



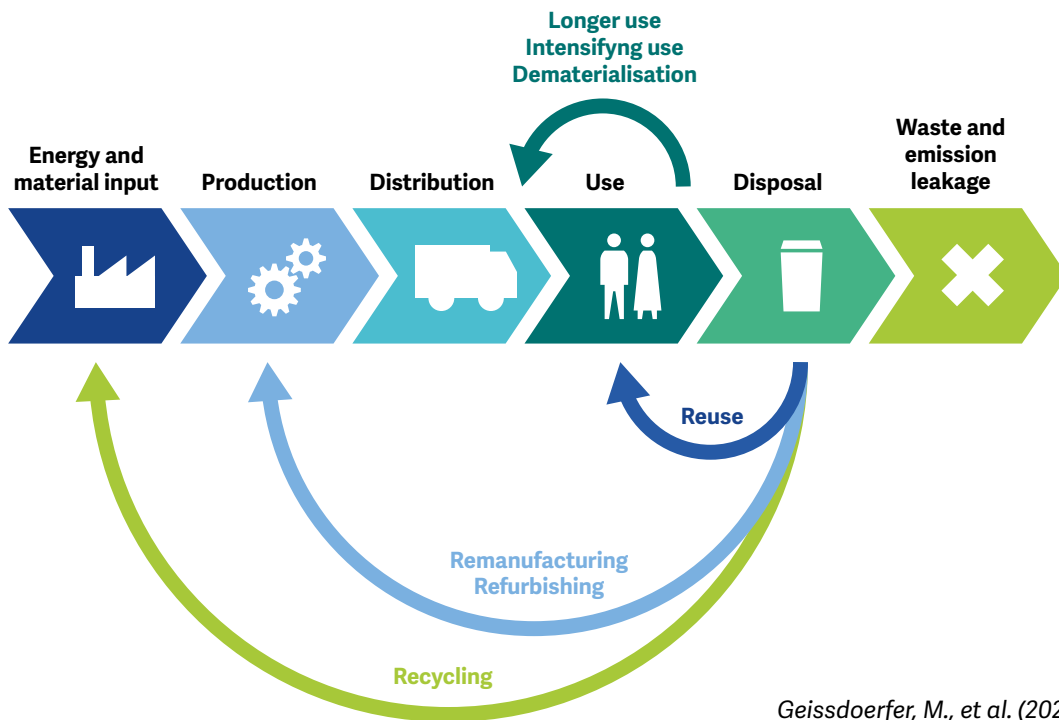
Circular Economy at PIN

October 2024

Circular Economy at PIN

At PIN, we intend circular economy firstly as a process to increase circularity of material and energy in the production and consumption, reducing waste and pollution, and regenerating nature. PIN sees Circular Economy also in a wider sense to give circularity not only to production processes and consumption, but as a way to diversify livelihoods towards green growth, give opportunities to the most vulnerable, and ensure

participation of the civil society. **This is why we include the concept under the sub-pillar of the Climate Resilience Pillar named "Green Jobs, Skills and Circular Economy"**. The final aim is to achieve long-term sustainability through a systemic market-based approach that can promote the inclusion and resilience of vulnerable people, poverty reduction, and decent work conditions.



Geissdoerfer, M., et al. (2020). "Circular business models: A review"

Despite there are many definitions of Circular Economy (CE), it primarily and essentially means to invest more in steps during the life cycle of a product to get back material and reduce energy consumption, and minimise disposal, therefore waste, pollution, carbon emissions, etc. Instead of creating something from material and energy and then dispose (Linear Economy), the Circular Economy maximises reusing, remanufacturing and refurbishing, recycling, promoting a better consumption with a longer use of products and involving less materials. So, CE is not just recycling into a new product and does not involve only Solid

Waste Management, but it is a more complex concept. A circular economy cannot be achieved without a proper solid waste management system in place, but it could also embrace: water management, transport, education, public green procurement, digitalisation, etc.

Ultimately, CE ensures green growth and innovation with new business opportunities and markets, generates new jobs, and contributes to poverty reduction by creating new economic opportunities at local level for marginalised people and increases access to essential goods and services for the poor.

