SUMMARY

World Circular Economy Forum 2026 Summary Report



SITRA

SUMMARY

WCEF2026 – Circular economy: Transition for people and prosperity

The tenth annual WCEF proved that circularity boosts the economy, improves national resilience, secures critical materials and is more fair to workers and consumers alike. In addition, it is also good for the planet.

The World Circular Economy Forum 2026 (WCEF2026) took place in Gandhinagar, India from 15-18 September. During opening ceremonies Chief Minister of Gujarat **Bhupendrabhai Patel** emphasised that the culture of reuse and conversion of waste into wealth had long been an Indian tradition. This made India the perfect spot for this year's edition of the world's leading circular economy forum.

WCEF2026 was jointly organised by the Central Pollution Control Board of India (CPCB), Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, governments of India, Finland and Gujarat, and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, in collaboration with local and international partners.

The forum was attended by 3,614 people from 63 countries and gathered more than 19,800 views online. Thousands more participated in partner-led accelerator sessions, studios and official side events. There were 161 speakers at the forum, 135 exhibitors at the expo, 75 accelerator sessions and 5 studios held around the globe.

WCEF2027 will take place in New York City from 8–11 June 2027. **Sandra Goldmark** from Columbia Climate School symbolically accepted the role as the co-host for next year.

"I challenge you, not only to go home inspired, but to turn that inspiration into action, action that begins here in Gujarat and is carried forward across the globe."



MARIEKE BEGTHEL-SPIJKERBOER
Director Circular Economy, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the Netherlands

The World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) is an annual event organised by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra with international partners. First held in 2017, the forum brings together leaders from business, government, academia and civil society to explore global issues related to the circular economy and to find solutions to the challenges facing the world.

RESULTS

Results and announcements from WCEF2026

Several reports, cases and initiatives were launched at the forum. Here are some highlights:

Finland announced a EUR 120 million investment commitment towards a new Finland-IFC Blended Finance Programme under preparation. Intended to start in 2027, with India among its focus countries, the programme is estimated to mobilise around USD 600 million in additional financing for projects it finances, of which at least USD 120 million is expected to come from the private sector.

Two publications were launched by **CPCB and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**: Best environmental practices for reuse of treated sewage and Driving sustainability: A guide to India's circular economy and EPR initiatives.

India's new Ecomark logo was launched by **MoEFCC, in collaboration with UN PAGE**. The logo will allow consumers to identify products that meet established environmental criteria and encourage companies to show their green credentials.

The EU Circular Economy Resource Centre (EU CERC) Circular Awards were won by:

- **Kijani Testing** of Kenya, which tests and repairs off-grid energy products
- **Industria Fox** of Brazil, which refurbishes and re-manufactures electrical equipment
- **the State of Rio de Janeiro** for their industrial symbiosis programme.

EU CERC also published Circular finance stories, a set of well-documented case studies that trace how financiers, from foundations and fund managers to commercial banks, have stepped in to make circular business models bankable.

UNIDO launched their new guide Addressing the source: A policy guide for upstream circular action.

UNIDO published Circular economy perspectives in solar value chains: Circular business models for photovoltaic and solar water heating systems.

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) launched two publications on financing zero waste: Practical guidance for immediate action by local and national governments and a high-level synthesis report.

GAIA also announced 6 new cases with community-led zero waste systems for just methane mitigation.

The International Council on Circular Economy (IC-CE) launched a Circular Campus framework for higher education institutions.

IC-CE, Circulearth and Active-Sites Consulting presented Bharat SUTRA, a platform for advancing circularity in India's textile sector.

Shalini Goyal Bhalla, IC-CE's founder and CEO, launched the book Designing for Dhara: An Indian framework for circular and regenerative futures.

Finland-based climate technology company **Cero Hero**, Finnish cleantech company **Biovoima** and Indian company **Chakravuyha** announced they will establish a biogas plant in India.

