



Country Report - Colombia

Colombia National Training on Circular Economy Indicators, February 2025

under the European Commission funded project on Enhancing countries' capacity for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy, 2024-2026

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1. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development and its monitoring. The UN Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 5/11 (2022) on Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production invites Member States to integrate circular economy approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans. In this regard, the UNECE Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy, formed of international, regional and national organizations, developed the statistical framework intended to be the international statistical framework used to measure the progress of countries in their transition to a circular economy.

This project aims to build capacity to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy in the context of sustainable development at different levels. Enhancing institutional technical capacities to regularly produce circular economy and waste datasets is imperative to inform and develop evidence-based policies. The project focuses on various Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and others related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (material footprint, domestic material consumption, circular material use rate, material productivity), waste (municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, national recycling rate, food waste and loss), water (water stress, pollutants discharge to water bodies) and emissions (greenhouse gas emissions).

Newly developed tools were used to assist in the compilation of the data necessary to calculate the above-mentioned indicators. These tools are formed of (i) Excel spreadsheets containing detailed variables that are calculated together to generate the value of indicators, and (ii) step-by-step documents to guide government officials on filling the Excel spreadsheets.

2. General training information

The training was held at the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) between 10 and 21 February 2025. The training was attended by 45 participants, 69% were females and 31% were males. Participants attending the training are government officials from National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINAMBIENTE), the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), and the Superintendency of Public Utilities (SUPERSERVICIOS). The training was held in-person and virtual for participants that were not able to attend physically.

28 participants attended the sessions on sustainable consumption and production indicators including the following indicators: Material footprint (SDG indicator 8.4.1/12.2.1), Domestic material consumption (SDG indicator 8.4.2/12.2.2), Circular material use rate, Material productivity.

26 participants attended the sessions on water indicators including Water stress (SDG indicator 6.4.2) and Wastewater (SDG indicator 6.3.1).

22 participants attended the sessions on waste indicators including Municipal solid waste (SDG 11.6.1), Hazardous waste (SDG indicator 12.4.2), National recycling rate (SDG indicator 12.5.1) and Food waste and loss (SDG indicator 12.3.1).

3. Key Observations and recommendations

Circular economy themes, i.e. material flows, domestic extraction, waste and water are areas covered by current data collection practices in Colombia. Collaboration between various entities exist and are expected to be strengthened. Robust review and validation are undertaken to ensure that any disseminated data is according to methodologies and guidelines adopted by DANE. Although some challenges persist (technical and coordination), participating institutions are eager to push forward with closing the information gaps.

Participants came prepared to the training, showcasing what and how they collect and analyse data related to measuring circular economy. In addition to this, participants were encouraged to share the challenges they face at any point of the data collection, validation or analysis.

The sessions were very interactive. The format of the training, being a hands-on training, allowed participants to directly apply what is presented and raise any concern or challenge they might face during implementation.

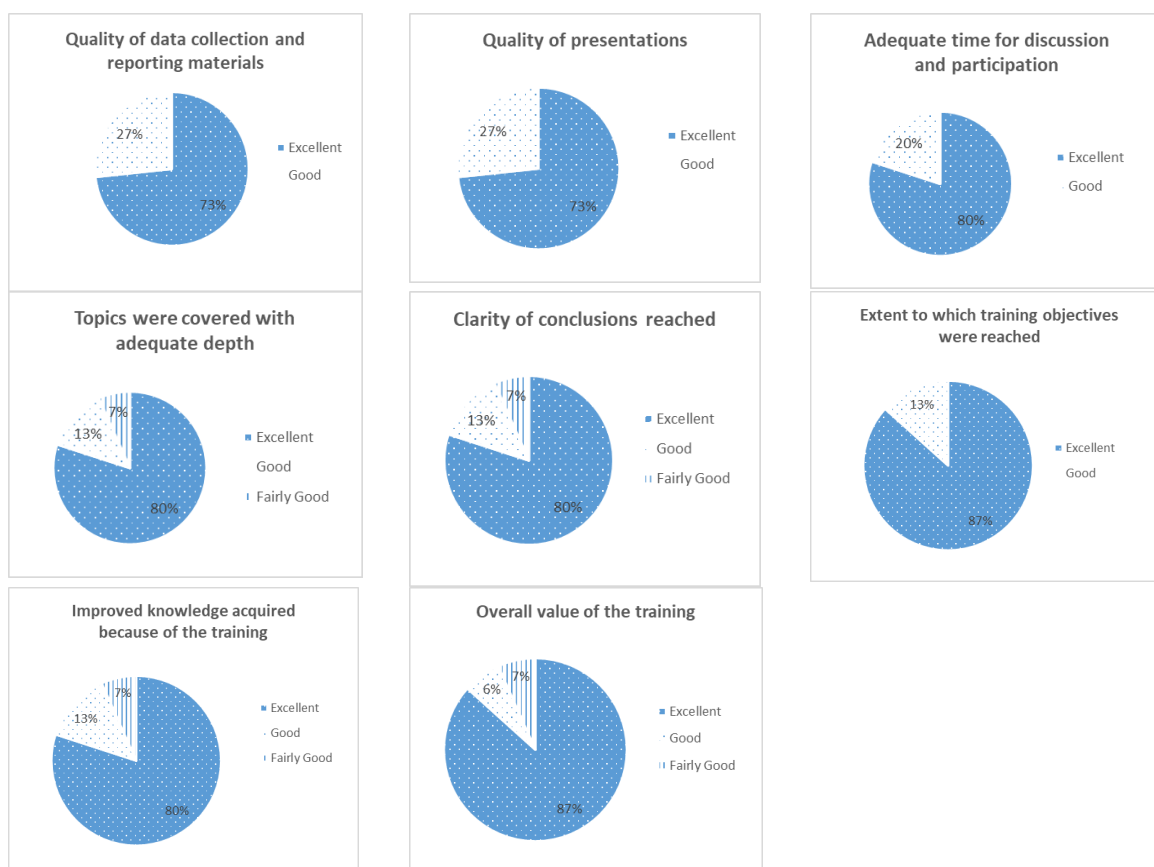
Colombia is institutionally committed to advancing the measurement of circular economy, with numerous emerging initiatives in the field. Colombia government officials are working on building circular economy accounts, derived from the System of Environmental Economic Accounting and expressed interest in receiving technical support for completing this work in addition to building Sankey diagram for circular economy. In addition to building the accounts, government officials are working on developing a circular economy policy that can be assessed by indicators and data.

