barriers:	• Psychological perception that large investments are required	• Much investment is required • No financial incentives	• Poor practices and lack of quality in the value chain • Lack of consumer education to reduce loss and waste
Good practices:	• Incremental approach to implementation (startups, pilots, etc.)	• Long-term stable policies and strong involvement by governments	• Voluntary code of conduct for food loss and waste reduction • Minimum quality standards

Lessons learned:	• Importance of 'learning by doing' to achieve a circular economy	• There is a need for additional policy instruments	• Food waste reduction can have an important impact with multiple benefits (e.g., strengthening sustainability)

Topic: Circular Economy in the Construction Sector

Mr. Milan Veselinov is the Director of CirEkon, Serbia, and project coordinator of the Beacons project aiming to support circular economy approaches in the Western Balkan countries.

Question 1. Could you tell us about the Beacons project and how it aims to support a circular economy in the Western Balkans?

- Circular Economy Beacons is one of the biggest projects we are leading in Serbia. It aims to synergistically advance the systemic transition to a circular economy through collaboration and innovation. From the website: *the project will establish centers (Beacons) that will trigger circular innovation and implementation in business and supply chain management*.
- We're trying to detach from the old narrative of recycling waste management (which is highly popular in this region). The project focuses on innovations in recycling and environmental protection.
- It came about through a realization of the challenges in the Balkan region:
    - There is a huge gap in unifying or obtaining the full scope of circularity as knowledge.
    - There are smaller markets for which the cost of different circular value chains would be prohibitively expensive.
- For these two reasons we united the region and started to work together with industry, cities, policy makers, and innovators to try to offer regional solutions to regional problems.

Question 2. You mentioned cooperation with industries and cities. What are the benefits from such a project – e.g., for the construction sector?

- Construction is definitely one of the industries most interested in circularity. Some of the benefits included solving huge historical waste problems - reusing waste (e.g., slag or excess textiles / apparel materials). That is at the material Level.
- Another initiative in the project was the redesign of an area that will contribute to the sustainability of neighborhoods - using every circularity principle. Through this redesign - it attempts to shift the mindsets of architects, construction engineers and other connected actors to not only think about how to reuse and use different kinds of materials, but also how to mind-shift to a new way of using areas and buildings according to circularity principles.

- We'll likely open a new project that will focus only on - providing the space to explore and experiment with the new circularity idea - building industry as a model for it.

Question 3. How could a circular economy be promoted in a country like Serbia given the necessary initial Investments required? How do you see that as a barrier and how could it be addressed?

- It depends which level we are talking about - the industry, the company or the country. Firstly (because of lack of time) I would focus on the company level.
- One of the methodologies that we've invented (together with Henning's team at Wuppertal Institut) was the *circular economy implementation framework,* which places the focus on small spin-offs/small experiments and pilots – rather than huge investments. Smaller projects generate knowledge and insights on where to go - how to pivot strategically. And then, step-by-step, go into the circularity transition. *(Incremental approach)*
- In that sense, the clients that we work with / companies that we work for - slowly shift their minds, explore opportunities, start to collaborate with new stakeholders, start to build their ecosystem of circularity, start to build their new value chain - even if not realizing it at the time.
- We always try to promote the concept of learning by doing - not planning and then smacking with a huge amount of Investment. Investments will inevitably come, but it's one of the perceived barriers. With these implementation frameworks, we try to alleviate this psychological barrier.
- On the other side, we also have an underutilization of funds that are offered to Serbian systems - whatever they may be focused on. We are trying to utilize these funds for modernization / innovation in this green domain.
- Everything is focused on learning by doing – and that has to happen collaboratively. For this, we are in the midst of building a platform focused on problem solving, experts' capacity building, and collaboration. Everyone is welcome to view and try this platform (aimed launch in January).

Topic wrap-up comment by Henning Wilts: **Learning by doing could be one of the key takeaways from the whole webinar**. Circular economy is an adventure - we can only learn through practical implementation.

Topic: Circular Industrial Value Chains

Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer (University of Lund) is working on industrial Transformations with many different stakeholders and companies. He also works with the Wuppertal Institut.

Question 1. What is your feeling - how does industry perceive the circular economy?

