

## Appendix 2

# GAP analysis and analysis of circular economy country profiles – ECIV

Dalarna/NMS in collaboration with WSP

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# Contents

The purpose of this report is to show, and discuss, results from a compilation of existing GAP analyses in the nine ECIV regions, and on a European level.

- **Focus:** Identifying existing GAP analyses on a regional (& National) and European (& EU) level, and describing key insights. On the European level, GAP analyses for a number of strategic value chains are also included.

p. 3 – Point of Departure, Method & Sources

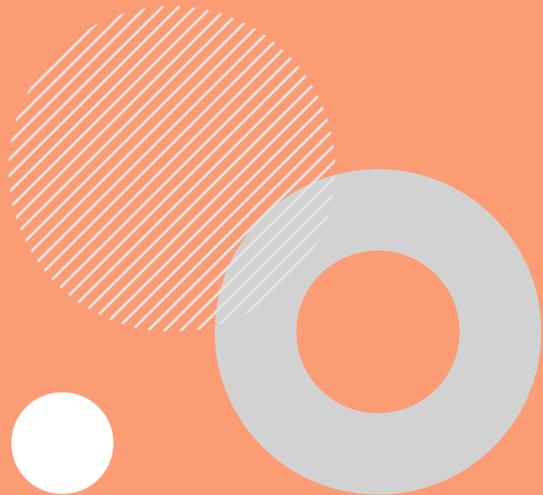
p. 7 – Summary of Key Observations

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# Point of Departure, Method & Sources

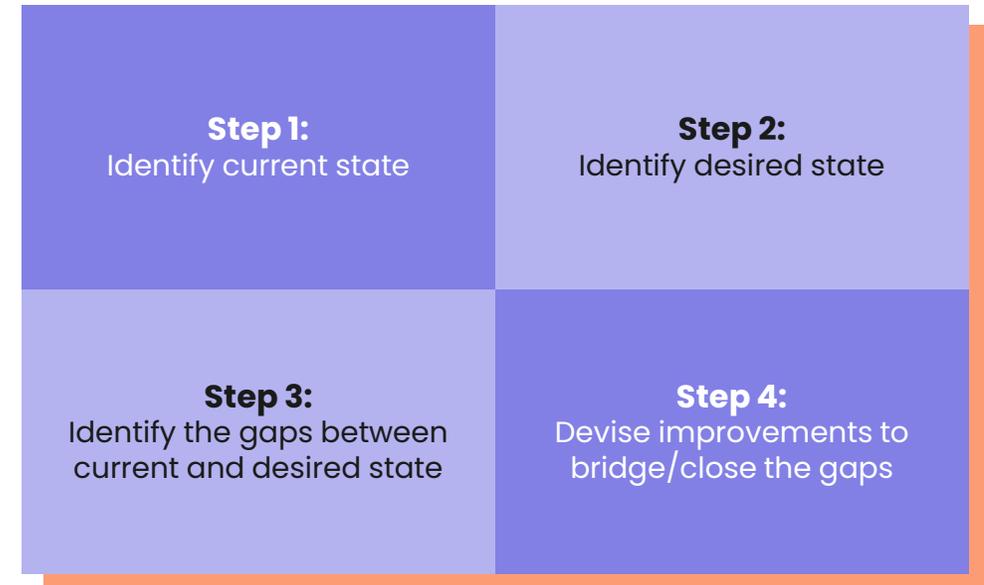


The following slides describe the point of departure, and method and sources, for the compilation of existing GAP analyses.

# Point of departure

A **GAP analysis** is a strategic tool used to compare a current state with a potential or desired state. It helps identify the differences (or “gaps”) between the two states, allowing to develop strategies to bridge them.

In our literature search, we have not been able to find existing GAP reports on circular economy for all nine regions. We have therefore also included other reports with similar content (elaborated on the next slide).



# Method & Sources

Two main sources have been used for the compilation of GAP analyses on the regional (& National) level:

**Circularity Gap Reports (CGR)** and **Circular Economy Profiles (EEA)**.

On a European (& EU) level, **reports and statistics from EEA** have mainly been used. For value chains on a European (& Global) level, sources include reports from the European Commission, the EU project RegioGreenTex and the One Planet network.

## CGR: Circularity Gap Reports

- provides a comprehensive GAP analysis, describing gaps between current and desired circularity with actions and policy recommendations
- published by the organization Circle Economy, which has been working since 2011 to promote a circular economy through research and collaboration

## EEA: Circular Economy Country Profile

- not GAP reports, but provide an overview of current state and the way forward, including national policies, best practices and data and statistics
- compiled by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Topic Centre on Circular Economy and Resource Use (ETC/CE)



Full GAP-reports



Country profiles

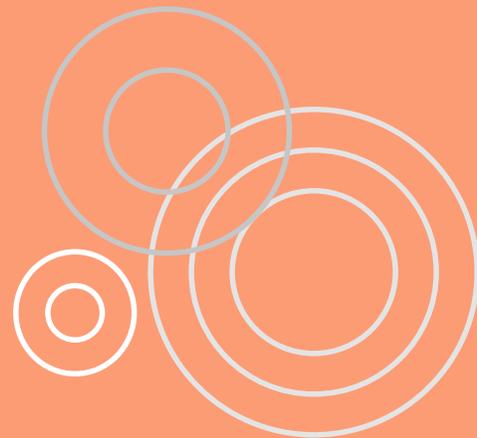


	North Middle Sweden	Helsinki-Uusimaa	Wallonia	Gabrovo	Normandy	Navarra	Scotland	Lithuania	Northern Netherlands	European level
CGR	<b>X</b>						<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<i>(global)</i>
EEA	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X*</b>

\* Not Circular Economy Profile on the EU level – but other EEA reports and statistics. Other sources have also been used on the European level, focusing on key value chains.



# Summary of Key Observations



The following slides summarize key observations from the GAP analyses, divided by:

- European (& EU) level
- Regional (& National) level

The key observations focus on current states, and strategies to reach desired states (broadly viewed as increased circularity).

Key sectors and themes in focus are also highlighted, on an overarching level.



# European (& EU) level

## Current State

- **Circularity Rate:** The EU is 11,8% circular (2023). Europe consumes a higher proportion of recycled materials than other world regions, but improvement has been slow in recent years. Meanwhile, material demand is projected to increase over the coming years.
- **Material Consumption:** For the EU economy to function in its current manner, more than 8 billion tonnes of material are used every year. 5 billion tonnes are used to cover needs/desires of EU citizens.
- **Resource Extraction:** 68% of 8 billion tonnes originates from natural resources extracted within the EU, including non-metallic minerals, biomass, fossil energy materials/carriers, and metal ores.
- **Policy Leadership:** The circular economy concept has gained political momentum in Europe. A comprehensive set of new circularity policies has been introduced at EU level, and national actions have intensified. Many nations are however at the early stages of implementation.

Figure 2. Circular material use rate by EU country

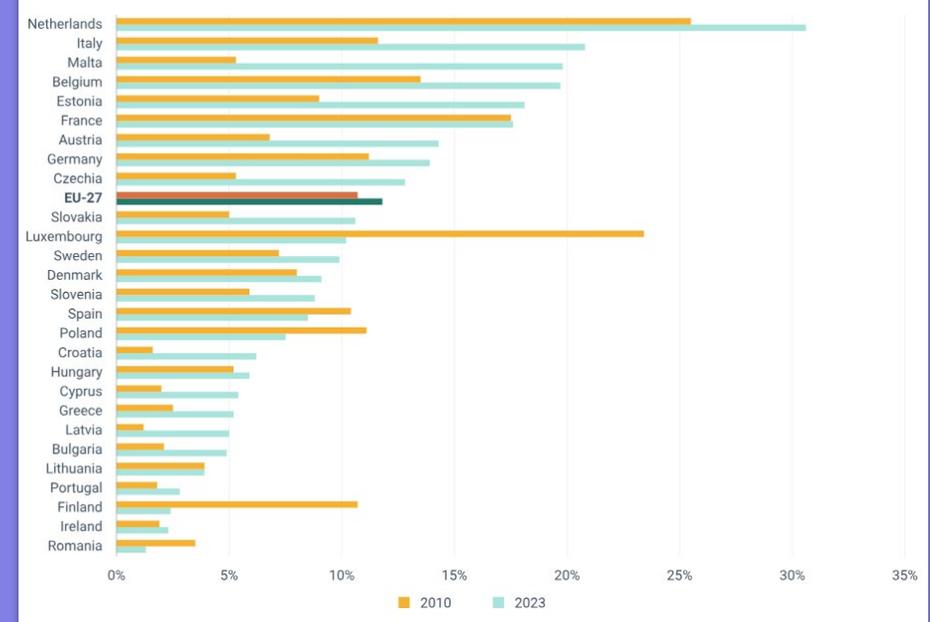
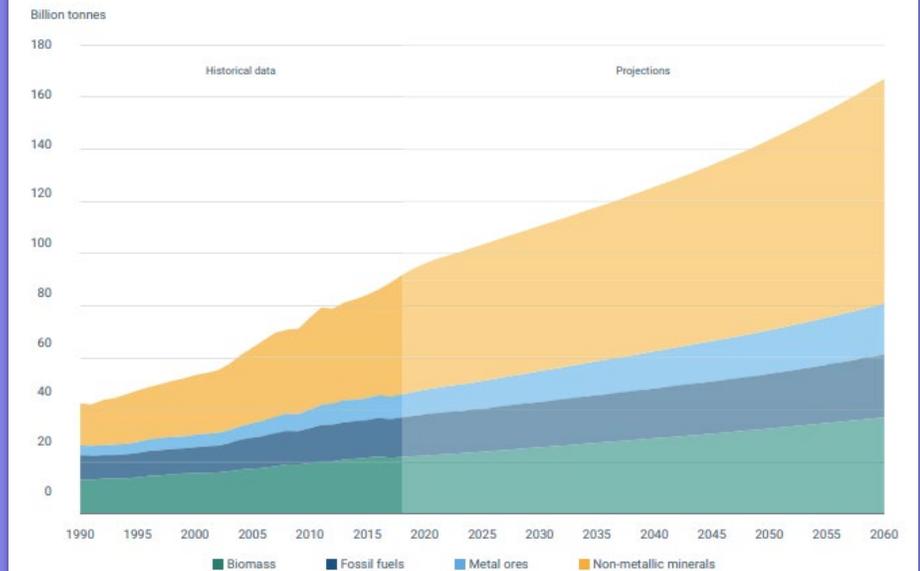


Figure 2.1 Global material use by resource type



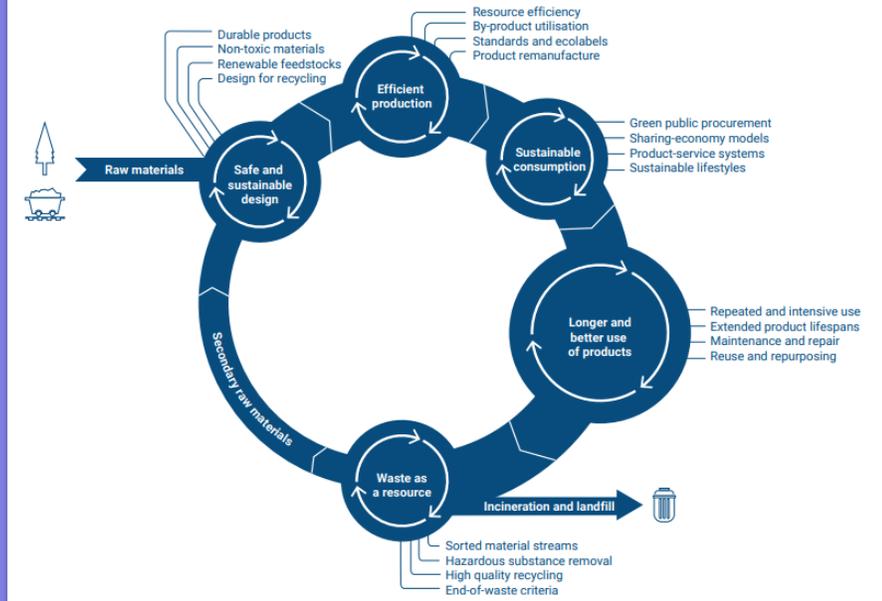
Source: IRP, 2019.