Two education partnerships between Finland and India were announced as **Cero Hero and the Kallinga Group of Institutions** said they will partner to introduce a climate identity programme for students, enabling them to build a verified record of climate-positive actions. Cero Hero also partnered **with Lok Jagruti Kendra University** to deliver the climate identity programme.

Sari Multala, Finland's minister of climate and environment, presented Finland's Climate Honours diploma to **Ankit Todi** of Mahindra Group. Finland's diplomatic missions grant the diploma to organisations and individuals who lead the combat against climate change.

Chase Advisers and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) published a report on Critical minerals at scale.

TERI also published the highlights on circular public procurement and ecolabels.

One of last year's co-hosts, **Brazil's National Confederation of Industries (CNI)** launched their CNI Circular Economy Survey.

Green Phoenix published a showcase From silicon to system, modules for unboxing a chipset's lifecycle and learning how to close the loop.

Finland launched a knowledge hub for Latin America, Finlandia Circular, providing materials, contacts and content for skills and education. Finland also announced 4 more dialogues to be hosted in Latin America, including the cities of Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Bogotá and Lima.

With support from the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), India's Ministry of Textiles released three complementary documents to help guide technology and investment decisions:

- A baseline assessment identifying the sector's challenges.
- The India textile technology and innovation roadmap 2047.
- A technology and innovation compendium.

Circular Innovation Lab released The AI linearity paradox, a report which examines the linearity of AI infrastructure and how to make it more circular.

Common Seas published their insights into unlocking circularity in Small Island States.

EMC India and Ethica Finland published their insights on building the circular fashion ecosystem.

Habitat for Humanity International published a report From Rubble to Resilience.

The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) highlighted that agricultural biomass residue shouldn't be treated as a waste when India's ~206 million tonnes of surplus biomass are a finite resource that shapes air quality, farmer incomes and the country's Viksit Bharat and Net Zero 2070 ambitions.



India's circular economy vision

India's traditional resource conservation practices are helpful in their transition to modern circular economy techniques. Their transition needs coordinated policies, regulatory framework, technology, innovation and market mechanisms. Partnerships with countries like the Netherlands and Finland can help all parties advance in circularity and sustainability.

Experts from WCEF collaborator the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) said that India had experience with many waste streams, such as farm and municipal waste, but the successful implementation of circular solutions depended on feedstock availability and quality, the incorporation of appropriate technology, life cycle analyses and economic feasibility.

The state of Gujarat showcased their industrial symbiosis, how the waste from one industry can be used as an input in another sector. Their recycling initiatives including wastewater, batteries, ships, solvents, textiles and e-waste, among others, were used as successful circular examples which could be replicated in other places around the world. Industrial symbiosis can improve business competitiveness and national resource strategy, as well as provide environmental benefits.

"The true measure of a circular economy will not be how much waste we recycle, but how little value we allow to be wasted."



BHUPENDER YADAV
Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India

India has about 250,000 start-ups, with 5-6% of them in circular economy-related activities. The principal challenge is not generating ideas but enabling businesses to scale up. Circularity begins with ecodesign and can even be a business strategy for companies to build long-lasting relationships with customers.

Young entrepreneurs were highlighted as already having a positive impact on the circular transition in India and elsewhere. They should be recognised for the role they play today, not just as tomorrow's leaders. Circular entrepreneurship succeeds when innovation is supported by viable business models, skills, finance, regulations, partnerships and markets.



Maintaining value in materials

Critical raw materials were in focus throughout the forum. The experts in one session stressed that circular value chains for metals and industrial materials are not only an environmental issue, but also an integral part of resource security, national resilience and industrial competitiveness. Finland's former Minister of the Environment **Kimmo Tiilikainen** encouraged companies to avoid the most vulnerable raw materials and to replace them with more secure options in product design.

