

Global circular economy trends and insights

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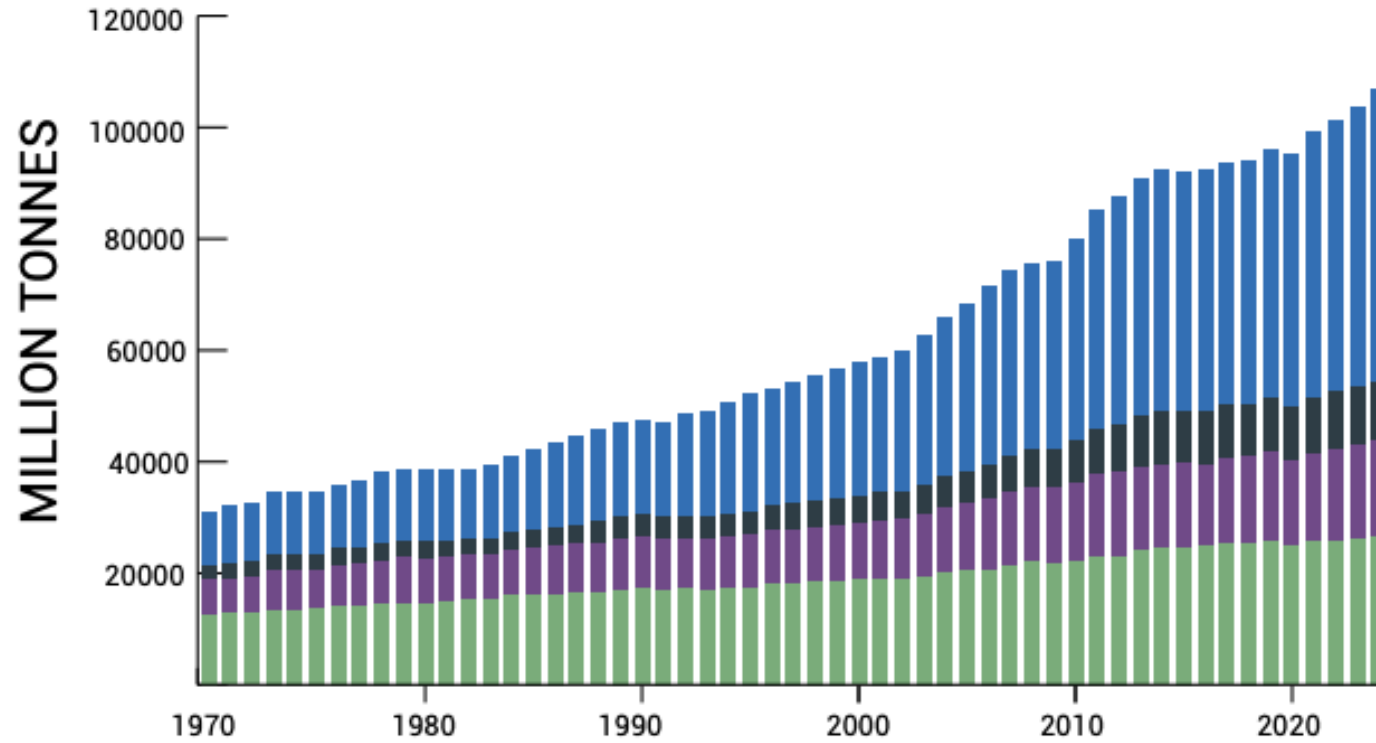
How is circular economy doing?

80+

CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROAD MAPS AND STRATEGIES IN 50 COUNTRIES IN 2024

UNIDO and Chatham House 2024.
National Circular Economy Roadmaps: A global stocktake for 2024

Global material extraction 1970-2024



UNEP and IRP 2024.
Global resources outlook 2024.



Biomass



Fossil fuels



Metals



Non-metallic minerals

6.9%

**THE WORLD CIRCULARITY RATE
ACCORDING TO THE CIRCULARITY GAP
REPORT 2025**

Circle Economy Foundation, 2025. Circularity Gap Report 2025.

Circle Economy Foundation, 2024. Circularity Gap Report Latin America and the Caribbean.

European Environment Agency, 2024. Accelerating the circular economy in Europe.

