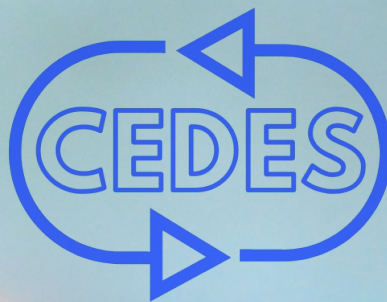




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Comparative Research Network:

Aims – People – Projects – Methods – Results

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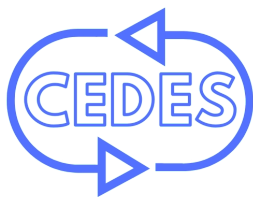
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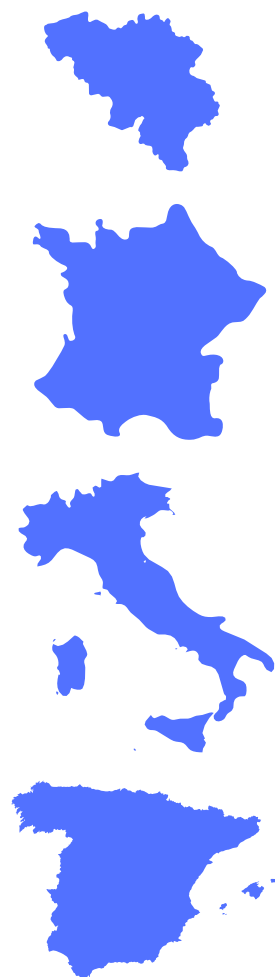
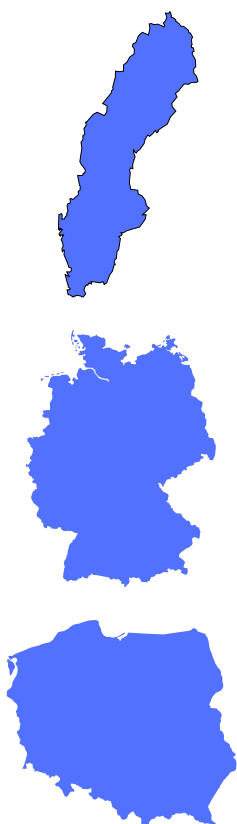
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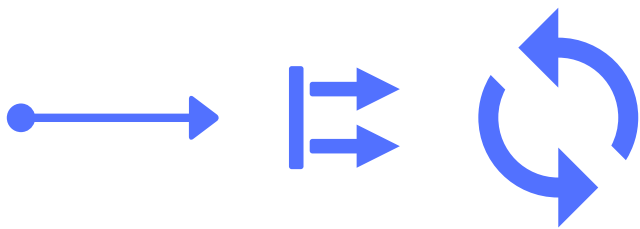


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NATIONAL REPORTS



Circular Economy in Germany



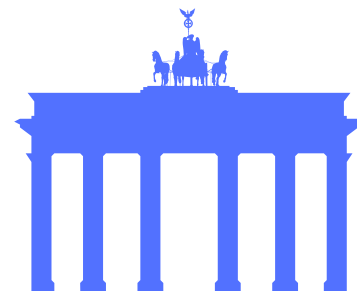
Transition from a linear to a circular economy is necessary. In Germany the concept of the circular economy is often expressed using the term 'Kreislaufwirtschaft', but this term is often still associated merely with recycling in Germany, so its meaning is too narrow. The concept of circular economy goes far beyond this.

In Germany there is still no overarching strategy how a Circular Economy can be achieved. On the political side there are already various strategies, platforms and initiatives that address elements of the Circular Economy narrative. Those are, however, not yet aligned to one overall strategy.



In order to set the course for the Circular Economy, the German initiative presents a preliminary study, analysing key conditions for a successful implementation. The preliminary study builds on the experience gained by European countries which have been moving towards a Circular Economy by developing roadmaps or similar Circular Economy strategies. The lessons learned and best practices established by were investigated and evaluated for their applicability to a German context.

