

# Water and Environment Support

in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

## Regional activity on Innovative Circular Economy Business Models in the Mediterranean RE-3-REG / RE-3-P2P

Regional Training and Study Visit  
Barcelona, Spain, 15-17 May 2023

**SESSION: Supporting a Just Transition to Circular Economy**

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# JUST2CE – A JUST TRANSITION TO CE

- Challenges & Scope of the Problem

- There are 4 fundamental problems in the CE, and they are not usually discussed:

- The linear model of the economic system
- Economic growth
- Technocratic paradigm to CE
- Social Justice & the Social Dimension of the CE:

- ❖ The current CE paradigm does not fully critique the unjust social relations that govern the capitalist system and the circular economy system that is to be put in place:

- Labour relations: **Fighting labour inequalities and suboptimal working conditions**
- Gender perspective: **Towards a more gender-inclusive circular economy**
- Geopolitical & Democratic issues: **What we produce and How much?**





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- Labour Relations

- Fully unlocking the potential of CE requires a **just transition that addresses the current inequalities and suboptimal working conditions currently present in the circular economy.**
- **Jobs created in the new CE model = Good for the Environment + Good for People.**

- Gender mainstreaming

- A **just and inclusive transition towards circularity** calls for a **stronger participation of women across the entire circular economy spectrum** and not only in activities associated with the informal sector with low productivity levels and technology use.
- By understanding the gender roles, the traditional, discriminatory gender division of labour, and inequalities that shape our current system societies will be able to actively build strategies, measures and tools that help **bridge gender gaps and overcome barriers to ensure a just circular economy transition for all.**





# JUST2CE – A JUST TRANSITION TO CE

- Introduction to the JUST2CE Project:

## JUST2CE

A Just Transition to Circular Economy

- Responsible Innovation to unlock the full potential of CE (What / How Much?)
- Aim:

Understanding under which conditions a responsible, inclusive and socially just transition to a circular economy is possible and desirable

What technical, geopolitical and social factors can enable or hamper such transformation

And how these aspects can contribute to the development of transitional policy measures





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## • Main Objectives

- A transition is just and fair when it **ensures that the benefits of greening the economy are shared widely**, while supporting those who stand to lose economically, **leaving no one behind – especially people from vulnerable groups.**

- To identify enablers and barriers to Circular Economy in a number of key strategic sectors:

Analysis of 10 case Studies

- ✓ Waste Management
- ✓ Agri-Food sector
- ✓ Textile
- ✓ Water Management
- ✓ Critical Raw Materials



To develop a **Decision Support System**  
and a **Macroeconomic Analytical Tool**



To design new or improve existing Just  
Circular Economy practices and develop  
new legislation/policy.

While anticipating consequences in  
transversal sectors (Gender, Labour,  
Social Exclusion, Geopolitics...)





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- **Expected outcomes**

- A rigorous and comprehensive **overview and analysis of the current state-of-the-art in the field of Circular economy.**
- An **integrated Decision Support System (DSS) for Responsible CE practices.**

*The DSS is a decision making roadmap – not standardised but shared and editable that is achieved by creating appropriate directions, interfaces, goal and scope, integration and selection procedures for each approach, in order to help decision making at each step.*

- The successful completion of **10 case studies**
- **Policy Briefs on Responsible Circular economy**



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- Key Information

**CONSORTIUM MEMBERS**

**Key Information**

 <b>3.5 MILLION</b> budget	 <b>36 months duration</b> 01/09/2021 – 31/08/2024
 <b>14 PARTNERS</b> in Europe and Africa	 <b>10 TARGET COUNTRIES</b> Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, South Africa, Greece, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Morocco





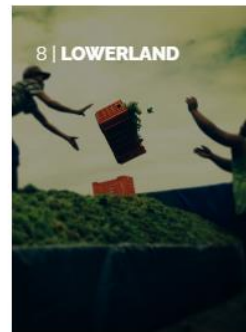
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- 10 Selected Case Studies

## OUR CASE STUDIES







# JUST2CE – A JUST TRANSITION TO CE

- 10 Selected Case Studies

- Methodology:

- ❖ Developed a theoretical and methodological approach with which to analyse the **critical sustainability implications of the 10 case studies**, including crucial questions of:

Power, democracy, inequality, intellectual property, gender, class, race, health, ownership, commodification, ecosystems, planetary boundaries, resource limits, science, education, and technology.

- Main Findings:

- ❖ A technocentric understanding of the CE → Social and environmental impacts were thus often placed as secondary
- ❖ By ignoring many critical social, political, cultural, and ecological aspects, this technocentric understanding of CE could exacerbate current patterns of domination, alienation, and exploration along racial, class, gender, colonial and ethnic lines.
- ❖ The case study analysis often found that social justice was simply equated with the creation of new employment opportunities.



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## Workshop Barcelona, 21 April

- **Main Elements to be included / to be debated**
  - Health Component
  - Global Impact vs Local/Regional/National Transition
  - Social Justice & Environmental Justice
  
- **Drivers & Challenges of the Just Transition to Circular Economy**
  - Lack of Information for consumers on social dimension of production
  - Consumer spending and capacity
  - Structural and systemic changes
  - Cultural changes & Human relationships (Time management & Consumption)
  - Global Value Chains, Trade and Capitalist model: Lack of competitiveness vis-à-vis the current economic model
  - Private Sector cooperation & Public-Private Partnerships
  - Lack of certifications and regulations
  - Lack of fiscal incentives & green taxation
  - Lack of environmental knowledge/education/information
  - Classical economic models of extraction and continuous growth
  - Lack of clear and targeted legislation (Objectives, Action Plans, Targets...)
  - Greenwashing



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A Just Transition to Circular Economy



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Thank you for your attention!



For more information:



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