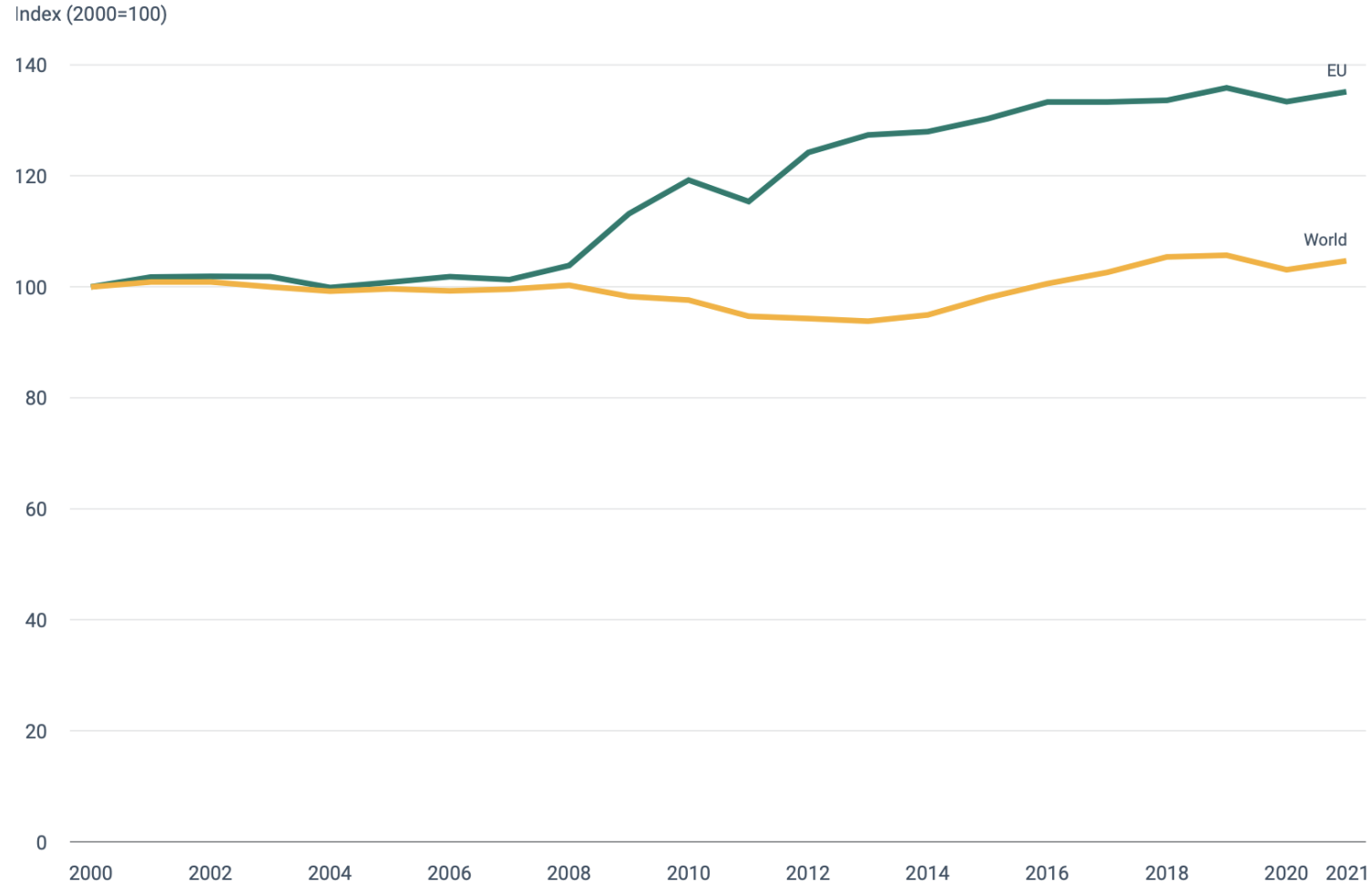
11.8%

**CIRCULARITY RATE IN
EUROPE IN 2023**

< 1%

**CIRCULARITY RATE IN LATIN
AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN IN 2024**

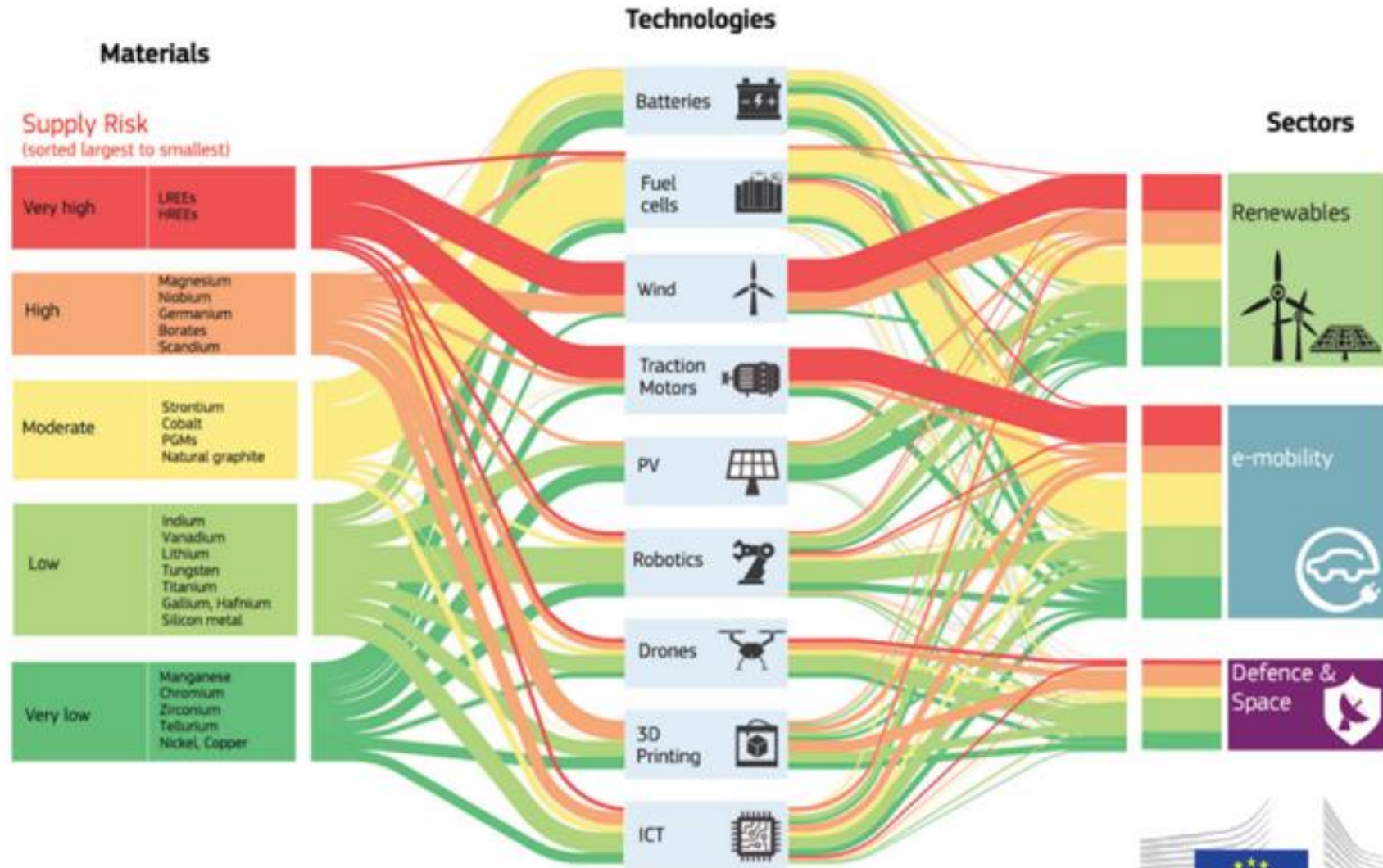
Resource productivity for the EU-27 and the global economy



European Environment Agency 2024. Accelerating the circular economy in Europe.

UNEP and IRP 2024. Global resources outlook 2024.

Critical raw materials and their supply risk



Source: Joint Research Centre





Last year an official CRM list was published



**Circular business models that are
advancing fastest**

1. Product-as-a-Service (PaaS)

- Predictable cash flow, stronger investor acceptance
- Growth in mobility, machinery, buildings and ICT

2. Product-life extension

- Repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing thriving in electronics, machinery & textiles
- Supported by policy and consumer shifts