In Berlin however cutting-edge projects and passionate innovators form a community of grass-root creative circular initiatives & start-ups, who explore new recycling processes, dive into sustainable consumption and discover ways to keep resources in closed loops in our daily lives. All while connecting with a bunch of kind, like-minded people & exchanging ideas of how a world without waste, less overconsumption and more human connection could look like.



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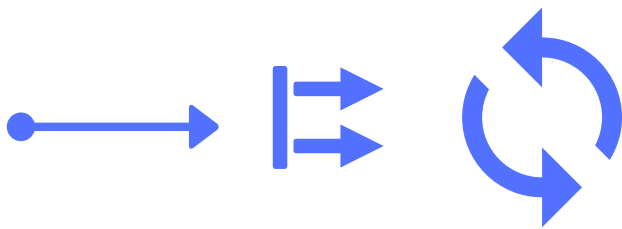
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Circular Economy in Poland

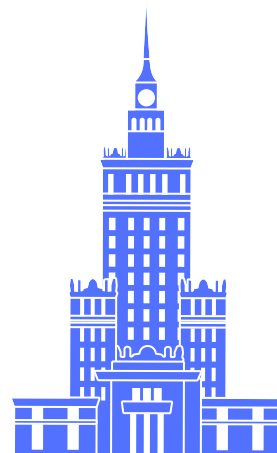


Poland is the third largest consumer of materials among the EU members, and the material efficiency in our country is 3.5 times lower than in the European Union (due to the high share and low added value of industry in the economy).



Electricity and heat are primarily generated in Poland through combustion of hard coal and lignite, which together accounted for close to 80% of domestic production in 2017 (coal is the basis for energy generation in Poland). Only 53% of all waste generated in Poland in 2016 was recovered, while more than 39% was landfilled.

In 2015, Poland's greenhouse gas emissions amounted to 386 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, representing 9% of total EU emissions - Poland ranked fifth among the EU states (after Germany, France, the UK (and Italy)). Calculated per capita, Poland's greenhouse gas emissions are more than 20% above the EU average. According to 2017 data from the World Health Organization, Poland is the no. 1 on the list of the 50 most polluted cities in Europe. As many as 36 of them are Polish cities (in many places waste are burnt in domestic furnaces).



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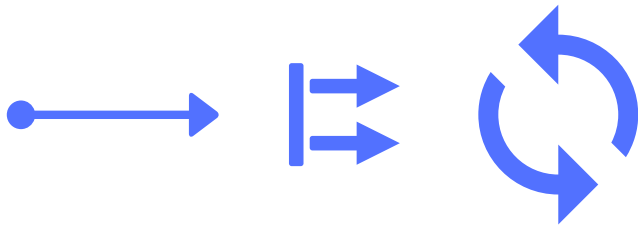
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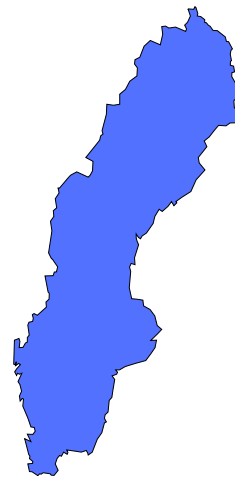


Circular Economy in Sweden



Virgin materials must be replaced as far as possible by resources used efficiently in circular flows. Consideration must be given to the need for virgin materials to enable the climate transition and recycling. The strategy describes what materials will be prioritised in national action on the circular economy. All of these must be better used and taken care of than is the case today: plastic, textiles, renewable and biobased raw materials, foodstuffs, materials in the construction and property sector, and metals and minerals critical to innovation.

On the 9th of July 2020 the Swedish Government has published the new national circular economy strategy that points out the direction and ambition for a long-term and sustainable transition of society. This is an important part for Sweden to become the world's first fossil-free welfare country. At the heart of the strategy there is a vision: "A society where resources are used effectively in non-toxic circular flows and replace virgin materials". The transition to a circular economy must be implemented jointly by policy, industry, the public sector, academia, individuals and civil society.



Focus areas:

1. A circular economy through sustainable production and product design.
2. A circular economy through sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services.
3. A circular economy through toxin-free and circular ecocycles.
4. A circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business models.

