



# Chapter 2

## A Policy Framework for Enabling Circular Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies: The Case of Lebanon


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### ABSTRACT

*This chapter examines support mechanisms and policies for advancing circular entrepreneurship in Lebanon taking into account the country's economic, environmental, and infrastructural challenges hindering its development. Reflecting on comparative policy frameworks applied in countries such as Finland, the Netherlands, Scotland, and South Africa, key lessons are identified enabling a suggestion of a tailored roadmap relevant to the Lebanese context. The roadmap constitutes three phases along with a defined time frame for developing the essentials like policies, institutional coordination, and operational capacity, while highlighting the role of entrepreneurship, civil society, academia, and international actors in supporting*

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*the transition. The chapter also formulates performance metrics and monitoring frameworks while establishing mechanisms for accountability. It concludes by arguing that circular entrepreneurship is still showing high resilience and hope for economic regeneration despite all the constraints and limitations.*

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

The economic development model of circular entrepreneurship presents an alternative structure that moves away from resource-intensive systems to focus on sustainable regeneration. The circular entrepreneurship model diverges from traditional extraction-use-disposal methods by promoting business strategies that maintain material value while protecting ecosystems and supporting permanent economic and environmental stability (Geissdoerfer *et al.*, 2017). The strategic implementation of circular entrepreneurship serves as a development tool for low- and middle-income countries to achieve inclusive regenerative development while creating employment opportunities in areas with environmental degradation and economic instability (Ababio *et al.*, 2024).

There is significant untapped potential in promoting circular economy practices in several resource-constrained countries with limited infrastructure for applying this economic model. In Finland, circular economy practices have increased economic development, national cohesion, sustainability, and the feeling of collective ownership for development (Hinsa *et al.*, 2025). In the Netherlands, such practices improved material efficiency, promoted societal participation and cross-sector collaboration and spatial inclusivity (Block, 2019). In Scotland, sustainable practices led to synergy among public and private sectors and increased economic and environmental resilience (Haris *et al.*, 2024).

The economic situation of Lebanon makes it an ideal location to study circular entrepreneurship possibilities. Lebanon currently faces a multi-faceted crisis that combines economic breakdown, political stagnation, regular power outages, and unresolved waste management issues (World Bank, 2021b; UNDP, 2022). For instance, *the country grapples with a vulnerable banking system, a depreciated national currency, regulatory limitations, joblessness and brain drain, as well as electricity and water scarcities.* Despite these numerous obstacles, it still possesses an energetic entrepreneurial culture and well-educated young people, together with an extensive network of expatriates. These resources possess potential value, which can be maximized through strategic efforts to develop localized circular innovation. Some initiatives highlight the tendency towards green and circular entrepreneurship within the constrained ecosystem, lubricating the transition to circular entrepreneurship (Rosenbaum and Kehdy, 2022). In fact, the actual situation makes circular

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