


# JUST2CE

A Just Transition to Circular Economy

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# INTERNATIONAL TRAININGS REPORT



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# JUST2CE

A Just Transition to Circular Economy

## JUST2CE International Training Workshops

**Grant Agreement n°:** 101003491

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**Project acronym:** JUST2CE

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**Project title:** A JUST TRANSITION TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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**Topic:** Understanding the transition to a circular economy and its implications on the environment, economy and society

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**Project Duration:** 2021/09/01 – 2024/08/31

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**Coordinator:** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

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### **Associated Beneficiaries:**

1. UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA
  2. UNIVERSIDAD DE VIGO
  3. THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
  4. UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI PARTHENOPE
  5. CENTRO DE ESTUDOS SOCIAIS
  6. UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
  7. UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
  8. KENTRO EREVNON NOTIOANATOLIKIS EVROPIS ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA
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A Just Transition to Circular Economy

PROJECT No. 101003491

Just2ce will assess the current state of transition towards the circular economy in relevant economic sectors and analyse possible transition scenarios, as well as their outcomes and impacts. It will identify the key factors that can stimulate or hinder this transition. Natural resources are extracted and transformed into products, which are eventually discarded. As many natural resources are finite, it is important to keep materials in circulation for as long as possible. This makes the transition to circular economy more vital than ever but is a responsible, inclusive, and socially just transition to a circular economy possible or even desirable? What technical, political, and social factors can enable or hamper such transformation? The EU-funded JUST2CE project will answer these questions. It will explore the economic, societal, gender and policy implications of the circular economy paradigm. The project's findings will shed light on how to ensure democratic and participatory mechanisms when designing and managing such technology.

## History Chart

Version	Date	Implemented by
V1.1	30/08/2024	Reviewed by Mario Pansera
V1.0	15/08/2024	ARC-MedWaves, with contributions from ACEN and USFD

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>CDEP</b>	<i>Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan</i>
<b>CCU</b>	<i>Communication Coordination Unit</i>
<b>CE</b>	<i>Circular Economy</i>
<b>DSS</b>	<i>Decision Support System</i>
<b>EP</b>	<i>Exploitation Plan</i>
<b>IP</b>	<i>Intellectual Property</i>
<b>IPR</b>	<i>Intellectual Property Rights</i>
<b>NGO</b>	<i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
<b>PMO</b>	<i>Project Management Office</i>
<b>RRI</b>	<i>Responsible Research and Innovation</i>
<b>SMS</b>	<i>Social Media Strategy</i>
<b>SMEs</b>	<i>Small, Medium Enterprises</i>
<b>SOP</b>	<i>Standard Operating Procedure</i>

# JUST2CE

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## Executive Summary

The JUST2CE project addresses the pressing need for a Just Transition in the shift from linear to circular economic systems, which have traditionally prioritized profit maximization at the expense of equity and sustainability. Global production systems often involve unequal power dynamics within supply chains, exacerbating social and environmental injustices. In response to growing global pressures, the circular economy model aims to improve eco-efficiency through technological innovation. However, these technocratic approaches often overlook the societal implications necessary for a truly sustainable and equitable transition.

A key initiative of JUST2CE is the International Training Workshops, which serve as platforms for building trust, capacity, and debate among diverse stakeholders, including civil society, industry representatives, academics, and policymakers from both the Global North and South. These workshops are integral to the project's Exploitation and Public Engagement strategies, aiming to incorporate multi-stakeholder perspectives to mitigate the risks of reductionist and technocratic policies. By integrating stakeholder knowledge, these workshops not only enhance the quality of JUST2CE's research outcomes but also increase public awareness and understanding of relevant policy concepts.

This report outlines the structure and outcomes of the JUST2CE International Training Workshops, highlighting their role in mainstreaming Just Transition concepts within the science-policy interface. The report includes a detailed overview of the workshop approach, summaries of key activities and discussions, particularly from the recent workshop in Barcelona, and an evaluation of engagement indicators and feedback. Finally, it offers recommendations for future initiatives, emphasizing the need for continued inclusivity and stakeholder engagement to ensure a Just Transition to sustainable economic systems.

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## 1. Introduction

Global production systems seek to maximize profits along linear supply chains, which often entail unequal and asymmetrical relationships among supply chain actors. As a response to increasing global environmental and social pressures, circular economy proposes a shift from prevailing linear consumption patterns of taking-making-using-disposing resources through technocratic approaches seeking to increase eco-efficiency. The lack of consideration of societal implications of implementing such strategies in global supply chains challenges a Just Transition to more sustainable societies. For this to happen, technological shifts should be accompanied with the reconfiguration of governance structures of global supply chains to enable more democratic and participatory decision-making mechanisms.

JUST2CE is a research and innovation project that aims at understanding the technical, political, and social factors that enable such Just Transition, and seeks to inform how to embed these in transitional policy measures. This is achieved through a critical examination of the implications of the circular economy paradigm in terms of a Just Transition, currently missing. Due to the multiscale nature of circular economy (i.e., the fact that it is embedded at local, regional, and international governance scales), numerous stakeholders result relevant for examining its implications. Therefore, a requirement for this critical examination is to engage with policymakers, industry, and broader societal groups, while securing the discussions are not limited to well-educated elites.

While having gained considerable traction over the last decade in international sustainable development policy arenas, the uncertainties inherent in transitioning to a circular economy present a unique opportunity for cross-geography dialogue and learning. As industries and economies undergo reshaping, discussions need to ensure that the diverse impacts and opportunities of the transition are equitably distributed among various social groups. These impacts encompass topics such as workforce transitions, resource dependencies, and the vulnerabilities experienced by diverse groups.

JUST2CE International Training Workshops have provided a space for trust and capacity-building, debate, and first-hand experiences around the implications of circular economy in practice, thus gathering multi-stakeholder groups (civil society, industry representatives, academic, and policy makers) representing the Global North and Global South. Likewise, JUST2CE International Training Workshops have acted as an important element of the Exploitation and Public engagement strategies, seeking to leverage key experiences and best practices regarding policies and practical initiatives to accelerate a Just Transition to Circular Economy, while exploring the Decision Support System Tool (DSS Tool), designed to facilitate the enhancement of Circular Economy practices into policymaking and economic decisions. Integrating stakeholder knowledge has likewise sought to enrich the quality of the JUST2CE research outcomes and increased public awareness and understanding of relevant policy concepts.