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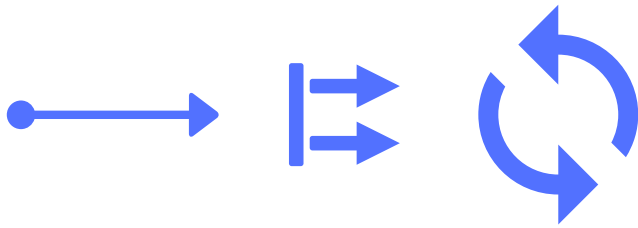
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Circular Economy in Belgium



From a circular economy perspective, in Belgium, various innovative economic models can be envisaged: innovative rental systems, systems for sharing and collectively using products and equipment, systems in which consumers buy the service provided by a product, rather than the product itself. The transformation of the Belgian economy from a linear to a circular model will enable the country to save money, achieve a more efficient use of resources, generate jobs and reduce the impact of production and consumption on the environment.

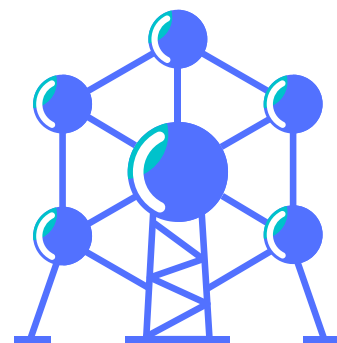


The Brussels Regional Programme for a Circular Economy is Belgium's capital region strategic effort towards a circular economy. Within this programme, the Brussels construction industry with its 12,000 businesses is a priority sector. As construction and facilities management accounts for 98% of water use, 75% energy demand and 33% of waste in Brussels, there is great potential for a substantial contribution to a circular transition.

In Belgium, the circular economy aims to change the paradigm in relation to the linear economy, by limiting the environmental impact and waste of resources, as well as increasing efficiency at all stages of the product economy. The recent warnings about waste pollution and the limits of natural resources are encouraging the development of a circular economy.



In Belgium businesses are not alone in their sustainable transition. In particular, they can rely on public initiatives developed to promote the circular economy. Accordingly, platforms including *be circular*, *be brussels* in Brussels, NEXT in Wallonia and Vlaanderen Circulair in Flanders offer them support, collaboration and coordination packages.



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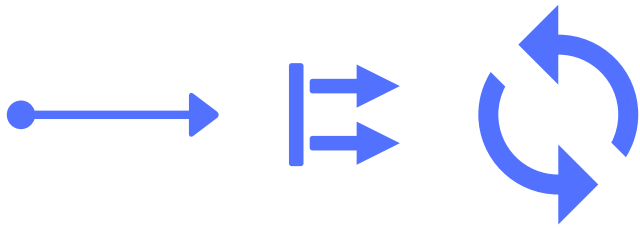
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Circular Economy in France



In France, the transition to a circular economy is officially recognized as one of the objectives of energy and ecological transition and as one of the commitments of sustainable development.

It requires progress in several areas.

- Sustainable sourcing
- codesign
- Industrial and territorial ecology
- The functional economy
- Responsible consumption
- The lengthening of the duration of use
- Improving the prevention, management and recycling of waste.

For several years now, France has sought to develop the circular economy. It is for this reason that an anti-waste law was enacted on February 10, 2020. This law sets new goals, such as the end of disposable plastic by 2040.



France is introducing progressive bans to reduce the use of single-use plastic.

The government is putting in place several measures aimed at better informing consumers through a few actions which are as follows:

- Harmonization of the colors of the bins,
- the implementation of a unique logo (Triman) to facilitate sorting or the development of environmental labeling. This bill also includes the ban on eliminating unsold non-food items and strengthens the fight against food waste

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region has chosen to make the circular economy a priority. The Standing Committee of December 20, 2019 thus allocated more than 2.6 million euros in subsidies in this field.