4. Training Evaluation

Quality of technical material

Fifteen participants responded to the survey of the training, which was available online for two weeks. On average, 73% of respondents evaluated excellent the quality of data collection and reporting technical documents and presentations, 80% rated excellent the time allocated for discussion and participation, the depth of covered topics as well as acquired improved knowledge as a result of the training. 80% evaluated excellent the clarity of reached conclusions and 87% rated excellent the extent to which training objectives were reached and the overall value of the training.

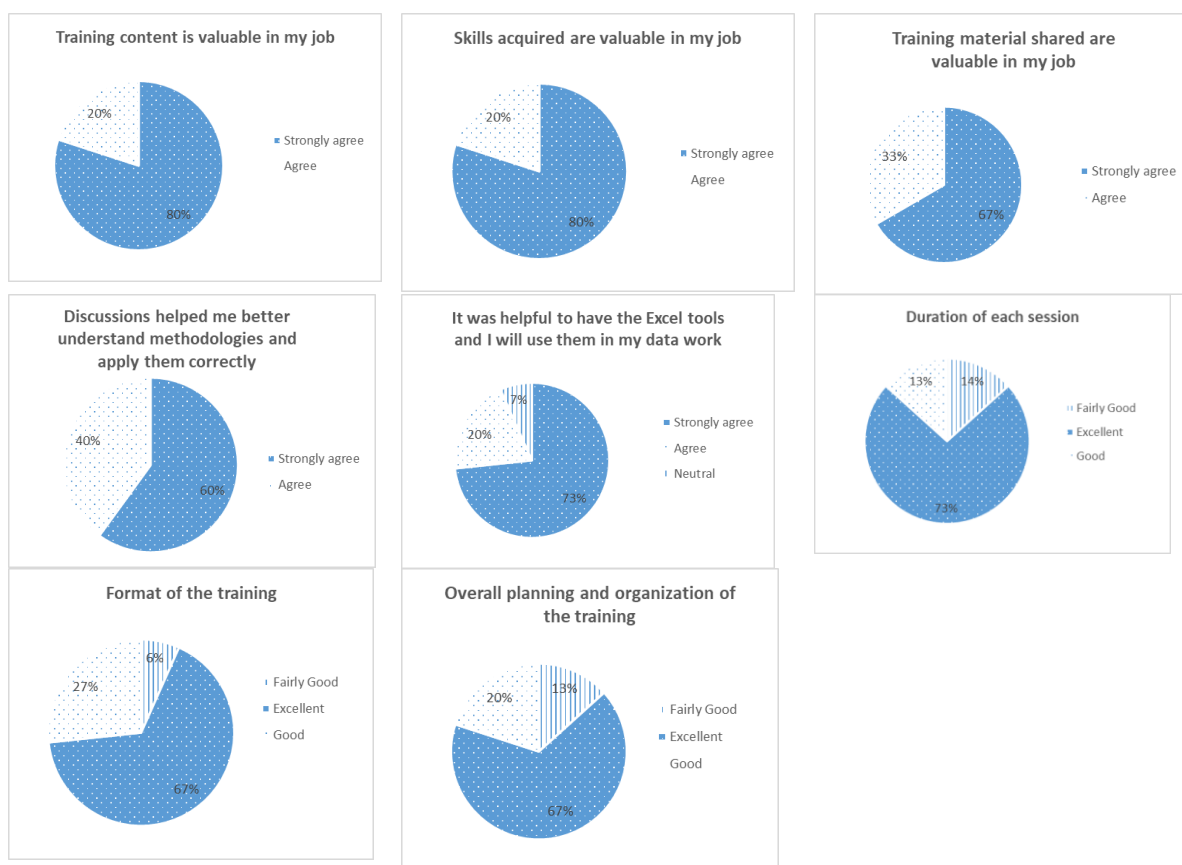
Additional comments received related to (a) the usefulness of data collection materials to the technical teams in charge of statistical production, (b) the high relevance of the material to the discussed topics, (c) the clarity, dynamism and explanations provided by the trainer and (d) the request to provide material that will allow for Sankey diagrams development.