"The transition from a fossil-based linear economy to a minerals-based circular economy is about much more than recycling. We have to look upstream and reduce the total use of materials to bring our economies back inside of planetary boundaries."
Kimmo Tiilikainen, Senior Advisor, Sitra

Much of the recovery technology for critical raw materials already exists, yet what is lacking are the necessary enabling policies, organisation and infrastructure. This was summarised in a good analogy by one of the speakers:

"Don't chase butterflies. Mend your garden and the butterflies will come."
Janez Potočnik, Co-chair, International Resource Panel (IRP)

Plastics were thoroughly studied during WCEF2026. Speakers stressed we need to think of resource management, not waste management, because the objective was not simply to recycle more plastic, but to maximise the value retained. A major driver is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), a topic which came up repeatedly throughout the event. A well-designed and implemented EPR system will create demand for recycled materials, attract investments and promote the development of a recycling infrastructure.

WCEF2026 participants evaluated circular solutions for textiles, another important Indian industry. As the industry is decentralised, experts explained the need for capacity-building efforts and decentralised data infrastructures. Also, as textile value chains are international, it is necessary to collaborate not only between the public and private sectors, but also between nations and trading blocks.

"Don't chase butterflies. Mend your garden and the butterflies will come."



JANEZ POTOČNIK
Co-chair, International Resource Panel (IRP)

Recycled materials continue to face cost disadvantages relative to virgin alternatives, while circular systems do not yet benefit from comparable economies of scale. This is particularly challenging for post-consumer textiles, where collection, sorting, identification and recycling add further complexity. Denmark was used as an example, where making it easy and simple for consumers to reuse and recycle clothes drastically improved participation rates.

Packaging design has a major influence on circularity outcomes. Simpler materials can reduce the materials used as well as ease their recycling. Participants explained that circularity begins before the product even reaches the market.

Empowering citizens for circular lifestyles

While people will generally choose more sustainable products and solutions, **Annika Lindblom**, director of international affairs for Finland's Ministry of the Environment, said people will use circular options only if they are cheap and easy to use. **Balakrishna Pisupati**, the head of UNEP India, concurred, saying that if reuse takes five steps and disposal takes one, disposal will always win. Governments and businesses must create systems to enable people to choose circular options.

Attendees learned of Mission LiFE, an Indian-led global grass-roots initiative to help individual and community environmental action. Mission LiFE and other movements are using community engagement, digital tools and advertising to encourage behavioural changes and more sustainable lifestyles. When people demand more sustainable options, companies are encouraged to provide better solutions and governments are asked to write better laws, but the process must be one of collaboration and partnership.

It is critical for the circular transition to be just, such as the recognition, protection and fair compensation for workers engaged in resource recovery and reuse. Brazil, Colombia and South Africa have made great strides in integrating informal workers into their systems. India has developed good rural employment programmes, women's collectives and entrepreneurship schemes to improve circular activity.

"Circularity will only be truly sustainable if it is also inclusive."



ISABELLE TSCHAN
Deputy Resident Representative (India),
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

People need reskilling and training to provide the specific skills circular solutions need. Experts explained how circularity should be taught very early in education, and programmes should be developed to provide qualified technical and vocational education for older students. Continuous learning is essential. International collaboration to make use of regional expertise is also useful, such as Europe's experience in formal training and India's tradition of repairing products.

Empowering citizens for circular lifestyles was also a topic for supporting WCEF events, such as the WCEF2026 Ethiopia Studio. Hosted by the Africa Circular Economy Network (ACEN) Ethiopia Chapter and Reach for Change Ethiopia in Addis Ababa, this event brought young circular entrepreneurs together with policymakers and development partners. Half of the participants were young entrepreneurs working on circular businesses, alongside representatives from Ethiopia's Environmental Protection Authority and the Finnish and Netherlands embassies. The four other WCEF studios covered several of the forum topics in Argentina, Costa Rica, Italy and the Netherlands.



"The circular economy is not only the environmental concept, but also the economic and development opportunity."