### 1.1. Scope and structure of the report

The goal of this report is therefore to present the JUST2CE International training workshop approach, highlight its application in four instances, and reflecting on the suitability of the approach to enable the mainstreaming of Just Transition concepts in the science-policy interface. *Section 2. JUST2CE International Training Workshop approach* details essential format, goals and the rationale behind its implementation, including an evaluation plan against Exploitation and Public engagement strategies. *Section 3. Workshop Summaries* provides a comprehensive overview of each workshop, including its key activities. This section makes special emphasis on the contents discussed in the most recent JUST2CE International Training Workshop held in Barcelona, while in-depth details on previous workshops have already been published (e.g., JUST2CE Deliverable 4.4). *Section 4.*

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*Outcomes and Feedback* provides key engagement indicators and qualitative feedback gathered through participant observation in the JUST2CE International Training Workshops. Last, *Section 5. Recommendations for Future Directions* includes recommendations for future initiatives based on the findings and feedback from the training program.



## 2. The JUST2CE International Training Workshop approach

This section presents an overarching JUST2CE International Workshop approach and is followed by a summary of the four instances where the format was applied, adapted to the geographical and cultural context.

### 2.1. The JUST2CE International Training Workshop approach: Key elements

#### ***Aim and scope***

Following the Grant Agreement, the main objective of the JUST2CE International Training Workshops is “to transfer the project tools and models, coupled with direct coaching activity targeting public stakeholders at national and EU level.” As such, it was sought to create spaces that allowed for a wider dissemination of the findings (present key project outputs, results and lessons learned on different topics, such as gender, labor, and environmental justice) of the project and provide dedicated spaces for training and transfer of the Supply Chain Explorer tool through capacity building sessions.

Four JUST2CE International Training Workshops were organized as indicated in the Exploitation Strategy, including two in Europe and two in Africa. These International Training Workshops gathered a wide and diverse audience, including public representatives from the local, national, and EU level; industry and business leaders, professors and researchers, civil society, and entrepreneurs.

The first workshop in Thessaloniki was organized the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. The next two workshops were held in South Africa, and they were split in two events taking place in Johannesburg on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2024 and Cape Town on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the same month. This combined approach helped the organizers to bring together several local representatives from two of South Africa's largest cities, as well as various members of local government and universities. In addition, this bi-directional approach allowed for several visits to companies that embrace the principles of just transition to the circular economy in both cities. Furthermore, it allowed to localize the main JUST2CE themes such as gender or employment adapted to the socio-cultural context of each city and to the existing circular economy practices. The last workshop was celebrated in Barcelona the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2024.

#### ***Methodology and approach***

To reach a broad range of societal actors, two main strategies have been followed: first, to secure presence in targeted events (such as the JUST2CE International Training Workshop held at HELEXPO in Thessaloniki) leveraging visibility, shared use of resources, pools of experts, and networking. Second, to organize events and invite a specific group of participants, in line with its specialized training goals demanding a constructive, collaborative spirit in the discussions and a balanced participant background mix. This was the case of both JUST2CE International Training Workshops held in South Africa and Barcelona.

To come up with enriching experiences, our approach has integrated different formats in the final workshop agendas. A brief description is provided as follows:

- **Keynote speeches:** An essential format to deliver updates and technical knowledge on project outputs and results. These were mainly provided by the JUST2CE researchers, who were more intricately connected with the content of the JUST2CE project.

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- **Participatory dialogues:** A key goal of the JUST2CE International Training Workshop was public engagement. This has been pursued through the application of formats that foster open discussions in a large group, such as the Fishbowl format. Here, a limited number of speakers sit in an inner circle (the "fishbowl") and engage in a conversation geared by a facilitator. In the meantime, members of the audience can join the inner circle by occupying an empty chair in the panel discussion to contribute to the discussion. This format encourages active participation and dynamic exchange of ideas.
- **JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer demonstrations:** This provides a space to showcase the key features of the tool, present use-cases, and tailor it to the local context. This involved local examples, for example, about the manufacturing motor vehicles in South Africa. After the tool demonstrations, participants are invited to ask questions to the presenters and can engage individually during 30-40 minutes with the tool, helped by the facilitators. After the individual exploration, participants are encouraged to reflect about their user experience and fill in a tailored feedback form.
- **Participatory workshop exercises:** The idea has been for stakeholders to engage in discussions and in collaborative activities, enabling them the exploration of a specific topic, while reflecting on issues and on own experiences. The joint analysis and sharing enhances participant knowledge and acts as a networking opportunity itself. An example of a participatory workshop exercise is the Iceberg model, which allows to identify observable and hidden aspects of an issue. The visible part encompasses observable events (top of the iceberg), while the submerged parts signify underlying patterns, structures, beliefs, and assumptions that underpin the observable events. By dissecting the different layers of observable phenomena, participants connect surface-level symptoms to the root causes of this.
- **Networking:** The networking goals of the JUST2CE International Training Workshop approach follow the need of connect and nurture relationships among disconnected professionals in a topic. This is important to break silo structures and co-create sustainability pathways holistically. Networking is also a central element of the international focus of the workshops. Since cross-geography exchange of information is needed, networking spaces were provided to examine events through different geographical lenses, gaining insights, sharing experiences, and potentially collaborating on projects.
- **Site visits:** Due to its innovation component and a strong focus on identifying case studies and best practices of the JUST2CE project, site visits have served to provide participants with practical insights, real-world experiences and application of concepts and theories in practice. A cross-cutting element in all visits was the embedding of Just Transition principles in the governance and business models of host organisations. Site visits included guided tours, presentations, product or service demonstrations and opportunities for direct interaction with site personnel.

