

ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟ  
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ



ATHENS UNIVERSITY  
OF ECONOMICS  
AND BUSINESS



# Circular Economy Leading Sustainability Transition

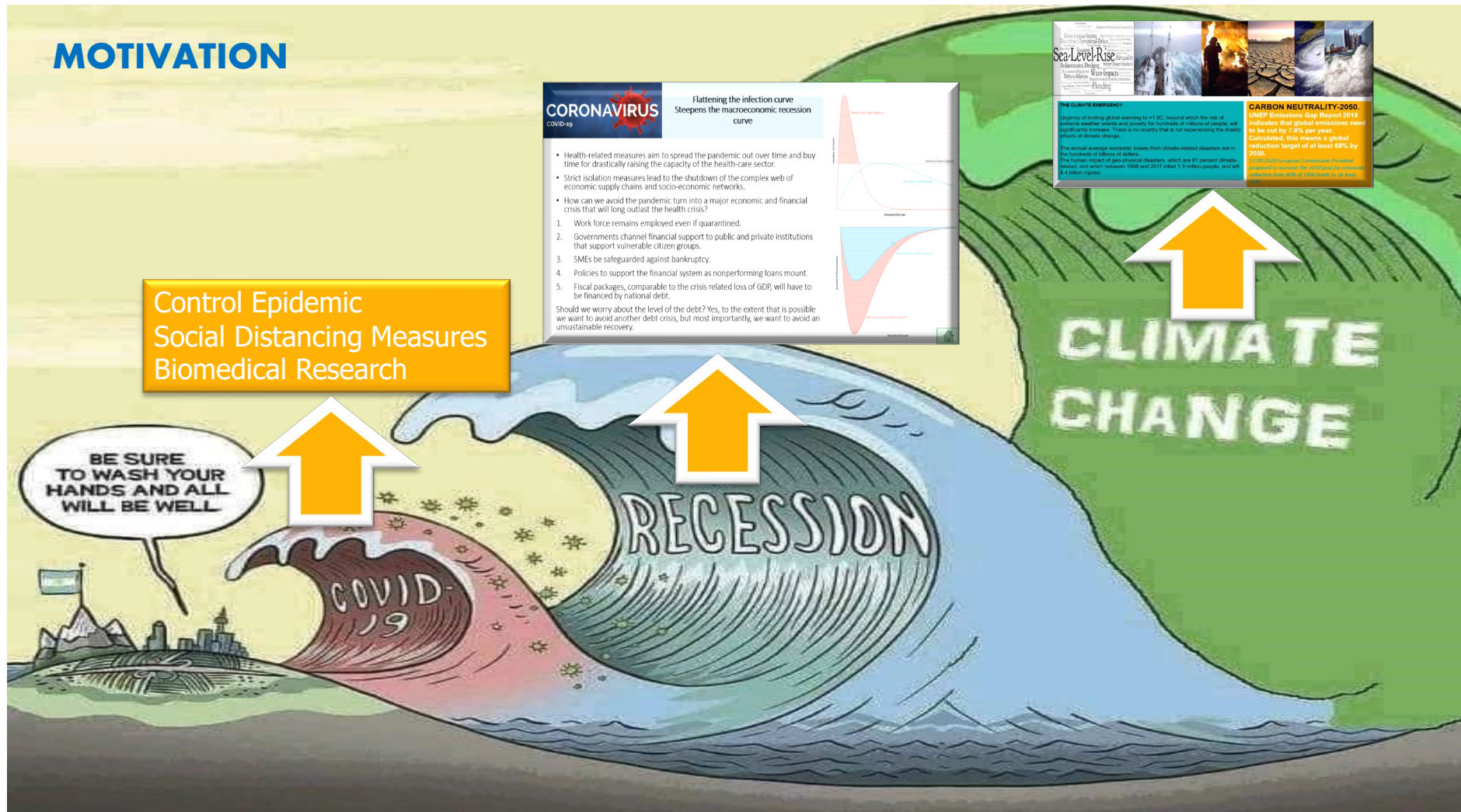
[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](mailto:pkoundouri@aueb.gr)  
[pkoundouri@aueb.gr](mailto:pkoundouri@aueb.gr)

**Professor and Director ReSEES Research Laboratory, School of Economics,  
ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS**

**President-Elect, European Association of Environmental and Resource  
Economist**

- Director, Cluster on Sustainability Transition
- Co-Chair, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) - Europe
- Director, EIT Climate KIC Hub - Greece, ATHENA RC
- Chair SAB, European Forest Institute
- Member of Greek Prime-Ministerial Committee on Recovery and Development Plan
- Member of the Greek Ministerial Climate Change Committee, Ministry of Environment and Energy

# MOTIVATION





A person is walking away from the viewer, starting on a path of dry, cracked earth on the left and moving towards a vibrant green field on the right. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the sun, which is low on the horizon.

**What kind of Growth  
do we need?**

**Sustainable Growth:**

Organizing principle for  
meeting human  
development goals, **while**

sustaining the ability of  
natural systems to provide  
the natural resources and  
ecosystem services , **upon  
which**

the economy and society  
depend.

**Environmental Sustainability**

**Economic Sustainability**

**Social Sustainability**

**Sustainable development meets  
the needs of the present, without  
compromising the ability of  
future generations to do the  
same.**



# Sustainability Related Policies

2015



193 Countries

17 SDGs

169 Targets

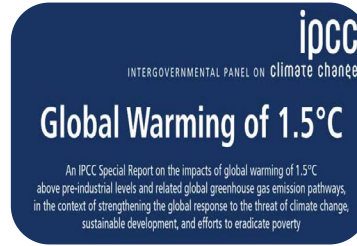
2015



197 Countries

Limiting global  
temperature to  
well below +2°C

2018



- Limiting global temp. to 1.5°C
- This implies zero net emissions globally by 2050

2019



6 Major  
Transformations to  
achieve SDGs

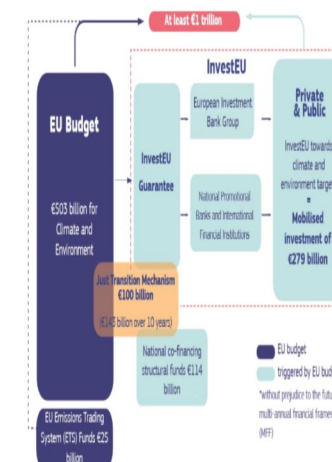
Dec 2019



EGD Policies Overview

How will the European Green Deal Investment Plan be financed?  
How will the €1 trillion be mobilised?

WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?



\*The numbers shown here are not at any overlap between climate, environmental and Just Transition Mechanism objectives

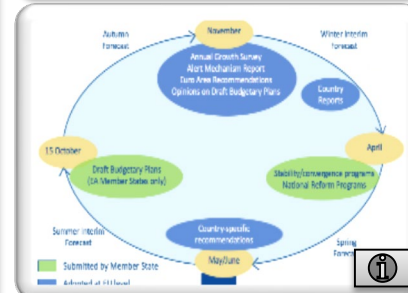
2020 ...



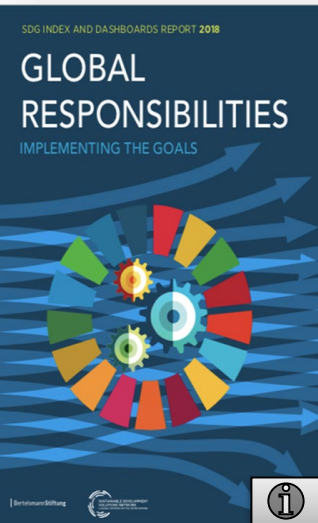
Flattening the infection curve steepens the macroeconomic recession curve



Enhanced EU MFF & Recovery Plan  
Next Generation EU



Senior WG for the EU Green Deal





# Top-Down Mobilization Green New Deals around the World

**Canada  
The Pact for a  
Green New  
Deal**  
Proposed on  
May 2019



## A GREEN NEW DEAL

A PROGRESSIVE VISION for ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY and ECONOMIC STABILITY

**USA  
Green New  
Deal**  
Proposed on  
March 2019

**South Korea  
Green  
New Deal**  
Agreed on 14  
July, 2020  
\$94.5 billion



## GREEN NEW DEAL



**Israel  
Green recovery  
plan**  
June 2020

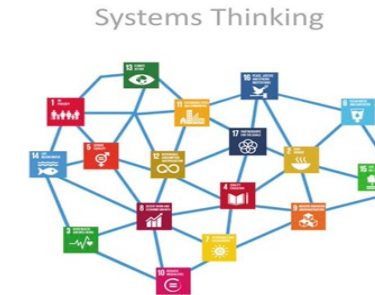
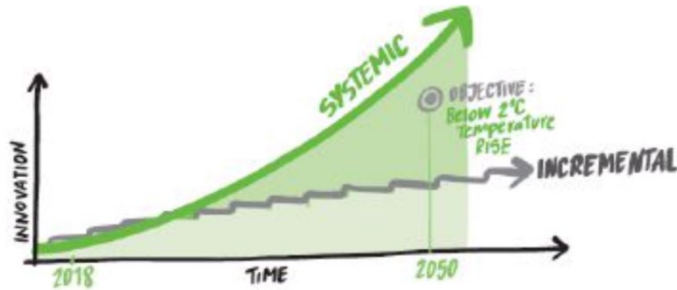


**China  
Carbon  
neutral  
before 2060**  
Announced  
on 22  
September,  
2020

# European Green Deal CLIMATE PACT

## Systems Innovation Approach: Co-Design Systemic Change with Stakeholders

Integrated & Coordinated Interventions in economic, financial, political and social systems and along whole value chains. In systems, by means of the relations, elements are arranged in such a fashion that gives rise to a **new structure** functioning.