SARI MULTALA
Minister of Climate and Environment, Finland

Circularity as a tool to boost the economy and job creation

The circular economy has excellent potential to improve economic growth. One soon-to-be-released study suggested there are 18 million jobs in the circular economy in India alone. There is considerable circular work embedded in the informal sector, including collecting, repair, second-hand sales and material reclamation. Participants examined efforts from Brazil, Columbia and South Africa in integrating informal waste workers into municipal systems.

Experts pointed out that the number of jobs created is important, but we must also make sure the work is meaningful and the benefits shared fairly. To be successful, the circular transition must protect worker dignity, livelihood and health.

Women's organisations and community groups can improve the functioning and maintenance of circular systems. Enabling schemes can improve financial inclusion, women's entrepreneurship, skills and self-confidence. The Kudumbashree model in Kerala was highlighted as an illustration of a successful women's collective.

Financing the circular transition

One of the largest barriers to the circular transition is the lack of financial resources, which is a perennial topic at the forum. Universally, the experts agreed that it is crucial to mobilise private capital, which itself is often hindered by an absence of functioning markets and economically viable projects. Sometimes young companies in new industries are simply too risky for conventional investors. Blended finance, guarantees, co-lending, technical assistance and risk-sharing techniques are useful tools, as well as policy incentives such as EPR mandates.

Participants studied some initiatives already in operation, such as the IFC and World Bank's Harmonized circular economy finance guidelines, the IFC circular economy investment tracker, UNEP Finance Initiative's Circular economy nature nexus initiative and EU CERC's newly-published circular finance stories. Finnish delegates discussed their plan to invest EUR 120 million into a blended finance programme for sustainable development in developing countries, which was announced at the forum.

Governance and policies

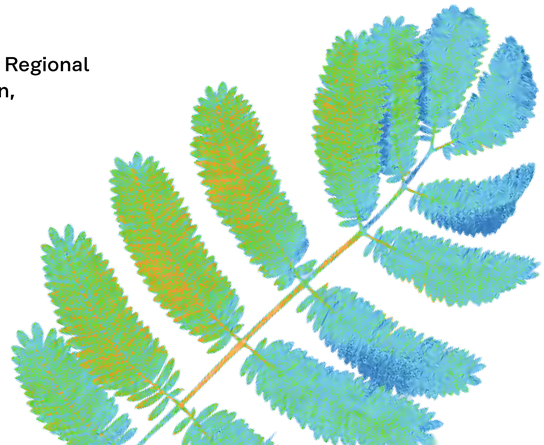
Government policies can improve the chances for young circular businesses. Demand certainty as well as reliable access to quality secondary materials is critical for circular businesses to thrive. Public procurement can address low demand for circular products, for example, while ecolabels can provide better product information to consumers and give companies a worthy way to advertise.

The forum brought together European policy perspectives with those from India, Thailand and other regions, sharing examples of applied policy instruments for ecodesign. Different types of instruments are needed in the policy mix driving product ecodesign, from mandatory minimum market entry requirements to voluntary instruments adopted by companies, as well as standards.

EU CERC organised two workshops on Digital Product Passports (DPPs) and ecodesign, as well as an EU-India partnership and matchmaking programme for corporate representatives, focusing on battery value chains and electronics.

"In the EU, we see circularity not as an end in itself but as a means to three important objectives: competitiveness, resilience and the environment. Our next major step is the Circular Economy Act, which the European Commission will adopt in the next few weeks."

DAVOR PERCAN
Head of Unit, Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation, European Commission



Policies can also help with formal recognition of circular solutions as industries in their own right, to improve access to finance and improve visibility. Circular innovation programmes are also a great tool.

Circular road maps can help policymakers ideate and implement long-term plans. One example from Kenya showed how industry associations could lead the way in economic strategy and implementation plans. This is probably unique, as normally such road maps are created by public institutions.

There is a need for better alignment of existing regulations within and between countries to reduce compliance costs. Critically, the circular transition does not only need the right policies, but real implementation and enforcement of those regulations.