Content and conduct of the presentations

Eighty percent of respondents strongly agreed the training content as well as the skills acquired are valuable to their job, 67% strongly agreed that training material is valuable to their job, 60% strongly agreed that discussions helped them to better understand the methodologies and how to correctly apply them and 70% strongly agreed that Excel tools were helpful and will use them in their data work. In relation to the organizational aspect, 73% rated excellent the duration of each session, 67% rated excellent the format of the training while 67% rated excellent the overall planning and organization of the training.

Additional comments from respondents were related to (a) the importance of strengthening the institutional capacities to measure circular economy to the National Administrative Department of Statistics, (b) the need for more time to cover the full scope of the information, (c) the flexibility of the training to provide insights into the ability to work with existing data, make assumptions, and work with official data, (d) the possibility to expand to other topics of environmental interest, (e) how the training expanded respondents understanding and importance of the produced and published results, and (f) the need to provide more focused information and space for handling waste data (import and export, meaning and validity of data, reinforcing the statistical estimation methods to establish proxies, tariffs including waste and the relationship with economy-wide material accounts).



Organization of the training

Respondents were grateful for the flexibility in the development of the topics and how they were tailored to the country's needs, hoped for further trainings on circular economy indicators beyond the covered indicators and improved infrastructure for virtual attendees.

5. Technical materials

List of participants

NAME	EMAIL	INSTITUTION
Adrian Orjuela	aoeljuelac@dane.gov.co	DANE
Adriana Zapata	azapata@ideam.gov.co	IDEAM
Ana María Bernal	ambernalv@ideam.gov.co	IDEAM
Ana Patricia Chávez Mora	apchavez@ideam.gov.co	IDEAM
Andrea Camila Pereira	acpereira@dane.gov.co	DANE
Angie Katherine Roncancio Sánchez	ARoncancio@minambiente.gov.co	MINAMBIENTE
Ariadna Yolanda Caro Garcia	aycarog@dane.gov.co	DANE
Camila Andrea Caceres Hernandez	cacaceresh@dane.gov.co	DANE

Carolina Grajales	dgrajales@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Christian David Torres	cdtorresg@dane.gov.co	DANE
Cindy Juliette Aldana Hernandez	cjaldanah@minambiente.gov.co	MINAMBIENTE
Claudia Tetay	cbotia@ideam.gov.co	IDEAM
Daniela Camelo	dcamello@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Daniela Maria Bernal Escobar	dbernal@ideam.gov.co	VIRTUAL - IDEAM
Eliana Paez	epaez@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Germán Dario Fajardo	gdfajardob@dane.gov.co	DANE
Jeffer Cañón Hernández	jcanon@ideam.gov.co	VIRTUAL - IDEAM
Jenny Paola Marin Salazar	jpmarin@ideam.gov.co	VIRTUAL - IDEAM
Jorge Martelo	jmartelo@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Jose Luis Sanabria Salazar	jlsanabrias@dane.gov.co	DANE
José Manuel Rincon	jmrinconv@minambiente.gov.co	VIRTUAL - MINAMBIENTE
Laydy Tatiana Garcia	tgarcia@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Leonardo Alfredo Pineda Pardo	lapineda@ideam.gov.co	VIRTUAL - IDEAM
Lina Alejandra Obando Estupiñan	lobando@ideam.gov.co	VIRTUAL - IDEAM
Lina Barrios Bohorquez	labarriosb@dane.gov.co	DANE
Margarita Maria Lopera Mesa	mmloperam@dane.gov.co	DANE
María Alejandra Guerrero	maleguerrerror@gmail.com	MINAMBIENTE
María del Pilar Sanchez	mpsanchez@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Maria Isabel Jaimes	mijaimea@dane.gov.co	DANE
María José de la Ossa	MJOssaH@minambiente.gov.co	VIRTUAL - MINAMBIENTE
María Victoria Escobar	mvescobarm@dane.gov.co	VIRTUAL - DANE
Marlon Jaramillo	mjaramilloz@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Natalia Madrid	nmadrid@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Natalia Marcela Fresneda	nmfresnedag@dane.gov.co	DANE
Nelson Anillo	Nanillo@minambiente.gov.co	MINAMBIENTE
Paola Andrea Acevedo Ramirez	paacevedor@dane.gov.co	DANE
Ronald Cifuentes	rcifuentes@ideam.gov.co	IDEAM
Slendy Katalina Diaz Mendez	SKDiaz@minambiente.gov.co	VIRTUAL - MINAMBIENTE
Victor Andrés Arevalo (ODS)	vaarevaloc@dane.gov.co	DANE