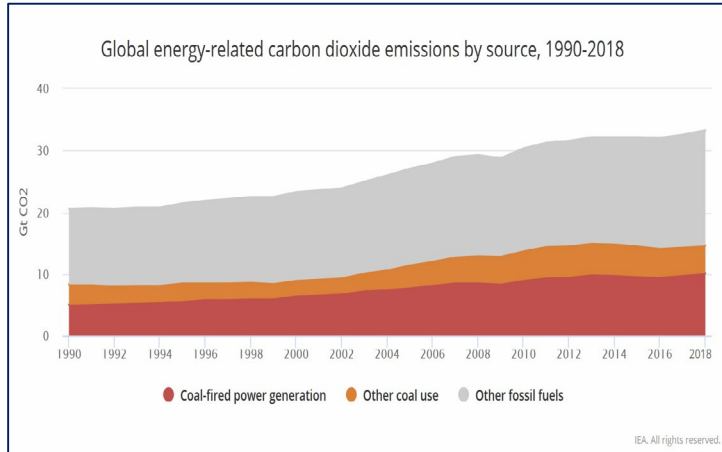
***Working through gradual, incremental changes is not enough!***

What is needed now is a **fundamental transformation** of economic, social and financial systems that will trigger exponential change in decarbonisation rates and strengthen climate resilience.

IPCC report: “**rapid, far- reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society**”.



# Aggressive de-carbonization will be needed beyond 2030 to keep temperature increases below 1.5 C



Now-2050: Global power demand will grow by 62%, equating to 1.5-2% per year.

- Renewables Consistently Cheaper than Fossil Fuels by 2020
- Energy storage installations increasing exponentially
- Strong energy efficiency improvements
- Large-scale carbon capture
- Transition to Circular Economy

DEMAND

SUPPLY

# **CIRCULAR ECONOMIC (CE)**

## **A MAJOR DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION**

**Although we will never reach 100% circularity, CE is transformative**  
**Scope to address structural waste in current systems**

**Circular Economy sets a direction for travel!**

product-service-systems circular business models  
servitisation reconditioning maintenance collection product-life extension  
repair emotional durability reuse value flows  
upgradeability refurbishment end-of-use serviceability  
sharing economy performance cycle remanufacturing  
material efficiency rebuild revalorisation reverse logistics disassembly  
redistribute circular economy replace  
reduce buy-back system  
closed-loop recycling recover material cascades eco-design restoration  
energy recovery upcycling recover open-loop recycling materials cycle  
sorting recycling green chemistry chemical recycling  
end-of-life industrial symbiosis shredding pre-concentration  
downcycling composting value from waste anaerobic digestion  
biochemical feedstock



## OUTLINE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### PRINCIPLE

# 1

Preserve and enhance natural capital by controlling finite stocks and balancing renewable resource flows  
ReSOLVE levers: regenerate, virtualise, exchange

### PRINCIPLE

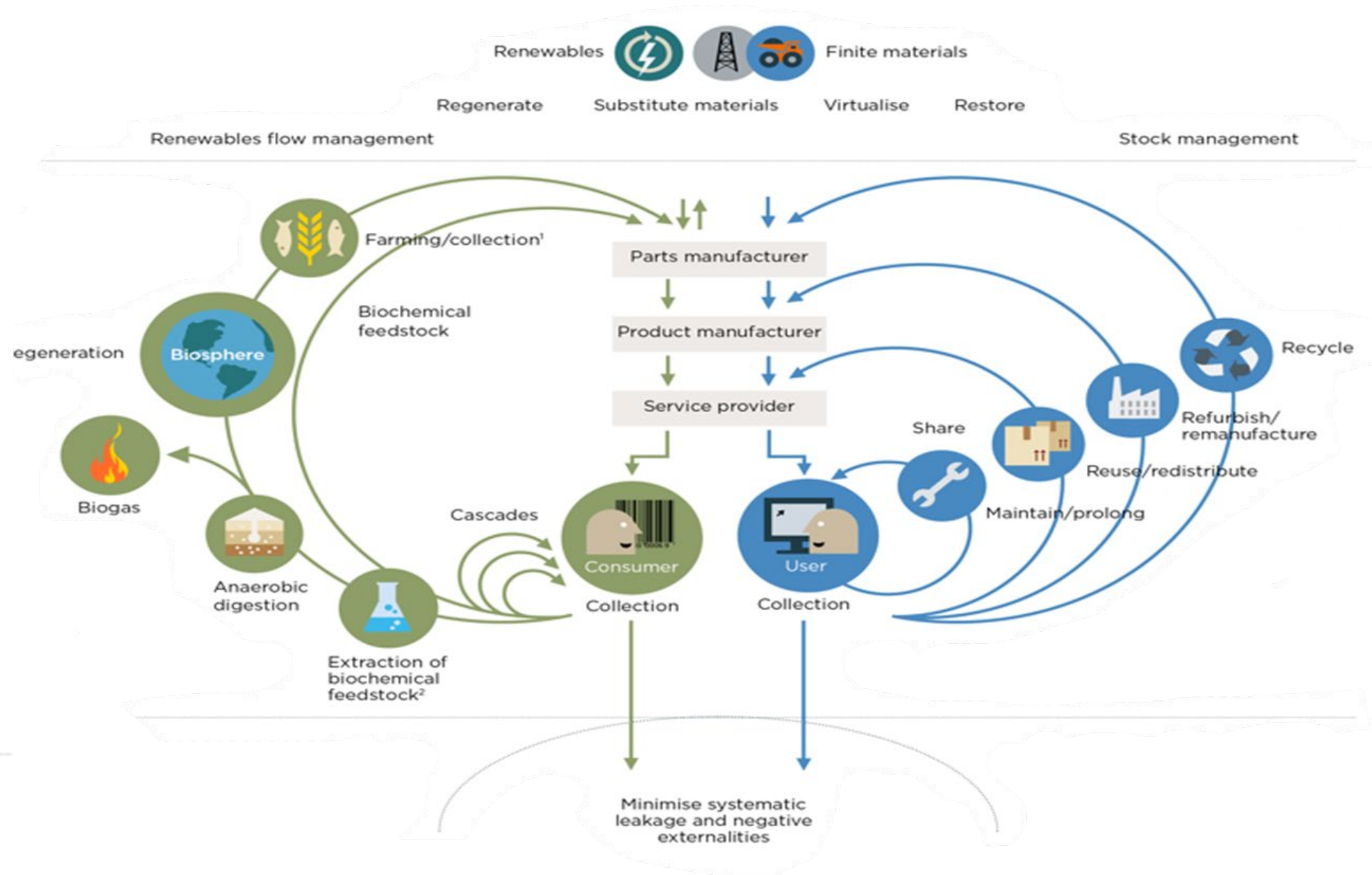
# 2

Optimise resource yields by circulating products, components and materials in use at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles  
ReSOLVE levers: regenerate, share, optimise, loop

### PRINCIPLE

# 3

Foster system effectiveness by revealing and designing out negative externalities  
All ReSOLVE levers



# How Can Circular Economy Contribute to CC



Design out waste and pollution  
**to reduce GHG emissions**  
across the value chain

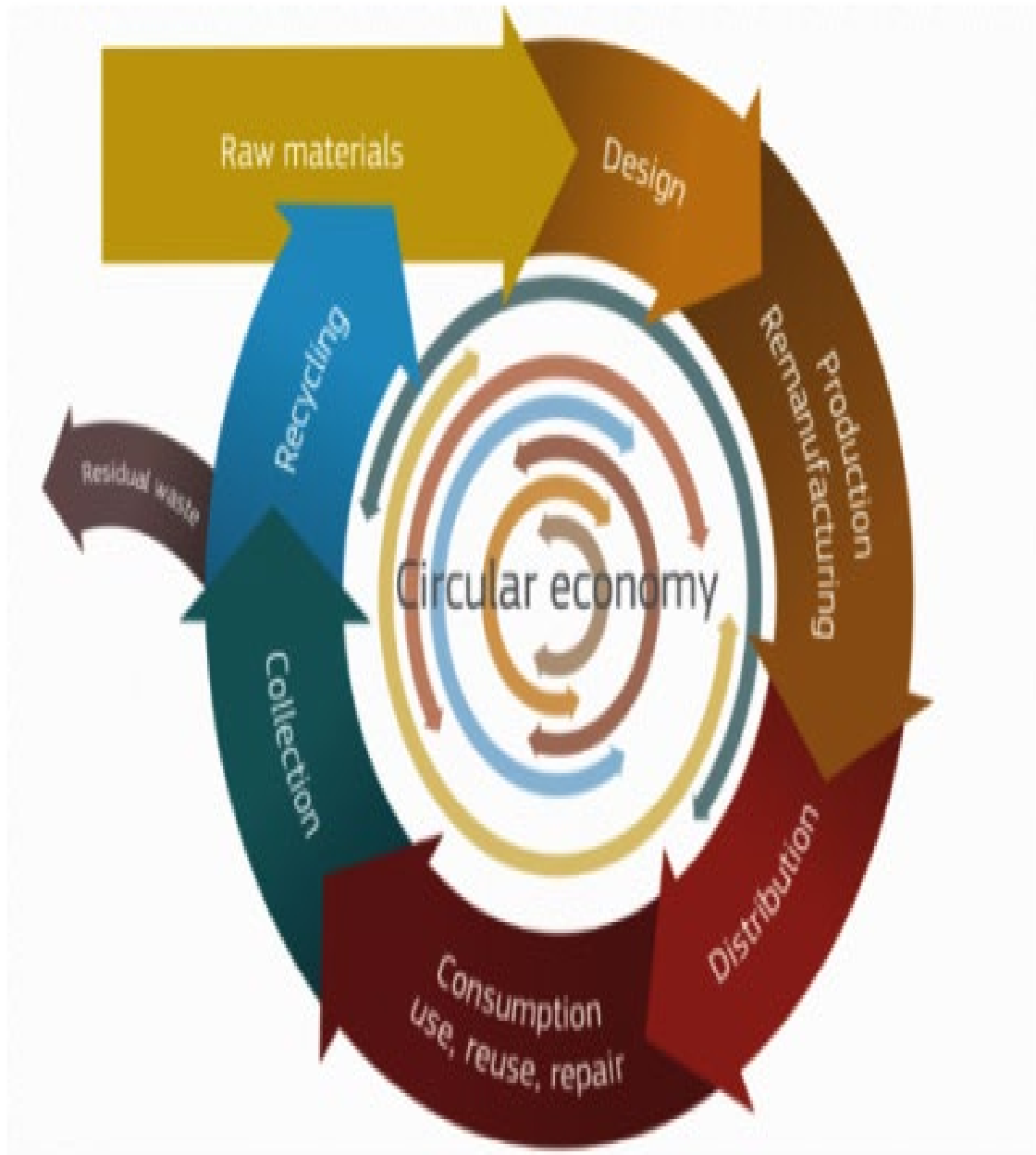


Keep products and materials in use  
**to retain the embodied energy**  
in products and materials



