

Visit to GCR facilities and production plant in Tarragona (Catalonia)

In the context of the OSDD Catalonia that took place between 28th and 29th of November 2023 participants and stakeholders of the Interreg PLASTIX project could visit the Catalan company [Gestora Catalana de Residuos \(GCR\)](#) at its headquarters in la Bisbal del Penedès, Tarragona (Catalonia).

GCR develops and produces high-performance and sustainable plastic solutions, serving brand owners and plastic processors looking for recycled and recyclable plastics and mineral-based compounds. The company is a pioneer in plastics recyclability and reusability and is a leading manufacturer in the sector in the region. It offers high quality recycled plastics, without losing any properties. These are some of the main reasons to choose this company so that the participants could have a first contact with one of the main actors of the plastics sector in Catalonia, to exchange knowledge and see if in the networking dynamics could arise any interesting project opportunity.

Both the company and the participants were very interested in taking part in this [PLASTIX](#) visit. The feedback received was very positive, and it would not be surprising if in the near future there were collaboration dynamics between the company and some of the participants.

During their visit, participants could see first-hand the company's expertise in developing recycled and recyclable solutions, explore their laboratory and state-of-art pilot plant, where industrial-scale trials and testing of new developments pave the way for sustainable innovations, especially in the field of recycled plastic pellets originated from post-industrial waste source.

Such visits are very necessary not only for networking, but also for the two-way flow of knowledge, best practices and business relations, which is one of the fundamental purposes of the [Interreg Europe](#) regional programmes.

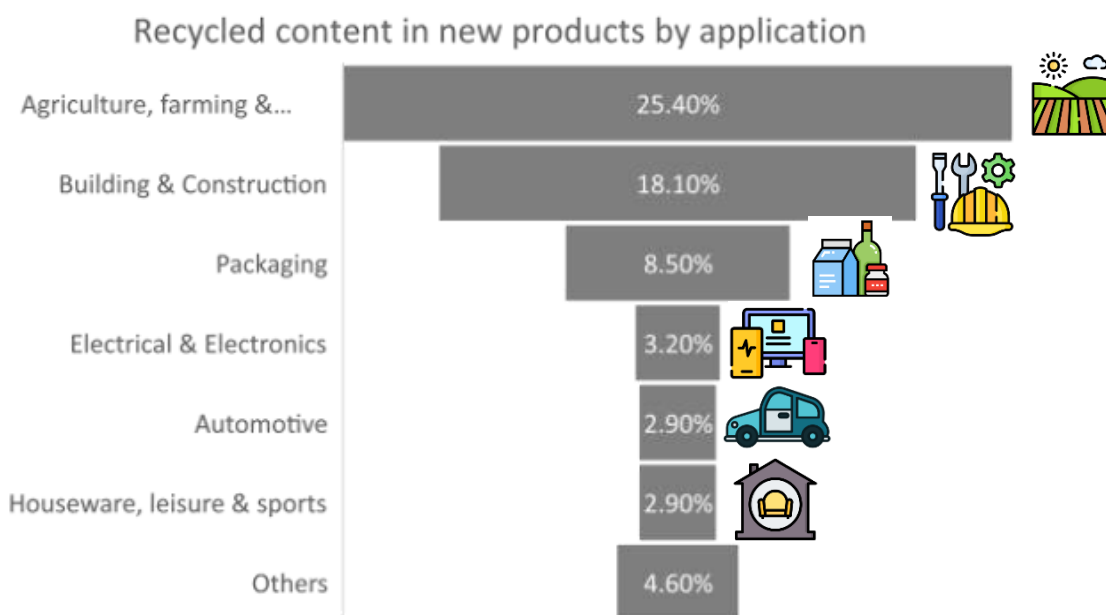


Recycled plastic sheet winding machine at GCR's innovation hub in its HQ.

An important aspect of the PLASTIX project is to see examples of applicability and uses of reused and processed plastic. This is a growing trend, due to the need to reduce the production and consumption of plastics on a global level, it is also necessary not to create more virgin plastic, and to try to reuse and recycle the existing plastic as much as possible.

The recent report published in the framework of the PLASTIX project, *PLASTIX: Study of the plastic sector in the 6 project regions*¹, shows that there is an increasing trend to add recycled content in new plastic products, especially in Europe, where according to the source Plastics Europe², an average of 10% recycled content in new plastic products will be reached by 2021.

By sectors of application, the high content of recycled plastic in new products in the field of agriculture and livestock farming is remarkable: 25.4% of the content of new plastic products applied in this sector is of recycled origin. In the case of construction, it is 18.1%; in packaging 8.5%; in electronics and electrical sector 3.2%; in automotive 2.9%; or in houseware, leisure and sports 2.9%, as shown in the graph below³.



Source: Plastics Europe.

¹ Access the entire report here: https://www.interregeurope.eu/sites/default/files/2023-12/State-of-play_PLASTIX_final.pdf.

² Plastics Europe: <https://plasticseurope.org/resources/publications/>.

³ European figures.