Several accelerator sessions examined textiles, which is a good example of an industry which needs policies to support the business case for more sustainable products. Proper policies can include recycled-content requirements, procurement measures, ERP and other incentives to help create more predictable demand for recycled fibres.

Urban and rural circularity

India is a nation of great cities as well as rural areas, so it proved to be the perfect place to learn about circular solutions for different types of communities. While localised circular solutions can be very different between rural and urban areas, they still complement and support each other. Experts stressed the emphasis should be on



"Circular business only grows when we set a predictable regulatory regime in place. That is why we felt the need to put in place the EPR mechanism with clear regulations and registration framework. It provides regulatory certainty and it also stimulates the market and reduces investment risk."

MOLU WATO
Director, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Kenya

integrated circular economy models. For example, rural regions can provide resources that are useful in urban markets. Infrastructure such as roads help move raw materials between urban and rural communities.

Cities increasingly function as hubs of materials and resources. Cities can therefore move beyond waste management and instead concentrate on urban resource system management, including materials, water, energy, infrastructure and finance.

Cities already have an extensive infrastructure for the informal recovery of materials. One expert, **Siddharth Hande**, CEO of Kabadiwalla Connect, pointed out that Chennai alone had about 2,000 "scrap shops", or small reuse and recycling businesses. The concept of "urban mining" was popularised at WCEF2026, such as gathering valuable materials from old electronic devices used by city dwellers. Global problems can be solved by local solutions.

Agricultural waste presents great opportunities, but bio-based materials are not automatically sustainable. They must take into account biodiversity, land-use pressure, water availability and planetary boundaries. Still, biomaterials can become productive inputs for energy, chemicals, materials and industrial applications. Circular and bioeconomy strategies can reinforce each other. Experts explained that we need to prioritise higher-value applications of biomass waste, such as re-use as materials before they are burned for energy recovery.

Experts explained the importance of including local communities and institutions at the village level in the planning and managing of circular initiatives. They can help apply local resources and climate-friendly construction techniques to construction and development projects.

The costs and benefits of AI

AI currently dominates nearly every technological discussion, and the circular economy is no exception. AI can strengthen the circular loop. Some experts explained how AI can be used to help identify, trace, maintain, reuse, re-manufacture and recycle products and materials more efficiently. Much of this is down to better analysis of data.

The automotive sector was used as an example of successful integration of machine learning in value chains, including the growing end-of-life vehicle ecosystem. AI can support tracing vehicles and components, predictive maintenance, battery health analytics, automated sorting and dismantling and integrated vehicle-scrapping schemes.

> *"The challenge is global, but teamwork begins locally and grows globally."*

PRAVINBHAI MALI
Minister of State for Forest and Environment, Climate Change, and Transport, Government of Gujarat



However, AI infrastructure, including semiconductors, servers, critical materials and electronic waste, desperately needs more circular solutions. In particular, datacentres' enormous use of energy and water is a pressing problem.

Partnerships and collaborations

Successful circular innovation often depends on cooperation among research institutions, businesses, governments, investors and international partners. Innovation alone will only provide limited benefits. Circularity needs efficient and functioning systems, including collection processes, supply chains, regulations, procurement procedures and markets.

To improve the economic potential of circular solutions, experts stressed the need to improve international collaboration and trade, to share technologies, equipment, investments and best practices. Global trade agreements, such as the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, help make it possible for businesses to share ideas. A divergence in regulations across countries will hinder businesses, particularly SMEs.

"A circular economy is not only a system of materials, it is also a system of information."



ADITI SINGH
Director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), India

Experts from India, Finland, Brazil and Vietnam explained how industrial symbiosis works in their countries to turn a by-product from one industry into a raw material for another. One example was JSW Cement, who has 80% of their product portfolio as blended cement using materials from collaborators in other industries.

Gitanjali Vats of Unilever pointed out that we can design products and services for collaboration across the entire value chain. Collaborations also play a crucial role in product development, scaling and successfully solving technical and financial challenges.