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Figure 1. Presentation at the International Training Workshop held in Thessaloniki (8<sup>th</sup> of March 2024)



Figure 2. JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer demonstration at the International Training Workshop in Johannesburg (23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2024)

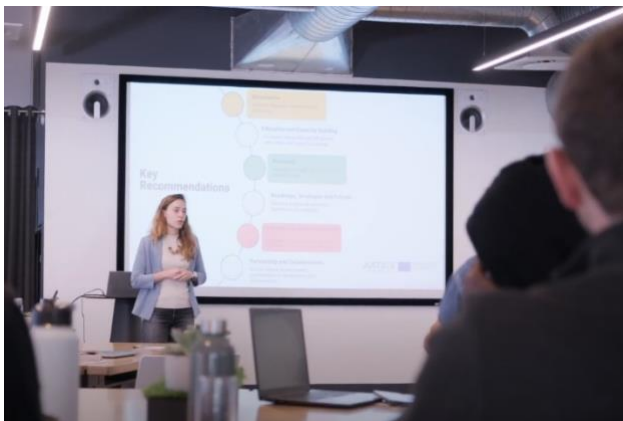


Figure 3. Presentation at the International Training Workshop in Cape Town (25<sup>th</sup> of April 2024)



Figure 2. JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer demonstration at the International Training Workshop in Barcelona (9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024)

## 2.2. Exploitation and Public Engagement

The Exploitation Plan for the JUST2CE project, developed under WP6, and led by ARC-MEDWAVES with consortium support, outlines strategies and tools for effectively delivering project results and lessons to target groups both during and after the project's timeframe. Its main goals are to ensure effective use of project outputs, make project-generated knowledge available to interested organizations, reuse and replicate project excellence in other projects to spur further developments, influence decision-makers to improve future policies, highlight societal benefits of project outcomes. The JUST2CE International Training Workshops are aligned with Training and Capacity building goals, and their evaluation is therefore aligned with the indicators set for such target, presented as follows (Table 1).

Table 1. Overview of indicators used to monitor the contribution of the JUST2CE International Training Workshops to the Exploitation strategy (Subset of indicators extracted from Deliverable 6.5., page 18)

Exploitation goal	Indicator
<b>Training and capacity building</b>	Number of DSS International Training Workshops
	Number of participants in DSS International Training Workshops
	- Number of policy makers participating in DSS International Training Workshops
	- Number of practitioners participating in DSS International Training Workshops
	- Number of researchers participating in DSS International Training Workshops
<b>Disaggregation by gender and location</b>	Gender ratio of participants
	EU/NON-EU ratio of participants

## 3. JUST2CE International Training Workshop Summaries

In this section, we provide comprehensive summaries of the recent workshops, highlighting the key discussions, insights, and takeaways from the JUST2CE International Training Workshops. It is worth to note that the International Training Workshops taking place in Thessaloniki and South Africa have also been reported in Deliverable 4.4 (see Deliverable 4.4 for further complementary information).

### 3.1. Workshop 1: Thessaloniki

The South East European Research Centre (SEERC), in collaboration with ARC-MEDWAVES and the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, successfully organized an event at the Forward Green Expo that focused on advancing towards a circular economy. The Forward Green Expo provided an invaluable opportunity to network, share insights, and explore collaborative opportunities in the pursuit of sustainable development goals.

This event, integral to the JUST2CE project, emphasized key aspects necessary for a responsible, inclusive, and equitable transition to sustainability. The session began with opening remarks from Nikos Zacharis of SEERC and Panagiotis Menexopoulos, General Secretary of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Prof. Dilay Çelebi delivered a keynote on the Fair and Responsible Transition to a Circular Economy, presenting the tool designed to assess the impact of supply chains in critical sectors. Presentations were conducted in both English and Greek, facilitating an inclusive discussion among the diverse audience. The discussion session provided an in-depth exploration of circular economy initiatives, showcasing exemplary best practices and cautionary lessons from a social and environmental justice perspective. Participants expressed a keen interest in further exploring the tool and learning more about the JUST2CE project. A diverse group of 30 to 35 participants, including practitioners and policymakers, actively engaged in the workshop. To capture and convey the event's key insights, a [video summary](#) was produced.



Figure 3. Overview of the project presentation at the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Thessaloniki (8<sup>th</sup> of March 2024).

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## 3.2. Workshops 2 and 3: Johannesburg and Cape Town

ACEN and ARC-MEDWAVES co-organized two workshops in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa. These workshops included a presentation of the project, an hour dedicated to the Supply Chain Explorer, and a site visit to one of the project's local case studies.

During the dissemination segment of the Supply Chain Explorer, the tool was presented in a manner tailored to the local context, using a practical example from the motor vehicle manufacturing sector in South Africa. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and given 30-40 minutes to interact with the tool, engage in discussions with peers and facilitators, and complete a customized feedback form. The tool was met with enthusiasm, sparking conversations that underscored its innovative features and distinct advantages over similar tools. Participants posed insightful questions regarding data quality and the challenges associated with data availability in Global South countries. These concerns will require further development and highlight the need to make these tools accessible to both professionals and policymakers who may not have a scientific background.



Figure 4. Overview of the JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer training session at the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Johannesburg (23<sup>rd</sup> OF April 2024).

The workshops included a site visit to experience a just circular economy initiative in real life. In Johannesburg, participants visited Palesa Pads, a company producing reusable feminine hygiene products to combat period poverty. The company employs local staff, offering flexible work hours to accommodate family responsibilities, and provides an income that enables workers to send their children to school. In Cape Town, participants visited FoodForwardSA, where they helped pack large food packages for delivery. FoodForwardSA distributes edible food to organizations that provide it to those in desperate need, such as learners and mothers. The organization also advocates for a food donation policy for the country. A [video](#) has been publish summarizing the event highlights.

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Figure 5. Overview of the JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer training session at the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Cape Town (25<sup>th</sup> of April 2024).



Figure 6. Visit to Palesa Pads during the International Training Workshop held in Johannesburg the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2024.



Figure 7. Visit to FoodForwardSA during the International Training Workshop held in Johannesburg the 23rd of April 2024.

### 3.3. Workshop 4: Barcelona

The JUST2CE International Training Workshop, titled "Boosting a Just Transition in the Mediterranean: From Research to Action," took place in Barcelona on the 9th and 10th of July 2024. This workshop aimed to create a dynamic forum for dialogue among a diverse group of participants, including experts, business leaders, policymakers, and representatives from various institutions across the Mediterranean region. The primary objective was to explore and prospect the potential pathways for advancing a Just Transition towards a circular economy in policy-making arenas through a Mediterranean lens. A summary of the sessions is provided as follows:

#### **First Day: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

#### JUST2CE Key cross-cutting issues: Mario Pansera

Mario Pansera presented the JUST2CE project. The keynote featured the challenges of the circular economy model, the key contributions from the project such as a reframing of circular economy discourses, an analysis of global supply chains as hotspots of injustice, as well as the exploration of its gender implications due to the historical undervaluation of reproductive work. The JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer tool was likewise briefly introduced, meant to educate the public on the complexities of supply chains and their global impacts.