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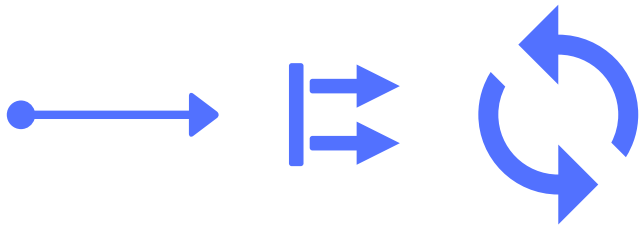
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Circular Economy in Italy



The EU is committed to developing the circular economy and, in May 2018, adopted a new package of directives establishing new legally binding targets for waste recycling. As we see in the following table, Italy is in the process of reaching, where it has not already passed, the targets set, highlighting the commitment towards a greater circularity of the economy, especially in some sectors where it is already in a leading position.

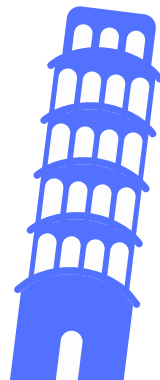


While highlighting the progress made by Italy in the development of the circular economy, particularly in the field of material productivity, the Commission underlines the need for structural changes to facilitate the transition towards an efficient use of resources and more circular and sustainable production models. The gap between the macro-areas of the country must be reduced: in fact, there is a noticeable difference in waste management performance, especially between the North and the South (in favor of the former). While in Northern Italy the percentage of separate collection has reached 64% of national production, in the Center it is around 49% and in the South only 38%. Italy needs to work on the difficulties faced by companies in the circular economy - which in Italy are essentially small-medium size (SMEs) - in their own activities.

In Italy, the value of the circular economy has reached important figures, registering a total turnover of 88 billion euros, 22 billion euros in terms of added value and almost 600,000 employees. It represents about 1.5% of the national added value, almost as much as strategic sectors such as energy or textiles; moreover, the recycling of secondary materials determines important potential savings in terms of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions quantified in 21 million tons of oil equivalent and in 58 million tons of CO₂. These are equivalent values of 12.5% of internal energy demand and 14.6% of emissions respectively.



Italy is substantially in line with the European average in waste production and urban waste recycling, while it occupies a leadership position compared to other European countries in terms of circularity and resource productivity. Instead, the field of innovation needs to be further strengthened.



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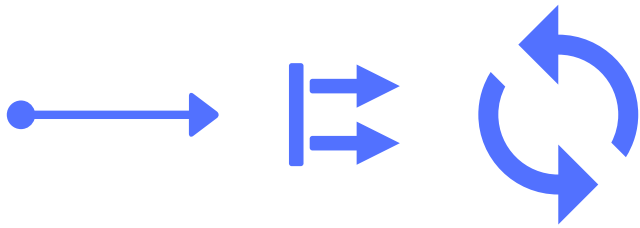
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Circular Economy in Spain



The Government estimates that nowadays, Spain needs more than 2.5x its surface area to meet the needs of its economy. An example of irresponsible production linked to linear economy is the case of agriculture, where aquifers are contaminated with chemicals, leading to a significant drop in drinking water throughout Spain.

Since the European Commission launched its circular economy 2020 strategy, The Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge developed a new scheme: Circular Spain 2030, aimed at promoting a new production and consumption model through three-year action plans.

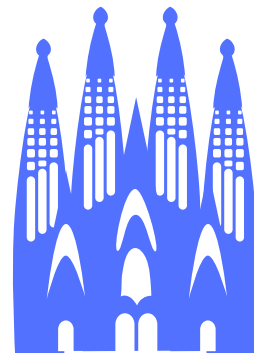


In addition, some Spanish institutions and companies are demanding a long-term strategy with defined objectives, combining efforts from regional and local administrations and, of course, at a state level. To this end, a coherent regulatory framework, tax incentives, investment in R&D and an impact assessment system are being established.

56% business owners see circular economy as an opportunity

942 registered Spanish businesses

4th country in the EU according to the amount of Ecolabel licences



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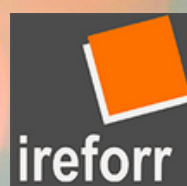
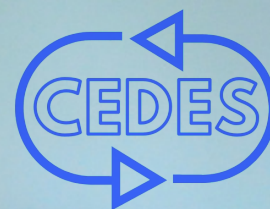
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