



Measuring What Matters

The critical role of data and statistics for managing and monitoring circular economy progress

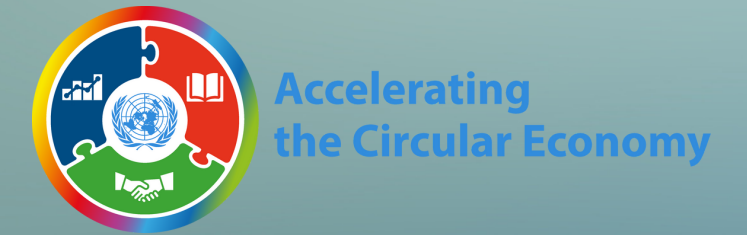
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World Circular Economy Forum 2023



Common Elements of Circular Economy Definitions



Maintaining the value of materials in the economy

Preservation of natural capital in terms of sustainable use of natural resources and preventing negative environmental impacts

Non-controversial "**headline**" definition:

- Value of materials in the economy is **maximized** and maintained for as long as possible
- Input of materials and their consumption is **minimized**, and
- Generation of waste is prevented and negative environmental impacts **reduced** throughout the lifecycle of materials.

Joint UNECE/OECD Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy



UNECE



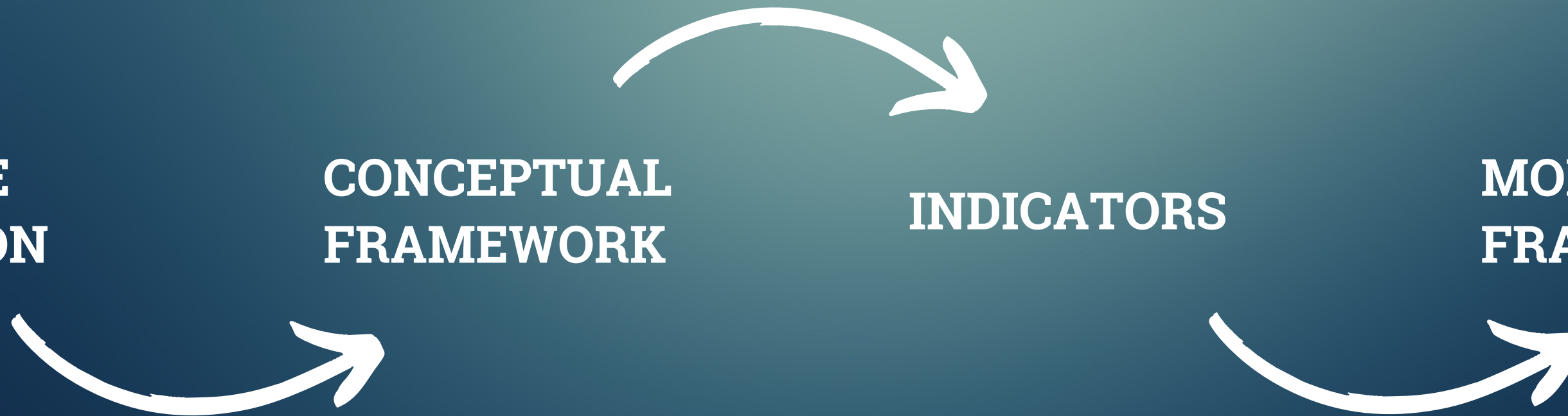
OECD

HEADLINE
DEFINITION

CONCEPTUAL
FRAMEWORK

INDICATORS

MONITORING
FRAMEWORK



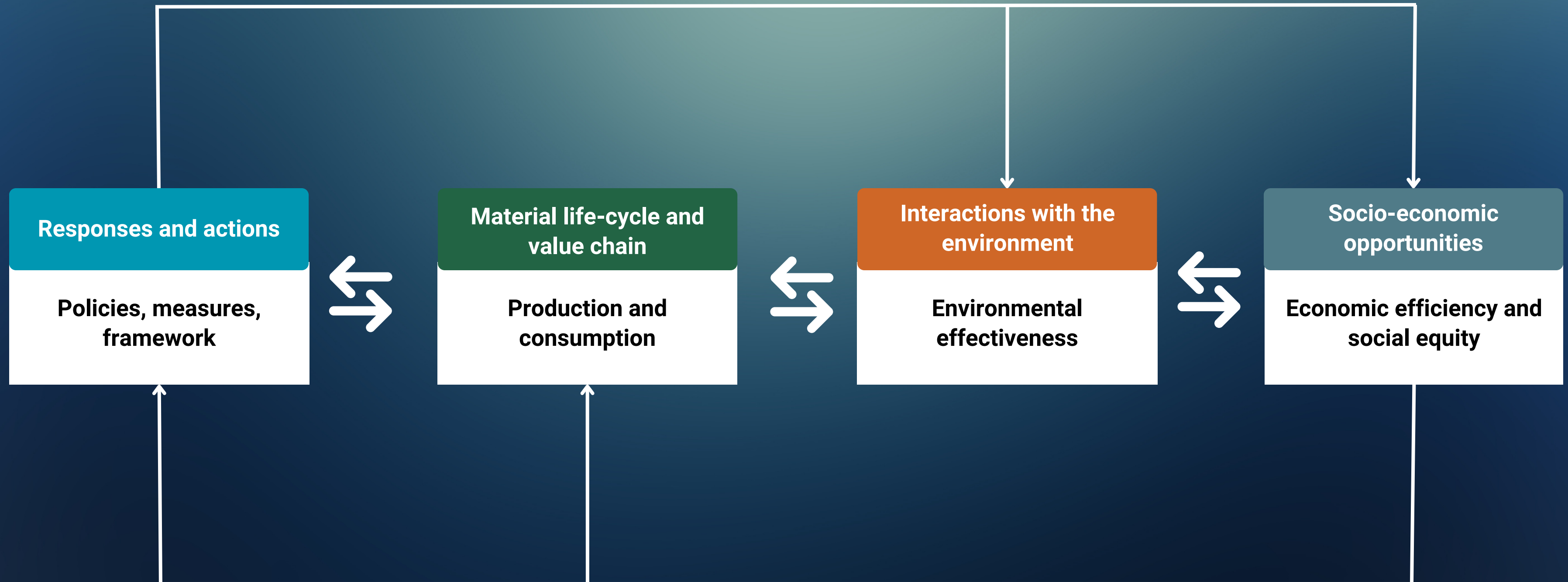
Developed by UNECE and OECD Expert Groups + partners



PACE
Platform for Accelerating
the Circular Economy

Conceptual Monitoring Framework

- Building Blocks



Indicator Examples

Responses and actions

Support circular use of materials

- Taxes and government support for CE business models

Improve the efficiency of waste management

- Investments in waste management infrastructure

Boost innovation and orient technological change

- R&D expenditure on CE technologies

Material life-cycle and value chain

Material basis of the economy

- Production-based material productivity (GDP/DMC)

Circularity of material flows

- Circular material use rate

Interactions with trade

- Physical trade balance

Interactions with the environment

Natural resource implications

- Intensity of use of renewable resources

Environmental quality implications

- GHG emissions from production activities

Socio-economic opportunities

Market developments, new business models

- Gross value added related to circular economy sectors
- Jobs in CE sectors

Trade developments

- Trade in recycled materials

Skills and awareness

- CE literacy

Key issues for a successful implementation of CE

Stakeholders need a common conceptual understanding, starting with basic questions:



How is energy considered in a circular economy?



What is the definition of "waste" in a circular economy?



What are the natural resources conceptually included or excluded, for example, air, water and land?



How to consider biological materials and cascading use of wood?