Energy in the sustainable transition

The circular transition is coupled to the adoption of renewable energy, and the two themes are closely interconnected. For example, India's rapidly expanding solar power sector is estimated to deliver 600 kilotons of waste by 2030, which will need to find a new life via repair, refurbishment and recycling. Similarly, the huge expansion of EVs and energy storage technologies has made the critical materials used in batteries an economic and national security issue.

“Circular economy is a huge national security opportunity, and I think we should harness it.”



SUMAN CHANDRA
Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India

Designing renewable energy technologies for second lives is the next step. Experts explained that in the future, value creation of new energy production and storage will depend on modularity, repairability, traceability and second-life applications.

Experts showed how circularity is being added to other types of energy production. For example, coal ash used to be waste but today is being used as an input to cement and construction materials and is currently being studied for use in agriculture.

The infrastructure behind renewable energy is also becoming more circular and sustainable. Solar panels today use 70-90% less silicon and silver than in the 1990s. Current solar recycling technologies can recover about 90% of the materials in PV panels. However, solar panels are not necessarily designed for repairability or material recovery, so improvements in ecodesign are necessary.

“Without collaboration, we can talk about circularity, but we’re not going to be able to really scale it up.”



AKANSHA TYAGI
Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Act now

The experts at WCEF were clear that we urgently needed to act now. WCEF is a place for action, to make alliances and work for our collective future. The successful transition to the circular economy needs coordinated action from governments, businesses, NGOs and citizens.

A key conclusion from the forum is that waste prevention and circularity begins in the idea and design phase, long before products are manufactured. ERP is a fundamental part of this concept.

The participants also acknowledged that people may approach circularity with diverse goals. For example, circularity can be a policy to boost economic growth, reduce inequality in society, protect biodiversity or secure critical raw materials.

"Now the hard work starts."
Amandeep Garg, Chairman,
Central Pollution Control Board

What's next

Official WCEF side events continue to occur throughout the year. The next annual forum, WCEF2027 will take place in New York City from 8–11 June 2027. Stay up-to-date by subscribing to the newsletter!

"Circularity is not just an environment agenda anymore, but an economic and industrial one. In the future, the most competitive economies will be those who retain the value best. Over the past decade, the WCEF has helped move the circular economy into the mainstream of economic, industrial and business policy."

MIKKO KIVIKOSKI
Ambassador, Embassy of Finland in New Delhi



PROGRAMME

WCEF2026 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

15 September
Tuesday

9:30	10:30	11:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	15:30	16:30	17:30	18:30
Registration	Opening ceremony	India's circular economy vision	Break, Expo & Networking	Empowering citizens for circular lifestyles (Mission LiFE)	Lunch, Networking & Expo	Employment potential in the circular economy	Break, Expo & Networking	Governance framework for the circular economy	Cultural programme, tea and refreshments
				Circular value chains for metals and industrial materials		Circularity in energy production			
				Circularity in urban governance: Transforming resource systems		Closing the loop: Advancing circularity in plastic waste management			
				Application of AI: Next-gen tech for a circular economy		Financing circular growth: Mobilising private capital			

16 September
Wednesday

9:30	10:30	11:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	15:30	16:30	17:30	18:30
Registration	From material dependency to material security: Circular strategies for critical raw materials	Break, Expo & Networking	Inclusive circular economy and growth	Lunch, Networking & Expo		Skills and reskilling for circular industries	Break, Expo & Networking	Catalysts of change: Youth leadership and innovations in the circular economy	Break	Closing ceremony
			Circular economy value chains in the textile sector			Circular solutions and business models in ICT and electronics industries				
			Ecodesign for sustainable products and a circular economy			Circular bioeconomy: From biomass to value-added products				
			Waste as a resource: Industrial symbiosis as an engine of circular growth			Start-up ecosystems for a circular economy				