# European (& EU) level

## Strategies to Reach Desired State

- **The Circular Vision for Europe:** Outlines what circularity should look like, structured around a life-cycle approach that covers the whole value chain in the EU economy.
- **Actions for Increased Circularity:**
  - Prioritise circularity approaches to reduce raw material demand, activate eco-design requirements, and promote product service system models.
  - Extend product lifetimes, including cost management and increased trust in repairs and upgrades.
  - Shift the waste sector to provide high-quality recycled materials for the industry.
- **Other Considerations:**
  - The affluence of EU citizens are undoubtedly a factor in high consumption rates and behavioural changes are needed.
  - Targets are important for driving and measuring change, however, there are indications of low or moderate likelihood of current ambitions being achieved in the coming years.
  - A successful circular transition requires full societal engagement, however, there is currently limited analysis of social equity, inclusion and accessibility issues.

Figure 1.1 The touchpoints for achieving a circular economy in Europe, with key factors associated with each touchpoint



Source: EEA.

Figure 4.1 Actions for increased circularity

BEFORE USE		DURING USE		AFTER USE	
	REFUSE		RETAIN		RECYCLE
	RETHINK		REUSE AND SHARE		RETURN
	REDUCE		REPAIR		REMANUFACTURE

Source: Developed by EEA based on Potting et al., 2017.

# European (& EU) level

## GAP Analyses for Value Chains

- **Lithium-ion battery:**

- **Current state:** Challenges in recycling processes and material recovery, particularly for critical materials like lithium, cobalt, and nickel. There are also financial constraints, inadequate regulatory frameworks, and a lack of awareness and engagement among stakeholders.
- **Strategies to reach desired state:** Invest in R&D to enhance recycling technologies, implement better material recovery systems, provide financial incentives, create coherent regulations across regions, and conduct awareness campaigns to promote CE practices.

- **Textile:**

- **Current state:** The industry faces a lack of technologies to efficiently recycle textiles and reduce waste, leading to a high percentage of textile waste ending up in landfills. There are also financial constraints, inadequate regulations, and low consumer demand for recycled textiles.
- **Strategies to reach desired state:** Optimize production and recycling processes, improve material recovery systems, provide financial support for R&D, harmonize regulations, and promote awareness and adoption of circular practices.

- **Construction**

- **Current state:** Circular economy principles are not well integrated into the planning and design stages of construction projects. There is also insufficient use of public procurement to drive circularity, limited financial instruments, inadequate policies, and a lack of awareness among stakeholders.
- **Strategies to reach desired state:** Incorporate circular economy principles in planning and design, leverage public procurement, develop financial instruments, strengthen policies and regulations, and conduct awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders on circular practices.

# Regional (& National) level

## Current State

- **Circularity Rate:** Varies between 1.3% to 24.5% among the regions.
- **Employment in Circular Sectors:** Ranges from 1.1% to 2.8% of total employment among the regions.
- **Use of Materials:** Spans between 759.9 million tonnes DMC/46.3 tonnes DMC/person, and 56.9 million tonnes DMC/8.8 tonnes DMC/person.
- **Barriers and Challenges:** Common barriers and challenges include legal and regulatory barriers; lack of economic and financial incentives; slow cultural and behavioral change; jobs and skills challenges; waste management; lack of awareness.
- **Policy Leadership:** All regions have circular economy strategies (or guidelines) at the national level, with some having specific laws targeting CE. A few regions have regional and/or local CE strategies. A majority integrate CE objectives into several strategies.

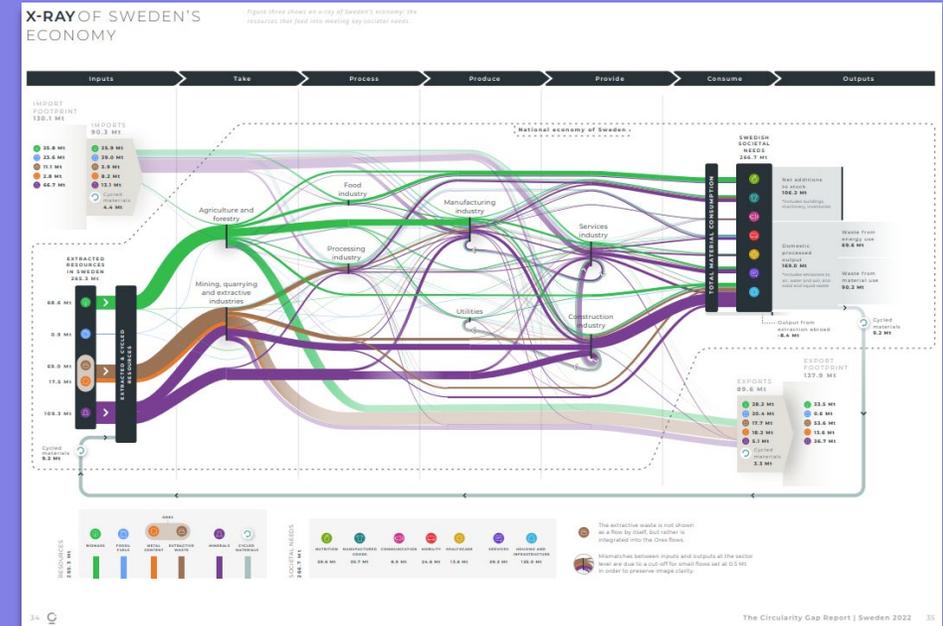
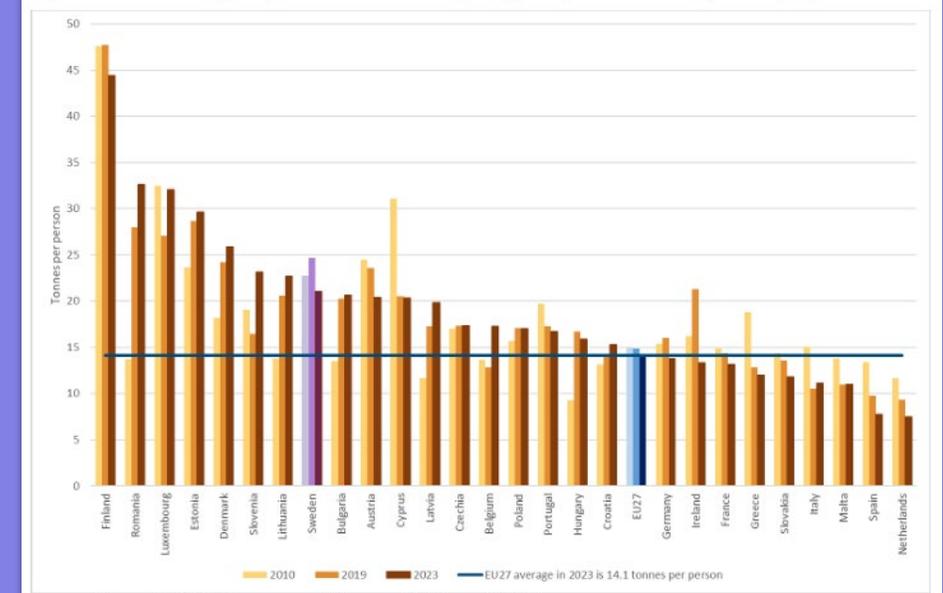


Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010, 2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Regional (& National) level

## Strategies to Reach Desired State

- **Scenarios (North Middle Sweden, Northern Netherlands, Scotland):**
  - Common focus areas include the built environment, agriculture, manufacturing, and reducing fossil fuel use. Specific regional focuses include mobility (Sweden and Scotland), behavioral change (Scotland), and repair and high-value recycling (Netherlands).
- **Future Policy Plans (all but Scotland):**
  - The most prevalent theme is economic investments for circularity, e.g. targeting digitization, modernization of infrastructure, and waste management.
- **The Way Forward (all):**
  - The regions are different in character: A few are frontrunners when it comes to circularity, whereas others are more linear
  - Regardless, all regions face similar challenges and needs that require fundamental shifts, including behavioural shifts, harmonization of regulation, strategic planning, development of infrastructure, R&D, economic incentives, jobs and skills



# Key Sectors, Themes and Considerations

## Sectors

- Throughout the GAP analyses, both national and European, three sectors are mentioned most frequent, including: Construction, Food and Agriculture, and Manufacturing

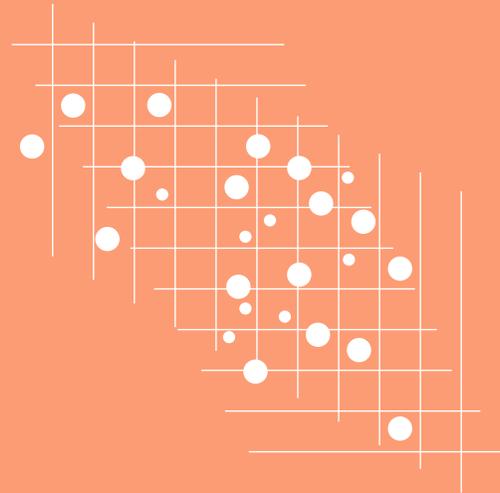
## Themes

- Recurrent themes within the GAP analyses include Jobs and Skills, Waste Management, Funding, Regulation, Awareness, and R&D

## Considerations

- Within the majority of regions, there is a stronger basis regarding *current states* than *desired states* and *strategies* to bridge the gaps
- Regarding current states, statistics with certain key indicators are highlighted and followed up over time by e.g. EEA. However, it is important to note these do not convey the full picture of the country's state regarding circular economy.

# European (& EU) level



The following slides develop insights on the European (& EU) level from studied reports, divided by:

- Europe (general)
- Value Chains (sectoral)

Sources are included on each slide for further reading and more detailed information.