#### JUST2CE Key cross-cutting issues: Katharina Gihring, Ben Purvis, Matías Ibáñez, Anna Díaz

This session used the Iceberg model to engage audience in understanding complex issues by examining both visible events and underlying causes. The exercise involved the examination of Observable events, recurrent trends (Patterns), the systemic factors causing these patterns (Structures) and the Mental models and beliefs driving the structures. The cross-cutting issues chosen to conduct the Iceberg were Gender issues, Environmental Justice, and Labor conditions. The content of the discussion is presented as follows:



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## *Topic 1: Gender issues*

### **Observable events**

- **Increasing gender violence:** The rise in gender-based violence highlights an urgent need for stronger protections and awareness.
- **Lack of educational opportunities:** Cycles of poverty and inequality are perpetuated by denying access to quality education to many girls and women.
- **Unequal access to job opportunities:** Women see their career growth and economic independence hindered by job market barriers.
- **Unequal access to resources and funding:** Women entrepreneurs struggle to secure funding and resources, hindering their business potential and innovation.
- **Women's voices not heard:** Omission of gendered perspectives and experiences in decision-making processes, leading to biased outcomes.

### **Underlying patterns**

- **Women occupy less educated activities:** Women are often funneled into lower-skilled jobs.
- **Informal work is done by women; technical and skilled work is done by men:** Gender segregation in labor markets persists, women are overrepresented in informal and less secure jobs.
- **Women tend to care for family members:** The burden of caregiving falls disproportionately on women, in detriment of their educational and career development.

### **Underlying structures**

- **Lack of female role models in decision-making roles:** The absence of women in leadership positions creates a lack of role models for younger generations and perpetuates gender stereotypes.
- **Gender-biased recruiting:** Recruitment processes often favor men, which leads to gender imbalances in many industries and sectors.
- **Women (and gender-disaggregated data) are not consulted in policy design:** Policymaking frequently excludes women's input, resulting in legislation that does not address their needs effectively.
- **Biased healthcare and lack of reproductive health support:** Women face gender biases in healthcare, especially regarding support for their reproductive health.

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## Mental models

- **Assumptions about gender capacity, roles, and job types:** Societal norms and stereotypes dictate what jobs and roles are deemed appropriate for women.
- **Cultural beliefs about the role of women:** Deep-rooted cultural beliefs often restrict women to traditional roles.
- **In the face of scarce opportunities and limited leadership examples, women approach the job market very competitively:** With limited opportunities, women must compete fiercely for job positions, often facing additional hurdles in the workplace.
- **Women's responsibility for childcare is not considered work:** The value women generate through childcare work often goes unrecognized in economic terms.
- **Political models and governance beliefs:** Prevailing political and governance models frequently fail to prioritize gender equality, reinforcing systemic biases.



Figure 8. Participants engaged in the Iceberg model discussion during the JUST2CE International Workshop Barcelona (9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024).

## *Topic 2: Environmental justice issues*

### Observable events

- **Global inequality:** Disparities in wealth and resources between Global North and Global South countries exacerbate environmental injustices.
- **Sustainable products are not affordable:** High costs of sustainable products makes them inaccessible to bottom of pyramid communities.

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## Underlying patterns

- **Post-colonial considerations:** The lingering effects of colonization continue to shape global power dynamics.
- **Benefits don't reach low- and medium- income countries:** Environmental and social innovations often fail to reach low- and medium-income countries, perpetuating inequality.

## Underlying structures

- **The Global South has adopted circularity out of scarcity,** the Global North takes circularity as a means for further economic expansion.

## Mental models

- **Consideration of GDP as an appropriate indicator for welfare:** Limitations of GDP as a measure reflecting environmental health and social well-being, leading to misguided policies.
- **Differences between mental models of citizens, governments, and companies:** Diverse perspectives on environmental issues among citizens, governments, and companies create challenges in achieving consensus and effective action.
- **Missing bonds with nature:** A cultural disconnect from nature hinders the development of sustainable practices and policies that prioritize environmental health.

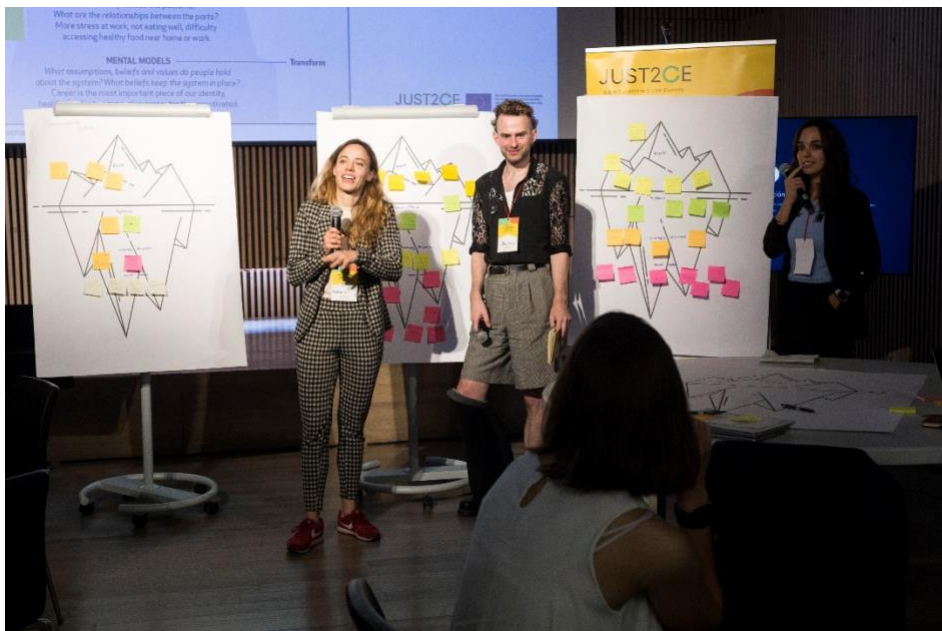


Figure 9. Presentation of the Iceberg models resulting from the participatory exercise during the JUST2CE International Workshop Barcelona (9th of July 2024).

