

## 5th Gypsum Recyclers Forum

**Wed, 26 May • 11:30-13:30 CET**

Online meeting

# The case of gypsum

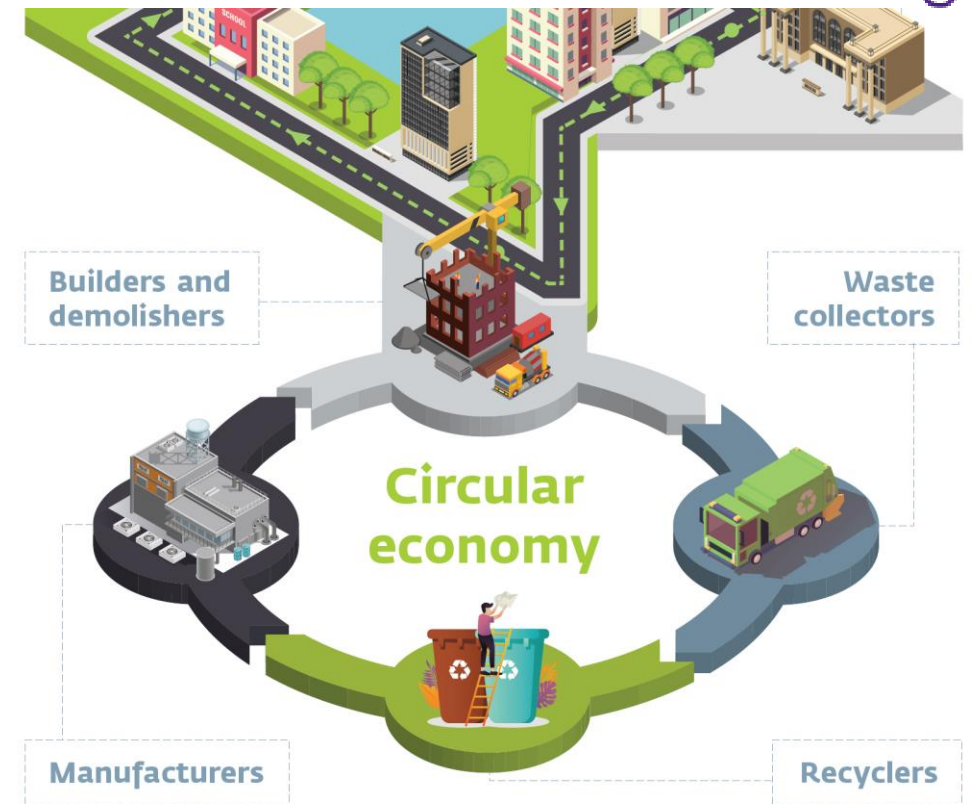
## *Background and Status of Gypsum Recycling*