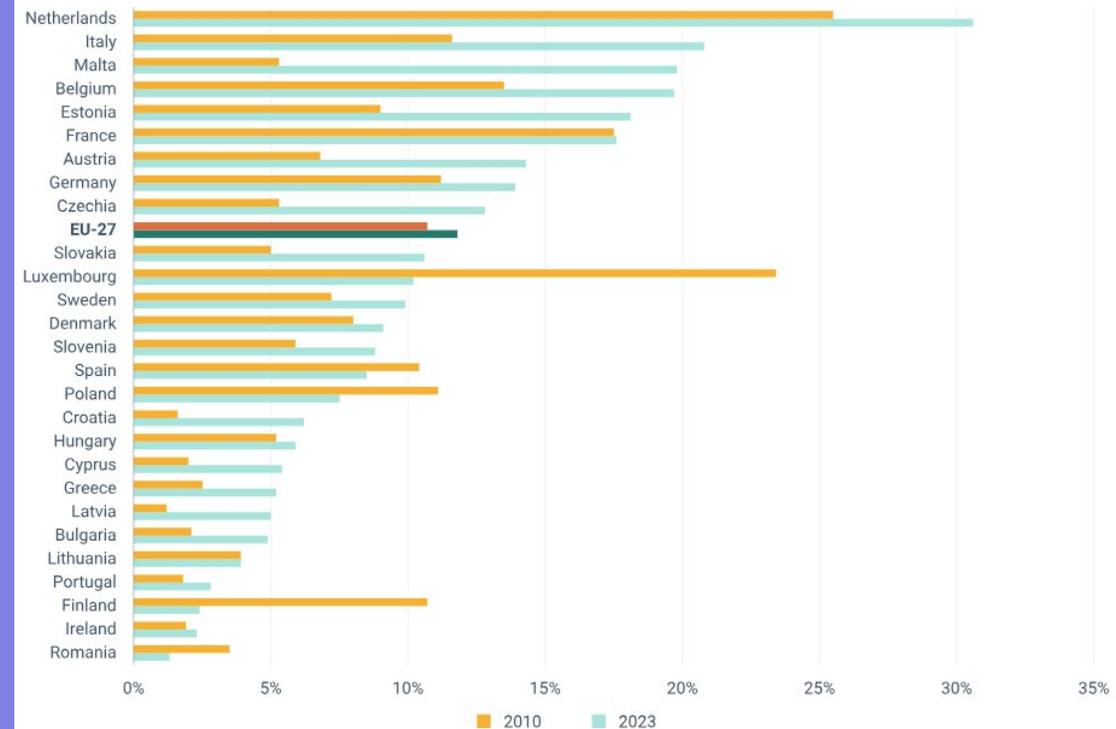
# Europe

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## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** Europe is 11,5% circular (2022) and consumes a higher proportion of recycled materials than other world regions. Yet, improvement has been slow in recent years, and along with projected increased material demand by 2030, the EU is currently not on track to double circular material use by 2030.
- **Material Consumption:** For the EU economy to function in its current manner, more than 8 billion tonnes of material are used every year. 5 billion tonnes are used to cover needs/desires of EU citizens annually (3 billions are 'locked up' resources in their present function and are not available to be returned to the production cycle).
- **Resource Extraction:** 68% of 8 billion tonnes originates from natural resources extracted within the EU, including non-metallic minerals, biomass, fossil energy materials/carriers, and metal ores.

Figure 2. Circular material use rate by EU country

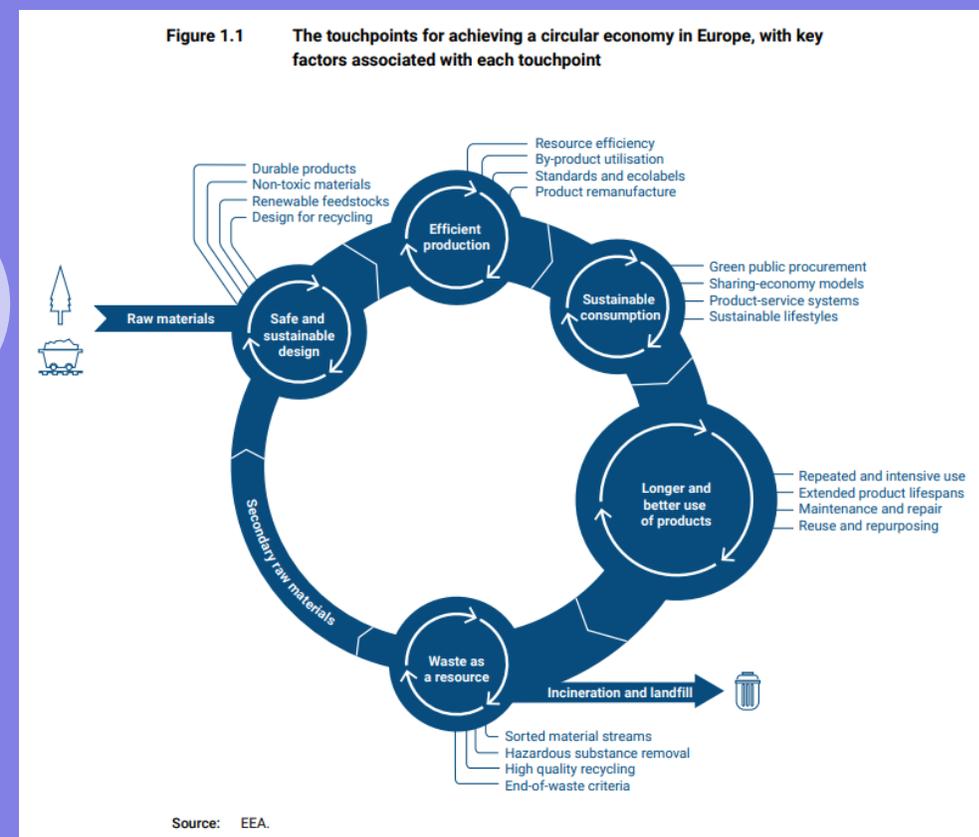


# Europe

## The Touchpoints for Achieving a Circular Economy in Europe

- **The circular vision for Europe** outlines what circularity should look like, structured around a life-cycle approach that covers the whole value chain in the EU economy:
  - Safe and sustainable design
  - Efficient production
  - Sustainable consumption
  - Longer and better use of products
  - Waste as a resource
- Substantial movement towards greater circularity will entail significant changes across all aspects of material use, including the practices that underlie how products are created and consumed.
- Implementing the principles of a circular economy will lead to the establishment of new norms and profound changes to Europe's production and consumption patterns, playing a significant role in lessening their environmental impacts.

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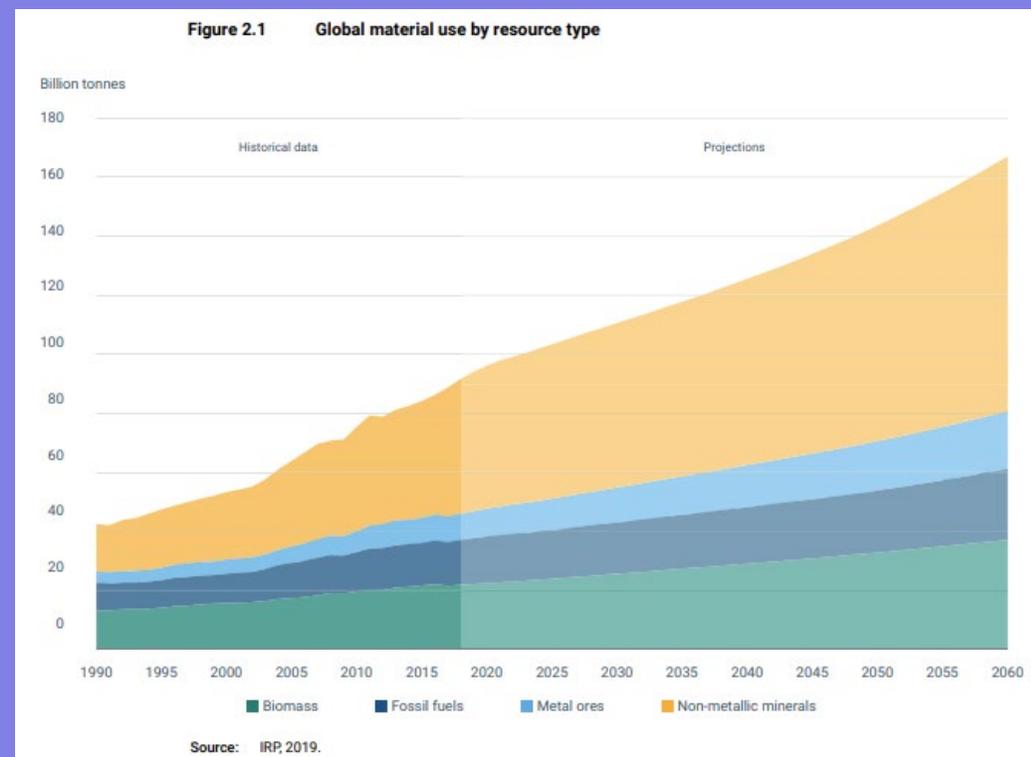


# Europe

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## Resources and Waste – Key messages

- Resource extraction and processing cause severe impacts on ecosystems, contribute to climate change and increase pollution levels
- Decreasing resource extraction and increasing the use of secondary raw materials would deliver greater strategic autonomy for the EU and reduce environmental impacts
- Focusing recycling operations on the production of high quality secondary raw materials is critical to enabling a closed loop from waste generation back to industrial inputs



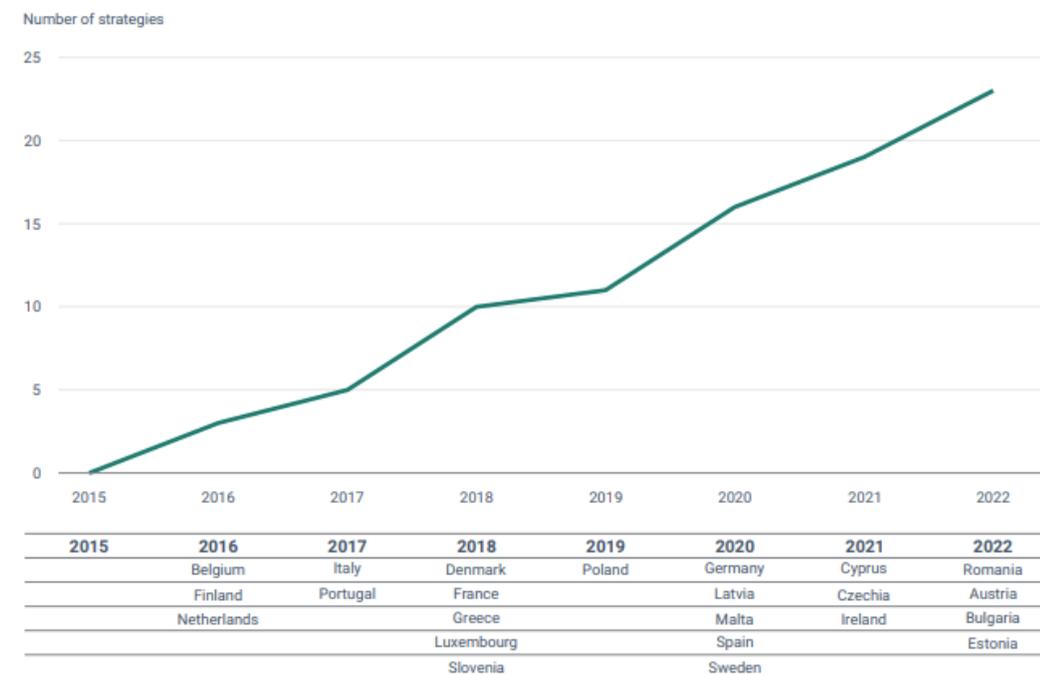
# Europe

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## Policy leadership – Key messages

- A comprehensive set of new circularity policies has been introduced at EU level
- National actions have intensified but many are still at the early stages of implementation
- Monitoring the circular transition is critical and continued development of reporting systems is required at EU, national and sectoral level

**Figure 3.2** EU Member States with adopted national circular economy strategies (2022)



Source: EC, 2019.

# Europe

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## Implementing Circular Actions – Key messages

- Circularity approaches that reduce raw material demand should be prioritised, including the activation of eco-design requirements and promotion of product service system models
- Extending the lifetime of consumer products is important in a circular economy and this will require attention to managing costs and increasing trust in repaired and upgraded items
- The waste sector must transition towards a business model focused on providing high quality recycled materials as feedstock for industry

Figure 4.1 Actions for increased circularity

BEFORE USE	DURING USE	AFTER USE
 REFUSE	 RETAIN	 RECYCLE
 RETHINK	 REUSE AND SHARE	 RETURN
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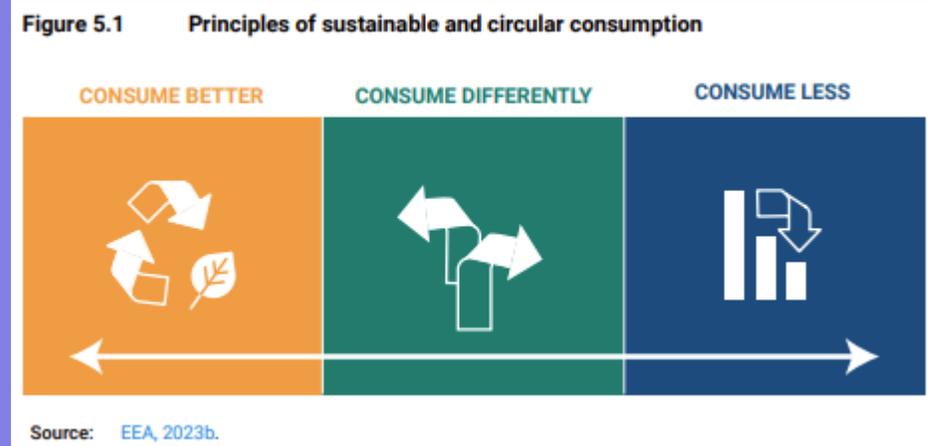
Source: Developed by EEA based on Potting et al., 2017.