Regenerate natural systems  
**to sequester carbon**  
in soil and products



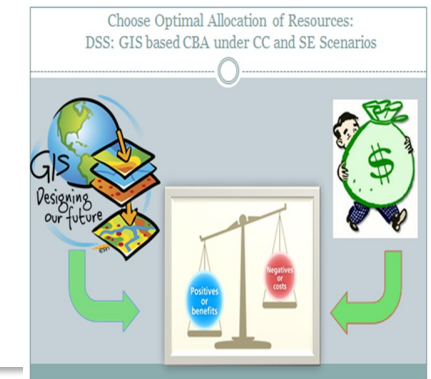
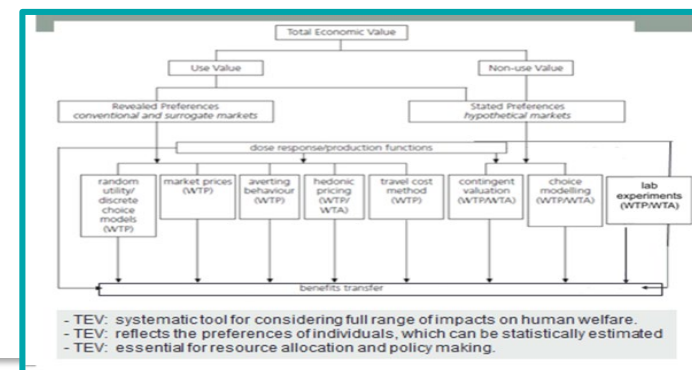
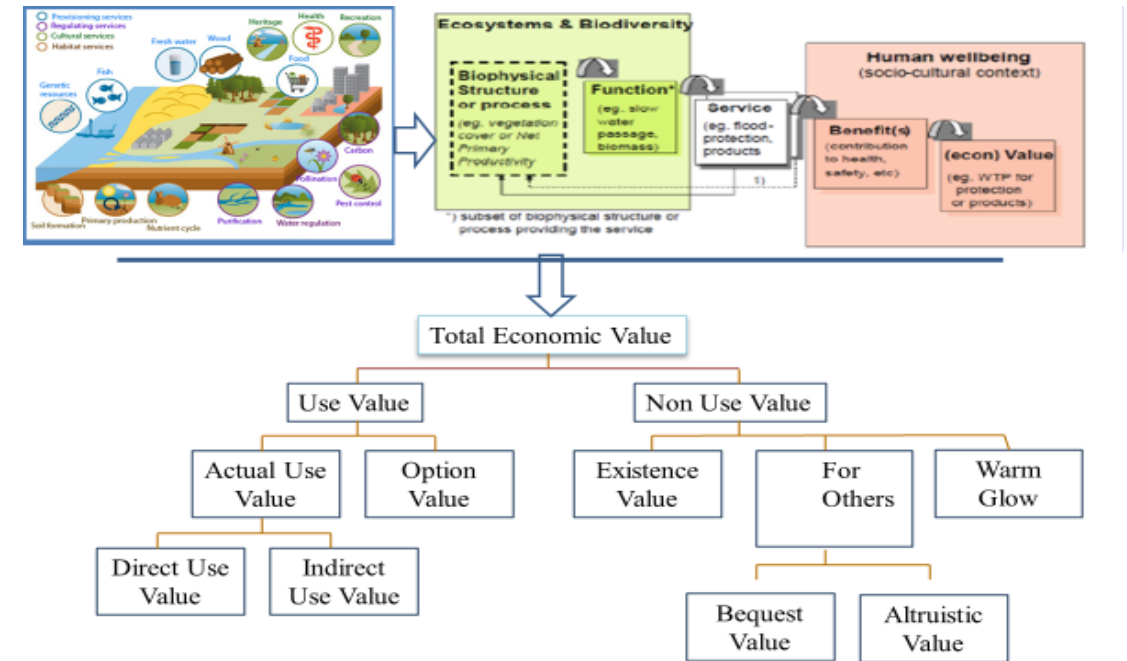
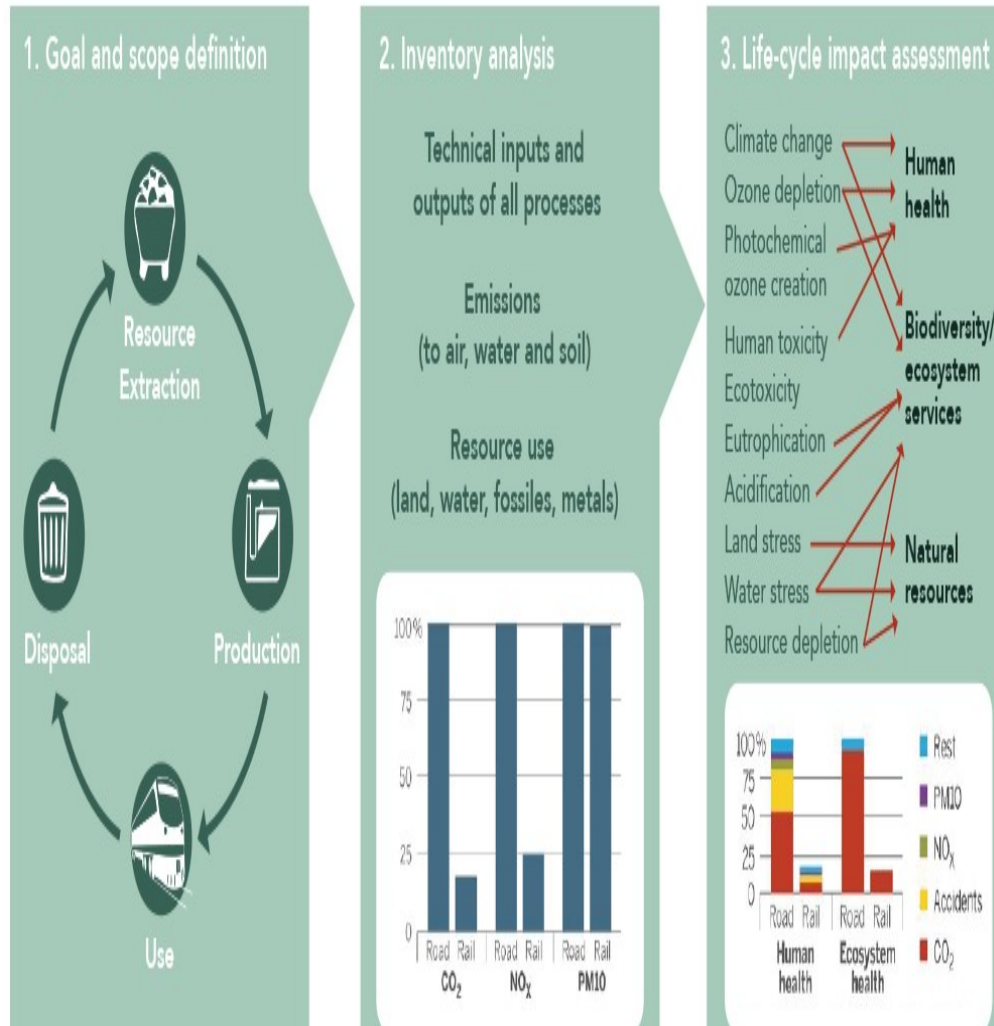


## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Savings of 600 billion euro for EU Business, 8% of their annual turnover, Relevant for SMEs
- Creation of 580,000 jobs in innovative design and business models, research, recycling, re-manufacturing and product development
- Reduction of EU carbon emissions by 450 million tones by 2030
- Reducing Environmental Footprint: Optimize waste management will boost recycling and reduce landfill
- Public-Private Partnerships best model for financing the transition to CE.

# Measuring Socio-Economic Benefits of CE

## Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and Total Economic Valuation





The European Commission has adopted a new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) - one of the main blocks of the [European Green Deal](#), Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth.

The new Action Plan announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products, targeting for example their design, promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption, and aiming to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.



It introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.

