The EU in a Transition
Towards a Circular Economy

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Inclusive Green Economy and Circular Economy

1. Greening the brown economy
2. Growing the green economy

Approaches
Tools

Sustainable development

Circular economy focus
Green economy focus
Circular Economy – The Way Forward

Linear economy

Resources
Production
Consumption
Waste

Chain economy

Resources
Downcycling
Production
Consumption
Waste

Circular economy

Upcycling
Sustainable production

From waste to resources
EU Benefits through a Circular Economy

- Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible
- Minimising waste generation
- Boosting our competitiveness with new business opportunities and innovative products and services
- Bringing economic, social and environmental gains
EU Circular Economy Action Plan

4 Key areas of action

5 Priority sectors

Plastics Strategy

Actions
- to encourage the use of recycled plastic

Better design
- of plastics for less toxicity, more durability and easier recycling

Plastics can be circular too

More information
- to raise awareness and encourage responsible behaviour

Stronger incentives
- to collect, sort and recycle all plastics
• SDGs 8,9 → Circular Economy brings higher levels of economic productivity by improving resource efficiency in consumption and production.

• SDGs 6,13,14,15 → improving the environmental quality for citizens, as the circular economy ensures the protection of our ecosystems, the reduction of marine pollution and it contributes to the fight against climate change

• SGDs 12 → fostering the shift towards responsible consumption and production patterns and by sustainable managing all wastes and chemicals.
Circular Economy in EU Development Cooperation

- CE is a policy-ready concept endorsed by UNEA4 and embedded in SDGs
- Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs acknowledges the role of CE
- EU External Investment Plan encourages sustainable investment including the European Fund for Sustainable Development
- SWITCH Africa Green (SWITCH-Med)
- Support for the Partnership for Action on Green Economy
- EU study on the CE and its benefits in the African Context
- EU domestic experience (LIFE, Horizon 2020, Eco-innovation)