# Europe

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## Consumption in a Circular Economy – Key messages

- EU material consumption shows a modest relative decoupling from economic growth but consumption levels per capita remain too high
- The aspirations and affluence of EU citizens are undoubtedly a factor in high consumption rates and more effort is needed to change their behaviour
- Business operators are introducing more circular product offerings, but the pace is slow and stronger policy action may be needed to speed up this change



# Europe

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## **Just Transition to a Circular Economy** – Key messages

- Circular economy systems are not inherently socially beneficial just because they are circular
- A successful circular transition requires full societal engagement but there is currently limited analysis of social equity, inclusion and accessibility issues
- The impact of transitioning to a circular economy on communities and livelihoods in the global south must be considered to avoid exacerbating existing inequalities

## **Outlook and Future Considerations** – Key messages

- The circular economy concept has gained political momentum but further measures are needed to realise changes in consumption and production patterns
- Targets are important for driving and measuring change, however, assessment of current circular ambitions indicates a low or moderate likelihood of them being achieved in the coming years
- Near-term actions to accelerate the circular transition include setting clear targets, supporting emerging secondary raw material markets and further developing circularity monitoring
- The circular transition will require moderation of current consumption patterns, effective extension of product lifespans and widespread use of recycled materials as sustainable feedstocks for industry

# Europe

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# Value Chains / Lithium-ion battery

## Current State / Gaps:

- **Technical:** Challenges in recycling processes and material recovery. Specifically, the report mentions the need for improved technologies to efficiently recycle lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other critical materials used in Li-ion batteries.
- **Material:** Inefficiencies in material usage and recovery. The report highlights the loss of valuable materials during the recycling process and the need for better material recovery systems.
- **Economic:** Financial constraints and lack of investment. The report identifies insufficient funding for research and development, high costs of recycling technologies, and the need for financial incentives to promote circular practices.
- **Regulatory:** Inadequate regulatory frameworks. The report points out the lack of coherent regulations across different regions, which hinders the development of a unified circular economy strategy for Li-ion batteries.
- **Behavioral:** Lack of awareness and engagement. The report emphasizes the need for increased awareness among stakeholders, including manufacturers, consumers, and policymakers, about the benefits of circular economy practices.

## Strategies / Actions Proposed:

- **Improve recycling processes and technologies:** Invest in R&D to enhance recycling technologies for lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other critical materials. Develop more efficient and cost-effective methods for material recovery.
- **Enhance material recovery and usage efficiency:** Implement better material recovery systems to minimize loss of valuable materials in the recycling process. Optimize design of batteries for easier disassembly and recycling.
- **Increase investment and financial support:** Provide financial incentives and funding for R&D in recycling technologies. This includes grants, subsidies, and tax incentives to encourage investment in CE practices.
- **Develop and implement better regulatory frameworks:** Create coherent regulations across regions to support a unified CE strategy for Li-ion batteries. Harmonize standards and policies to facilitate cross-border cooperation.
- **Raise awareness and promote engagement in circular practices:** Conduct awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform stakeholders (manufacturers, consumers, policymakers) about the benefits of CE practices.

# Value Chains / Textile

## Current State / Gaps:

- **Technical:** Lack of technologies to efficiently recycle textiles and reduce waste during production. Bottlenecks include lack of sorting technologies to separate different types of fibers and difficulty in removing contaminants from recycled textiles.
- **Material:** Loss of valuable materials during the production and recycling processes and lack of material recovery systems. Bottlenecks include high percentage of textile waste ending up in landfills and limited availability of high-quality recycled fibers.
- **Economic:** Insufficient funding for R&D, high costs of recycling technologies, and lack of financial incentives to promote circular practice, especially support for SMEs.
- **Regulatory:** Lack of coherent regulations across regions, hindering development of a unified CE strategy for textiles. Bottlenecks include absence of standardized guidelines for textile recycling and lack of enforcement of existing regulations.
- **Behavioral:** Lack of awareness among stakeholders about benefits of CE practices. Bottlenecks include low consumer demand for recycled textiles and resistance among traditional manufacturers.

## Strategies / Actions Proposed:

- **Optimize production and recycling processes:** Invest in R&D to enhance recycling technologies. Develop more advanced, efficient and cost-effective methods for material recovery.
- **Improve material efficiency and reduce waste:** Implement better material recovery systems to minimize loss of valuable materials during production and recycling processes. Optimize the design of textiles for easier disassembly and recycling, and promote eco-design principles and take-back schemes.
- **Increase funding and financial support:** Provide financial incentives and funding for R&D in recycling technologies. This includes grants, subsidies, and tax incentives to encourage investment in circular economy practices, especially for SMEs.
- **Harmonize and strengthen regulatory frameworks:** Create coherent regulations across regions to support the development of a unified CE strategy for textiles. Harmonize standards and policies and enforce existing regulations.
- **Promote awareness and adoption of circular practices:** Conduct awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform stakeholders about the benefits of CE practices.

# Value Chains / Construction

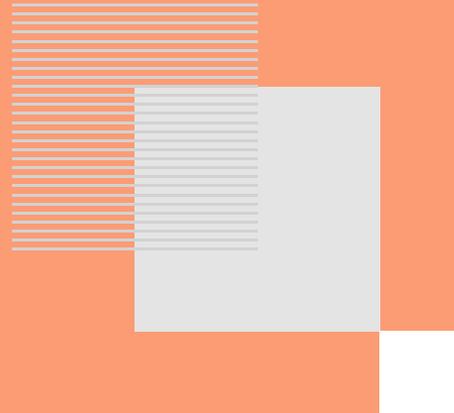
## Current State / Gaps:

- **Planning and design:** Lack of integration of circular principles. The report mentions the need for incorporating circular economy principles in the planning and design stages of construction projects.
- **Public procurement:** Insufficient use of procurement to drive circularity. The report highlights the potential of public procurement to promote circular practices in the construction sector.
- **Financial:** Limited financial instruments to support circular practices. The report identifies the need for financial instruments, such as grants and subsidies, to support the adoption of circular practices in the construction industry.
- **Regulatory:** Inadequate policies and regulations. The report points out the lack of coherent policies and regulations to support the circular economy in the construction sector.
- **Awareness:** Lack of knowledge and understanding of circular practices. The report emphasizes the need for increased awareness among stakeholders, including architects, builders, and policymakers, about the benefits of circular economy practices.

## Strategies / Actions Proposed:

- **Integrate circular principles in planning and design:** Incorporate circular economy principles in the planning and design stages of construction projects. This includes designing buildings for disassembly and reuse.
- **Leverage public procurement to promote circularity:** Use public procurement as a tool to drive the adoption of circular practices in the construction sector.
- **Develop and implement financial instruments to support circular practices:** Provide financial support, such as grants and subsidies, to encourage the adoption of circular practices in the construction industry.
- **Strengthen policies and regulations to support circular economy:** Create coherent policies and regulations to promote CE in the construction sector. This involves harmonizing standards and policies across regions.
- **Raise awareness and educate stakeholders on circular practices:** Conduct awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform stakeholders about the benefits of circular economy practices. E.g. architects, builders, policymakers.

# Regional (& National level)



The following slides develop insights on the Regional (& National) level from studied reports, divided by each region/nation.

Sources are included on each slide for further reading and more detailed information.

# North Middle Sweden / Sweden

## Sizing the gap

- **Circularity Rate:** Sweden is 3.4% circular according to CGR, 9% to EEA
- **Material consumption:** 257.5 million tonnes of materials annually (CGR)
- **Resource Extraction:** 265.3 million tonnes of minerals, metals, and biomass annually; nearly half is used domestically, the rest is exported (CGR)
- **Sectors:** The construction sector accounts for 48% of material consumption; the biggest category in terms of resource use (CGR). Structure of the economy: Agriculture: 1.1 % Industry: 26.0 % Services: 72.9 % (EEA).
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 85,100 people employed in CE sectors (13.8 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.7 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021). (EEA)
- **Exports:** 89.6 million tonnes of final products with an associated footprint of 137.9 million tonnes.
- **Imports:** 90.3 million tonnes of goods, with a total import footprint of 130.1 million tonnes.

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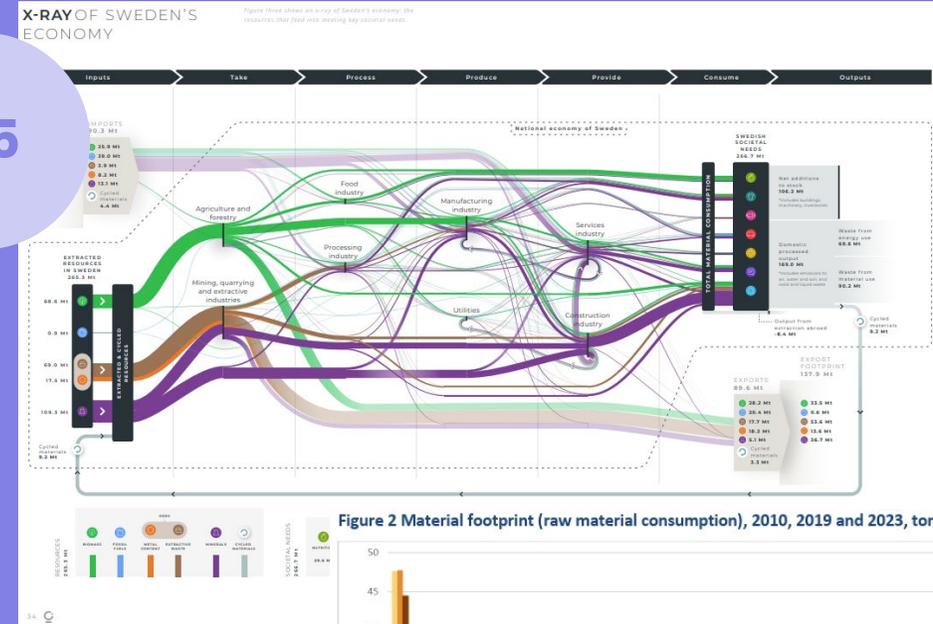
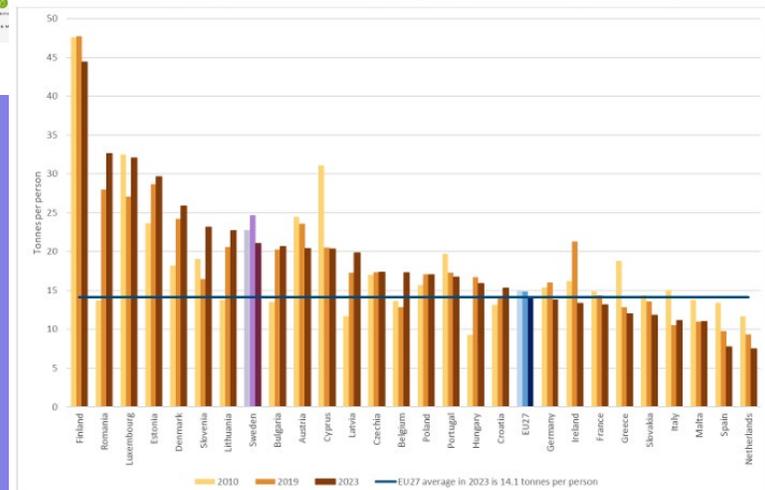


Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010, 2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# North Middle Sweden / Sweden

## Bridging the gap

### Construct a circular built environment

- Reduce new materials inputs and promote the reuse of construction and demolition waste
- Reduce material losses and emissions in construction by using durable, lightweight materials, prioritize local sources, and increase the use of secondary materials
- Reduce energy use in buildings through energy-efficient appliances, smart meters, and lower room temperatures, while shifting from waste-to-energy to geothermal heat pumps

### Cultivate a thriving food system

- Reduce food consumption to and minimize food waste through better practices and anaerobic digestion
- Shift to vegetarian diets reducing the consumption of resource and emissions-intensive foods like meat and processed items
- Promote sustainable food production and consumption by prioritizing local and seasonal foods, scaling organic farming, and reducing the use of artificial fertilizers

### Make manufacturing circular

- Enhance manufacturing efficiency by reducing material losses and scrap, utilize technological advances, and promote closed-loop recycling
- Create durable machinery and equipment to extend their lifetimes, boost repair and rental services, and reduce the need for new material inputs

### Reshape extractive industries:

- Restrict resource extraction by limiting logging, mining, and fishing in overexploited areas

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### Drive clean mobility forward:

- Promote carsharing, carpooling, trip-chaining, and park-and-ride systems
- Support flexible work-from-home environments to reduced daily commutes
- Make vehicles more efficient and durable by incentivizing fuel-efficient and lightweight designs, extending vehicle lifetimes through circular business models and preventive maintenance

### Design conscious consumables:

- Reduce plastic and chemical production by shifting away from single-use plastics, increasing reuse and recycling, and prioritizing bio-based chemicals
- Transform the textiles industry by using vegan, natural fibers, increasing recycled content, and promoting durable garment design and clothing sharing
- Encourage the purchase of local and durable furniture, promoting repair, reuse, and refurbishing to reduce waste and emissions
- Minimize appliance use, promote durable and lightweight designs, and encourage take-back programs for repair and reuse

# North Middle Sweden / Sweden

## Root Causes and Actions Needed

- **Legal and Regulatory** – Current policies target product use phase, not production, and there is a need for holistic circularity approach. Some actions include EPR, eco-design, reduction targets based on material use, quotas for secondary materials in products, tax shifts.
- **Economic and Financial** – Economic growth relies on consumption, leading to resource extraction and waste, and market for recycled materials struggles against virgin materials. Some actions include circular public procurement, research on policy for circular capacity in SMEs, monitoring and addressing rebound effects.
- **Technological and Capacity-Based** – Technical barriers in sorting and recycling waste streams, and lack of capacity to assess quality of secondary materials. Some actions include material specifications and design guidelines, improved recycling, supporting businesses in circular efforts, especially SMEs.
- **Cultural and Behavioural** – High consumption rates lead to significant waste, and traditional ownership mindsets result in inefficient material use. Some actions include fostering shift towards sharing/second-hand shopping/reduced ownership, encouraging eco-design principles and circular practices, and promoting collaboration across industries.

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## The Way Forward

- Sweden is **more linear than it appears** on paper, with high levels of extraction and consumption, and prosperous living conditions for its residents –as such, it has a particularly **strong responsibility to drive circularity** and cut its per capita ecological footprint
- The report conveys how the **circularity can be substantially increased** from 3.4% to 7.6% – in doing so, the country can cut its material footprint by 42.6%
- With a wide and diverse pool of **local resources**, Sweden could shift its consumption to domestically sourced—and sustainably produced—products, rather than relying on imports with hard-to-control circularity, sustainability and ethics
- As a key **global provider of raw materials**, Sweden's role represents an opportunity for impact beyond its borders
- Sweden is **well-positioned** to take on the challenge of going circular: it boasts a low-carbon economy, strong climate ambitions, and technical and behavioural capacity

# Northern Netherlands / Netherlands

## Sizing the gap

- **Circularity Rate:** The Netherlands is 24.5% circular (CGR), 31% (EEA)
- **Material Consumption:** 221 million tonnes of materials annually (CGR)
- **Resource Extraction:** 116 million tonnes of minerals, metals, and biomass annually (CGR)
- **Sectors:** Mobility and Nutrition are the biggest contributors to the Netherlands' societal need footprint, taking up almost half of the entire consumption footprint (CGR). Structure of the economy: Agriculture: 1.9 % Industry: 20.8 % Services: 77.3 % (EEA)
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 105,173 people employed in CE sectors (2.5 % of EU total in 2021) People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.1 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021). (EEA)
- **Exports:** 210 million tonnes of final products with an associated footprint of 487 million tonnes and 14 million tonnes of waste (CGR)
- **Imports:** 145 million tonnes of direct products and their associated footprint, 403 million tonnes (CGR)

1/4

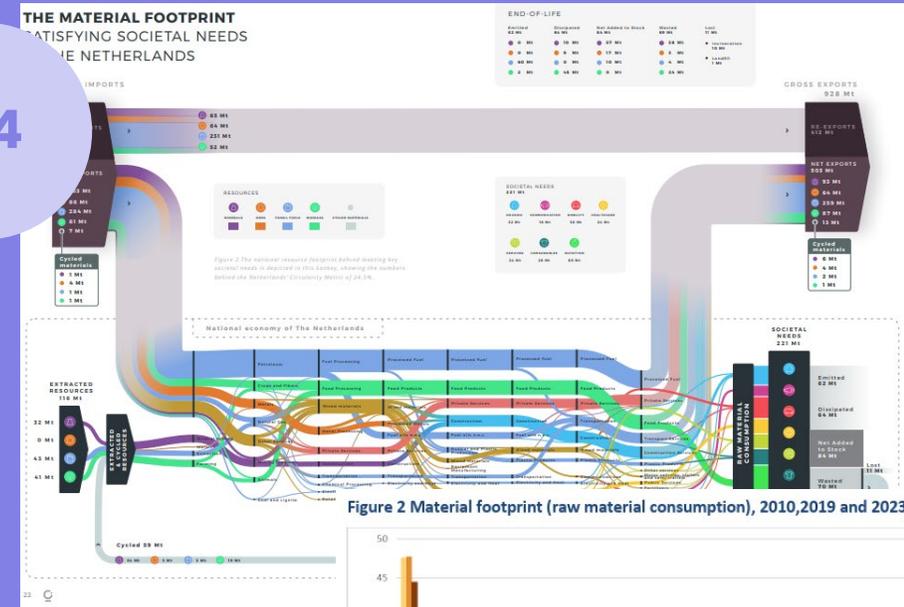
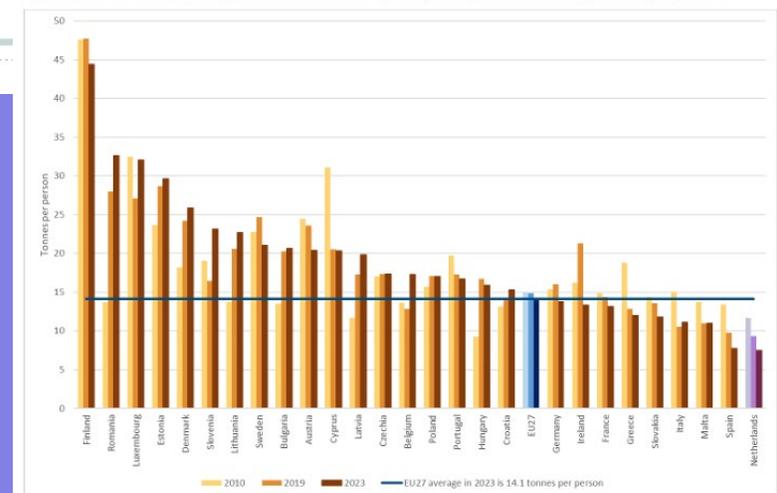


Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010, 2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Northern Netherlands / Netherlands

2/4

## Bridging the gap

### • **Advanced construction practices**

- Maintain and repurpose existing buildings instead of demolishing them
- Enhance the cycling of construction materials and demolition waste, which eliminates the need for virgin material extraction

### • **Circular agriculture and food system**

- Stop the import and export of animal products and feed, localize animal cultivation, and use local agricultural waste for livestock feed
- Eliminate food waste from production to consumption and optimize the use of biowaste, reducing food waste to zero per person and increasing the recycling of biowaste

### • **Shifting from fossil fuels to renewable sources**

- Transition to renewable energy sources like solar and wind, decarbonize the energy grid, and adjust industrial activities to be compatible with renewable energy
- Halt all raw material imports and exports of fossil fuels, leading to a de-fossilized domestic energy system and trade profile

### • **Repair, manufacturing and high value recycling**

- Double the material use of the repair sector to extend the life of manufactured goods, reduce imports, and decrease domestic production of new products
- Doubling the volume of high-value recycling and the share of recycled materials in imports, reducing the need for virgin material inputs

# Northern Netherlands / Netherlands

3/4

## Jobs and skills – driving the transition:

- **Construction:** Design for disassembly, on-site recycling, stimulation of secondary materials in procurement, evaluators of secondary materials, greater knowledge within the managing of building information.
- **Agrifood:** Extended skills in soil health, also greater CE knowledge in companies producing livestock feed made from waste flow.
- **Manufacturing:** Design for disassembly and reuse, greater understanding of circular products, repair and refurbishment skills, and a greater understanding of the demand/supply for/of refurbished products,

## The Way Forward

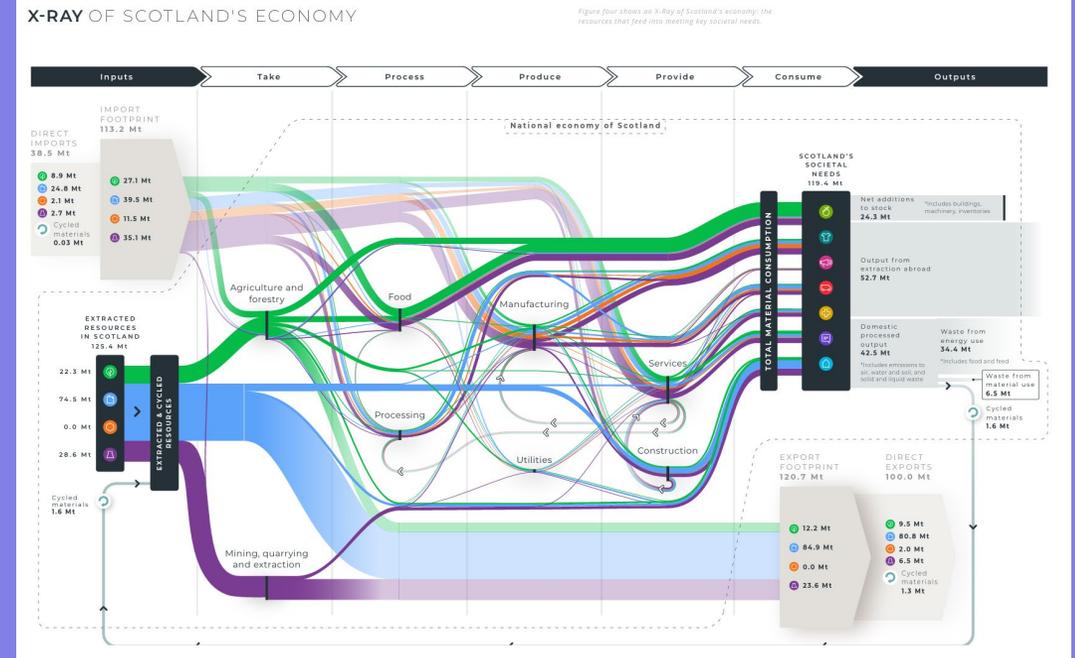
- The report conveys how the circularity of the country can be substantially increased from 24.5% to 70%.
- The explored scenarios will entail fundamental shifts to the way the Dutch economy operates, spanning from how infrastructure is built and maintained, how food is produced and how we design, manufacture and repair goods, to how we shape our future energy systems.
- The Netherlands is a frontrunner in the race to circularity and has a real opportunity to contribute to a rich global knowledge bank on the circular economy.