## **Actions**

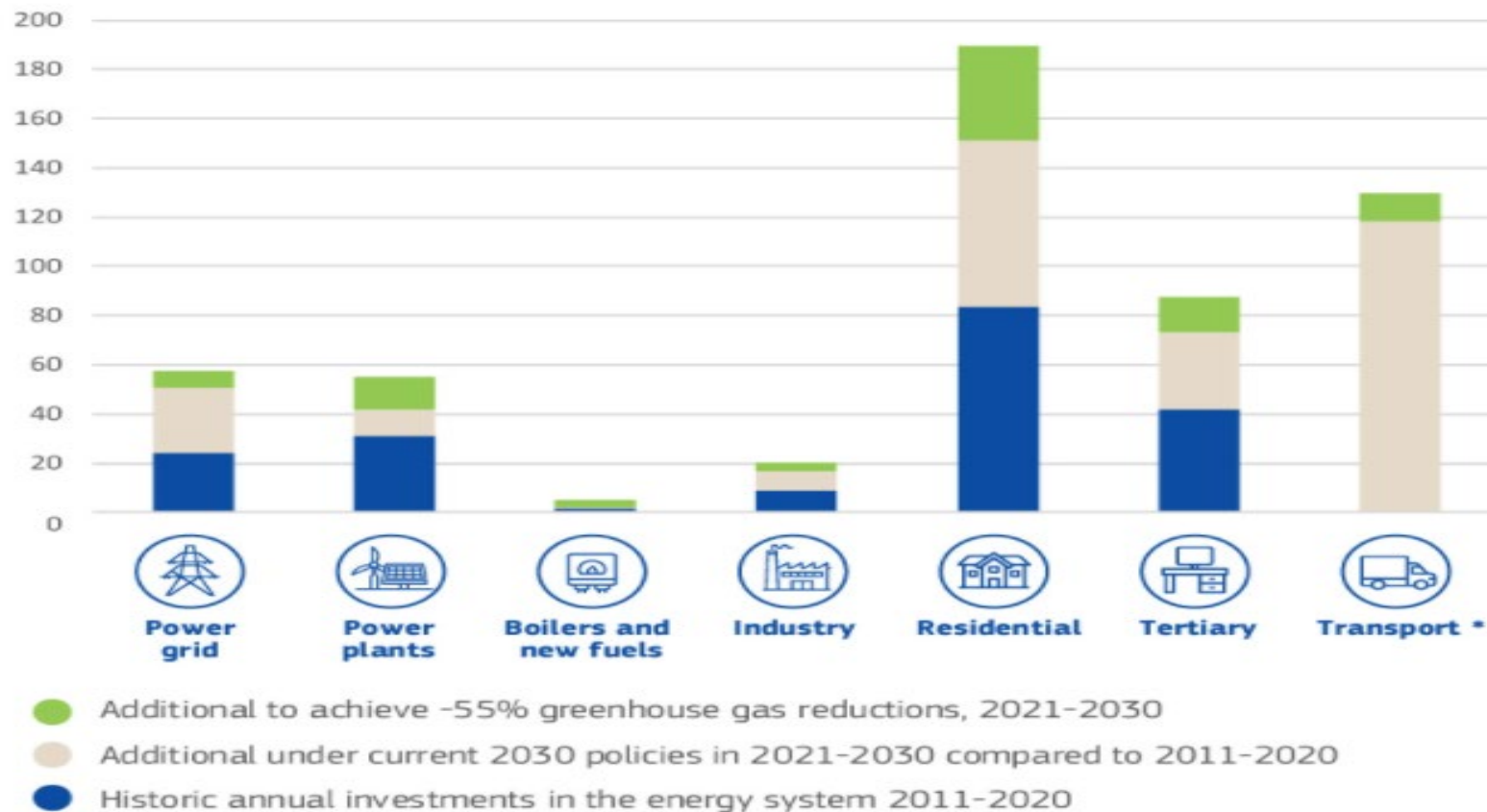
The new Circular Economy Action presents measures to:

- Make sustainable products the norm in the EU;
- Empower consumers and public buyers;
- Focus on the sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as: electronics and ICT; batteries and vehicles; packaging; plastics; textiles; construction and buildings; food; water and nutrients;
- Ensure less waste;
- Make circularity work for people, regions and cities,
- Lead global efforts on circular economy.

# DECARBONIZATION: National Energy and Climate Plans:

For increased GHG emissions reduction target of 55% an increase in investment of €350 billion per year is needed compared to the previous decade

**Average annual investments 2011-2020 and additional investments 2021-30**  
under existing policies and to achieve -55% greenhouse gas emission reductions  
(in billion EUR 2015)



\* transport only shows additional investment

# Technological Pathways

*National plans should cover the period to at least 2050 and should aim to equitably reach net zero emissions by 2050 and net negative emissions in the second half of the century.*

EC Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021, 17 September 2020

Reforms and Investments to create European flagships:

- **Power up:** lay the foundation for **hydrogen** lead markets in Europe and the related investments
- **Renovate:** improve the energy and resource efficiency of buildings
- **Recharge and Refuel:** promote future-proof clean technologies
- **Connect:** provide universal access to rapid broadband services
- **Modernize:** EU-ID and key digital public services
- **Scale up:** increase cloud capacities and develop powerful, cutting edge, and sustainable processors
- **Reskill and Upskill:** focus investments and reforms on digital skills and educational and vocational training for all ages





# Energy Sector to kick-start Green Recovery

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- Ambitious agenda setting for job creation and climate change goals: Modernizing energy systems can contribute to job creation and economic growth while also protecting the climate.
- Public sector leadership on investing in clean energy: Governments directly or indirectly drive more than 70% of global energy investments. At this time of crisis, their actions matter more than ever. Policy settings can actively steer energy-related investments onto a more sustainable path.
- Making energy efficiency, renewables and battery storage central to economic recovery: Stimulus programs in energy industries should be prioritized to support existing workforces, create new jobs and drive reductions in emissions.

# Special Edition of the IEA's (with IMF) annual World Energy Outlook, 18 June 2020



- **A set of targeted energy-related sector investment of 1 trillion a year over three years would:**
  - **Boost economic growth by 1.1 percentage points a year**
  - **Save or create 9 million jobs a year**
  - **Ensure 2019 was the definite peak of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions**
- The \$1 trillion in annual investment required: public and private sources and is equivalent to about 0.7% of global GDP.

The clean energy investment push will need to be done on a major scale given the size of today's economic shock. Policies with existing legal and institutional structure are the easiest to scale up.

**Wind** and **solar** are cost-competitive in large parts of the global energy system, but their continued growth still needs supportive policy frameworks (especially in the case of **offshore wind**, which is now ready for massive investment).

Accelerating wind and solar PV can be pillars of post-pandemic stimulus efforts

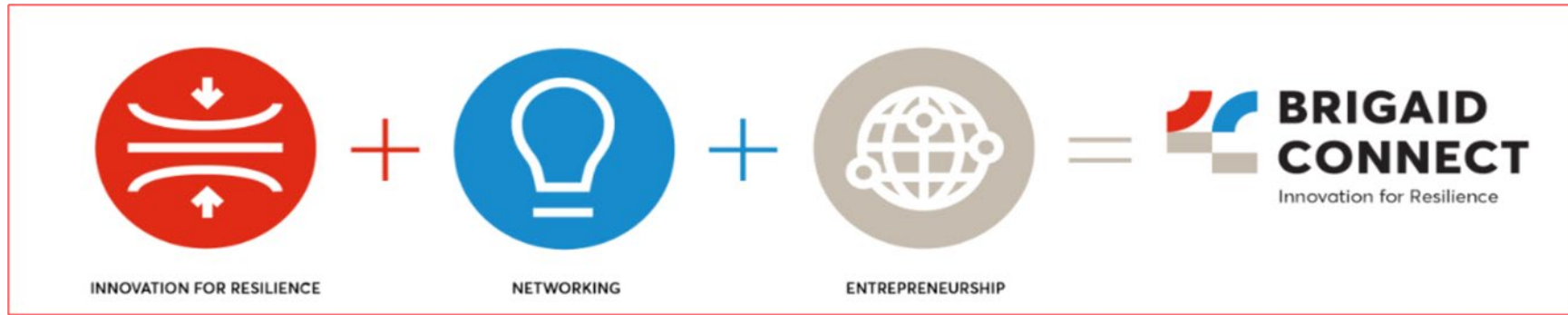
Important emerging technologies for clean energy progress – **lithium-ion batteries and hydrogen electrolyzers** –have the potential to be the coming decade's breakout technologies.



# Green Economics and Decent Work: A Viable Unified Framework, 2019 by R. Pollin

- 160 million jobs will be created globally and 4 million will be lost in the fossil fuel industry
- Europe: net increase of approximately 17 million jobs in Europe.
- Capacity Building for a Just Transition is crucial!





# Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure

1. Adaptation programmes (early warning systems, making infrastructure resilient, improving dryland agriculture, or managing water resources) **generate a triple dividend**: avoided losses due to climate change, economic benefits from the investment programmes and social and environmental benefits.
1. **Vulnerability indexes (VIs)** should be developed: geographical/regional vulnerability; sectoral/economic vulnerability; and social vulnerability.
1. Just Transition (Mitigation & Adaptation) Fund



# Sustainable Finance and Economic Instruments

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# Launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy



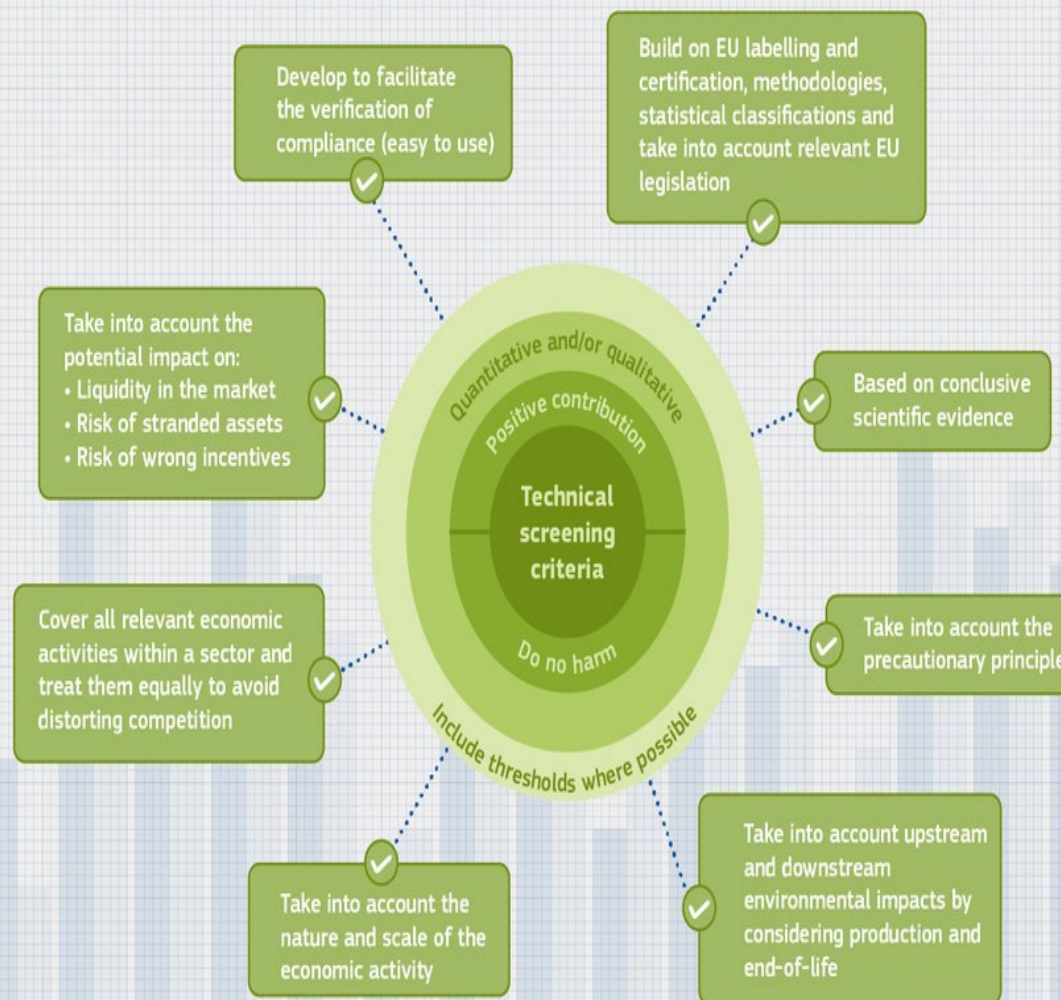
- The EIB will end financing for fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2021
- Future financing will accelerate clean energy innovation, energy efficiency and renewables
- EIB Group will align all financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement from the end of 2020