The [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) defines the following **3 principles for CE** that can be considered as main principles:

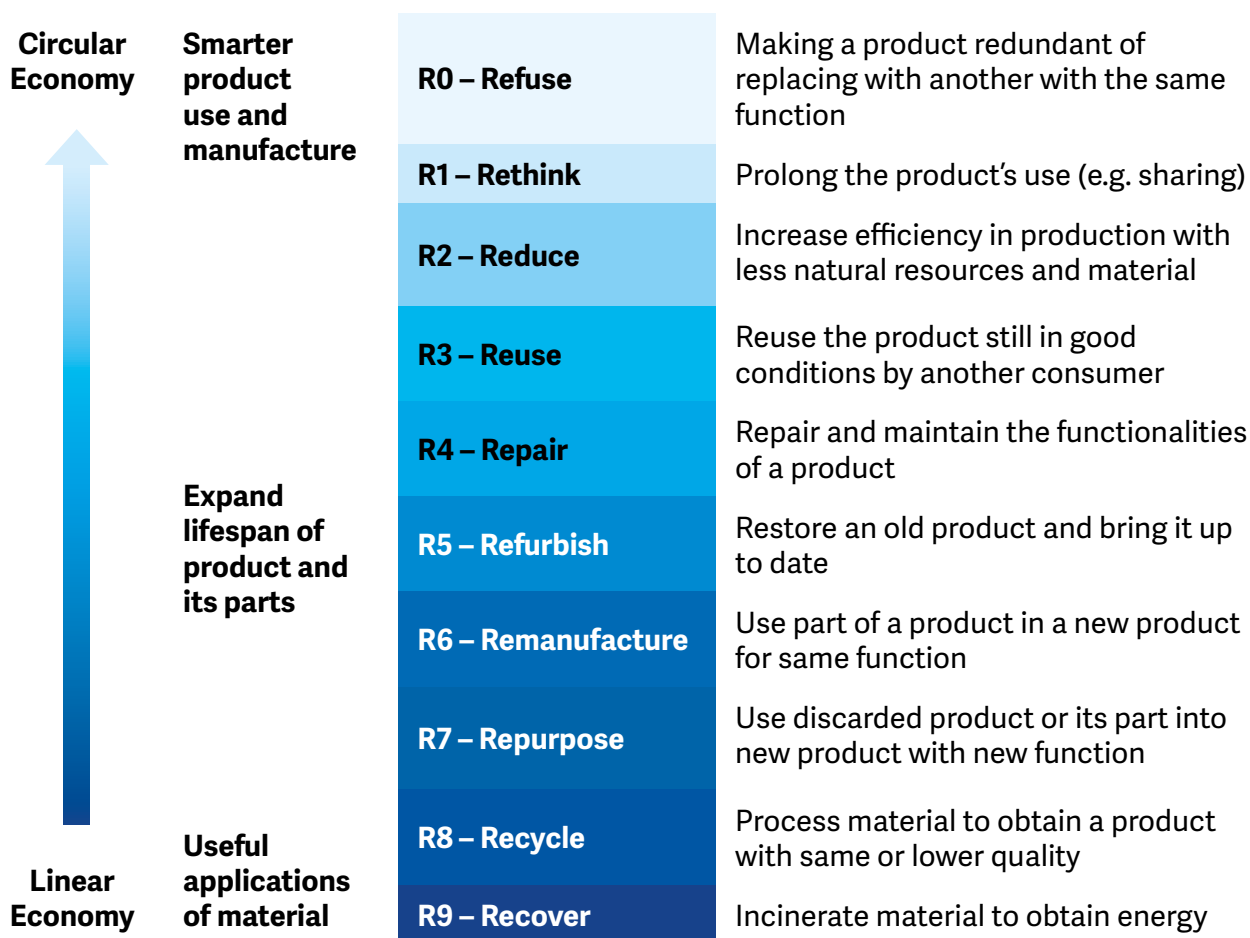
- **Eliminate waste and pollution**
- **Give circularity to energy and materials**
- **Regenerate nature**

PIN aligns with the [European Union CE approach](#), one of the most structured on the subject, also considering that the majority of PIN initiatives on CE receive EU funding. According to the EU Parliament, CE is “a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended”. The EU CE goals are the following: “enable a healthier planet and reduce pollution; reduce pressure on natural resources such as water and land use; reduce emissions to help the EU become the first

climate-neutral continent; create new business opportunities and local quality jobs; enable more resilient value chains”. The accent is also posed therefore on EU ambition on climate change mitigation, and the green jobs potential that CE can have.