3. High-value resource recovery

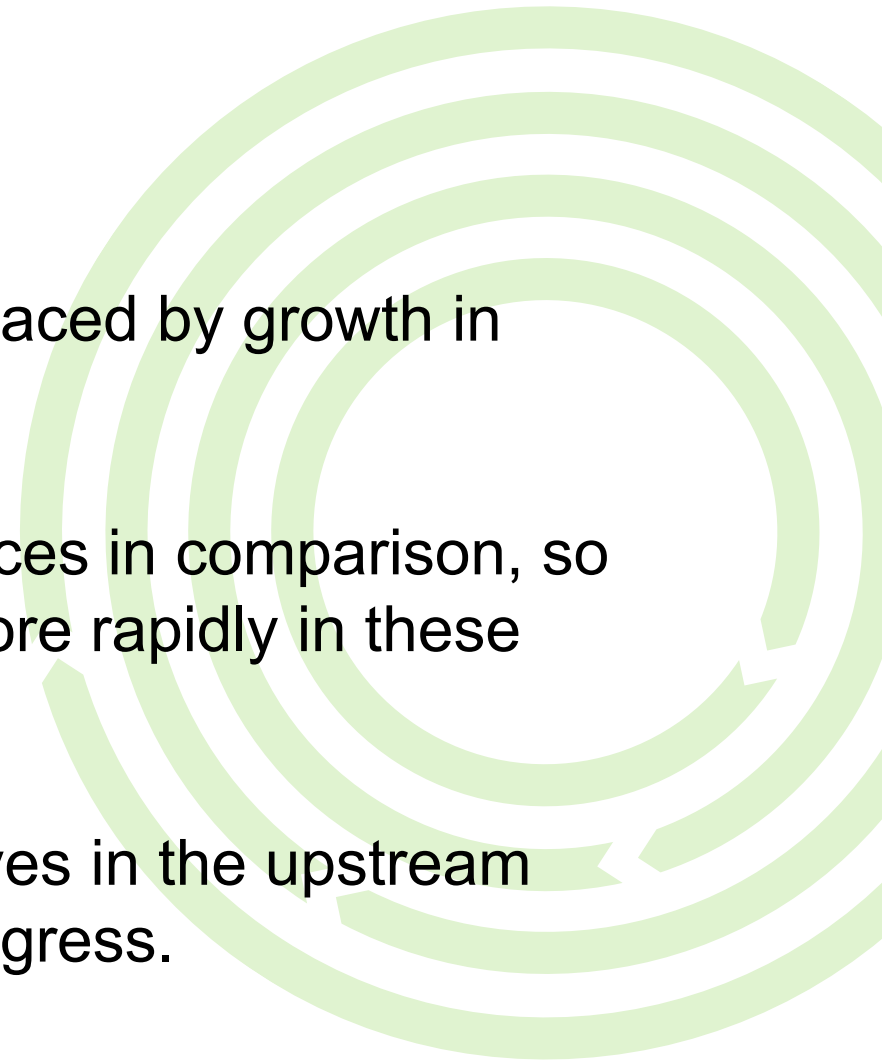
- Metals, batteries, construction materials
- Industrial symbiosis expanding globally

4. Emerging but less mature

- Sharing platforms (sector-dependent)
- Bio-based & regenerative models (capital-intensive, ecosystem-dependent)