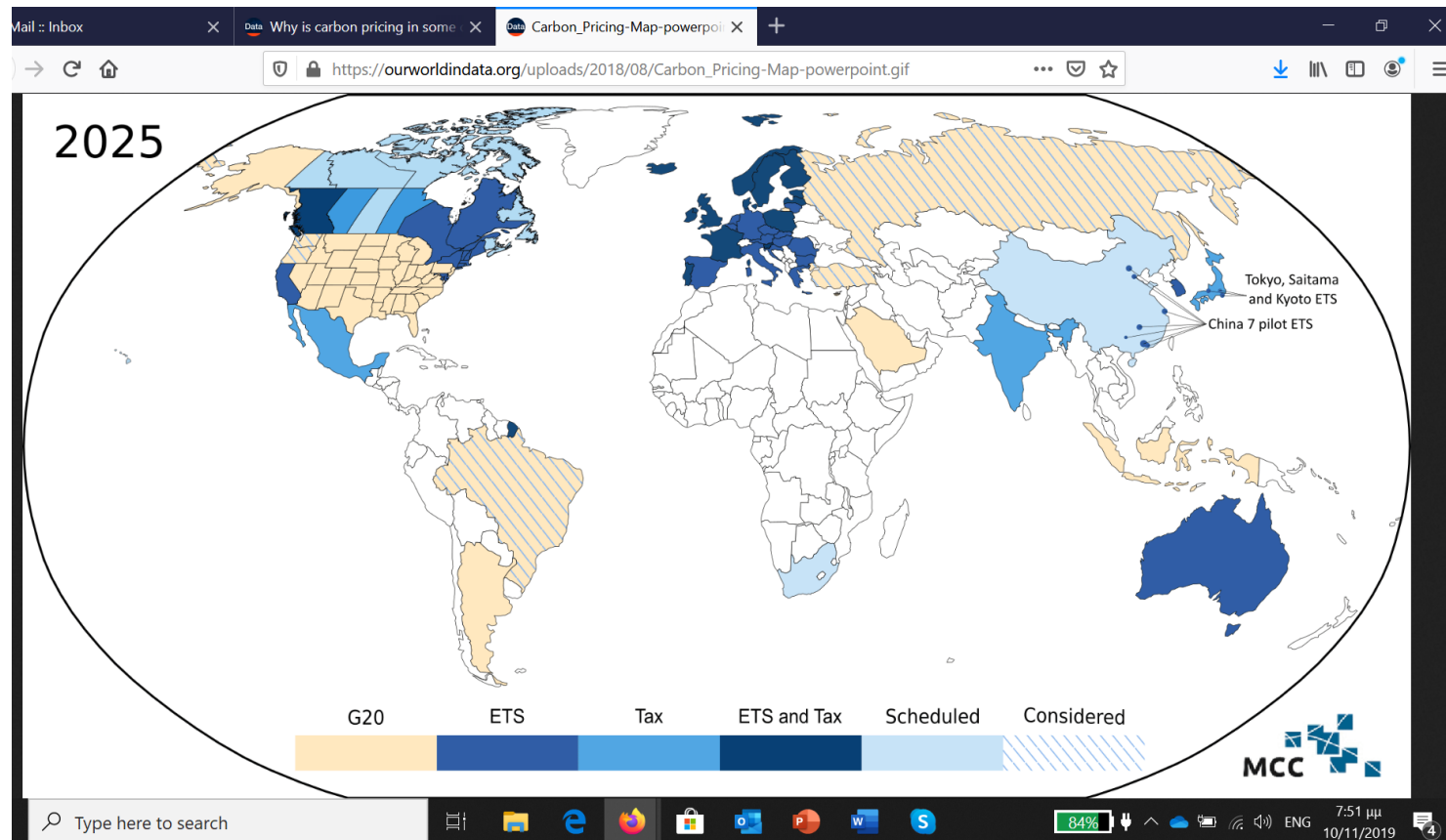
- Classification system for sustainable economic activities, which creates a common language for investors and lenders.
- Scale up private and public investments to finance the transition to a climate-neutral and green economy
- Challenge: connect green taxonomy with financial instruments (green/transition bonds, green loans, etc.)
- Monitoring mechanism needed: ensure that transition bonds are used in an energy-efficient, circular, sustainable investment.

# EU taxonomy: Determining sustainable economic activities



## Demand Management: Information-Awareness-Training-Education

Economic Instruments: CO2 taxes, ETS, REDD, Sustainable Insurance, Transition Bonds, etc.



- Over the last decade:
- 51 carbon pricing schemes have been implemented or are scheduled for implementation
- 25 of the 51 are in the form of ETS, predominantly introduced at the subnational level
- 26 of the 51 in the form of carbon taxes, mostly implemented at the national level.
- Among the countries that have already submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, 88 countries have stated their intent to implement carbon pricing as part of their national climate policies

# What is the EU ETS?

- Largest multi-national greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme in the world
- Created in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol
  - 1997 international treaty that came into force in 2005





# EU ETS Key features of phase 4 (2021-2030)



The legislative framework of EU ETS revised in early 2018 to enable it to achieve the EU's 2030 emission reduction targets (EU's contribution to Paris Agreement)

Strengthening the EU ETS as an investment driver by increasing the pace of annual reductions in allowances to 2.2% as of 2021 and reinforcing the [Market Stability Reserve](#) (the mechanism established by the EU in 2015 to reduce the surplus of emission allowances in the carbon market and to improve the EU ETS's resilience to future shocks)

Continuing the free allocation of allowances as a safeguard for the international competitiveness of industrial sectors at risk of carbon leakage, while ensuring that the rules for determining free allocation are focused and reflect technological progress

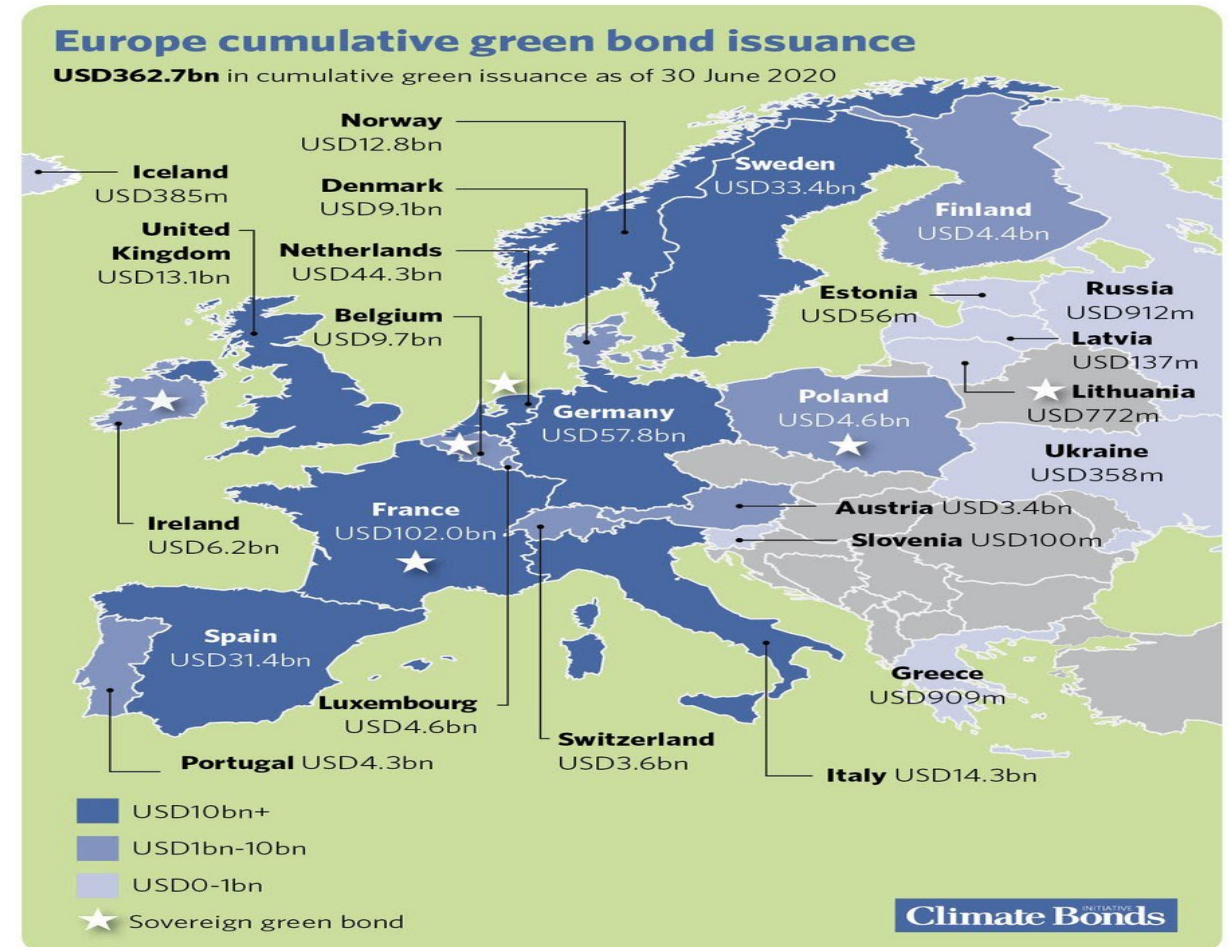
Helping industry and the power sector to meet the innovation and investment challenges of the low-carbon transition via several low-carbon funding mechanisms