Other donors have their own approaches on CE, although currently less structured than the EU. For example, [FCDO 2030 Strategic Framework on International Climate and Nature](#) mentions UK Action 3.2: Working towards a more resource efficient and circular economy, under challenge 1: transition to clean technologies and sustainable practices.

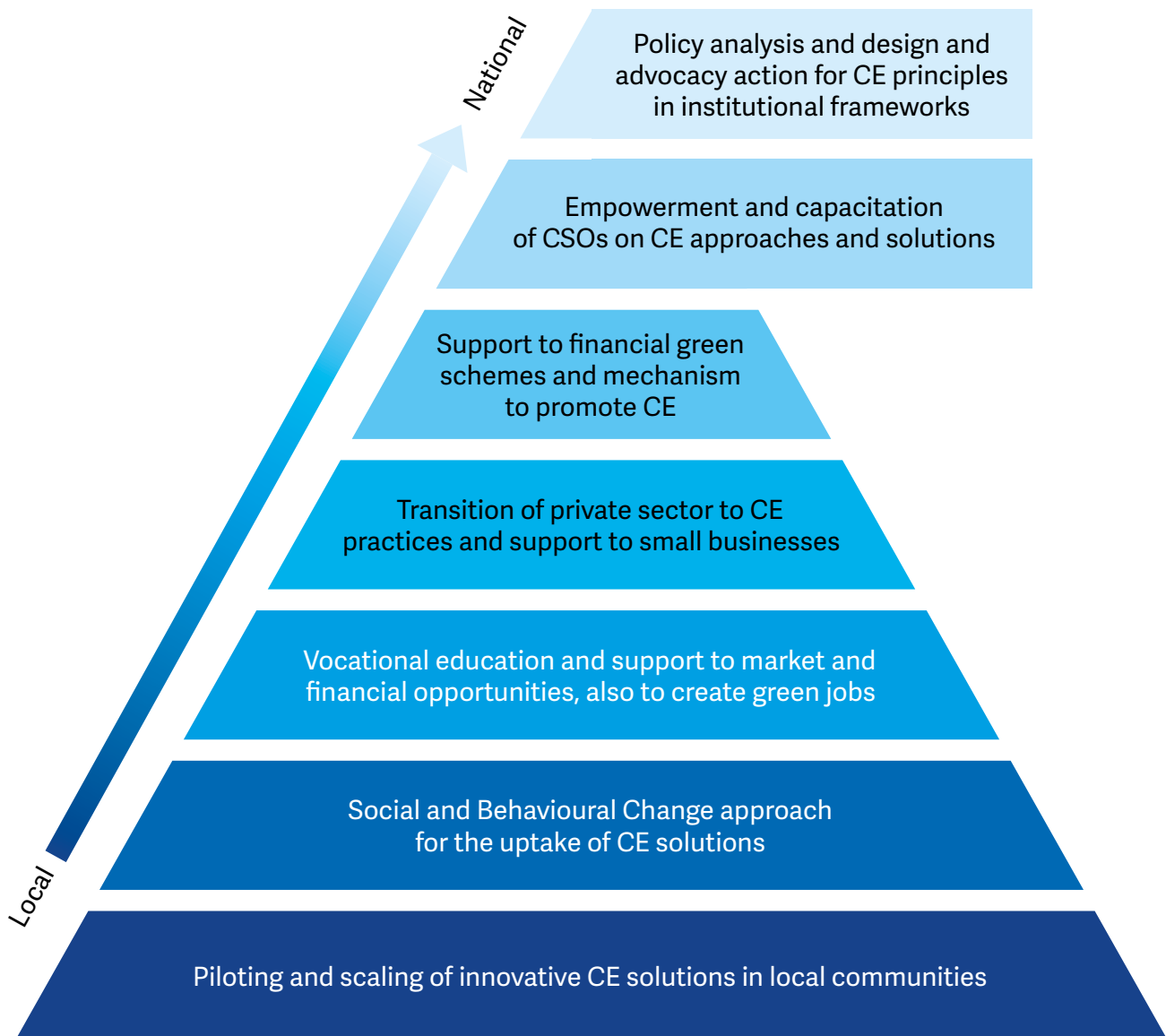
The concept has evolved in years from the well-known 3R’ (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) to more complex frameworks that entail a series of actions that can be done. The 9R’ Framework is illustrated in the table below.



