

5th Gypsum Recyclers Forum

Wed, 26 May • 11:30-13:30 CET

Online meeting

The case of gypsum

Background and Status of Gypsum Recycling

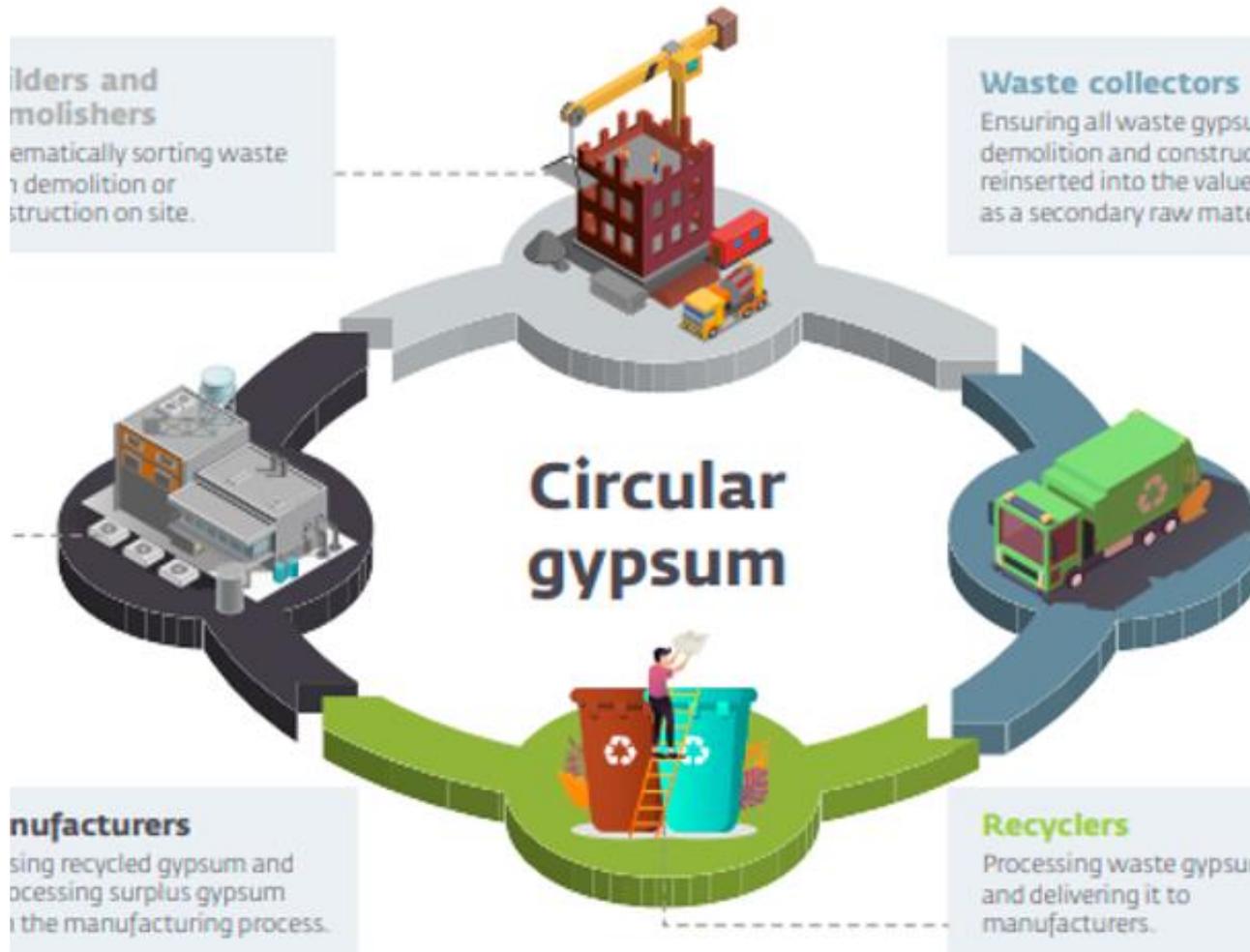
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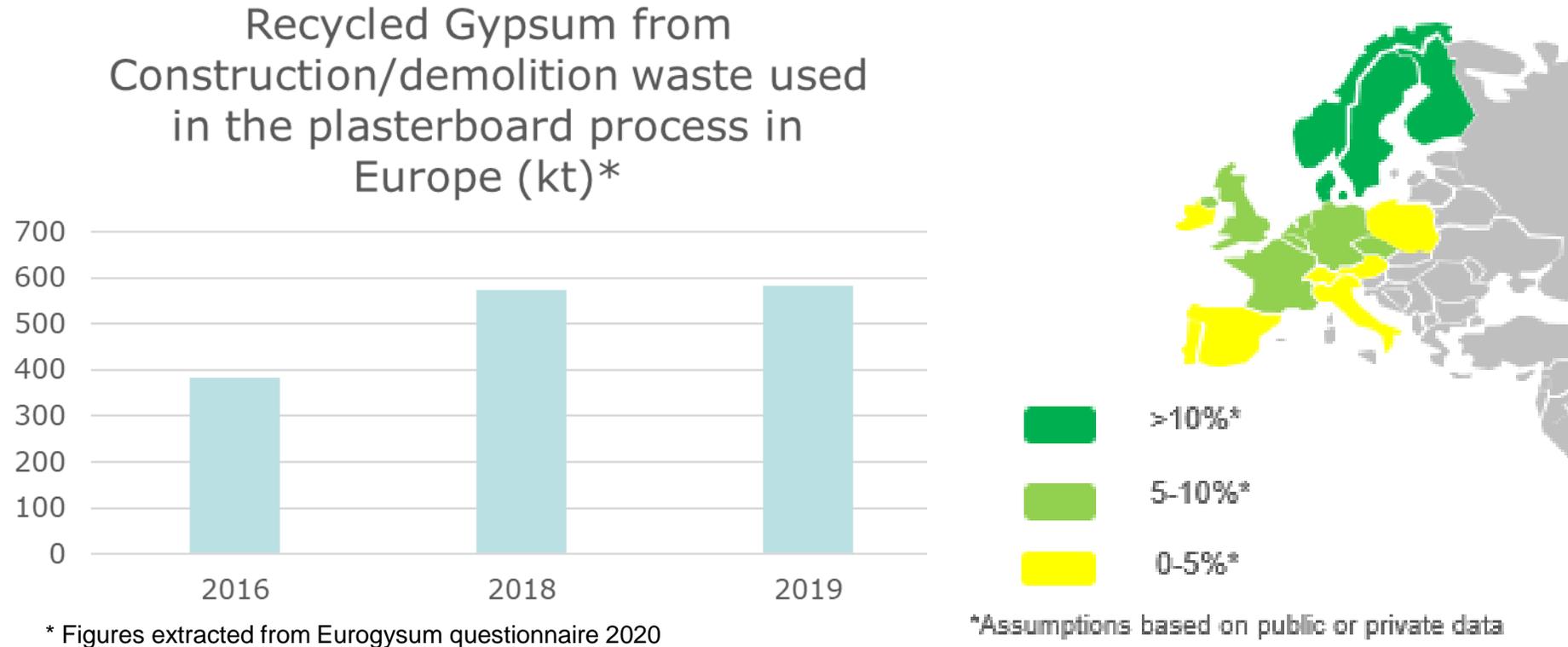


Working towards total resource efficiency

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!