- We work with heavy Industries such as steelmakers, basic chemistry, cement makers, etc. In all these sectors recycling and the circular economy is different. The industries are interested in the circular economy but are far from doing it strategically.

- Producers in the 'primary steel' industry (those who deliver products made from virgin steel) claim that their steel is almost completely recycled after use – and that it's the most recycled material in the world. However, much of this steel is downcycled, so in the long term we need to rethink this system.
- For example, high quality virgin steel is used in car making – but because cars are not deconstructed when recycled, the steel becomes polluted with many other elements (the most problematic is copper). While this steel can be used for making reinforced bars (for constructing high-rises, etc.) it can never again be used for making cars.
- Currently there is no incentive to remove unwanted materials out of recycled steel because it can be sold even at a low quality. So, even though the circularity rate of steel is already high, there's a long way to go if we want to ramp up circularity *in a more sensible way*.
- To become more circular, we need to rethink the whole system - which includes the whole value chain – with all actors and the economy behind it.

Question 2. What are options for companies in the steel industry to increase the share of recycled input?

- We are currently seeing a trend toward procurement for greener secondary steel, which has a much lower carbon footprint. E.g., the largest share of the automobile industry's carbon footprint is from the steel in the cars. They try to reduce the footprint by offering premium models. Thus, there is incentive for primary steelmakers to offer better secondary steel in their portfolio.
- While there are already secondary steelmakers, they work within a different 'ecosystem' - a more complete value chain (some run scrap yards, etc.). They are not really linked to the primary steelmakers, so joining forces could be an option. This might be triggered if the demand grows stronger from the automobile industry to purchase quality green steel.
- Another possibility is regulation for emissions factors of steelmaking. Currently there are regulatory divisions between primary steelmaking and secondary steelmaking - because they are completely different businesses. However, this division makes it impossible to improve emissions averages by increasing secondary steel production. Additional policy instruments are needed.

Question 3. Do you already have specific policy instruments in mind? What would the industry itself propose?

- The Policy sector in steelmaking is not that advanced. It is currently focused on making green primary steel using hydrogen – a technology that enables higher recycling rates and much more flexibility with scrap rates. It's a coming change – a long-term project that is currently only in the pilot phase. We need to focus on it, but we haven't really made policy plans.
- To convert these industries, we need long-term stable policies and strong involvement by governments (we are arguing for that). Industry is highly interested in such policies and cooperation with policy makers. E.g., the chemical industry is extremely interested in the circular economy and

there are many options for cooperation. The steel industry is also interested, but not yet advanced enough.

- Much investment is required. In primary steelmaking, the changes require a lot of investment and lots of green energy, which is expensive. In secondary steelmaking, much is produced via electricity - which is in principle, easy to make green. Even so, you have to pay for it.

Question 4: Do you see similar developments in middle and low- and middle-income countries, or is it limited somehow to OECD countries?

- In the case of the transition of steel to higher quality recycling – it's just getting started in Western Europe, but China is very advanced.
- Most low and middle-income countries are currently not very advanced; however, their steel industries are much more dependent on secondary steel - so they are in a different situation - mostly benefitting from using downstream materials.
- There will be difficult repercussions on low- and middle-income countries if we focus efforts toward higher quality recycling in high income economies. E.g., most of the old German cars currently end up in Egyptian houses. (That would likely change).

Topic wrap-up comment by Henning Wilts: the steel transition presents an opportunity for mutual learning between the steel industry in Germany and Egypt, and other countries.

Topic: Circular Agriculture: Preventing Food Loss and Waste

Ms. Marit Nilses (Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE) works with UNECE on food loss and waste.

Question 1. Why is food loss and waste an important topic, and where do you see the interlinkages to the Circular economy?

- Food loss and waste refers not only to edible food – but also to the wasted resources that went into producing that food - such as water, energy, fertilizers, fuel to drive the machinery, and land use.
- The production of food globally accounts for approximately 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and two-thirds of nitrogen pollution.
- Today, one-third of all food produced globally is estimated to be lost or wasted along supply chains or by consumers – counting from the farm gate and onwards. Approximately 25% of the water used and 8 -10 % percent of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture are involved in the production of food that does not end up being consumed.
- Food waste reduction can have an important impact with multiple benefits. E.g., It can also strengthen the sustainability of farm food systems by reducing input use (water, nitrogen, energy) while increasing incomes and ensuring increased food availability.
- Circular economy in the food sector basically implies:

- minimizing the use of external inputs closing nutrient loops,
- reducing negative discharges to the environment
- minimizing food loss and waste
- increasing the use of agricultural byproducts -e.g., maize has a lot of byproducts - it's important to ensure that all parts of the plants are well used.