# Efficiency-Equity-Sustainable Finance



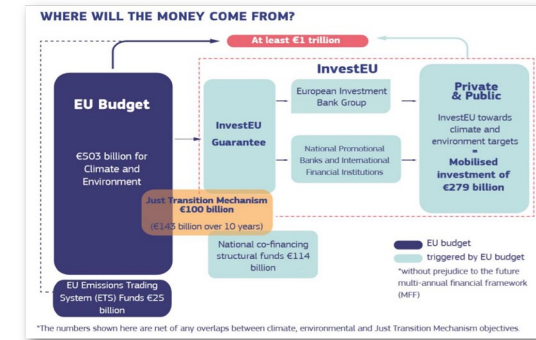
Measures to counterbalance the regressive effects of decarbonization policies:

- Lump-sum transfers
- Reduction in income tax/ VAT or electricity tax
- Targeted energy efficiency measures
- Job retraining programs
- Compensation funds for low-income groups



# Transition Bonds

Needed to Leverage Private Funds for InvestEU  
& Implementation of EGD



NAT/778

**Financing the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy  
and the Challenges in Financing Climate Change Adaptation**

**DRAFT OPINION**

Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment

**Financing the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy and the Challenges in Financing Climate  
Change Adaptation**  
(exploratory opinion)

Rapporteur: **Toni Vidan (HR/III)**

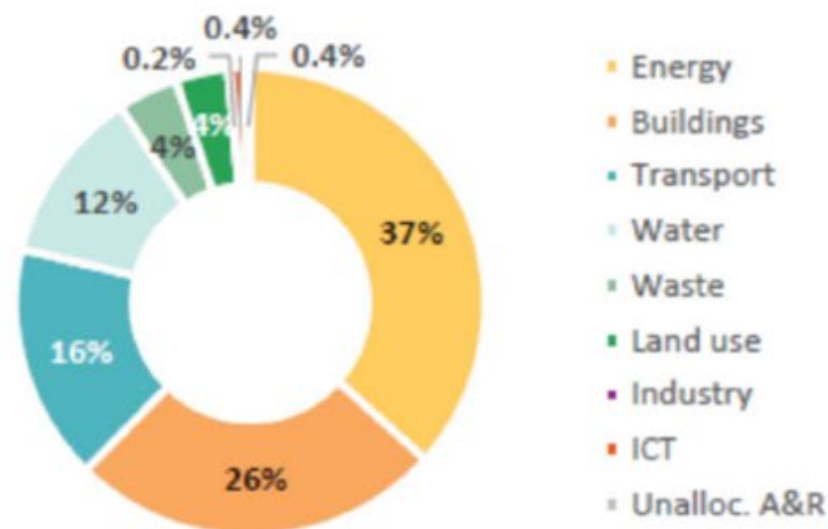
Co-rapporteur: **Dimitris Dimitriadis (EL/I)**

**Expert: Prof. Phoebe Koundouri**

# Green bonds

- ▶ A **green bond** has the same financial characteristics of a conventional bond, with the special commitment that the proceeds from the bond will be used to finance green projects that deliver environmental benefits.
- ▶ The “**use of proceeds**” is what distinguishes green bonds from conventional bonds.
- ▶ There is **not a globally agreed methodology** for establishing which projects are “green”.

80% of issuance to date is allocated to  
**Energy, Buildings and Transport**



Source: Bloomberg and CBI data (2018)



# An example of a successful Green Bond

Enel SpA placed three green bonds on the European market: 2017, 1.25 billion euros, 2018, 1.25 billion euros and 2019, 1 billion euros, (total 3.50 billion euros). The green bonds are for institutional investors and are guaranteed by Enel SpA.

GB emission	Area of investment	Allocated GB proceeds	Installed capacity <sup>1</sup> (MW)	CO <sub>2</sub> avoided (t)
<b>2017</b>	Renewables	<b>1,237 mil euros</b>	3,319	9,165,814
<b>2018</b>		<b>1,240 mil euros</b>		
of which new renewable projects	Renewables	575 mil euros	1,878	1,712,117
of which new Infrastructure and Networks projects	I&N	665 mil euros	n.a.	26,287
<b>2019</b>		<b>985.6 mil euros</b>	734	n.a.
of which new projects identified in 2019	Renewables	71.1 mil euros	734	n.a.
of which new Capex for 2018 projects	Renewables	342.5 mil euros	n.a.	n.a.
of which new Capex for 2017 projects	Renewables	572 mil euros	n.a.	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> 29.4 MW were installed for the Delfina plant in 2019, augmenting the 180 MW of 2018, while 33 MW were installed for the Cerro Pabellón plant, augmenting the 48 MW of 2018.



**OPEN POWER  
FOR A BRIGHTER  
FUTURE.**

WE EMPOWER SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS.  
GREEN BOND REPORT 2019



# Never Waste a Good Crisis!

- Economic crisis more severe than the 2008 financial crisis, and the decarbonization challenge is even more urgent.
- Energy technologies: some vital components for building a clean energy future are more mature and ready to scale up.

## Control the Epidemic, Create Jobs, Embrace Green Taxonomy for Investments

1. Control of the epidemic, Biomedical research (vaccines, drugs, diagnostics)
2. Renewable energy (wind, solar, kick-start clean hydrogen economy) and Climate Adaptation Investments
3. Circular economy and massive renovation wave for buildings and infrastructure
4. Cleaner transport and logistics
5. Food security and smart agriculture
6. Secure ICT networks (privacy standards, 5G rollout, etc.)
8. Strengthen Just Transition Fund for re-skilling helping businesses create new economic opportunities: Sustainability Education, Training, Capacity Building and Innovation

The transition should **"leave no one behind"**! finance should be directed to those that are sustainable, but also those who are willing to commit, and be monitored henceforth, to learning how to become sustainable.





## **Cluster for Sustainability Transition: Transforming Research and Innovation into Climate Action**

**Director: Professor Phoebe Koundouri**



## The Cluster on Sustainability Transition (CST)



**ReSEES, AUEB**

<https://www.dept.aueb.gr/en/ReSEES>



**UN SDSN GREECE**

<http://www.unsdsgreece.gr/>



**EIT Climate-KIC HUB GR**

<https://www.athena-innovation.gr/en/eit-climate-kic-greece-hub>



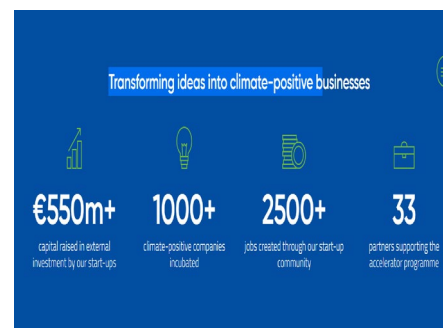
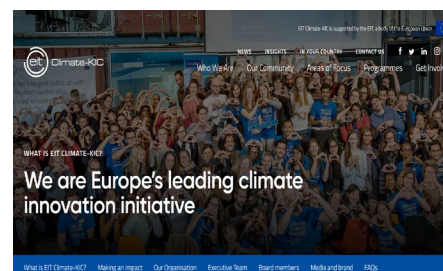
# CLUSTER ON SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

## Research - Innovation Acceleration Deep Demonstration - Education & Training

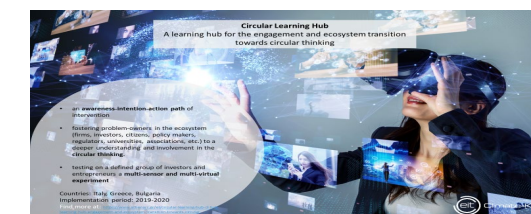
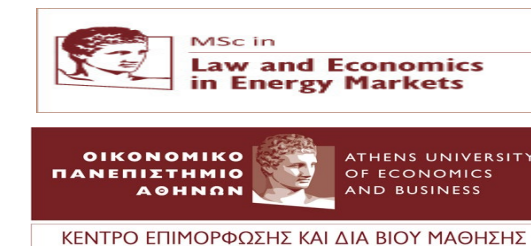
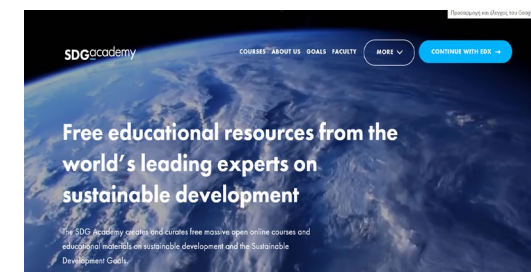
### Research and Innovation Projects Global Initiatives



### Innovation Acceleration Deep Demonstration



### Education & Training Awareness









## 4-Seas Initiative

An initiative led by the regional networks SDSN Black Sea and SDSN Mediterranean and the national networks SDSN Greece, SDSN Italy, SDSN Spain, SDSN France, SDSN Turkey and SDSN Russia

## GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING AND PORTS

- Aims at bringing together **researchers and technology developers, shipbuilders, shipowners, ports, policy makers and politicians**, from across the globe, to work on technological and policy innovations, related to zero emissions shipping, to target net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Find more at: <http://www.unsdsn.gr/global-roundtable-for-sustainable-shipping-2>



# Projects

# Blue Growth



**COASTAL**  
Collaborative Land-Sea  
Integration Platform

## COASTAL H2020 European Commission Project

a unique research and innovation project

a multi-actor collaboration between entrepreneurs, administrations, stakeholders and experts in coastal and rural natural and social sciences and sciences

aims to formulate and evaluate business solutions and policy recommendations to improve coastal-rural synergy to promote rural and coastal development while preserving the environment.