17 September
Thursday

ACCELERATOR SESSIONS

18 September
Friday

ACCELERATOR SESSIONS



KEY FIGURES

KEY FIGURES: BY 7 OCTOBER 2026

DAYS

2+2

Days 3+4 were for Accelerator Sessions by partners

SESSIONS

20+2+*75*

4 Plenaries
16 Parallels

2 Extras

75 Accelerators

SPEAKERS

161

30.3% female
69.7% male
0% gender diverse
0% prefer not to say

SIDE EVENTS

18 from 1 to 30 Sept

SIDE EVENTS TOTAL

47 from January to September

PARTICIPANTS ON DAYS 1+2

3.6 K in Gandhinagar

+

19.8 K online views

*ACCELERATOR PARTICIPANTS**

3.8 K

on days 3+4
0.8 K in person
3.0 K online

BUSINESS REPS BY REGISTRATION

20%

COUNTRIES BY REGISTRATION

63

GENDER BALANCE

20.2% female
79.1% male
0% gender diverse
0.7% prefer not to say

REGISTRATIONS BY CONTINENT

3 406 Asia
152 Europe
27 Africa
14 South America
11 North America
4 Australia/Oceania
0 Antarctica

* feedback received from 26 (of total 75 sessions)
Sources: Youtube and WCEF partners

