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PARDUBICKÉHO KRAJE

POLICY BRIEF 2

POLICY BRIEF OVERVIEW

Construction and demolition waste (CDW) rises from the construction, demolition, renovation, and reconstruction of structures such as buildings, roads and bridges.

At large, construction and demolition waste is defined as a mixture of different materials, including inert waste, non-inert non-hazardous waste, and hazardous waste. It accounts for approximately 25% - 30% of all waste generated in the EU and consists of numerous materials, including concrete, bricks, gypsum, wood, glass, metals, plastic, solvents, asbestos and excavated soil.

Within the framework of the activity A1.2 "Investigation of the economic potential of C&D waste and corresponding priority areas for regional C&D recycled materials markets", a survey was conducted and two questionnaires were handed out, addressed to CONDEREFF project partners and relevant stakeholders from each partner's territory respectively. The overall goal was to identify the demand and re-use potential of recycled C&D waste together with the C&D waste streams and volumes generated in the territories surveyed. This policy brief presents the analysis of the survey results and elaborates on key findings that emerged throughout the analysis.

CDW management is a high priority for resource efficiency, as a crucial policy objective for contributing to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

CDW IN THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

The EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), a key binding action within the thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of general waste, will require C&D waste to have a minimum of 70% reuse, recycling or other material recovery by 2020 in EU member states.

To this end, the EC introduced the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Protocol (2016) as guidelines towards the industry, public authorities at local, regional, national and EU levels, and other stakeholders, aiming to increase confidence in the CDW management and the quality of CDW recycled materials. Other EC initiatives such as the Communication on Resource Efficiency Opportunities in the Building Sector (2014), and essentially the Circular Economy Package (2015), demonstrate a strong will at EU level to promote, endorse, and valorise CDW management for resource efficiency.

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SURVEY RESULTS

Waste streams

As it is expected, due to regional differences in population, size, and business activities, the waste streams of C&D waste in CONDEREFF regions are disparate, particularly as concerns the volume of waste produced.

Landfill versus recovery

The highest percentages concern the volume of reused, recycled, and recovered C&D waste materials. In the case of Sachsen-Anhalt, the latter reaches 96%, constituting the highest percentage. This is also considerably high in Lazio region at 75%, Rhône-Alpes at 62%, and Steiermark at 60%.

Public measures for CDW supply & demand

Concerning the recovery of public cost of managing C&D waste in the CONDEREFF regions, landfill tax appears to be the most common practice. Landfill taxes and high disposal costs are often decisive drivers for recovery and recycling.

CDW value chain

In terms of number of businesses, the most active segments of the C&D waste value chain in CONDEREFF regions is CDW generation and collection; the second is C&D waste treatment (including companies processing and recycling collected waste), and the third is industries using recycled or reused waste materials. According to the survey, the larger businesses constitute the most common type of businesses in the CDW value chain in the project partners' territories.

Priority areas for recycled CDW

Regarding the industries with the highest demand for recycled CDW materials in European regions, it is observed that almost unanimously the project partners' data show that the road construction industry is found on top.

Regional industrial symbiosis (is) networks on CDW

Regarding the awareness of industrial symbiosis/circular economy initiatives and/or network existing in European regions, 4 out of 7 projects partners have answered positively.

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LESSONS LEARNED FROM PROJECT PARTNERS

- Unclassified CDW, representing mixed CDW, soils and stones, and insulation materials is the most protuberant category in terms of its volume in all regions, especially in the Lazio and in the Rhône-Alpes regions.
- The highest volume of CDW recovery is in Sachsen-Anhalt (96%), being also considerably high in the Lazio region at 75%, Rhône-Alpes at 62%, and Steiermark at 60%.
- Concerning the recovery of public cost of managing CDW in the CONDEREFF regions, landfill tax appears to be the most common practice where 5 out of 7 regions use relevant practices.
- In terms of number of businesses, the most active segments of the CDW value chain in CONDEREFF regions is CDW generation and collection; the second is CDW treatment (including companies processing and recycling collected waste), and the third is industries using recycled or reused waste materials.
- The main industries exercising the demand for recycled aggregates are predominantly the road construction industry, concrete, cement and gypsum producers. In terms of the type of application, most recycled aggregates are used for low-performance applications, such as foundations or road bases.
- The road construction industry constitutes one of the most important buyers of recycled aggregates; similarly, it is the industry that project partners perceive of assuming the highest economic potential for exploiting recycled CDW materials.

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CONCLUSIONS

KEY RESULTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS DATA

- Aggregates, concrete, and to a lesser extent bricks and gypsum products were identified to be the recycled C&D materials with the highest economic potential.
- The main industries exercising the demand for recycled aggregates are predominantly the road construction industry, concrete, cement and gypsum producers.
- The most important benefit foreseen from the exploitation of recycled C&D waste is the reduction of costs (administrative, operational and environmental).
- The most important barrier to the use of recycled C&D waste is lack of governmental support, with lack of specific End of Waste criteria and lack of supervision and regulations in recycling and reuse following closely as second and third most pronounced barriers respectively.
- The most pronounced enabler is considered to be the introduction of mandatory requirements from governmental authorities, such as public procurement standards that target recycled C&D waste materials; equally important enablers are considered the introduction of financial incentives for the use of recycled C&D waste materials in the renovation and construction sectors, the promotion of relevant training in the industry and the increase of the tipping fee for landfilling C&D waste.

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About us

The CONDEREFF project brings together 8 partners from 7 countries to exchange experiences and practices on how to promote green growth and circular economy through sustainable constructions & demolitions (C&D) waste management.

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