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## Topic 3: Labor issues

### Observable events

- **Workers cannot decide on their productive activities:** this lack of agency may lead in their engagement in activities that are not aligned with their beliefs.
- **Child labor:** children engage in work that is harmful to their physical and mental development and are deprived of their childhood.
- **Workers do not earn enough to buy ecological products:** wages are insufficient to afford ecological or sustainable products, limiting their capacity to make environmentally friendly choices, which perpetuates cycles of environmental degradation.
- **Uneven presence of women and men in specific sectors:** women are still underrepresented in specific sectors and over-represented in care-related professions, which reinforce stereotypes and limits economic opportunities,

### Underlying patterns

- **Impact of labor in health:** Conditions of labor can have significant impacts on workers' physical and mental health, such as jobs involving repetitive strain, exposure to hazardous materials and high-stress environments.
- **Political short-termism:** Decision-making often favor policies that yield immediate benefits at the expense of long-term gains. This is especially problematic when it comes to climate action, as the costs of climate inaction increase as action is delayed.
- **Refugees face barriers to employment,** and are frequently forced to accept low-paying, insecure jobs without the ability to advocate for their rights, making them vulnerable to exploitation.

### Underlying structures

- **Colonialism:** Former colonies still face ongoing economic disadvantages, social fragmentation and political instability, perpetuating cycles of poverty.
- **Labor exploitation:** weak labor laws, corruption and global demand for affordable products affects vulnerable populations.
- **Access to education and skills:** Those with limited access to quality education are trapped in low-paying unskilled jobs.

### Mental models

- **Discrimination** based on ethnicity, religion and gender shape societal attitudes reinforcing systemic inequalities.
- **Division between productive and unproductive work:** Society often values certain types of work (e.g., paid employment) over others (e.g., unpaid domestic work). Essential tasks such as household management or caregiving go unrecognized and uncompensated.

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- **Different societal groups are fit for specific jobs:** occupational segregation often restrict peoples' career choices and economic mobility.
- **Productivity determines personal values and identity:** certain individual might experience personal devaluation due to the activities they carry out.
- **Some occupations are not recognized as work:** individuals are not rewarded for specific tasks.

In sum, it was possible to observe the interconnections between the issues of environmental justice, labor and gender in global supply chains and facilitate a shared reflection on the pressing need to address this while shifting to circularity.



Figure 10. Overview of the Iceberg session addressing the key cross-cutting issues at the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona (09/07/2024).

## Engagement Workshop JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer Andrea Genovese, Ben Purvis, Matías Ibáñez

The Engagement Workshop presented the JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer, revealing the complexity of global supply chains through a representation of the trade flows of commodities (trade flows) between different sector and countries, enabling a reflection on the social and environmental implications. The tool demonstration included an exploration of the textile manufacturing sector in Spain. An additional core component of the tool, the Just Transition indicators addressing labor, gender, and environmental justice were presented. Finally, the demonstration also included a comparison of the impacts of primary versus circular steel.

## Visit to Espigoladors

The first day of the JUST2CE International Training Workshop concluded with a visit to the Espigoladors Foundation. The Foundation was born in 2014 to provide a unified response to three social and environmental problems: work for food utilization; guarantee the right to healthy food for people at risk of social exclusion; and generate job opportunities

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for vulnerable groups. Inaugurated to give complete circularity to the project and to continue working for social justice and environmental sustainability.



Figure 11. Visit to Epigoladors during the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona (09/07/2024).

## Visit to Solidança

Solidança is a social enterprise based in Barcelona dedicated to promoting social and environmental sustainability through the recovery of bulky and fashion waste. Besides recovering the value of resources through repairing, reusing and recycling, they employ a special model of labor insertion and education. Thus, Solidança, thanks to different partnerships has developed specialized professional pathways for people in situations of social vulnerability, who receive training and professional activities. The visit involved a tour around the sorting facilities of Solidança, where conference attendees had the chance to get detailed information about the value-recovery processes, the finished upcycled products and testimonials of the labor insertion process.



Figure 12. Visit to Solidança during the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona (09/07/2024).

## **Second Day: 10th July 2024**

### **Towards COP29: Mainstreaming the Path to a Just Transition with Union for the Mediterranean**

The Union for the Mediterranean presented their efforts in reinforcing the science-policy interface through different partnerships with climate agencies and their role as observer organization in climate negotiations, contributing on the topics of climate finance, loss and damage, adaptation, mitigation and just transition and are expanding into biodiversity and ocean scope.

### **Towards COP29: Mainstreaming the Path to a Just Transition – igniting ideas by Hot or Cool Institute and Imal Initiative for Climate and Development**

In this session, the Hot or Cool institute presented a lifestyle approach to personal carbon footprints presenting research results where material consumption and personal happiness show signs of decoupling. Moreover, a critical examination of current policy focus leads to incremental instead of the transformative shifts needed to address environmental challenges effectively. Likewise, the Imal Initiative for Climate & Development provided an update on the early signs of convergence and progress around the Just Transition negotiations during COP28, highlighting the necessary flows of financial support provided by high-income countries to low-income countries to advance the agenda. The discussion of this financial aspect will remain an important point enabling effective climate action and ensuring an equitable transition for all nations involved during COP29.

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Figure 13. Session “Mainstreaming the Path to a Just Transition” held during the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona (10/07/2024).

## Towards COP29: Mainstreaming the path to Just Transition – dialogue with CREAM, Arab Reform Initiative, Yunus Environmental Hub, and the audience

The discussion on Just Transition highlighted several key challenges and enablers in embedding this concept in policymaking. For example, ensuring that every voice, particularly those typically excluded, is represented in policymaking. The financial burden of Just Transition policies raises concerns among governments regarding funding sources. This is significant gap in data around the impact of policies, which also makes it difficult to monitor impact along with Just Transition indicators, such as working conditions in supply chains. Moreover, there is a prevalent lack of trust in governments and welfare systems, and challenges related to access to knowledge on circular business models, with many startups and SMEs in the global south being inherently circular without realizing it.