Find more at: <https://h2020-coastal.eu>  
Implementation period: 2018-2022  
Budget: € 5 million

# Projects Water-Food-Energy Nexus Smart Agriculture & Smart Urban Water Systems



**Smart Water Futures: Water-Futures  
Designing the Next Generation of  
Urban Drinking Water Systems**

**ERC Funding: € 10 million  
for six years**



**European Research Council**

**Supporting top researchers  
from anywhere in the world**

*To design the next generation of smart urban drinking water systems, this interdisciplinary research team will look at methodologies from water science, systems and control theory, economics, and decision science as well as machine learning.*



# EIT Climate KIC Programs

With presence in 50+ countries across 6 continents,  
Climathon is a global success story...



Climathon



[climathon.climate-kic.org](http://climathon.climate-kic.org)  
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# EarthFund Global

New international non-profit organization founded by pioneers in renewable energy & sustainability in the US and Greece. Partners with **Global Green** on a 10 Year Climate Mission.

## THE MISSION

EMPOWER COUNTRIES TO MEET & EXCEED THEIR NATIONAL CLIMATE, CLEAN ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS



**earthindex**

EarthFund supports emerging technologies such as EarthIndex, the world's first clean energy platform designed to accelerate a country's ability to rapidly scale to 100% clean energy by 2030.

To achieve this, EarthIndex works with world-class technology companies, such as ESRI, and advisors from Google and EIT-Climate-Kic Silicon Valley, to develop a country/state level solution to change the game in clean energy development, starting in Greece and in California.

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

- INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES
- RELIABLE CAPITAL

## 3 PILLARS OF CHANGE

- COMMUNITY-FOCUSED HOLISTIC CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
- COOPERATION & PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS ALL SECTORS
- GROUND-BREAKING TECHNOLOGY



**earthfund**

[www.earthfundglobal.org](http://www.earthfundglobal.org)



**earthfund**  
greece





Climate-KIC

Climate-KIC is supported by the  
EIT, a body of the European Union



# Deep Demonstration on Zero-Net Emissions, Resilient Maritime Hubs

Maria Loloni, Maritime Programme Manager, EIT Climate-KIC

Lydia Papadaki, Manager EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece

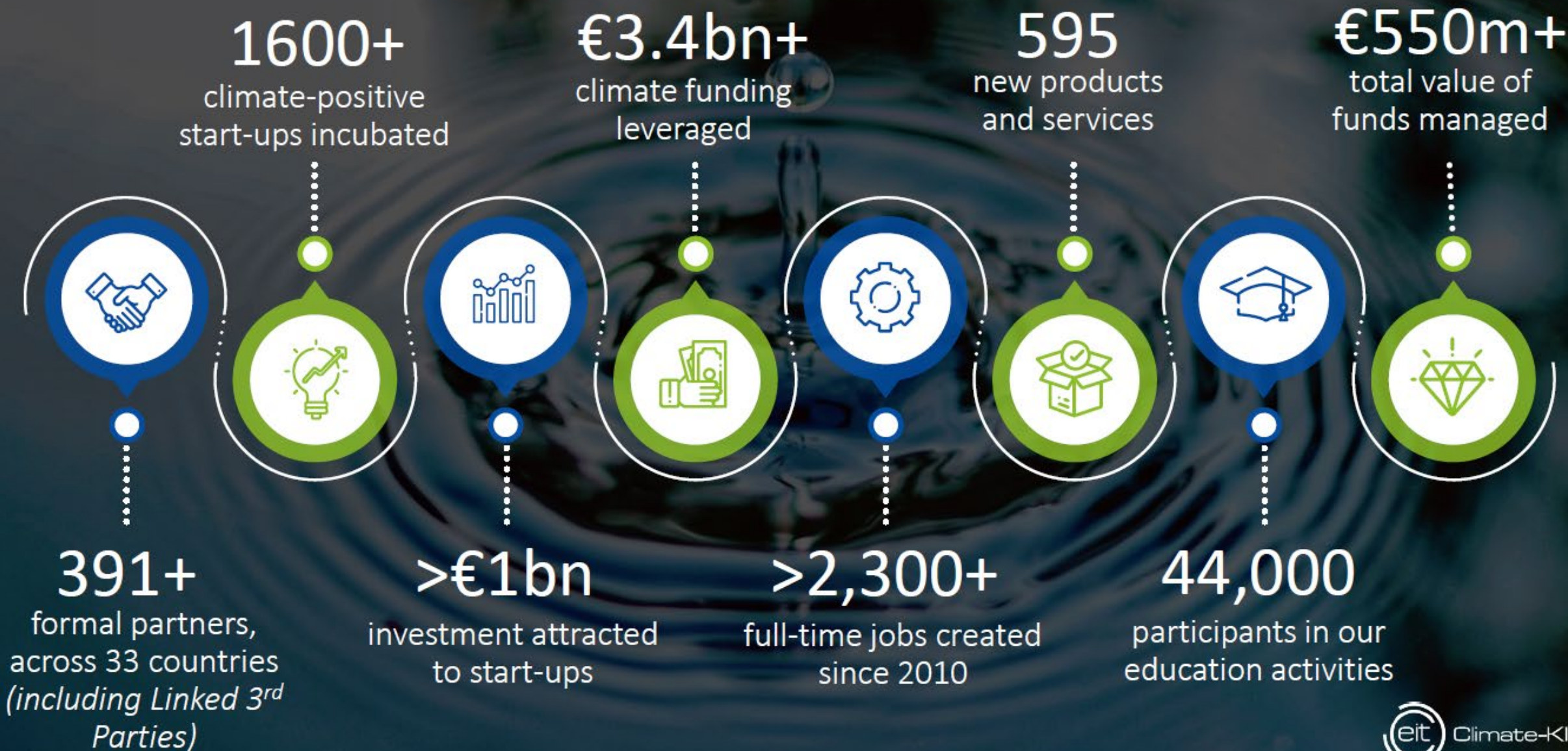
Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Director EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece



@ClimateKIC



# Our 10-year track record in climate innovation





# Deep Demonstrations



Place-based

Vehicle for fair  
transformation



Systems innovation  
service



Collaborative

Addressing problems  
across levers of change



Rapid-connected  
experiments



# Deep Demonstration for Zero-Net Emissions in the Port of Piraeus

*create conditions for the unexpected*

- decarbonization of the Port of Piraeus
  - the second maritime cluster globally
  - and a particular hotspot of waste and shipping industry emissions
- identify **cause and effect relationships**, dependencies and opportunities to look for breakthrough possibilities
- Create **innovation clusters**

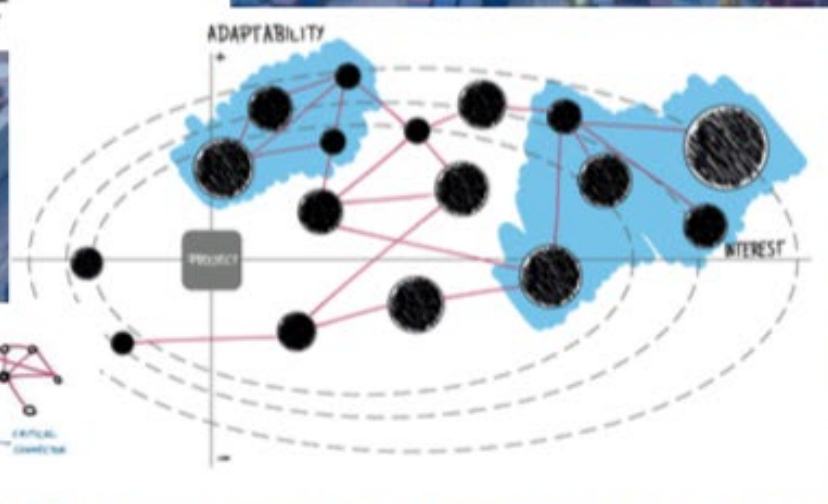
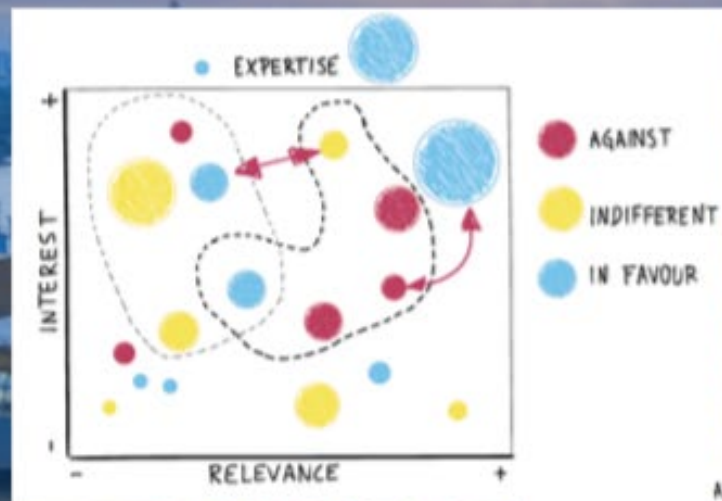
Challenge owners: Piraeus Port Authority, Valencia Port, Ministry of Shipping, Cyprus

Implementation period: 2019-2022

Find more at: <https://www.athenarc.gr/el/deep-demonstration-projects-sustainability-transition-european-ports>



# Who do we Work with? Stakeholder Mapping



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# Working Vision Port of Piraeus