KEY FIGURES

KEY FIGURES: GEOGRAPHIC BY REGISTRATION*

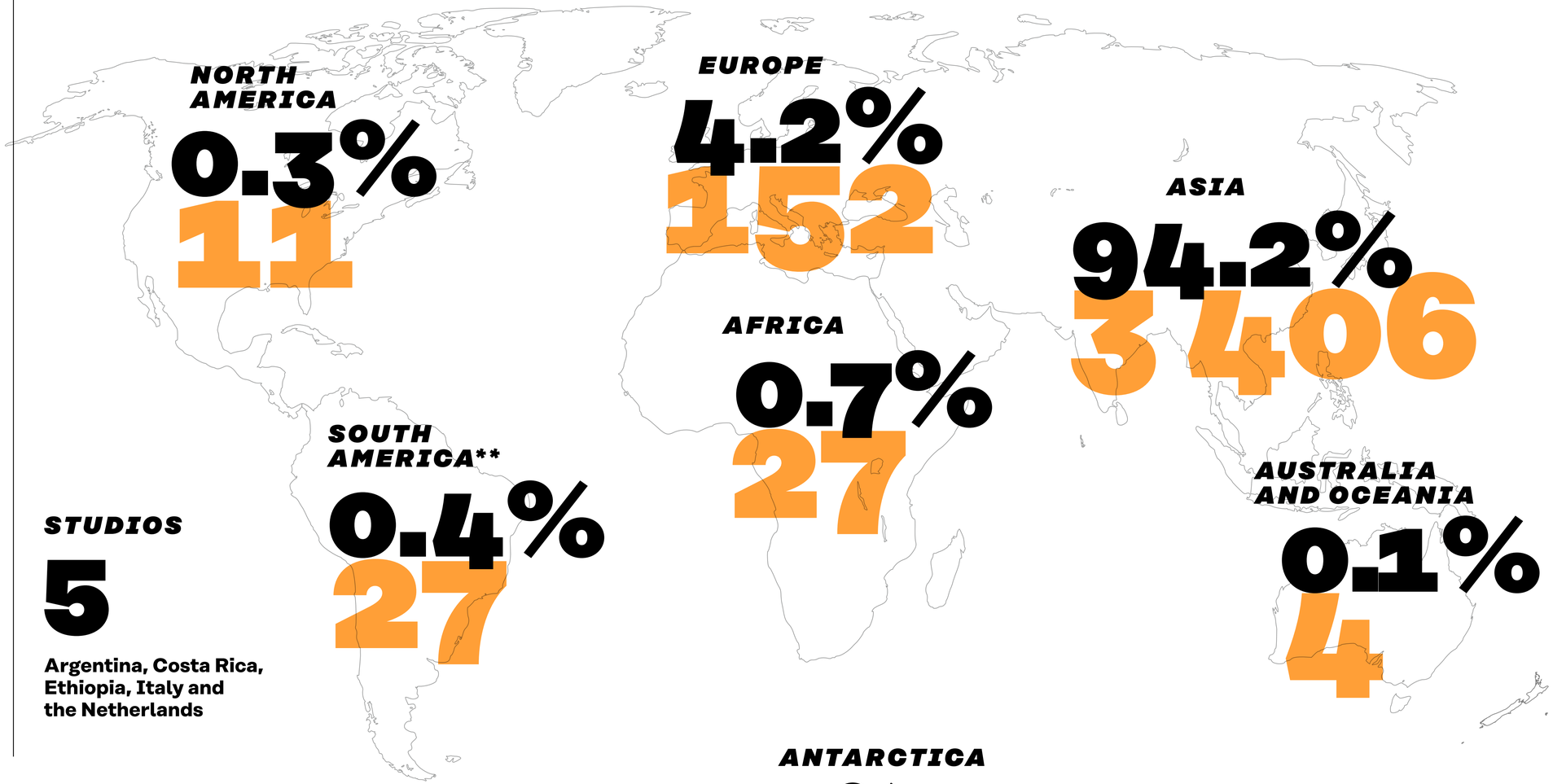
COUNTRIES

63

TOP-10 COUNTRIES

India	3 352
Finland	44
Netherlands	22
Germany	11
Vietnam	11
Austria	9
Indonesia	9
Thailand	9
Belgium	8
Brazil	8

REGISTRATIONS BY CONTINENT*



NORTH AMERICA
0.3%
11

EUROPE
4.2%
152

ASIA
94.2%
3 406

AFRICA
0.7%
27

SOUTH AMERICA**
0.4%
27

AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA
0.1%
4

ANTARCTICA
0%

STUDIOS
5

Argentina, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Italy and the Netherlands

*total number of registrants: **3 614**
+ thousands more in WCEF Studios and in Accelerator Sessions on days 3+4

** including Central America and the Caribbean

Source: CPCB

KEY FIGURES

KEY FIGURES: SOCIAL MEDIA #WCEF2026 - ALL CHANNELS IN SEPTEMBER 2026

OVERALL REACH

216.3 M

MENTIONS

4.2 K

ENGAGEMENT RATE

10%





ORGANISERS

HOSTS

CPCB

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

GPCB

सत्यमेव जयते
गुजरात सरकार
Government of Gujarat

FINNISH GOVERNMENT

SITRA

PARTNERS

CIRCLE ECONOMY

CII
Confederation of Indian Industry

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Enabel

EUROPEAN UNION

EXPERTISE FRANCE
GROUPE AFD

Government of the Netherlands

ICCE
International Council For Circular Economy

International Resource Panel

MRAI
MATERIAL RECYCLING ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Voice of the Indian Recycling Industry

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

National Institute of Urban Affairs

Nordic Circular Hotspot

Nordic Innovation

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition

UNDP

UN environment programme

UNIDO
UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

WORLD BANK GROUP
THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA
IFC International Finance Corporation

WBCSD World Business Council for Sustainable Development

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

TIMELINE

PAST AND FUTURE EVENT TIMELINE

2016
FINNISH NATIONAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROAD MAP



2017
HELSINKI, FINLAND

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2017

2018
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2018

2019
HELSINKI, FINLAND

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2019

2020
ONLINE, GLOBAL



2021
ONLINE & THE NETHERLANDS



2021
ONLINE FROM TORONTO, CANADA

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2020

2022
KIGALI, RWANDA

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2022

2023
HELSINKI, FINLAND

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2023

2024
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2024

2025
SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2025

2026
GANDHINAGAR, INDIA

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2026

2027
NEW YORK, USA

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2027