To address these challenges, several enablers were discussed. Leveraging citizen science and sourcing from social enterprises were identified as key strategies. The importance of data in creating accountability was emphasized, alongside the need for formal policy structures to recognize and formalize invisible work. Establishing knowledge-sharing platforms and fostering collaborations with universities were also highlighted as crucial steps. Additionally, breaking down silos within government ministries to promote collective work was seen as essential for advancing Just Transition goals effectively.



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Figure 14. Overview of the Participatory Dialogue at the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona (10/07/2024).

## Contribution of Circular economy to Climate Action with Fundació ENT

This presentation offered input on the state-of-the-art of circular and sustainable business models, highlighting a current modest market share attributed to factors such as inertia, lack of resources, and insufficient funding and insurance options. The prevention of greenwashing, the need to consider the disadvantages faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and prevalent metrics were discussed as current threats to emission reduction. Interventions involving the collaboration of private and public actors such as Extended Producer Responsibility schemes have so far proven effective in advancing circular economy objectives, although their contribution broader climate goals remain underexplored.

## Circular Economy and Climate Action regional initiatives with BETA Technology Centre, Catalunya La Pedrera Foundation, SGM Consulting

Representatives from initiatives based in Barcelona belonging different sectors (blue economy, nature-based solutions, urban development) will share their Climate Action approaches:

- **OPERAs Project:** SGM reflected about the OPERAs project ecosystem management case study in Barcelona, which sought to construct semi-fixed dunes on heavily used urban beaches to optimize ecosystem services and provide protection against sea level rise throughout 14 km of coastal area. An important barrier to the effective follow-up of the ecosystem management was the broad range of stakeholders involved (local and regional authorities, but also citizens, the tourism industry... etc.). Enablers to secure ecosystem benefits included citizen science.
- **Carbon Farming Med:** A consortium funded by the Interreg Euro-MED examining the entrance of the agricultural sector of the Mediterranean into the carbon credit market. Certain agricultural and agroforestry practices would allow to use soil as a carbon sink in agricultural activities. However, the consortium seeks to maintain the integrity of the carbon credit market and to ensure that climate change mitigation actions are effective and reliable by adapting methodologies for measuring, reporting, and verifying the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that can be captured and stored in agricultural soils.

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- **Catalunya La Pedrera Foundation:** The talk provided a reflection around the potential of bioeconomy to reconcile social perception of forestry activities with the demands for urban development, healthy forest ecosystems and wood products. Likewise, the forest management approach of the project Bio For Piri was presented, which aims at fostering bioeconomy as a solution for a dual challenge in the Pyrenees to mitigate large wildfire risk and the rural exodus.

This session demonstrated the importance of collaborative and democratic governance structures in creating practical solutions for climate action.



Figure 15. Session “Circular Economy and Climate Action regional initiatives” at the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona (10/07/2024).

## *Visit to Can Calopa*

Can Calopa is a project that combines traditional agriculture with social inclusion. It employs workers at risk of exclusion and individuals with neurodivergent profiles in vineyard activities, using the Masia center as a hub for community-building and fostering a sense of belonging. Can Calopa promotes traditional winemaking techniques using indigenous grape varieties, enhancing cultural heritage and territorial values. The co-living experiences of the employees also improve their well-being, autonomy, independence, and interpersonal skills at work.

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Figure 16. Participants from the JUST2CE International Training Workshop in Barcelona visiting Can Calopa (10/07/2024)

## 4. International Training Workshop Outcomes

As discussed in the introduction, the JUST2CE International Training Workshops have been a central element of the exploitation strategy. In particular, the objectives “Training and capacity building”, “Direct coaching activities on DSS” and “Existing digital and open business support services”. Likewise, gender and participants’ locations have been used to monitor and inform exploitation strategies.

Table 2. Overview of indicators used to monitor the contribution of the JUST2CE International Training Workshops to the Exploitation strategy (Adapted from Deliverable 6.5., page 18. Indicators of gender and location ratios have been added). (\*) Estimated value.

Exploitation strategy goal	Indicator	Thessaloniki	Johannesburg	Cape Town	Barcelona	Total
<b>Training and capacity building</b>	Number of DSS International Training Workshops	1	1	1	1	<b>4</b>
	Number of participants in DSS International Training Workshops	30	30	36	35	<b>131</b>
	Number of policymakers participating in DSS International Training Workshops	10*	7	9	10	<b>36</b>
<b>Gender and location disaggregation</b>	Participants’ gender ratio	40% F 60% M	60% F 40% M	45% F 55% M	45% F 55% M	<b>48% F 52% M</b>
	Participants’ EU/NON-EU origin ratio	80% EU* 20% Non-EU*	20% EU 80% Non-EU	20% EU 80% Non-EU	80% EU 20% Non-EU	<b>50% EU 50% Non-EU</b>

The JUST2CE project successfully conducted 4 DSS (Decision Support System) International trainings, surpassing the initially planned 3 trainings. Despite this increase in the number of sessions, the total number of participants was lower than expected. This discrepancy arose because effective DSS training was found to require a different approach, specifically more personalized, one-on-one interactions between experts and users. Consequently, variations in the anticipated number of attendees have either enhanced the project's outreach or enriched the interactive sessions. An explicatory tutorial on using the JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer was created to decouple the knowledge transmission from in-person interactions, enabling the project to reach a broader audience.

The DSS International trainings effectively engaged the diverse target audiences outlined in the Exploitation Strategy. However, categorizing the profiles of participants proved challenging. Many participants belonged to overlapping domains such as science-policy, science-activism, and social entrepreneurship, making it difficult to strictly categorize them. Additionally, it was observed that the influence of the hosts in each training location significantly affected the participation of different target groups. The domain of influence of these hosts often determined which target groups were most represented in the trainings.

Another notable aspect of the DSS International trainings was the equitable gender representation among participants. The proportion of participants from EU and non-EU countries was also balanced, demonstrating an inclusive approach in the training sessions. This equal participation underscores the project's commitment to diversity and inclusion, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives and experiences were considered in the training process.

