



ONLINE

GREEN JOBS

PROMOTING GREEN JOBS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

27 APRIL – 15 MAY 2026

 30 HOURS

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre

“ Don’t just adapt to the future of work — design it: turn waste into opportunity, policy into impact, and the circular economy into real, decent jobs that leave no one behind. ”

INTRODUCTION

It takes the Earth almost 1.5 years to regenerate what we use in a year. The Covid-19 pandemic and recent geopolitical events have further exacerbated the vulnerabilities associated with our traditional, linear consumption and production patterns and value chains. The concept of circular economy is therefore part and parcel of the shift towards low-carbon, resilient and resource efficient economies and societies. It concerns all economic sectors from building and construction to mobility, manufacturing up to agriculture and the services sector. It is at the same time both local and global in nature.

Moving towards a circular economic model yields major opportunities for job creation, decreasing the environmental impact of enterprises, enhancing resource efficiency and thereby rendering business operations more sustainable and competitive. The ILO estimates that global employment could grow by six million jobs by transitioning to a circular economy that includes such activities as recycling, repair, rent and re-manufacture - replacing the traditional economic model of “extracting, making, using and disposing”.

If well managed, the circular economy can also create jobs that are inclusive and of a better quality than those in a business-as-usual setting. Thus, “going around in circles” can get a completely new, thus positive, meaning in a circular economy. It is a key element in the global transition to a more just and socially inclusive model.

Yet, such positive effects also come along with **changes to existing business models and processes impacting on jobs and livelihoods**. One cannot expect that a circular economic model automatically benefits all workers and the society equally. New occupations might be characterized by less stable employment relationships, potentially more harmful working conditions or exclude certain parts of society e.g. through extensive use of digital technology.

The economic models of many countries in the global south are particularly exposed, as they depend on largely linear economic models, material extraction, fossil fuels, or the extensive use of natural resources such as water and land.

To make the shift towards a circular economy just and beneficial for the majority of people, it therefore requires **deliberate efforts and the new mind sets by policy-makers, businesses and the broader public**. To leave no one behind, particular focus must be put on vulnerable and often disadvantaged groups. Likewise, skills development and training opportunities must be up to the task and widely accessible. It also requires a systematic approach that links global targets and markets with national and local policies, actions and businesses.

Drawing on the experience of the ILO and key partners, this training course will provide participants with a structured approach to **identify, understand and apply** the main concepts, analytical tools and practical actions relevant to the **employment and labour dimensions of the circular economy**.

The course allows participants to learn from concrete experiences and case studies enabling them to understand, develop and shape enabling national/ sectoral strategies and approaches for the creation of decent employment and sustainable businesses in the shift towards a circular economy. It will allow participants to actively contribute and **steer the discussion about green jobs and the circular economy** in their respective local contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to provide participants with the knowledge to systemically apply measures to **promote the creation of more and better jobs in the circular economy**. They will acquire both the tools and the technical knowledge to be able to initiate and implement change processes at institutional, business and policy level.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Apply and disseminate the basic concepts underlying the circular economy model in conjunction with the related social, environmental and business aspects
- Identify key elements of enabling policy and regulatory frameworks such as fiscal measures and incentive schemes, certifications and extended producer responsibility, labour regulations and the business environment at large
- Identify and distinguish the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders from government, the private sector, and employers' and workers' organizations to shape a conducive environment for the creation of decent jobs in a circular economy
- Analyse framework conditions to develop and implement policies and strategies in the area of:
 - Skills development as well as technical education and vocational training for circular economy jobs, data collection and skills anticipation
 - Green entrepreneurship, business models and private sector development
 - Occupational safety and health in the circular economy
 - Product certification and (fiscal) incentive schemes
 - Network building and advocacy for job creation and business development in a circular economy
 - Access to finance for green businesses
 - Social and employment impacts as well as gender aspects of the circular economy

COURSE STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY

The course will run over a period of **3 weeks**. Throughout the entire course participants will have access to **ITCILO's e-campus** and self-guided **e-learning modules** with interactive learning activities and case studies, background reading material and key information on the course.

In various **interactive, live online sessions**, participants will have the opportunity to learn and exchange with **sector experts and professionals** from international organisations, research institutions as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations on the various course topics. Recordings of the session will be available on the e-campus.

During the sessions, participants will also have the possibility to further their skills in **interactive group learning activities**. The course will close with a **final assignment** that will enable participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge and put it into action.

WHO ATTENDS THE COURSE?

The course is particularly tailored to:

- Representatives of government ministries and agencies (Labour, Employment, Environment, Planning, Finance, TVET, Economy) as well as from subnational tiers of government;
- Representatives from employers' and workers' associations with a particular interest in the circular economy;
- Business development service providers and institutions supporting the greening of business processes and practices;
- National and international development agencies;
- Professionals from universities and civil society organizations.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

This course will enable participants to understand the labour and economic aspects related to the transition towards a circular economy in their respective countries and communities.

Participants will thus be prepared to actively shape the transition to a greener, job-rich and socially just economy.

The course will allow participants to become leaders on harnessing the emerging opportunities related to the circular economy and will enhance their professional profile by acquiring new skills with an increasing demand in the future.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The course will be conducted in **English** and it will be held fully online.

After successfully completing all required activities, participants obtain an official ITCILO **Certificate of Participation** in Digital Credentials Format.

The tuition fee for this course is **1.095 Euros**.

HOW TO APPLY?

If you wish to participate in this course, please fill in the **online application form** available here: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9719144/en>

Applications must be received no later than **20 April 2026**.

If the participation is sponsored by an institution, the application should be accompanied by a letter from the sponsoring organization.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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