

FACT SHEET

Social Impacts

Taking social responsibility along the supply chain will no longer be limited to a few pioneering enterprises, but become a regular business activity across industries. The upcoming European directive on Corporate sustainability due diligence will foster sustainable business practices that respect human rights inside and outside Europe. Circularity strategies of data servers can play an important role in reducing the social harm done in primary production and current informal recycling.



CEDaCI key findings

- Q** Primary production of IT hardware goes along with violating basic human rights, especially in the mining sector.
- Q** Informal recycling of electric and electronic waste from Europe is a relevant market in some areas of in some areas of northern and west Africa (especially Ghana) and responsible for many human rights violations, including child labour and hazardous working environments.
- Q** Further establishing formal recycling in regions with high informal sectors (e. g. Ghana) helps reduce human rights violations by providing economic alternatives to the workers.
- Q** Repairability, remanufacturing and extended product life time decrease demand for dangerous manual labour in mines and informal recycling yards, but do not provide alternatives to the people economically depending on such labour.
- Q** Both, closed- loop circularity in Europe and establishing safe formalised work outside of Europe should be pursued for socially sustainable value chains in the data centre industry.

Social Impact - Future role in Circular Economy:

Transparency in value chains should be achieved to clearly define the responsibilities of human rights violations.

Work closely with affected workers and communities to develop alternatives so that their quality of life actually improves.

A space for companies to collaboratively learn about and act upon improving working conditions in the mining sector should be established, as many SMEs are too small to act alone.