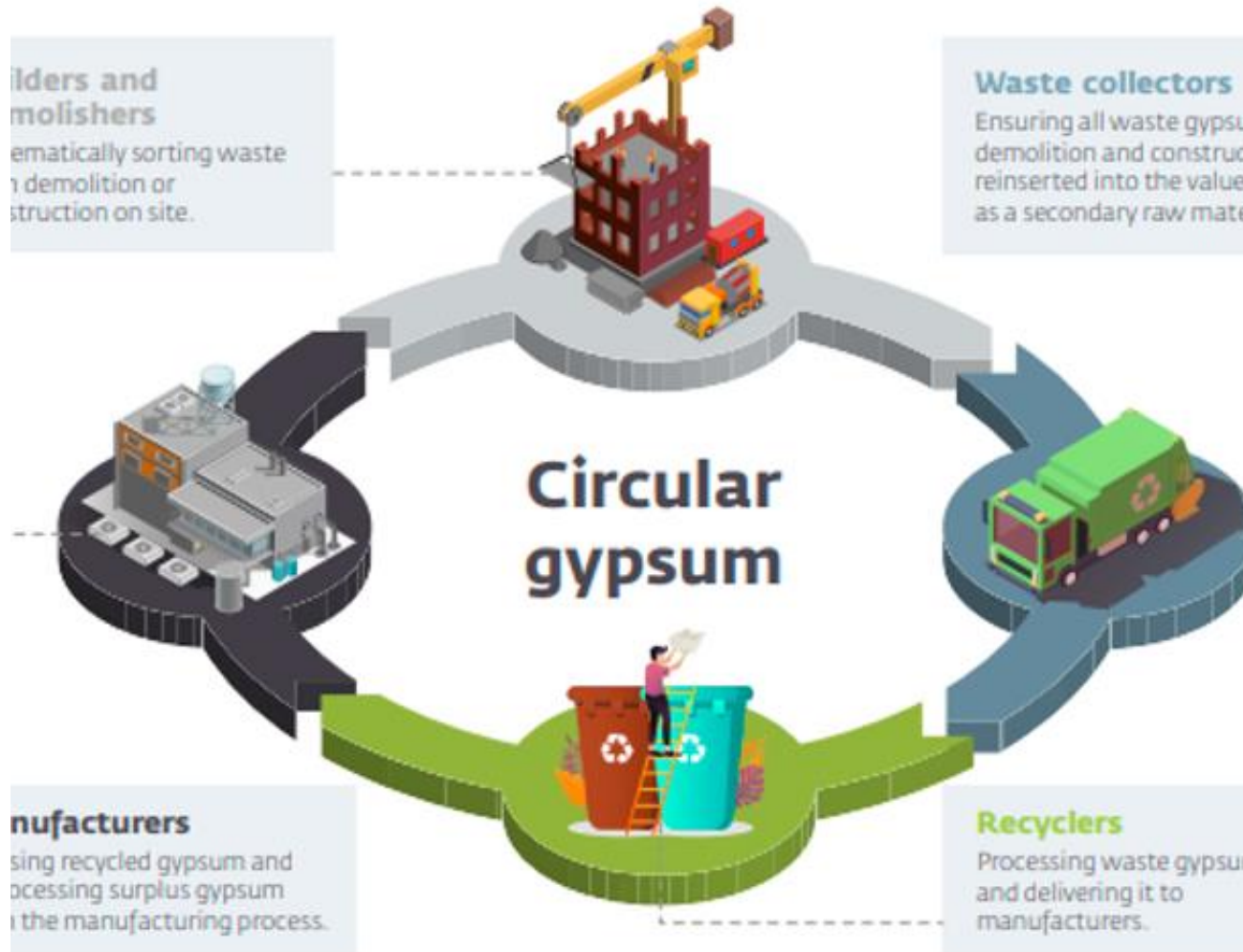
Xavier Meyer

EUROGYPSUM

Circular Gypsum

Working Group Leader



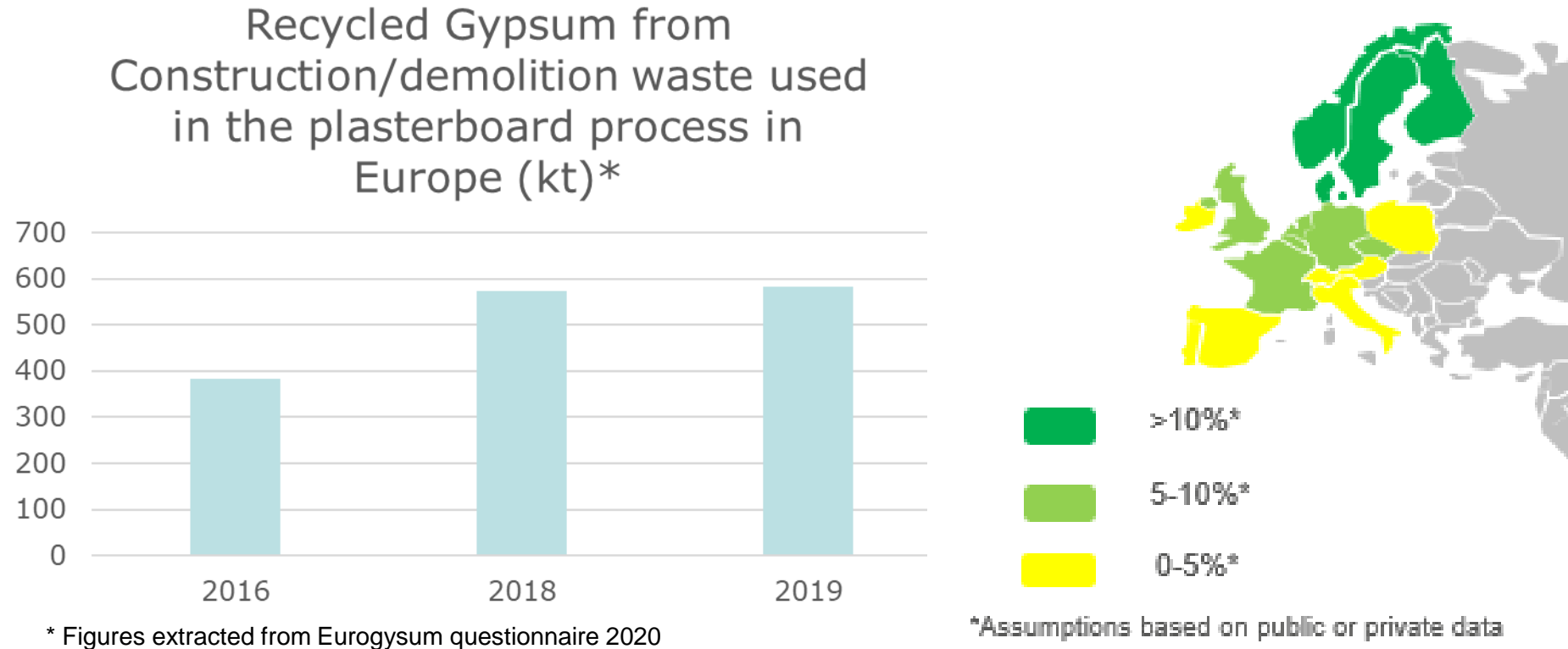


# Working towards total resource efficiency

Gypsum can be deconstructed, reprocessed and reused in buildings forever.

Closing the loop is possible but there are still challenges ahead

# Figures and Facts



- General comments

- ➔ No significant progress between 2018 and 2019
- ➔ The total volume of C/D GBW remains low compared to potential accessible volume (> 2 Mt gypsum construction waste estimated, no figure for demolition waste)
- ➔ Strong discrepancies between European MS; Nordic countries leading the way

# How to encourage gypsum circularity?

- Gypsum can be endlessly recycled while maintaining a high quality, but... gypsum waste remains largely unrecycled in Europe
- When looking at the experience in the Nordic countries, the main drivers for circular economy remain:
  - ❑ **The competitive cost** of recycled material
  - ❑ **The demand from the market and the local regulations** favouring circular economy
  - ❑ The practices on site regarding **early sorting**, favouring good quality material
  - ❑ The management of the **risk of presence of asbestos traces** on the RC gypsum
- Technical barriers to high recycled content persist (presence of residual paper in the RC Gypsum, mineral and hydrophobic particles)

# How to encourage gypsum circularity?

- When looking at the European countries where gypsum recycling practices remain poor, some key considerations can be addressed:
  - ❑ **Disposal routes cheaper** and easier than recycling routes
  - ❑ **Lack of demand for sustainable solutions** from the construction market
  - ❑ **Local regulation on circular economy not favouring** the emergence of gypsum recycling stream
  - ❑ Easy access to **cheap FGD gypsum** in some countries
  - ❑ Lack of **traceability and transparency**, leading to stakeholders' lack of confidence
  - ❑ Demolition versus deconstruction, **lack of early stage sorting**, leading to poor quality of recycled material

Harmonized waste legislation across EU

Deconstruction vs demolition (early sorting)

Fostering the economic competitiveness of the recycling route

Thank you!

