

# SwitchMed and Circular Economy

Circular Economy (CE), defined as an economy that seeks to maintain the value of products, materials and resources for as long as possible, and therefore helps decoupling growth in manufacturing, production and consumption from natural resource use, promises significant economic, societal and environmental benefits. The intention of the international community to move to Circular Economy by 2030 is also reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to achieve a systemic shift in a range of interrelated domains, such as sustainable production and consumption (goal 12), economic growth (goal 8), climate action (goal 13), sustainable cities and communities (goal 11). Circular Economy approaches will help to achieve these important targets.



**Circular Economy  
platform:**

<https://buildingcircularity.org>

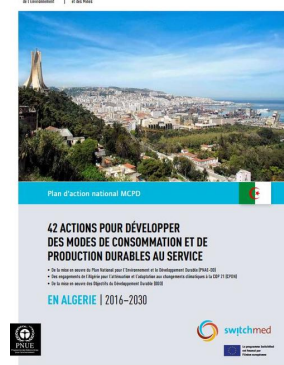
Learn more about the UNEP approach to and experience in building circularity by accessing the UNEP circularity platform. This interactive tool provides an understanding of the circularity concept, its scope and how it contributes to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. It also offers a wide range of resources and features stories illustrating how various stakeholders have successfully adopted circular approaches.



## SwitchMed a Circular Economy program

SwitchMed supports and provides stakeholders with tools and connections to scale-up social and eco innovations, to achieve productive, **circular and sharing economies** in the Mediterranean. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s supports to countries in their process to develop and implement Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans (SCP-NAPs) showed how linear consumption, as used today, is reaching its limit, and how Circular Economy, starting at the raw materials and designing stages can be the answer for increasing consumption rates. Circular Economy has been integrated in several SCP-NAPs that were developed under SwitchMed.

## Circular Economy and SCP-NAPs



The SCP-NAP in **Algeria** - 42 Actions to Develop Sustainable Consumption and Production 2016-2030 - encourages initiatives and actions to develop CE through: (i) linking industrial and service-related activities with Circular Economy initiatives (recycling/reuse/repair) at local level, (ii) preparing CE assessments for the agriculture, industry and service sector, (iii) develop CE trainings and establish an enabling environment for sharing CE good practices and lessons learned.

The overarching strategic objective in **Egypt** is to promote a gradual transition to a green and Circular Economy as a conceptual framework for policy making. The NAP recalls that there is an increasing recognition for the need to make a qualitative shift towards green Circular Economy to achieve sustainable development and recognizes the cross-cutting nature of SCP that allows it to be a major cornerstone and a transformative catalyst for attaining a Circular Economy and the formation of integrated sustainable communities.



SwitchMed Programme  
is funded by the European  
Union



**SDG**  
12,8,13,11



**4**  
National  
Action Plans



**14**  
Beneficiary  
countries



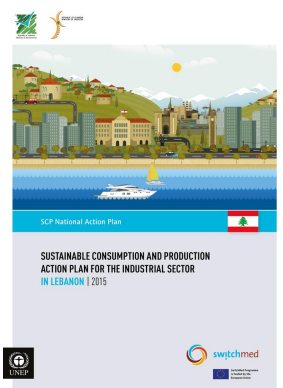
**2**  
Regional  
workshops





**Israel's** SCP roadmap promotes sustainable materials management and a Circular Economy. It is now generally accepted that neither natural resources nor the earth's carrying capacity are infinite. The linear economic model whereby products are manufactured from raw materials, sold, used and discarded as waste is no longer valid. To advance the transition to a Circular Economy rather than end of life treatment, efforts will focus on identifying the role of different sectors in Israel's economy. In June 2014 a two-day workshop on Policy Tools for Circular Economy for government officials was organized in Jerusalem.

The SCP-NAP in **Lebanon** focuses on the industrial sector, with special focus on the Litani River and Qaraoun Lake and has three operational objectives: objective 1 aims at promoting sustainability-driven innovation and knowledge and the integration of best available techniques to implement the waste management hierarchy and adopt a Circular Economy approach, while objective 2 aims at developing integrated policy and legal framework to promote sustainable consumption, production and recovery in the industrial sector with the aim to move towards a Circular Economy.



## SwitchMed and regional Circular Economy workshops

SwitchMed lessons learned and examples of Circular Economy implementation were presented in two TAIEX regional workshops on Circular Economy organized in co-operation with the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission: (i) Casablanca, Morocco (October 2017) - beneficiary countries were Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia - and (ii) Kiev, Ukraine (November 2017) – participants from Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus. While the aim of the workshops was to provide updates on the developments of the Circular Economy in the EU and in the beneficiary countries, they also aimed at identifying possible areas of further cooperation with a view of promoting the Circular Economy in the context regional cooperation.

**Circular Economy on-line training for policy makers** <https://www.unssc.org/courses/circular-economy-and-2030-agenda-november/>



SwitchMed is part of the new circular economy on-line training for policy makers that the United Nations System Staff College elaborated in close collaboration with UNEP. A first session was successfully organized in May-June 2020 and saw the participation of 150 participants from 62 countries. The course explores the application of Circular Economy practices in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Theoretical, practical and case study-based approaches are used to illustrate and support the concepts. The course is strongly application-based, with numerous real-life examples from around the world, and includes tools useful to advance CE practices.

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## UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. [www.switchmed.eu](http://www.switchmed.eu)