## 5. Recommendations for future directions

This section provides a reflection of key aspects of the JUST2CE International Training Workshops presented in the sections above.

- **The JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer has been a suitable and effective central element enabling training and capacity building goals of the Exploitation and Public Engagement strategy.** The JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer has stood out from existing decision-making tools by expanding its scope beyond tier-one and tier-two suppliers, evaluating socio-economic impacts and justice elements throughout entire supply chains. The visualization of EXIOBASE matrices on a world map has allowed users to depict global supply chains and their inherent interconnections and dependencies in a spatial context.
- **Localization features of tools help align with specific regional contexts.** By adapting the JUST2CE Supply Chain Explorer demonstrations to the local contexts of the JUST2CE International Training Workshops, JUST2CE partners have been able to sense the representativeness of the information reflected in the tool while participants have put their own contexts in a global perspective. In sum, the localization properties of the tool have enhanced partial tool validation and participants' reliability.
- **Combining different learning methods for delivering capacity building on digital tools strengthens the training outcomes.** Digital tools hold the potential to become an innovative instrument for knowledge transmission. In-person coaching sessions based on quasi one-on-one interactions between tool experts and users have largely contributed to the learning process of participants. However, this is a resourceful format. An explicatory tutorial on the tool functioning displayed in the JUST2CE website has allowed to scale knowledge dissemination impact.
- **Developing dedicated mechanisms for knowledge transfer among project partners secures all consortia partners to deliver capacity building on digital tools.** Due to the technical complexity of the tool, workshop hosts found it challenging to cover all technical aspects comprehensively. To address this, contact information was provided so that questions could be directed to tool experts, ensuring that users receive accurate and detailed support. However, further agency for workshop hosts was needed.
- **Including site visits as a key component of training programs to provide practical insights into local circular economy practices.** Site visits also highlight the importance of incorporating local values into circular economy initiatives, enrich the global circularity discourse and ensure that initiatives are more socially and environmentally relevant. Local leaders of site visits act as knowledge transmitters, adding depth to the discussion, and securing a bidirectional flow of knowledge between research and innovation consortia and the territories where this has been present.
- **Implementing participatory methods in training sessions is recommended to engage audiences effectively.** Engaging participants in discussions and interactive activities helps to build a deeper understanding of the material and encourages collaborative learning. Participants have received training, but also contributed with their own insights and experiences in the knowledge generating processes.

In conclusion, the International Training Workshops have served as a key element in achieving the training and capacity-building objectives of the Exploitation and Public Engagement strategy, and fostered a collaborative learning environment that bridges global perspectives with local realities, enhancing both the relevance and impact of the JUST2CE initiative.

## 6. Appendices

Time	Programme
07:30 - 08:30	Registration and Breakfast
08:30 – 08:35	Welcome
08:35 – 08:50	Main outcomes from JUST2CE by Dr Mario Pansera (online)
08:50 - 09:00	Feedback on SA policy briefs by Katharina Gihring
09:00 – 09:05	Supply Chain Explorer: Introduction by Matías Sales Ibáñez
09:05– 09:20	Supply Chain Explorer: Presenting of the tool and Q&A by Dr Ben Purvis, Prof Andrea Genovese and Prof Dilay Celebi (online)
09:20 – 10:00	Supply Chain Explorer: Participant exploration of the tool and feedback
10:00 – 10:05	Closing of workshop
10:05 – 10:10	Group Photo
10:10 - 14:00	Site Visit – Palesa Pads (JHB) & FoodForwardSA (CPT)

Snapshot of the JUST2CE International Training Workshop agenda held in Johannesburg and Cape town (Date)

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List of participants in the JUST2CE International Training Workshop held in Cape Town the (25<sup>th</sup> of April)

Sector	Position
Academia and Research	PostDoc Fellow
Academia and Research	Researcher/Engineer: LCA
Academia and Research	Sustainable Researcher - TIPS Industrial Policy
Academia and Research	PostDoc Fellow
Academia and Research	Managing Director - Principal Investigator
Academia and Research	Senior Lecturer
Academia and Research	Director
Academia and Research	Student
Academia and Research	Project Manager
Academia and Research, Government	Environmental Officer/ PhD Candidate
Civil Society	Strategic Programme & Operations Lead
Civil Society	PM
Government	Director: Waste Minimization and Circular Economy
Government	Deputy Director
Government	Environmental specialist
Government	Specialist: Waste Policy & Minimisation
Government	Chief Director: Chemicals and Waste Economy Programme
Government	Professional Officer
Industry	Sustainability Programme Manager
Industry, Network / Consultancy	Impact Programme Lead
Non-profit incubator working with CleanTech Entrepreneurs	CEO
Non-profit	Operations
NPC	Founder
Public	Senior Researcher
Public Administration	Communication Manager
Public Administration	Non defined
	Strategic Programme & Operations Lead

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List of participants in the JUST2CE International Training Workshop held in Johannesburg the (23rd of April)

Sector	Position
Academia and Research	HOD and Researcher
Academia and Research	Champion Leaders
Academia and Research, Industry	Director
Academia and Research, International Organisation	Managing Director - Principal Investigator & ACEN Friend
Civil Society	Strategic Programme & Operations Lead
Civil Society	Circular Economy Analyst
Civil Society	Programme Manager
Civil Society	Founder
Civil Society	Founder and Executive Director
Civil Society	Coordinator
Entrepreneur	CEO
Entrepreneurs	Entrepreneur
Government	Control Environment Officer (B): Sustainability Programmes and Projects
Government	Project Administrator
Government	Specialist in Research and development
Government	Environmental Manager
Government	Circular Economy sector expert
Government	Director
Government	Acting Deputy Director: Green Economy
Industry	Founder
Industry	CEO
Industry	JMD
Industry	Senior Project Manager
Industry	Sustainability Manager
Industry Association	Research Analyst
Industry, Agriculture & FMCG	farmer / marketing manager
Multilateral	Senior Sustainable Development Expert
NPC	Non-defined
Public Administration	Communications manager



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Public Administration

Non-defined

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Programme of the JUST2CE International Training Workshop held in Barcelona the 9th-10th of July 2024 (1/2)