9R’ Framework. Adapted from Potting et al. (2017, p.5)

PIN's pyramid approach on CE

PIN's initiatives on CE span across different levels (from local to national or even regional) and with actions to respond to contextualised needs to address. If in some cases it is necessary to capacitate and empower CSOs to influence policy making processes, in others the attention is given to set up a market environment, to leverage behavioural change for the uptake of a solution, or to pilot innovative CE solutions for local communities. Ideally, a system change should happen throughout all the levels, but the action may depend on the priorities and contextualised actions to support.



Examples of PIN's initiatives are reported below (2024), with links to some relevant resources:

PIN Ethiopia

([Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation \(LISEC\) – Green Jobs](#), EC, 2021): reusing and recycling leather waste coming from the production processes and creating green jobs.

PIN DRC

([Renewable energy and sustainable livelihoods pilot project](#), Pinnovation, 2022): piloting bamboo charcoal duction.

PIN Georgia

([Civil Society Actors as Levers for a Sustainable Food System in Georgia](#), EC, 2023): empowering civil society actors to reduce food waste and increase food security.

PIN Western Balkans

([CE for Green Transition in Kosovo](#), EC, 2023; [Civil Society and Youth for Inclusive and Sustainable Development through Circular Economy in North Macedonia](#), EC, 2024): capacitating and empowering CSOs and SMEs to influence policy reforms.

PIN Zambia

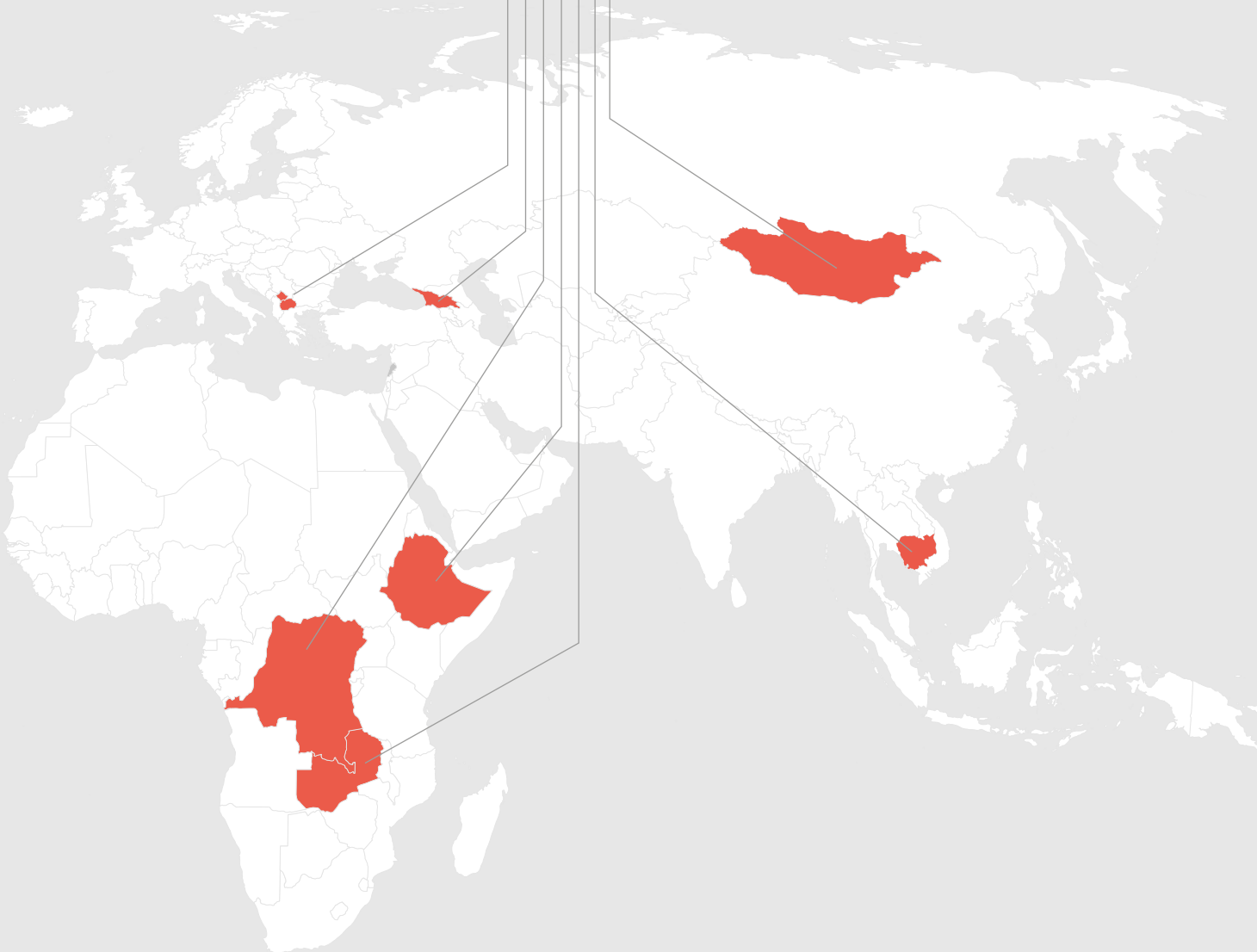
([Through Biogas Technology Towards Higher Resilience of the Communities in Western Province of Zambia](#), CzDA, 2021; [Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities through Ecosystem Protection in Barotse Floodplain of Western Zambia](#), JOA, 2023; [Biochar Pilot in West Zambia](#), Pinnovation/UNDP, 2022-2024): transforming agriculture waste into household energy for cooking (biogas, eco-briquettes) or as soil amendment (biochar).