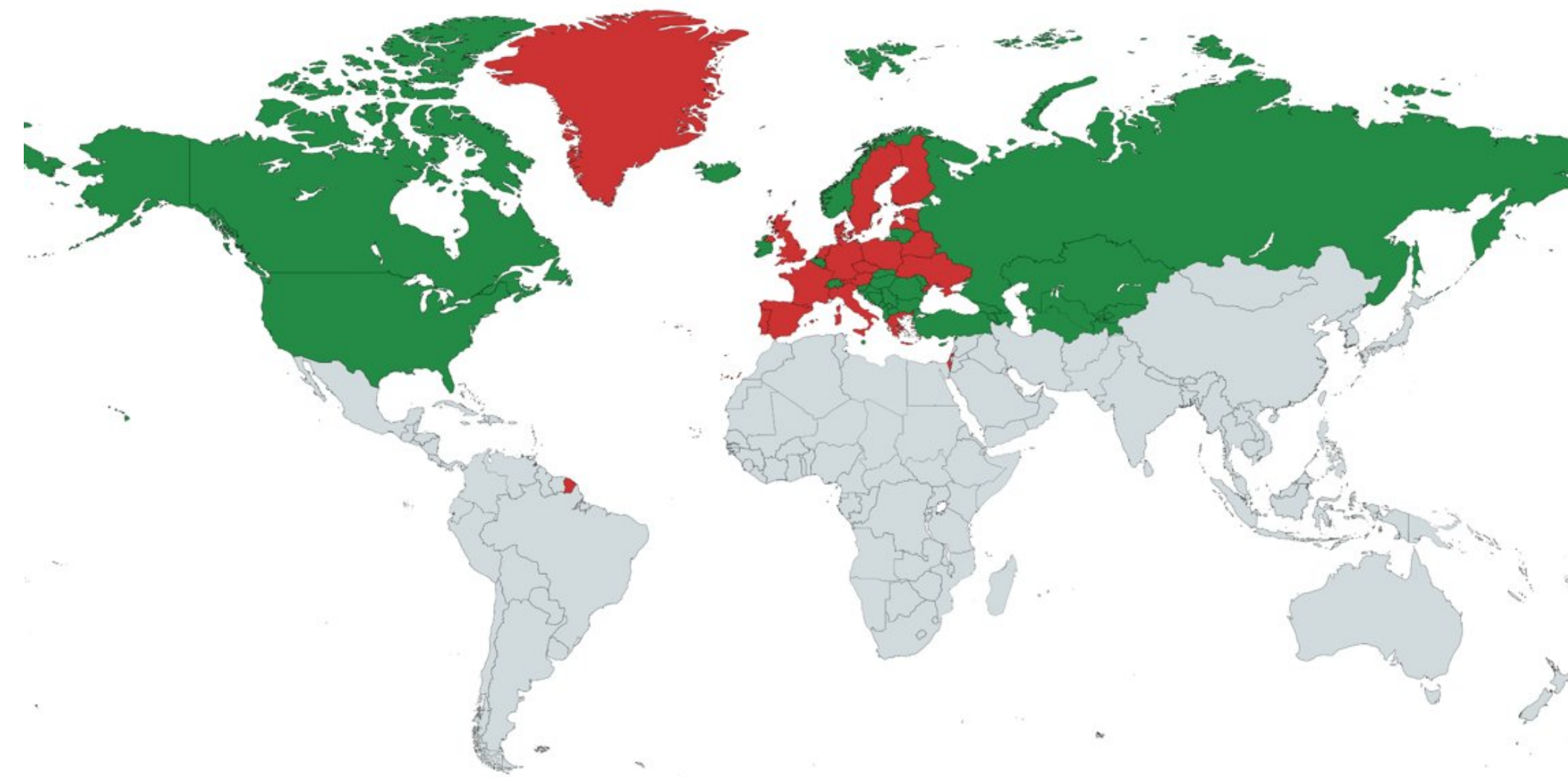
How does it relate to other policy areas, and the metrics used there?



Accelerating
the Circular Economy



UNECE Member States



 National action plans
on the Circular Economy

 Other UNECE
member countries

Resources and Contacts

Circular STEP:

<https://unece.org/trade/CircularEconomy>
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OECD/UNECE Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy (draft):

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