Victoria Eugenia Arias Duarte	veariasd@dane.gov.co	DANE
Viviam Lucia Robayo Mayorga	vlrobayom@dane.gov.co	DANE
Viviana Castro	vecastrol@dane.gov.co	DANE
Willy Zambrano	wzambrano@superservicios.gov.co	SUPERSERVICIOS
Yuleidy Orjuela	yorjuelac@ideam.gov.co	VIRTUAL - IDEAM
Yury Murcia	yjmurciad@minambiente.gov.co	MINAMBIENTE

Agenda

Semana del 10 al 14 de febrero de 2025	
Lunes 10 febrero 2025	
Sesión 1: Apertura e introducción	
09:30 – 10:30	Presentación del proyecto, objetivos de la capacitación y presentación de los materiales.
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	Presentación DANE sobre estadísticas y cuentas ambientales en Colombia. Instituciones involucradas. Fuentes de datos. Presentación sobre avances realizados por el DANE en Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales. Fuentes de datos. Datos disponibles.
12:30 – 14:00	Almuerzo
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales (parte 1)
15:10 – 15:20	Break
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
Martes 11 febrero 2025	
Sesión 2: CFM	
09:30 – 10:30	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales (parte 2)
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
12:30 – 14:00	Almuerzo
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
15:10 – 15:20	Break
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
Miércoles 12 febrero 2025	
Sesión 3: Residuos Sólidos	
09:30 – 10:30	Presentación sobre avances realizados por el DANE en generación y tratamiento de residuos sólidos. Cuentas y estadísticas. Fuentes de datos. Datos disponibles.
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre residuos sólidos
12:30 – 14:00	Almuerzo
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre residuos sólidos
15:10 – 15:20	Break
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre residuos sólidos
Jueves 13 febrero 2025	

Sesión 4: Estrés Hídrico	
09:30 – 10:30	Presentación sobre avances realizados por el DANE en relación con el recurso hídrico y la generación y tratamiento de aguas residuales. Cuentas y estadísticas. Fuentes de datos. Datos disponibles.
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre estrés hídrico
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Almuerzo</i>
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre estrés hídrico
15:10 – 15:20	<i>Break</i>
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre estrés hídrico
Viernes 14 febrero 2025	
Sesión 5: Cuentas de Flujo de Materiales	
09:30 – 10:30	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales (parte 3)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Almuerzo</i>
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
15:10 – 15:20	<i>Break</i>
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales

Semana 17 al 21 de febrero de 2025	
Lunes 17 febrero 2025	
Sesión 6: Indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales	
09:30 – 10:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales (parte 1)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Almuerzo</i>
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales
15:10 – 15:20	<i>Break</i>
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales
Martes 18 febrero 2025	
Sesión 7: Indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales	
09:30 – 10:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales (parte 2)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Almuerzo</i>
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales
15:10 – 15:20	<i>Break</i>
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con Flujos de Materiales
Miércoles 19 febrero 2025	
Sesión 8: Residuos Sólidos	
09:30 – 10:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con residuos sólidos

10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con residuos sólidos
12:30 – 14:00	Almuerzo
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con residuos sólidos
15:10 – 15:20	Break
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con residuos sólidos
Jueves 20 febrero 2025	
Sesión 9: Estrés Hídrico y Pérdidas de alimentos	
09:30 – 10:30	Presentación sobre avances realizados por el DANE en relación con la medición de las pérdidas de alimentos. Estadísticas. Fuentes de datos. Datos disponibles.
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con las pérdidas de alimentos.
12:30 – 14:00	Almuerzo
14:00 – 15:10	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con el estrés hídrico
15:10 – 15:20	Break
15:20 – 16:00	Trabajo sobre indicadores relacionados con el estrés hídrico
Viernes 21 febrero 2025	
Sesión 10: Cuentas de Flujo de Materiales	
09:30 – 10:30	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales (parte 4)
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Trabajo sobre Cuentas de Flujos de Materiales
12:00 – 13:00	Cierre de la capacitación – próximos pasos

Photos