- Circularities, to some degree, are inherent in agriculture, but much more can be done. Reducing food loss and waste is a key part of that.

Question 2. What could be done about this? What are the tools in that area?

- This is a very complex area that requires systems thinking. At UNECE, our work on agriculture and food loss and waste is linked to our long-standing workstream (70 years) on setting voluntary agricultural quality standards for food marketing. The focus is on fresh fruit and vegetables, dried fruits and nuts, meat, and seed potatoes.
- UNECE is also re-defining minimum quality standards so that they remain helpful for facilitating trade - this is important for incomes, and also for the efficiency of food systems.
- In addition to this, UNECE has developed a code of good practice for reducing food loss in fresh fruit and vegetable value chains, a food loss and waste measuring methodology, and also a minimum quality specification for freshwater vegetables.
- The code of good practice is the centerpiece:
    - It looks at ensuring quality in the value chain by providing practical advice to the different stages in the chain (producers, traders, transporters and retailers) – because the whole value chain is interdependent.
    - Fresh fruit and vegetables are very sensitive to temperature and handling. If not handled well early in the stage of the chain, they might be spoiled at the retail stage - even though it's not the fault of the retailer.
    - This work is linked to FAO's generic voluntary code of conduct for food loss and waste reduction. The UNECE code complements FAO's code, but it is sector-specific in a way – due to its focus on the fresh fruit and vegetable value chain.

Question 3. Are there options to implement such tools (such as the code of conduct) in low- and middle-income countries? What are the current initiatives on-the-ground?

- The first version of the Code of Good Practice (2021) was developed in 2019-20. Then our experts decided to ensure it is useful for developing countries too, so the second edition of the Code (2022) involved a larger number of stakeholders from different countries in its development. The second edition also includes a chapter on transporters (which was not there in the first edition, even though transporters are part of the value chain).

  - Regarding its implementation on-the-ground: the code was developed during the COVID-19 Pandemic, so we are now developing additional practical, illustrated explanatory materials for some specific product groups.
  - In terms of rolling out and ensuring that we are working with different stakeholders, we are looking to do that the coming year now that the Pandemic situation is better.

- UNECE also has other activities related to circularity - in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, and we're also working on other angles related to the Circular economy. E.g., we have a large work stream on trade facilitation and within that, we have a project looking at traceability and its role in ensuring sustainability and circularity.
- We also have a project on supporting circular economic transition in member states, for which we've set up a *Circular STEP* Stakeholder Network:
  - Questionnaire to apply for *Circular STEP* membership: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccD3VxKHIN_RKuw4tFGO_W1JUQUxWVlAxOEFRVTU4VjhKQVpDS1hORDUwNy4u
  - *Circular STEP* group on LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12650288/
- We are working with Serbia and Tajikistan to support them in in the circular transition:
  - Accelerating circular economy in Serbia: UNECE supports action on agriculture and food loss and waste (5 July 2022) https://unece.org/media/Economic-Cooperation-and-Integration/news/369099#:~:text=On%205%20July%202022%20the,food%20loss%20and%20waste%20management
  - UNECE supports the circular economy transition of Tajikistan's garment and footwear industry (6 September 2022) https://unece.org/circular-economy/news/unece-supports-circular-economy-transition-tajikistans-garment-and-footwear#:~:text=To%20help%20accelerate%20the%20shift,Dushanbe%20on%206%20September%202022
- We have just launched a podcast on food loss and waste:
  - One World, Zero Waste? The circular economy explained. Podcast: One World, Zero Waste? The circular economy explained
- Last year we had a round table on circularity and agri-food trade:
  - https://unece.org/info/Trade/events/360739

Questions from participants to panellists

Question from Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE): How do you see the role of consumers?