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
09.30 – 10.00	<b>Registration</b>
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Opening Session</b>
	<p>Welcome remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Jesús Maestro Garcia</b> – Director, MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP</li> <li>- <b>Jorge Ureta Maeso</b> - Head of the International Marine Protection Unit, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO)</li> <li>- <b>Anna Barnadas i López</b> - Secretary for Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda of the Generalitat de Catalunya</li> </ul>
10.15 – 11.30	<b>Collaborative Session: JUST2CE's Key Cross-cutting Issues</b>
	<p>Interactive session where JUST2CE researchers will lead a joint reflection on the socio-political conditions necessary for a just transition to a Circular Economy. Interactive Roundtable on Decolonization &amp; Labour Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mario Pansera</b> - JUST2CE Project Coordinator, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.</li> <li>- <b>Katharina Gihring</b> - Strategic Programme &amp; Operations Lead, African Circular Economy Network.</li> <li>- <b>Ben Purvis</b> - Research Associate, University of Sheffield.</li> </ul>
11.30 – 12.15	<b>Engagement Workshop: Decision Support System Tool (DSS Tool)</b>
	<p>Participants will be able to test the JUST2CE DSS Tool which aims at designing new or improving existing Circular Economy practices and policy decisions through an innovative supply chain explorer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Andrea Genovese</b> - Professor of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, University of Sheffield.</li> </ul>
12.15 – 12.30	<b>Closing Session</b>
	<p>Summary of the key takeaways &amp; closing remarks, <b>Matías Ibáñez Sales</b> - Coordinator of Operations, MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP</p>
12.30 – 13.30	<b>Lunch reception and networking</b>
13.30 – 17.00	<b>Field visits</b>

	<p>On-site visits to two initiatives spotlighting the implementation of principles driving the transition towards a just Circular Economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Espigoladors</b> - <i>Institution that seeks to reduce and prevent food waste and promote the right to a healthy nutrition.</i></li> <li>- <b>Solidança</b> - <i>Institution that promotes labour and social inclusion by providing training actions and empowering vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion on the waste management and right to repair sector.</i></li> </ul>
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## Program 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2024

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
08.30 – 09.00	<b>Registration</b>
09.00 – 09.15	<b>Opening Session</b>
	Recap and Agenda overview
09.15 – 09.25	<b>Towards COP29: Mainstreaming the Path to a Just Transition - Keynotes</b>
	<p>A Keynote speaker will share their experiences in mainstreaming just transition principles into broader climate policies and actions in preparation for COP29.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Marie-Claire Boillot</b> - Senior Expert - Energy and Climate Action, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.</li> </ul>
09.25 – 11.00	<b>Towards COP29: Mainstreaming the Path to a Just Transition - Panel discussion</b>
	<p>These sessions will foster dialogue and interactive engagement where the different perspectives will be explored.</p> <p><b>Session A – Ideas</b>, Moderated by <b>Anna Diaz</b> – Policy Officer JUST2CE, MedWaves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Alessandro Galli</b> - Research Director, Hot or Cool Institute.</li> <li>- <b>Iskander Erzini Vernoit</b> - Co-founder and Director, IMAL Initiative for Climate and Development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Session B – Dialogue</b>, Moderated by <b>Alicia Pérez Porro</b> - Scientific Coordinator, CREAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Sarine Karajerjian</b> - Program Director, Arab Reform Initiative.</li> <li>- <b>Julie Chrysler</b> - Lead Circular Economy and Social Impact, Yunus Environment Hub.</li> </ul>
11.00 – 11.10	<b>Report Presentation: Contribution of Circular Economy to Climate Action</b>
	<p>Introduction to the key takeaways from the report published by MedWaves and ENT Environment and Management offering practical insights and strategies to businesses and policymakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Veronica Martínez Sánchez</b> - Researcher, Fundació ENT.</li> </ul>
11.10 – 12.10	<b>Circular Economy and Climate Action Regional Initiatives</b>
	<p>Representatives from initiatives based in Barcelona belonging different sectors (blue economy, nature-based solutions, urban development) will share their Climate Action approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Joan Colón Jordà</b> - Scientific Coordinator, BETA Technological Centre.</li> <li>- <b>Josep Lascurain</b> - Operacional Potential of Ecosystem Research Applications Project (OPERAs), SGM Consulting.</li> <li>- <b>Joachim Englert</b> - Projects Coordinator, Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera</li> </ul>

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<b>12.10 – 12.15</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>
	Summary of the key takeaways and closing remarks, <b>Alessandro Miraglia</b> - Team Leader Networking, Partnerships and Communications, MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP
<b>12.15 – 13.15</b>	<b>Lunch reception and networking</b>
<b>13.30 – 15.00</b>	<b>Field visit</b>
	On-site visit to an exemplary initiative based in Barcelona, spotlighting the practical implementation a Climate Action- oriented Circular Economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Can Calopa by L'Olivera</b> - <i>L'Olivera is a work cooperative and social initiative in rural and peri-urban areas. It grows grapes and olives and makes organic wine and oil, including people under the umbrella of social inclusion.</i></li></ul>

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Participant organisations in the JUST2CE International Workshop organised in Barcelona (9th and 10th of July 2024)

Organisation	Country
African Circular Economy Network	South Africa
Arab Reform Initiative	Lebanon
Autonomous University of Barcelona	Spain
Banlastic	Egypt
Climate Action Secretariat, Government of Catalonia	Spain
Deep-Drop System	Spain
EcoConsulting	Lebanon
Ecological and Forestry Applications Research Centre (CREAF)	Spain
ENT Environment & Management	Spain
Espigoladors	Spain
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association	Spain
European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)	Spain
Fundació la Pedrera	Spain
Hot or Cool Institute	Germany
Imal Initiative for Climate and Development	Tunisia
Inco	France
MedCities	Spain
Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain	Spain
Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies of Algeria	Algeria
Ministry of Environment of Libya	Libya
Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC)	Spain
Policy Lab	Slovenia
Project Manager, Sustainable Development Department	Spain
Refuse	Lebanon
Secretariat, Union for the Mediterranean	Spain
SGM Consulting	Spain
Solidança	Spain
South-East European Research Centre (SEERC)	Greece
University of Sheffield	United Kingdom
Waste Agency of Catalonia (ARC)	Spain
Yunus Environment Hub	Germany



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