*“A green and innovative port, delivering high quality services to the global value chain, driving economic prosperity, maintaining a healthy environment, and enabling thriving communities, through shared aspirations and collective accountability.”*



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# Sustainability Transformation

TODAY: 2020

FUTURE: 2050

*A green and innovative port, delivering high quality services to the global value chain, driving economic prosperity, maintaining a healthy environment and enabling thriving communities through shared aspirations and collective accountability."*

INFO FLOWS

POLICY

INFO FLOWS

POLICY

FINANCE

TECHNOLOGY

FINANCE

TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS MODELS

SKILLS

BUSINESS MODELS

SKILLS

PRODUCTION

ORG STRUCTURES

PRODUCTION

ORG STRUCTURES

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Port of Piraeus

Port of Piraeus



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# CURRENT STATUS & NEXT STEPS

VISION 2030/2050

PRIORITY AREAS  
(eg Energy, Mobility, Waste Management)

Technology

*Energy*

*Mobility*

*Waste  
Management  
(circularity)*

*Community  
engagement*



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# CURRENT STATUS & NEXT STEPS

VISION 2030/2050

PROBLEM SPACES  
(eg Community engagement)

PRIORITY AREAS  
(eg Energy, Mobility, Waste Management)

Organisational  
Structure /  
Information  
flows

Technology

Policy  
not aligned,  
slow

Skills for the  
new economy  
are lacking

Citizen &  
stakeholder  
engagement  
poor +  
cultural  
distance

Financial  
System  
supports  
economic  
values (not  
social/environmental)



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# Circular Economy Transition (CE) in Smart Specialization Strategy (S3)



Hamanova-Rondini, Mariyana, Cleantech Bulgaria Ltd

Alexieva, Dianka, Cleantech Bulgaria Ltd

Ilieva, Desislava, Cleantech Bulgaria Ltd

Papadaki, Lydia, Cleantech Bulgaria Ltd

Shtereva, Eli, Cleantech Bulgaria Ltd



Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business

Prof. Lena Tsipouri, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Lydia Papadaki, PhD Candidate Athens University of Economics and Business

Maria Argirou, PhD candidate National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Funded by EIT Climate-KIC

Implementation period: June 2019 – December 2019

Budget: €47,000

Find more at: <https://www.athenarc.gr/el/circular-economy-transition-ce-smart-specialization-strategy-s3>





SSS is a **regional development tool**, aiming at maximising economies of agglomeration and economies of scope



The CE is a **way of producing and consuming**, a priority for the UN and the EU leading to an encompassing strategy with common elements across the globe



A key question then is **whether, to what extent and how** the two could become mutually reinforcing

GREECE: CE in S3	Level	Type of Intervention	Description
RIS	National	Action	Increase investment in existing companies to introduce new products and services to the market and to develop and implement modern production methods
RIS	Regional - Attica	Indicative actions	Products and processes for the management and exploitation of trash, residues and waste
RIS	Regional - Central Greece	Action	Modernizing and applying sustainable farming methods
RIS	Regional - Central Macedonia	Action	"Synthesis of artificial marble using recyclable aggregates"
RIS	Regional - Crete	Indicative Implementation Priorities	Utilization of agricultural waste products for the production of high nutritional value feed
RIS	Regional - Eastern Macedonia & Thrace	Priority of Intervention	Utilizing alternative uses of primary by-products, including their use as an energy resource.
RIS	Regional - North Aegean	Project	3 pilot projects for the management of organic plant materials and waste for compost and / or pellet production
RIS	Regional - Eastern Macedonia & Thrace	INTEGRASTE	Utilizing alternative uses of primary by-products, including their use as an energy resource.

Whether, to what extent and how the two can become mutually reinforcing: lessons from Greece



## Problems

1. The 2014-2020 O.P. was too ambitious to be implemented
2. RISs could not (yet) play the ambitious role they were expected to play
3. Governance issues indicate reluctance to change



## Opportunities

1. CE could be used as an opportunity to leapfrog for the economy
2. SSS can include CE aspects tailor-made to their competitive advantages
3. Identify and support regions willing to use their revised RIS as a CE model

# Circular Learning Hub





# Circular Learning Hub

A learning hub for the engagement and ecosystem transition towards circular thinking



UNIVERSITÀ  
POLITECNICA  
DELLE MARCHE

Dipartimento  
di Management  
**DIMA**



Climate-KIC  
Climate-KIC is supported by the  
EIT, a body of the European Union



Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie,  
l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile



**CLEANTECH**  
**BULGARIA**



**CLIMATE  
MEDIA  
FACTORY**

Countries: Italy, Greece, Bulgaria

Implementation period: 2019-2020

Budget: € 331,186

Find more at: <https://www.athenarc.gr/el/circular-learning-hub-cl-hub-learning-hub-engagement-and-ecosystem-transition-towards-circular>



## Virtual reality experiment

- an **awareness-intention-action path** of intervention
- fostering problem-owners in the ecosystem (firms, investors, citizens, policy makers, regulators, universities, associations, etc.) to a deeper understanding and involvement in the **circular thinking**.
- testing on a defined group of investors and entrepreneurs a **multi-sensor and multi-virtual experiment**



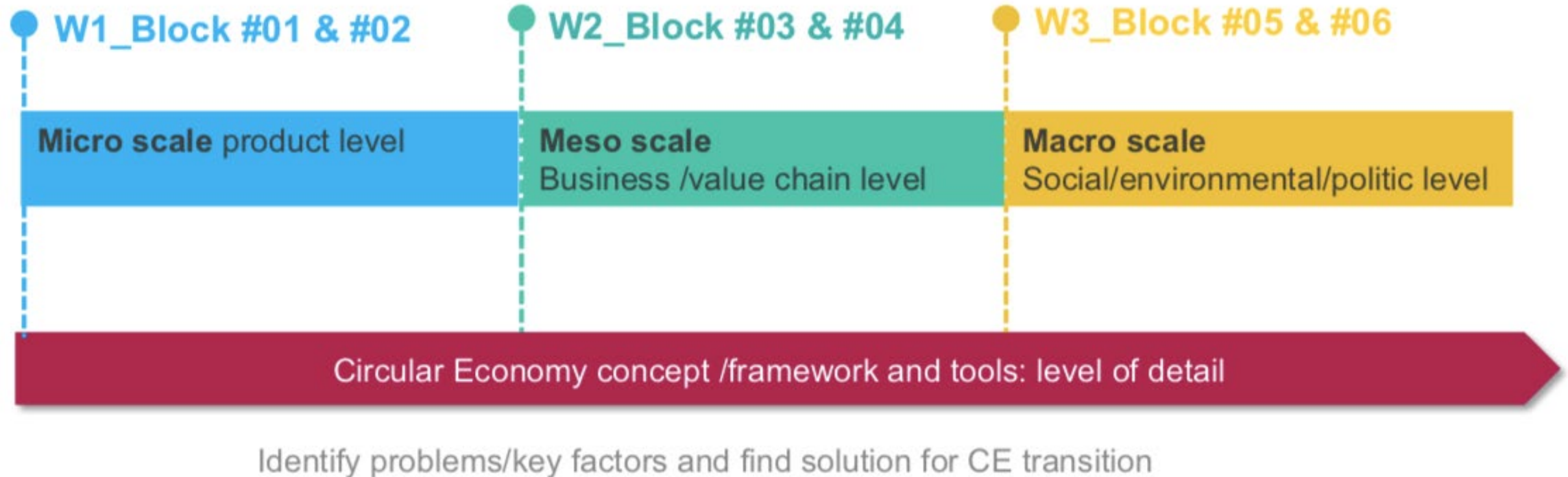
## Experiment phase in Greece

*We are testing on a defined group of investors and entrepreneurs some de-biasing videos specifically designed to overcome the hyperbolic discount bias on one of the priorities for the contrast to the climate change, which is the implementation of circular thinking in the industry production to reduce waste and gas emissions coming from the materials' processes and the re-orientation of capitals towards circular models.*





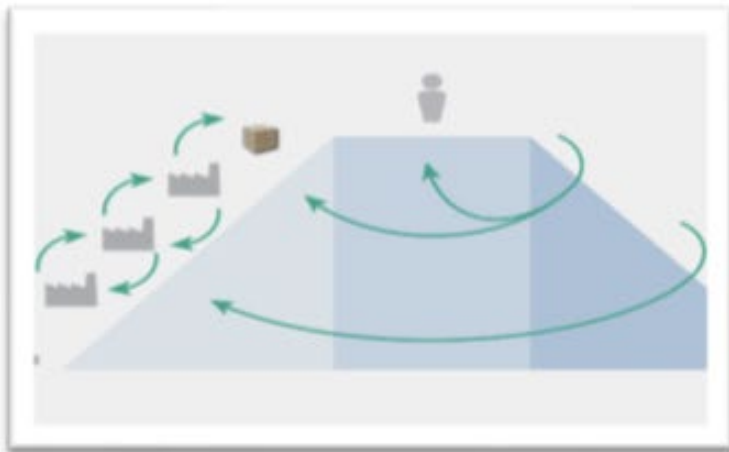
# Outline of CE local training:



# How to identify worthwhile **CE** approaches

## goal

Map resource flows and Identify structural waste using a fictional case



## tools

- Value Hill
- Structural waste
- Circularity compass



## Guest speaker

Bill Stenos, CEO and Founder, Solmeya





# How to develop worthwhile CE approaches into **realistic action plans**

## goal

Ecodesign strategies, stakeholder, risk factors and opportunities. Start working on a business model

## tools

- Circularity grid
- SWOT Analysis
- Circularity strategy scanner
- Circular business model

## Guest Speaker

COMING

SOON!



# How to make worthwhile CE approaches a **success**

## Goal

Systemic factors are integrated in the BM. Scenarios in a larger timescale. Preparing for experimentation.

## tools

- Pestle
- Backcasting
- Cynefin framework
- Lean startup cycle

## Guest Speaker

COMING

SOON!