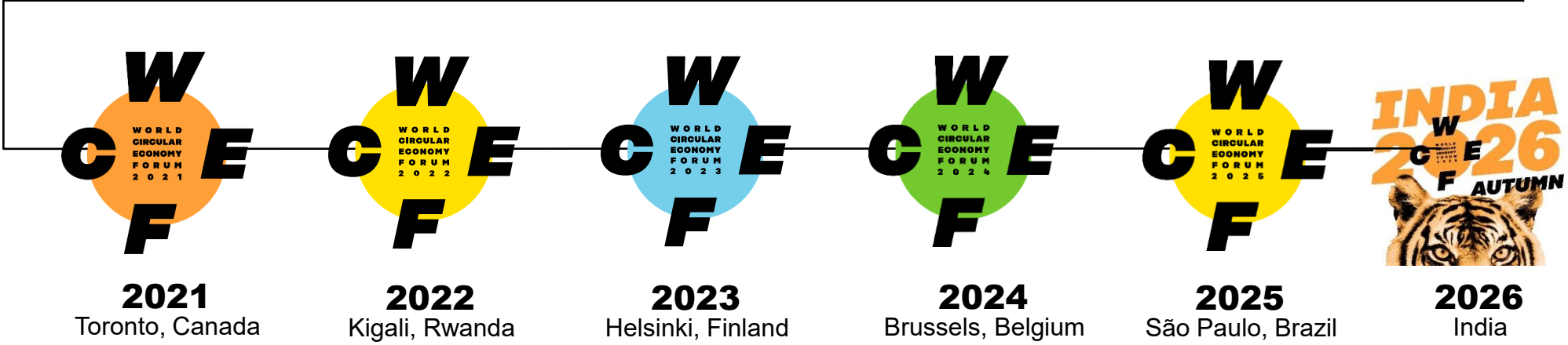
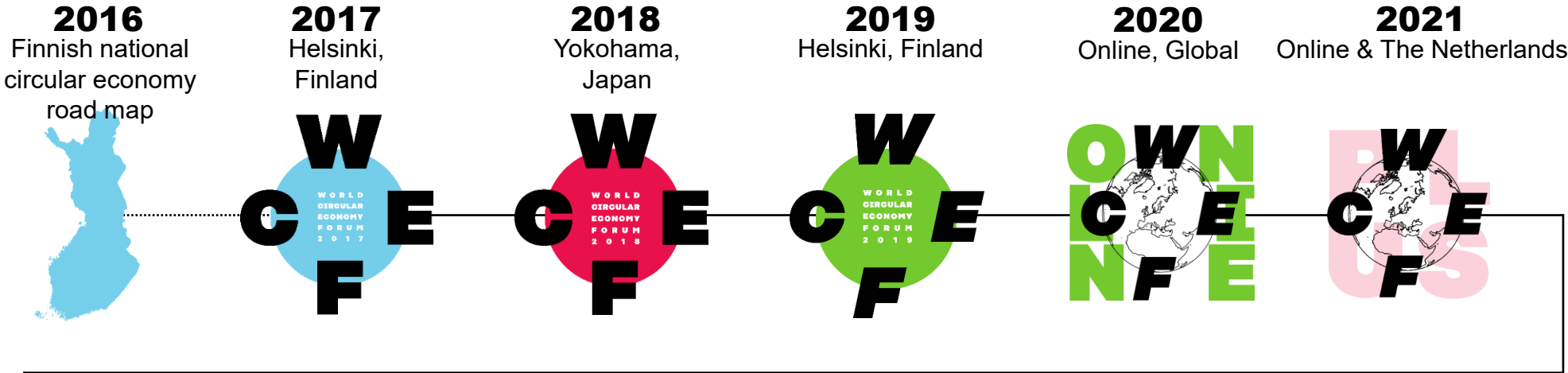
Key takeaways

1. The progress made in circularity metrics is outpaced by growth in virgin material use.
2. Higher income countries consume more resources in comparison, so advancements and decoupling should occur more rapidly in these countries.
3. Huge opportunities remain in expanding initiatives in the upstream phase of product lifecycles, to show greater progress.



World Circular Economy Forum WCEF

World's leading circular economy event and collaboration platform



**Eight years of WCEF insights show
a consistent pattern:
circularity scales only when policy,
business models and finance
evolve together.**

Insights from WCEF

1

Circular economy trade

Circular economy is increasingly often mentioned in the trade agreements.

2

Critical raw materials

Circular economy can offer solutions to the increasing global demand.

3

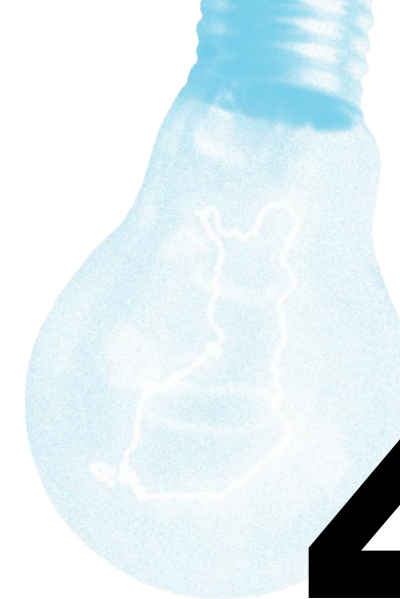
Circular economy in global negotiations

Firmer integration of circular economy is required in climate negotiations.

4

Policy harmonisation

Harmonized policy frameworks inside and between regions is required.



EU Circular Economy Resource Centre

The EU Circular Economy Resource Centre (EU CERC) is a joint initiative of the European Commission, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and the Belgian agency for international cooperation Enabel.

EU CERC promotes circular economy uptake and cooperation between the EU and partner countries.

Read more: sitra.fi/eu-cerc

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What is the EU CERC about?

EU CERC is an initiative aiming at accelerating **the global transition to a circular economy.**

It serves as a **partnership and collaboration platform** between the EU and partner countries.

The centre aims to increase the uptake of **sound and inclusive circular economy policies and business models globally.**

It provides collaboration support, accessible resources, expertise and guidance, and share knowledge to support success.

The five year project was launched at the beginning of 2025.



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