PIN Cambodia

([Accelerating Sustainability in Cambodia's Agri food System \(ASCA\)](#), EU/SWITCH, 2024): promote sustainable agri-food systems with circular economy and resource-efficient practices.

PIN Mongolia

([Switching On the Green Economy – SOGE](#), EU/SWITCH, 2021): developing the Mongolian eco-labelling scheme for the Food and Beverage sector.



Links to selected resources

[EU Circular Economy webpage](#)

[EU Circular Economy Resource Centre \(TBD\)](#)

[SWITCH Asia Circular Economy projects
\(June 2024\)](#)

[EU Circular Economy Knowledge Hub](#)

[CIRCLE ECONOMY – Knowledge Hub on CE
edie's Case Study Library](#)

[Deloitte Point of View. A Circular Transition](#)

[Circular Economy: Beyond Recycling \(video\)](#)

[Building a Circular Economy: Lessons from
Edo Japan \(TEDx video\)](#)

Funding Circular Economy

[EU funding programmes and financing
support](#) – a collection of financing
instruments given by the European Union
and links to resources.

[Financing the circular economy](#) – paper
primarily focusing on the private sector
finance and the circular economy's value
creation potential for investors, banks,
other financial firms.

[Mobilizing Financing for the Circular
Economy](#) - a policy paper to discuss
selected financial products (public and
private) for circular economy transition.



People in Need is a Czech non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has been providing aid and supporting human rights since 1992. Since then, People in Need has grown into one of the largest NGOs in Central Europe. Today, its work focuses on humanitarian and development aid, advocacy for human rights and democratic freedom, field social work, and education, awareness and information.

peopleinneed.net

Contacts

For further support in designing/implementing Circular Economy initiatives

Environment/climate change

Fabrizio Orsini

Climate Change Advisor

fabrizio.orsini@peopleinneed.net



Alliance2015 is a strategic partnership of seven European NGOs engaged in humanitarian and development activities. Besides People in Need (Czech Republic), Alliance2015 members are ACTED (France), Cesvi (Italy), Concern Worldwide (Ireland), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (Switzerland), Welthungerhilfe (Germany) and Ayuda en Acción (Spain).

alliance2015.org

Market Systems/businesses

Blessing Allen-Adebayo

Market Systems Advisor

blessing.allen-adebayo@peopleinneed.net

Pavel Bělíček

Markets and Enterprise Advisor

pavel.belicek@peopleinneed.net