- The role of consumers is super important. We will need consumer education. We've all grown up knowing that we shouldn't waste food but, society has become abundant with food and we're not always able to do as we were taught as children.
- In the U.N., the custodians for statistical purposes of the issue of food loss and waste are FAO and UNEP respectively:
    - FAO keeps an index of food loss (with earlier focus in the chain - up to retail level)
    - UNEP keeps the index of food waste
- Food loss and food waste are estimated to be approximately equal. In the Western countries, food waste is estimated to be higher than loss; whereas in some developing countries the loss might be higher (because of lack of cold chain systems).
- There is a lot that we can do as consumers. The recent FAO regional conference on food loss and waste provided many good examples – for consumers as well as businesses:
    - https://www.regionalsavefoodconference.com/en/
- Reduction is the key - consumers are critical to that but they can't do everything. That's why at UNECE, our work on the trade side looks at the loss end on the value chain. We look at the earlier stages of the value chain and see what we can do there.

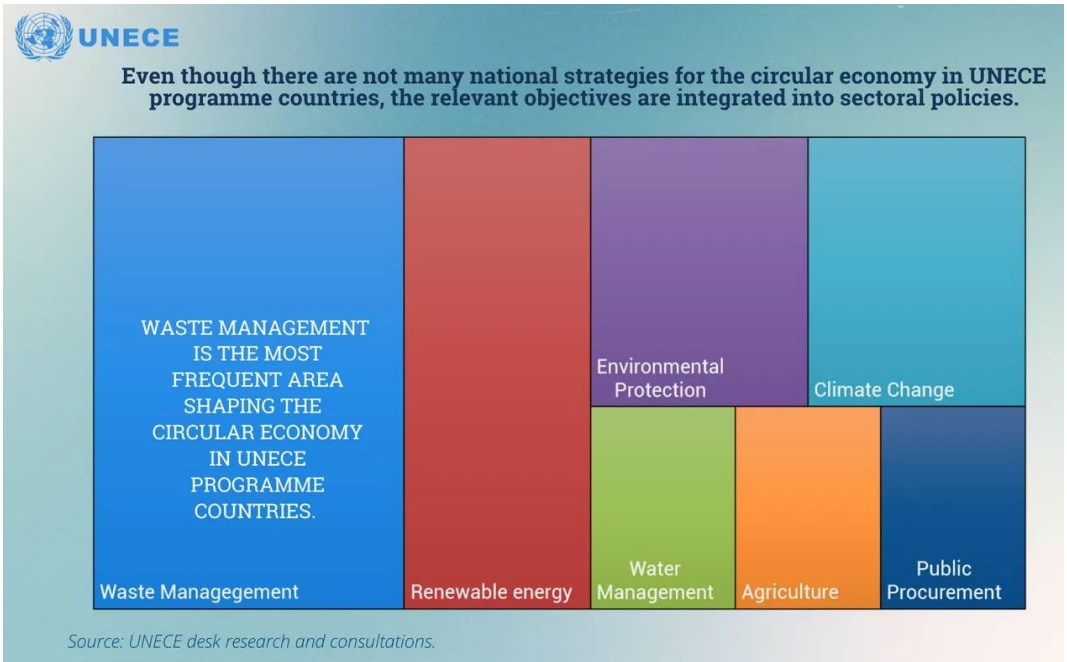
Closing Remarks

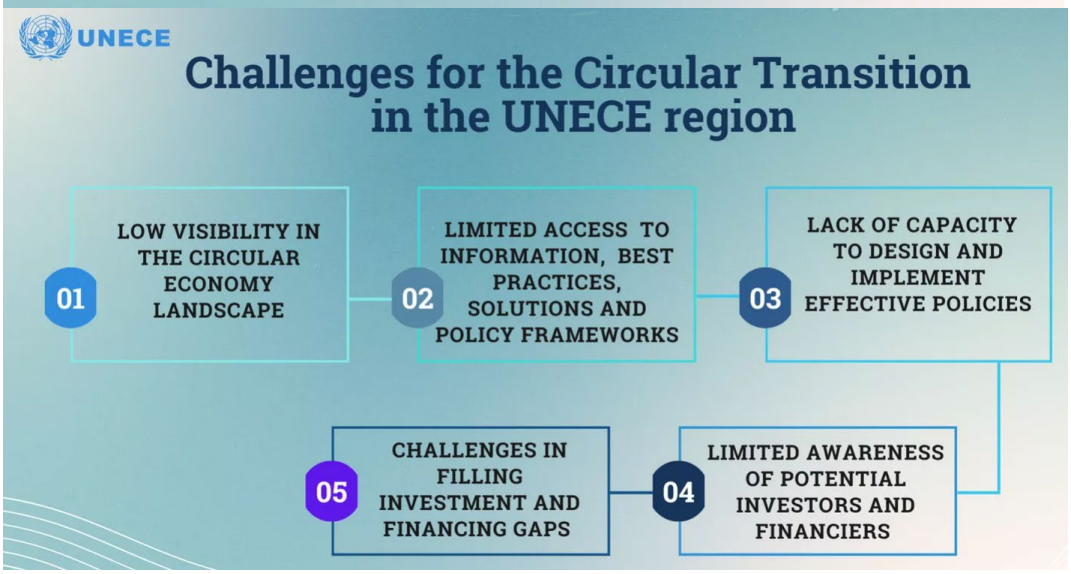
Facilitator Darren Swanson highlighted that participants had provided information and posted several links on the webinar's virtual sharing board. *Note- many of those links were included in the report above. Additional information/links included*:

(1) **Case examples of a circular economy**

- Strategy on the Transition of the Republic of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a "Green" Economy for the Period 2019-2030 | ESCAP Policy Documents Management - https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/node/3927
- Some of the countries that made certain progress in setting up the circularity landscape in the UNECE region:
    - Turkey developed a concept and circular economy action plan
    - Serbia developed road map for circular economy
    - Uzbekistan developed action plan for the development of a circular economy for the agricultural value chain
    - Georgia is working on development of a circular economy strategy and Tajikistan – on endorsing green economy concept.

(2) Challenges and lessons learned in implementing circular economy





(3) Other info

- OECD's RE-CIRCLE: resource efficiency and circular economy
- Circular Economy in Europe: Developing a Knowledge Base
- Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy - Second Session