# Scotland

1/4

## Sizing the gap

- **Circularity Rate:** Scotland is 1.3% circular
- **Material Consumption:** 119.4 million tonnes of materials annually.
- **Resource Extraction:** 125.4 million tonnes of minerals, metals, and biomass annually; mainly extraction of fossil fuels.
- **Sectors:** the Agrifood, Manufacturing and Services industries concentrate the largest shares of the country's material flows.
- **Exports:** 100.2 million tonnes of final products with an associated footprint of 120.7 million tonnes.
- **Imports:** 74.7 million tonnes of RMEs with an associated footprint of 113.2 million tonnes.



# Scotland

## Bridging the gap

### • Build a circular built environment

- Optimize the building stock expansion by reducing new construction, increasing the reuse of building materials, and enhancing renovation efforts
- Increase building occupancy by regulating second homes and Airbnbs, and promoting co-housing and multifunctional spaces
- Scale resource-efficient construction practices and implement deep renovation to reduce construction waste and energy demand

### • Nurture a circular food system

- Promote a balanced diet with a caloric intake of 2,700 per day, favoring plant-based foods, and reducing avoidable food waste
- Shift to organic, local, and seasonal food production to reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, lower transport distances, and decrease dependence on greenhouse-grown foods

### • Champion circular manufacturing

- Improve resource efficiency in manufacturing by reducing metal inputs, cutting yield losses, and reusing scrap materials
- Extend the lifetimes of machinery, equipment, and vehicles through remanufacturing, refurbishment, and other R-strategies, reducing material and carbon footprints while boosting circularity and job creation

2/4

### • Rethink mobility

- Promote a car-free lifestyle, improved public transport, and flexible work arrangements to reduce private car use and fuel consumption
- Drive efficient, lightweight, and electric vehicles to reduce material and fuel use

### • Welcome a circular lifestyle

- Promote a low-impact lifestyle focused on minimalism and conscious living, aiming to reduce consumption, extend product lifetimes, and encourage recycling and eco-friendly alternatives to lower environmental pressures and resource intensity

### • Tackle Scotland's import footprint

- Shift away from high-impact material imports and focus on domestic production

### • Advance circular decommissioning

- Focus on reusing valuable materials from decommissioned energy infrastructure to reduce the need for virgin materials, cut energy use, and create new value chains and job opportunities

# Scotland

3/4

## Transforming the Scottish economy – with and for people

- **Labor market:** Transitioning to CE could create approximately 59 000 new jobs, many of which is in the research and development sector
- **Resilience:** A CE is more self reliant, which build greater resilience against forecasted resource constraints and price volatility
- **Equality:** A less import-dependent economy also internalizes the externalities of production which can have positive impacts on countries in the Global South
- **Health:** CE prevents landfilling and incineration of waste, use of hazardous materials, and GHG emissions which reduce pollution.
- **Cultural:** CE is connected to the 'sharing economy' which can contribute to an increased sense of community

## The Way Forward

- The report conveys how the circularity of the country can be substantially increased from 1.3% to 11.8%
- The explored scenarios will entail fundamental shifts to the way the Scottish economy operates, spanning from how buildings are built and maintained, how food is produced and how we design – the scenarios results in environmental as well as socioeconomic benefits
- While Scotland exhibits unsustainable levels of consumption and extraction, there's a general acceptance towards using CE as a mean for achieving the country's decarbonization goals which is an important step in leaving the linear economy behind

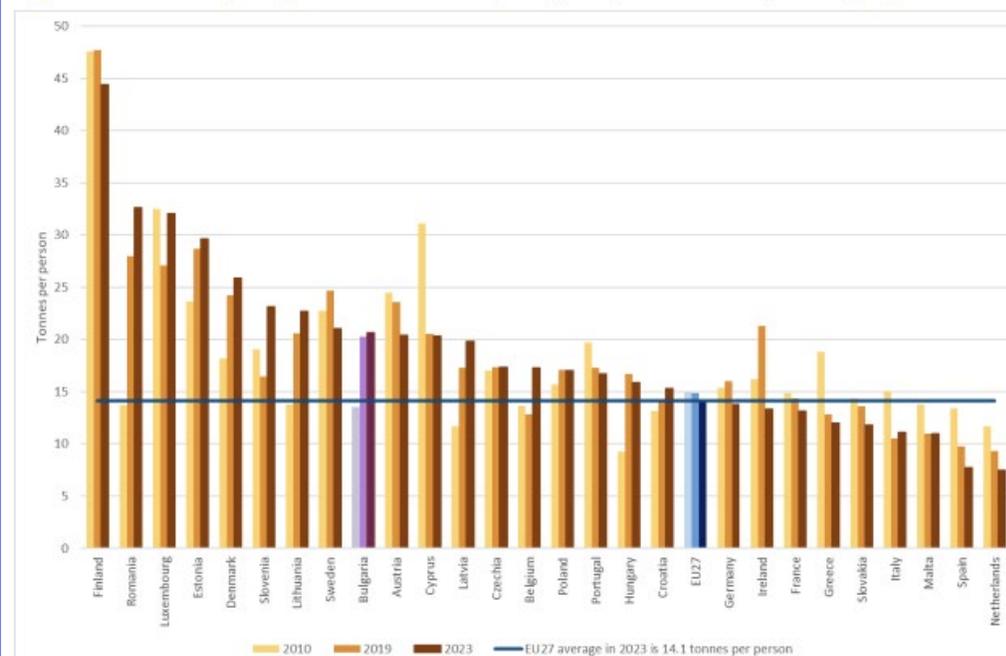
# Gabrovo / Bulgaria

1/4

## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** Bulgaria is 5 % circular.
- **Use of Materials:** 162.4 million tonnes DMC (2.6 % of EU27 total in 2022) 24.4 tonnes DMC/person (171.8 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
- **Structure of the economy:** Agriculture: 3.5 % Industry: 28.9 % Services: 67.6 %
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 52,323 people employed in CE sectors (1.2 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.5 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010,2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Gabrovo / Bulgaria

2/4

## Existing Policy Framework:

- **Strategy and Action Plan for the transition to a circular economy** for the period 2022–2027
  - The strategy formulates **three strategic goals**: 1: Green and competitive economy; 2. Less waste and more resources; 3. Economy that benefits consumers
- Circular economy in other policies include **National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030**
  - **Circular policy elements** focus on sustainable raw material use, stimulating and increasing recyclable materials, enhancing circular economy knowledge, boosting recycled and recovered waste, reducing waste impact, preventing waste generation, promoting reuse, and innovating for a circular economy transition in enterprises

## Innovative Approaches and Good Practices:

- Examples of **public policy initiatives** (national, regional or local)
  - **Regulatory and Financial Framework for Waste Management**, introduced by the Waste Management Act.
  - **Financial support programmes** targeting Circular Economy, e.g. Programme "Environment" 2021–2027; "Innovations and Competitiveness" (OPIK, financing measures for SMEs)
  - **Technology & innovation**, e.g. Programme "Competitiveness and Innovation in Enterprises" 2021–2027
  - **Green/Circular/Sustainable public procurement**, e.g. Mandatory Green Public Procurement in Bulgaria
- Examples of **private policy initiatives** (sectoral)
  - **Bulgarian Association Circular Textile (BACT)** unites companies, experts in separate collection and utilization of textile waste as well as experts in preparation for reuse and its entry in the second-hand clothing market
  - **S.W.A.N project** funded by INTERREG Balkan–Mediterranean 2014–2020, study of the generated waste in the country, the possible business models for treatment and study of opportunities in other countries

# Gabrovo / Bulgaria

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## The Way Forward:

### Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

- **Bulgarian SMEs** face significant challenges in waste management and the adoption of circular economy models due to lack of awareness – to address these issues, there's need for better information, guidance, and public support.
- Bulgaria recommends a **harmonized EU approach** to integrate circular business models and resource efficiency criteria into product policies. This includes promoting eco-design, improving the quality and traceability of recycled materials, and leveraging digitalization to support circular economy initiatives.
- On a **national level**, commitment for better coordination, improved strategic planning and effective institutional cooperation within CE is advocated.

### Future policy plans

#### • Economic Transformation Programme

- targeted support incl. grants and financial instruments to Bulgarian enterprises to facilitate their transition to a digital, low-carbon and resource-efficient economy
- Fund 1 "Growth and Innovation", Fund 2 "Green Transition and the Circular Economy", and Fund 3 "Investing in Climate Neutrality and Digital Transformation"

#### • Fund for promoting the technological and green transition of the agriculture

- targeted support incl. grants and financial instruments to Bulgarian farmers, focusing on green and digital investments
- The direction "Investments in technological and environmental modernization" of the Fund, with a budget EUR 325.2 million, supports investments in circular economy models

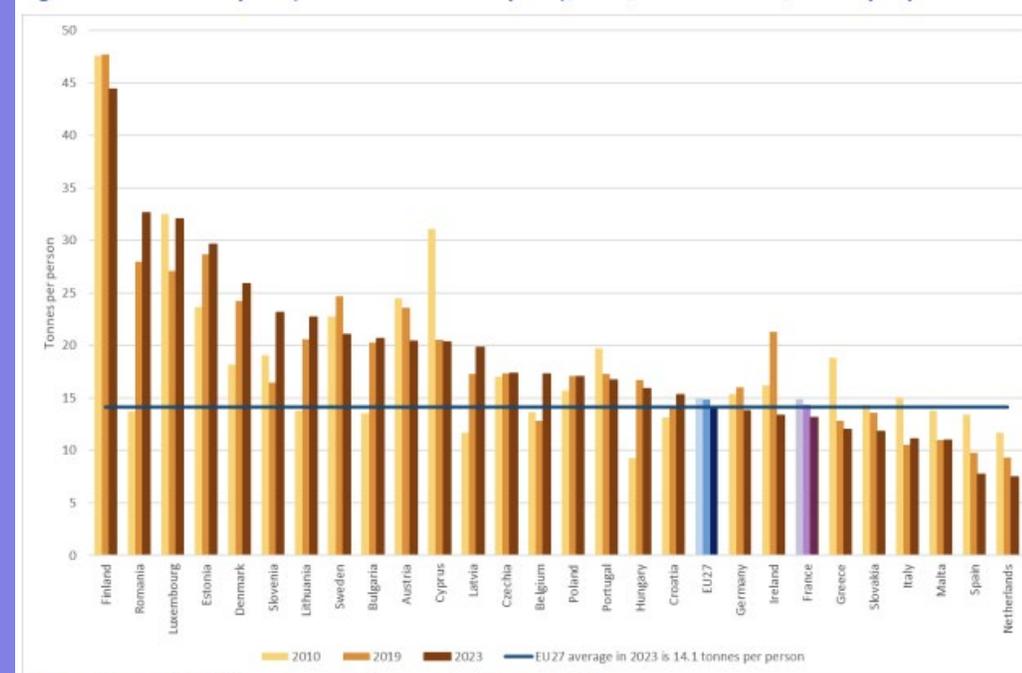
# Normandy / France

1/4

## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** France is 17 % circular.
- **Use of Materials:** 759.9 million tonnes DMC (11.9 % of EU27 total in 2022) 11.2 tonnes DMC/person (78.5 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
- **Structure of the economy:** Agriculture: 1.9 % Industry: 20.6 % Services: 77.5 %
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 523,904 people employed in CE sectors (12.2 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.8 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010, 2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Normandy / France

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## Existing Policy Framework:

- Following **the Circular Economy Roadmap** (2018), **the Anti Waste Law** (2020) and the **Climate and Resilience law** (2021), several measures are being developed to speed up the CE transition, e.g:
  - New EPR schemes provided for in the anti-waste law, National observatory for reuse as an extension of the Climate and Resilience Act, New consumer information measures, including reparability scores, durability scores, and requirements to combat greenwashing
- In 2022 France introduced an **ecological planning process**
- In 2022 France introduced a **3R strategy on plastic packaging**
- Many French **towns and cities launched zero waste initiatives** following the call for projects launched by ADEME in 2014
- Circular economy policy elements in **other policies** include e.g. Public Procurement, Waste Prevention Plan 2021–2027, PEMW diagnosis in the building sector, the national low carbon strategy

## Innovative Approaches and Good Practices:

- Examples of **public policy initiatives** (national, regional or local)
  - **Product-related policies**, e.g. Reparability and durability score, and The repair bonus.
  - **Producer / supplier responsibility**, e.g. The EPR scheme for construction products and materials for the building sector, and PMCB EPR scheme
  - **Financial support programmes**, e.g. France 2030 for the development of recycling
  - **Green/Circular/Sustainable public procurement**, e.g. study on the effect of mandatory targets for public buyers
- Examples of **private policy initiatives** (sectoral)
  - The State has pushed **companies to develop a roadmap** to accelerate the transition to the circular economy of the **construction** ecosystem
  - As part of the 3R strategy on **plastics**, many federations have drawn up **3Rs sector roadmaps**

# Normandy / France

3/4

## The Way Forward:

### Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

- The **costs associated with changing the model**: investment costs, but also organisational costs, particularly for the development of short circular economy loops, which often require the involvement of other players in the value chain or the development of collective approaches, which is far from companies' usual practices.
- The **globalisation of value chains**, which makes a value chain approach more difficult.

### Future policy plans

- **Two measures** relating to the circular economy have been included in **the recovery plan**
  - one relating to the modernisation of sorting centres to develop recycling, and the development of sorting at source and the recovery of bio-waste
  - the other one focused on reduction and recycling especially on plastic waste

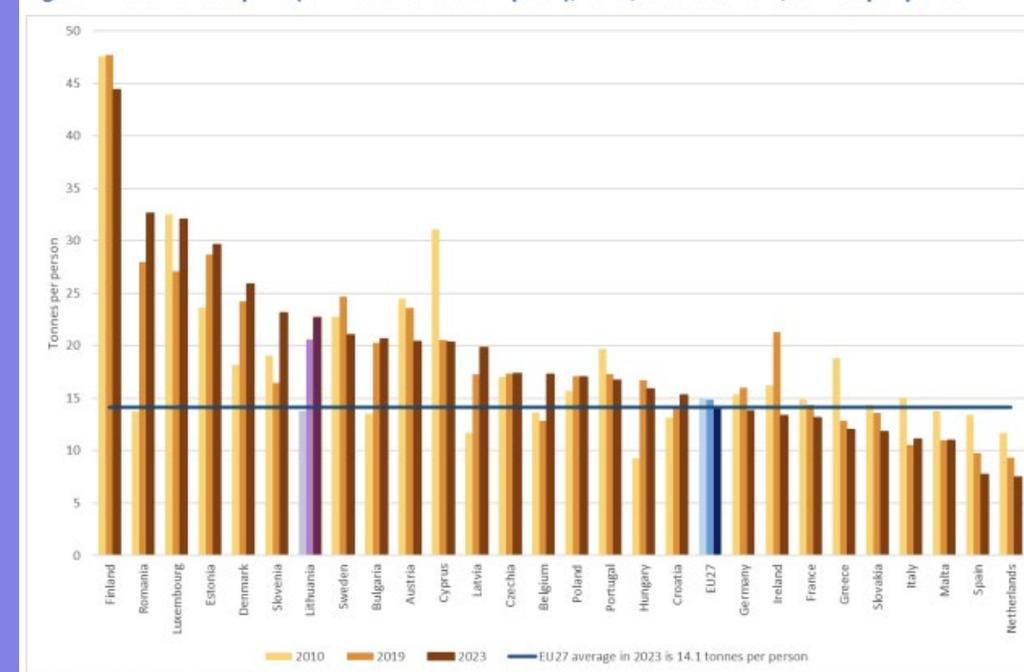
# Lithuania

1/4

## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** Lithuania is 4 % circular.
- **Use of Materials:** 56.9 million tonnes DMC (0.9 % of EU27 total in 2022) 20.1 tonnes DMC/person (141.3 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
- **Structure of the economy:** Agriculture: 3.3 % Industry: 26.7 % Services: 70.0 %
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 39,115 people employed in CE sectors (0.9 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 2.8 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010,2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Lithuania

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## Existing Policy Framework:

- **Guidelines for the Lithuanian transition to a circular economy by 2035** was approved by the Government in July 2023. The guideline outline priority directions where intervention is vital:
  - Industry, Construction, Bioeconomy, Transport, Waste, Consumption
- Circular economy issues are also addressed in the following policies:
  - **The National waste prevention and management plan**, which supports reuse and repair centers and addresses food loss.
  - **The Agriculture and rural development strategic plan**, which concerns agriculture and bioeconomy, developing of organic farming, and the shortening of supply chains

## Innovative Approaches and Good Practices:

- Examples of **public policy initiatives** (national, regional or local)
  - **Circular business models** program by Ministry of Social Security and Labor
  - **Financial measures** from Ministry of Environment and Ministry of the Economy and Innovation
  - **Green public procurement** mandatory since 2023
  - **Food waste** management rules by Ministry of Environment
  - **Construction waste** criteria by Ministry of the Environment
  - **Waste management** requirements by Ministry of Environment
- Examples of **private policy initiatives** (sectoral)
  - A **startup** company established by **organic waste** experts returning food waste back to food chain
  - **Circular transport** through electricity bus **Dancer**, by a group of companies in cooperation with scientists
  - **Circular solutions for drink cartons recycling**, by a private Lithuanian and an Italian company, focusing on turning recycled beverage cartons into hygiene paper products

# Lithuania

3/4

## The Way Forward:

### Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

- **The main barriers are:** Market barriers for secondary resources; Failure of companies to take advantage of CE-related opportunities; Lack of consumers awareness and CE-consistent behavior; Lack of recycling infrastructure; Too much waste is directed to incineration, too little is recycled; In the absence of separate collection for reuse, repairable items are destined to recycling
- **Suggested solutions e.g. include:**
  - Greater attention to the consumer and business sector, through training and knowledge building
  - Focus on consumer demand and fostering sustainable production practices, through strategic (EU) political decisions
  - Cooperation through research and analysis
  - Incentivising businesses to adopt circular business
  - Public procurement, Repair bonus schemes, EPR

### Future policy plans

- Lithuania has made progress in implementing several initiatives in **“New Generation Lithuania Plan” 2021–2026**, e.g.:
  - significant upgrades to recycling facilities
  - the share of green public procurement has increased
  - multiple research and innovation projects have been launched, focusing on areas like biodegradable materials, efficient waste-to-energy conversion, and advanced recycling technologies
  - digital tools and platforms to improve waste management efficiency have been introduced and resource tracking has begun
- Lithuania's **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)** has been updated to include significant measures under the REPowerEU initiative. This is part of the broader European Union strategy to enhance energy security and promote clean energy transitions across Member States. There are various financial resources invested to implement initiatives.

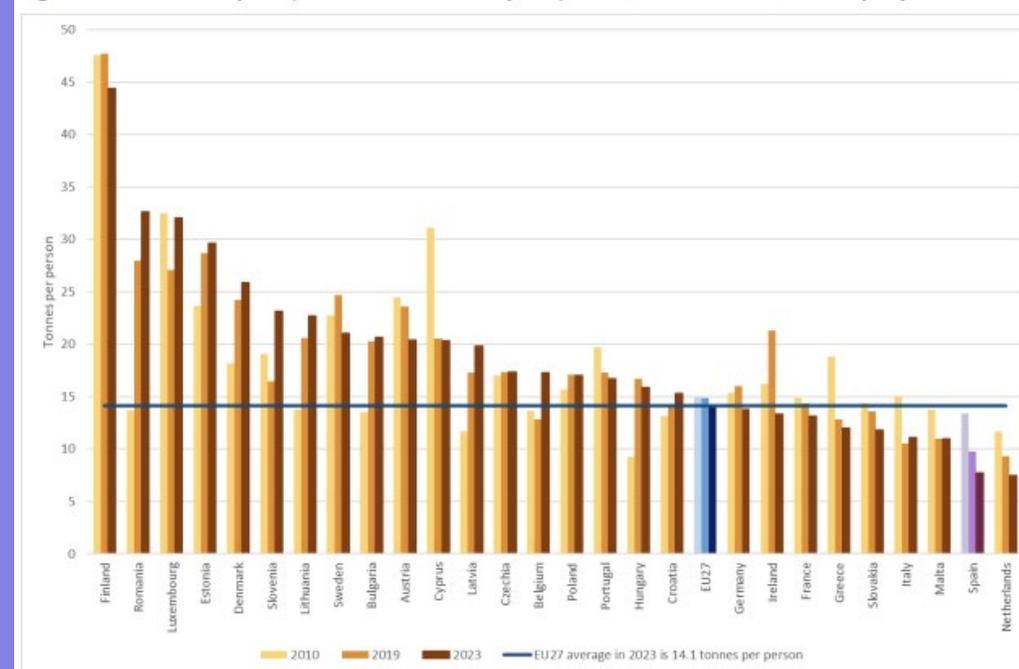
# Navarra / Spain

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## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** Spain is 8 % circular.
- **Use of Materials:** 419.2 million tonnes DMC (6.6 % of EU27 total in 2022) 8.8 tonnes DMC/person (61.7 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
- **Structure of the economy:** Agriculture: 2.6 % Industry: 22.2 % Services: 75.2 %
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 454,085 people employed in CE sectors (10.6 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 2.3 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010,2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Navarra / Spain

## Existing Policy Framework:

- **The Spanish Circular Economy Strategy "Spain 2030"** is being implemented in successive triennial action plans. Following the completion of the **First Circular Economy Action Plan 2021–2023**, work is currently underway on the **Second Circular Economy Action Plan 2024–2026**
  - Mid-term assessment demonstrate a high degree of progress in the implementation of the measures in the first action plan
- Several **regional** (and local) **circular economy strategies, roadmaps, and action plans** have been implemented in Spain – including Navarra Zirkular
- Circular economy is also addressed in the following policies:
  - Sustainable tourism strategy of Spain; Spanish forestry plan; Spanish Social Economy Strategy; Programmes of Measures for the Marine Strategies; Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy; Strategic Framework for Energy and Climate; Roadmap for the sustainable management of mineral raw materials; Spanish Urban Agenda; Law on the Quality of Architecture; Draft Bill on the Prevention of Food Loss and Food Waste

2/4

## Innovative Approaches and Good Practices:

- Examples of **public policy initiatives** (national, regional or local)
  - **Product-related policies**, e.g. Obsolescence studies; Guide for the development of environmental criteria in the dismantling and repowering of wind power plants
  - **Producer responsibility**, e.g. Register of Product Producer; Development of new EPR schemes
  - **Taxation**, e.g. instruments within Law 7/2022 to reduce waste generation and improve management
  - **Green/Circular/Sustainable public procurement**, e.g. Promoting the European Union Ecolabel; mandatory GPP
  - **Industrial symbiosis**, e.g. by-product and end-of-waste criteria; Market Impact Study; SRM market place
  - Other examples available concerning e.g. **Change in consumption patterns and consumer behaviors, Education and awareness-raising**, and **PPPs**
- Examples of **private policy initiatives** (sectoral)
  - There are examples from 8 sectors, including **Electronics & ICT, Plastics, Packaging, Textiles, Construction and Buildings, Water, Agriculture, and Tourism**