Henning Wilts noted that the information provided in the webinar and the virtual sharing board show that there is no need to reinvent the wheel - there are so many interesting experiences on specific challenges and questions. It makes a lot of sense to improve the exchange of information, ask who has experiences with what, and learn from each other.

Marianna Bolshakova (Regional Coordinator, Environmental Law and Governance, UNEP Europe) summarized that the discussions showed that circular economy is one of those *win-win-win situations and solutions for the sustainable way of development*: for addressing climate challenges and stimulating research and development, for national security and many other issues in society overall. It also requires a very significant transformation. She also reminded participants of the UN's responsibility to assist countries in shifting gears towards more circular and sustainable policies, and that UN country teams are uniquely placed to support such transitions. Participants should use the guidance materials and the information from today's discussion and circulate it further among colleagues. The IBC team is also available to support and provide further information as needed.

Annex 1: Participant List

	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE in the ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY office
1	Aleksandar	Jovanovic	UNDP	Programme Associate	Serbia
2	Alper	Almaz	UN DCO	Development Coordination Analyst	Turkey
3	Ana	Dantas	UNOPS	Intern	Vienna
4	Anastasia	Pankova	UNECE	Accelerating the circular transition	Switzerland
5	Andreas	Nord	UNDP Kosovo	Socio-Economic Programme Associate	Kosovo
6	Anita	Kodzoman	UNDP	Programme Officer, Head of Energy, Environment and DRR Unit	Republic of North Macedonia
7	Azra	Džaferbegović	IOM	Project assistant	Bosnia and Herzegovina
8	Bashkim	Isufi	UNDCO	Partnerships and development finance	Kosovo
9	Darren	Swanson	IISD	Senior Associate	Canada
10	Denis	Parea	GEF SGP	National Coordinator	Moldova
11	Eleanor	Gibson	UNOPS	Programme Management	Vienna
12	Esther	Bansah	UNDP	Inclusive Growth	Turkey
13	Garik	Khachikyan	UNDP	Advisor	Armenia
14	Henning	Wilts	Wuppertal Institut	Director	Germany
15	Hovhannes	Ghazaryan	UNDP	CER Portfolio Lead	Armenia
16	Hurshid	Rustamov	UNRCO	Economist	Azerbaijan
17	Iryna	Sakalouskaya	UNDP	CC Specialist	Belarus
18	Kris	Douçot	UNECE		
19	Lejla	Beglerovic	UN WHO RO BiH	Communications Specialist	Bosnia and Herzegovina
20	Leslie	Paas	IISD	Associate	Canada
21	Magnus	Bengtsson	Hot or Cool	Policy Lead	