# Navarra / Spain

3/4

## The Way Forward:

### Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

- **Catalogues of Best Practices in Circular Economy** provide information on the main barriers faced by participating companies in implementing circular economy activities, e.g. including: Barriers to the development of circular business models; Barriers to the development of circular technologies; Administrative barriers
- **New regulations, measures and initiatives** have been introduced to boost CE and address barriers/challenges, e.g:
  - A new domestic regime for the approval of by-products and end-of-waste criteria
  - Aid scheme for CE
  - Pact to promote the adoption of CE strategy/plans by companies
  - Special fiscal regime for product donations
  - Food hierarchy to reduce food waste
  - Ban on the destruction or landfilling of textiles, toys, and electronic devices
  - Good practice guidelines for charitable giving

### Future policy plans

- **Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (RTRP):**
  - Comprehensive plan that allocates 40.29% of Spain's budget to green transition initiatives, in line with the European Green Deal. CE is a key focus, integrated into various components of the plan.
  - Component 12 is a key component for CE, with several investments and actions to support implementation of the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy and Waste Regulations, as well as providing aid to key sectors of the CE (e.g. textiles, plastics, and renewable energy)
  - The RTRP includes significant investments to improve waste management, including digital solutions

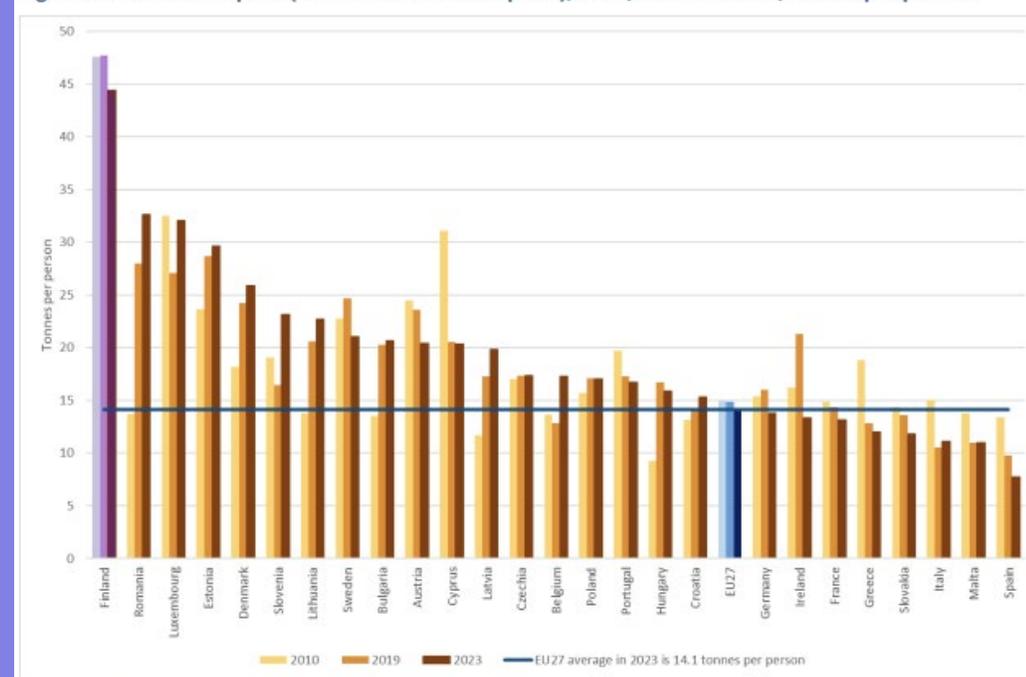
# Helsinki-Uusimaa / Finland

1/4

## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** Finland is 2.5 % circular.
- **Use of Materials:** 257.2 million tonnes DMC (4.0 % of EU27 total in 2022) 46.3 tonnes DMC/person (325.4 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
- **Structure of the economy:** Agriculture: 2.8 % Industry: 27.1 % Services: 70.1 %
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 41,744 people employed in CE sectors (1.0 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.5 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010,2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Helsinki-Uusimaa / Finland

## Existing Policy Framework:

- **The Circular Economy Strategic Programme** was adopted in 2021. The interim evaluation indicates that the mandate and implementation are insufficient, the National Audit Office of Finland is currently assessing coordination and management
- **Other initiatives at the national level** e.g. include R&D, implementation of Circular Economy Green Deal, the hub Circular Economy Finland (KiSu), and an innovation fund
- Circular economy is also **addressed in the following policies:** National procurement strategy; National Waste Plan; Plastics Roadmap; Finland’s Architectural Policy Programme; National Food Waste Roadmap
- Regional and local initiatives include **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative** (CCRI) – where Helsinki-Uusimaa is a pilot region
  - Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley was created in 2022 for supporting the 2030 carbon neutrality goal, systemic change and circular transition, working on CE in construction, plastics and textiles, food and electronics
  - The Circular Valley Handbook includes exemplary models of CE: pilots, business collaborations, and other activities

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## Innovative Approaches and Good Practices:

- Examples of **public policy initiatives** (national, regional or local)
  - **Research**, e.g. four research institutes (Finnish Environment Institute, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke, the Geological Survey of Finland GTK and Statistics Finland) produced a national-level material flow analysis, along with three scenarios on the future of natural resource use in Finland
- Examples of **private policy initiatives** (sectoral)
  - **New business models**, e.g. Finnish Innovation Fund **Sitra** has compiled a list of most interesting companies in the circular economy in Finland, representing the following business models: product-life extension, product as service, sharing platforms, renewability and resource-efficiency and recycling. **Sitra, together with Deloitte**, have also published the Circular economy playbook, which helps companies to unlock circular economy opportunities.

# Helsinki-Uusimaa / Finland

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## The Way Forward:

### Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

- The concept of **circular economy is familiar to Finnish companies** and the majority see it as an opportunity. **Concrete measures are still quite rare** in companies.
- One **barrier** consists of **skills gap**: many companies need information on concrete measures to strengthen the company's circular economy business.
- According to a survey, 69% of companies have not commissioned emissions **calculations, material reviews, or life cycle assessments**. Additionally, 51% of companies do not organize **training for personnel** on circular economy practices.

### Future policy plans

- **Finland's Recovery and Resilience Facility Plan (RRF)**:
  - Strategic promotion of the circular economy and reform of the Waste Act (reform)
  - Re-use and recycling of key materials and industrial side streams (investment)
  - Low-carbon built environment programme (investment)
  - Key programmes for international growth (investment)

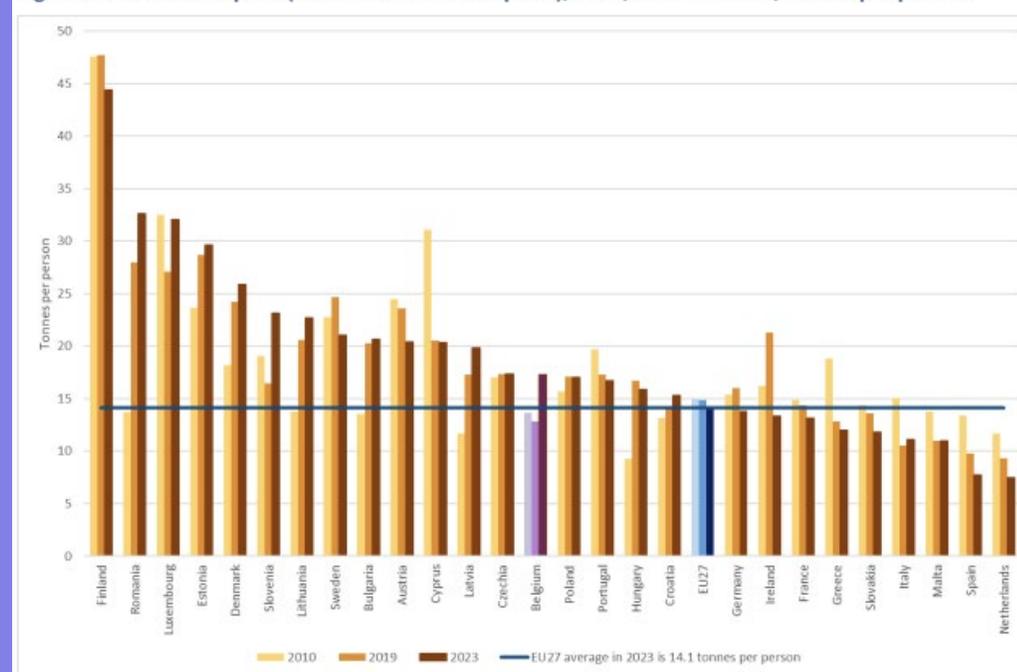
# Wallonia / Belgium

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## Facts and Figures

- **Circularity Rate:** Belgium is 19 % circular.
- **Use of Materials:** 149.1 million tonnes DMC (2.3 % of EU27 total in 2022) 12.8 tonnes DMC/person (89.7 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
- **Structure of the economy:** Agriculture: 0.9 % Industry: 20.5 % Services: 78.6 %
- **Employment in circular sectors:** 63,868 people employed in CE sectors (1.5 % of EU total in 2021). People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.3 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010,2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env\_ac\_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

# Wallonia / Belgium

## Existing Policy Framework:

- **Circular Wallonia** was established in 2020. It is divided into five main axes:
  - Supply and production of circular goods and services
  - Consumption and demand of circular goods and services
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Waste and resource management
  - Priority value chains
- **The implementation report of the Circular Wallonia Strategy** was published in September 2024, which provides an overview of the implementation. It shows that more than 700 organisations were supported in their circular transition between 2021–2023.
- Circular economy is also **addressed in the following policies**: the REGAL Plan (Reducing Food Waste in Wallonia); Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) for Circular Materials

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## Innovative Approaches and Good Practices:

- Examples of **public policy initiatives** (national, regional or local)
  - **Product-related policies**, e.g. 167 repair cafés is promoted by the Repair Together Association
  - **Producer/supplier responsibility**, e.g. companies and sectoral federations (textile, wood and furniture, commerce and services) have created a management body for EPR, the non-profit organization Valumat
  - **Research & innovation**, e.g. identification of five areas of strategic innovation; new programs to support technological and non-technological circular innovation
  - **Green/Circular/Sustainable Public Procurement**, e.g. Responsible Public Procurement Strategy; Various Networks; Call for Support in Rethinking Policies
  - **Industrial symbiosis**, e.g. call for projects aimed to support Territorial Development Agencies
- Examples of **private policy initiatives** (sectoral)
  - There are good practice examples regarding **Mettalurgy, batteries & Transport; Plastics; Textiles; Construction and Buildings; Food Industry and Food Systems; Water; Circular Materials**

# Wallonia / Belgium

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## The Way Forward:

### Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

- The identification of the main barriers and challenges that the Walloon enterprises are facing linked to the implementation of circular economy is currently being done by conducting a literature review and questioning the enterprises with a survey that allows them to explain their main challenges.

### Future policy plans

- Some of the measures of **Circular Wallonia** have been included in **the Walloon Recovery Plan**. This package gathers **17 measures** from the circular economy strategy and aims to boost economic development
  - Axis 3 of the Walloon Recovery Plan aims to boost Wallonia's economic development through digitisation, reducing the number of brownfield sites, an ambitious industrial policy and strengthening the CE. Two main aspects are concerned here: the realisation of the potential of the CE and support for the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste.



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