22	Marit	Nilses	UNECE	Economic Cooperation and Trade Division	
23	Maria	Tarigradean	UNDP	Project manager	Republic of Moldova
24	Marika	Palosaari	UNEP	Programme Coordinator	Switzerland
25	Milan	Veselinov	CirEkon		Serbia
26	Nicholas	Bonvoisin	UNECE	Chief, Operational Activities and Review Section, Environment Division	Switzerland
27	Oleg	Dzioubinski	UNECE	Regional Adviser on Energy	Switzerland
28	Owais	Parray	UNRCO	Economist	Indonesia
29	Piotr	Sachek	UNDP	Head of Exploration, Accelerator lab	Belarus
30	Roberto	Martin Hurtado	Independent expert	Environmental and water economist	.
31	Rusyan Jill	Mamiit	UNRCO	Development Cooperation Officer for Partnerships and Development Finance	Uzbekistan
32	Sarangoo	Radnaaragchaa	UNECE	Regional Adviser	Switzerland
33	Stephan	Lechtenböhmer	University of Lund		Sweden
34	Suzana	Ahmeti Janjic	UNDP	Head of Inclusive Prosperity	North Macedonia
35	Vanja	Lazaridis	IOM	Project Manager	North Macedonia
36	Zarif	Jumaev	UN RCO	Economist	Uzbekistan

Annex 2: Webinar Agenda and Evaluation Results

IBC Training Programme on Green Transitions Energy for Green Transitions Webinar	
Timing	**Agenda Item**
0-10min	**Welcome and Introductions** ● Welcome and Introduction to Green Transitions: IBC representative, *Sara Radnaaragchaa (Regional Advisor, Environment Division, UNECE)* ● Webinar Overview and Warm-up Polling: *Darren Swanson (International Institute for Sustainable Development)*
10-60min	**Presentation Session on the Circular Economy for Green Transitions** ● Presentation – Part 1: Opportunities of a Circular Economy and its Status Quo ○ *Henning Wilts (Director of Circular Economy, Wuppertal Institut)* ● Presentation – Part 2: Strategic and Programmatic Guidance for UN Country Teams Implementing a Circular Economy ○ *(Policy Lead, Hot or Cool)* ● Q&A and Knowledge Quiz (10 minutes)
60-110min	**Plenary Panel: Solutions & Experience Sharing on Circular Economy** ● Panel Insights: *Moderated by Henning Wilts (Wuppertal Institut)* ○ Circular Economy in the construction sector: *Milan Veselinov (CirEkon, Serbia)* ○ Circular industrial value chains: *Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer (University of Lund)* ○ Circular agriculture: Preventing food loss and waste: *Marit Nilses (Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE)* ● Q&A and Solutions/Experience Sharing by Participants: *Facilitated by Darren Swanson (IISD)*
110-120min	**Next Steps and Closing Remarks** ● Evaluation Forms *(Darren Swanson, IISD)* ● IBC representative, *Marianna Bolshakova (Regional Coordinator, Environmental Law and Governance, UNEP Europe)*

Training evaluation results

In concluding the event, an evaluation form was circulated with a response rate of 16% (6 responses of a total of 36 participants). All respondents reported they liked the format, duration and interactive style of the training. 50% felt the training fully met their expectations, while 50% felt expectations were 'partially met'. 83% also felt the content was a useful introduction to the tools and approaches for circular economy,

while 17% felt it could be improved. For the question “Did this webinar provide useful strategic and programmatic guidance on how to implement sustainable finance approaches and tools in your country?” 83% agreed that it did, while 17% indicated it could be improved. 33% of the respondents indicated they would use the guidance in practice, while 67% thought they might use it. One participant suggested that the training program include more case studies.