



Co-funded by
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A ROADMAP TOWARDS CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF ALBANIA

Launch meeting, Tirana, 27 March 2024



Objectives of the roadmap



Assist the government of Albania in formulating policies for a circular economy, with a focus on improving inter-institutional coordination and collaboration with stakeholders to drive the transition forward



Consolidate existing policies and promote collaboration between various sectors, measures, and stakeholders



Promote sustainable production and consumption, which could further economic, environmental, and social objectives



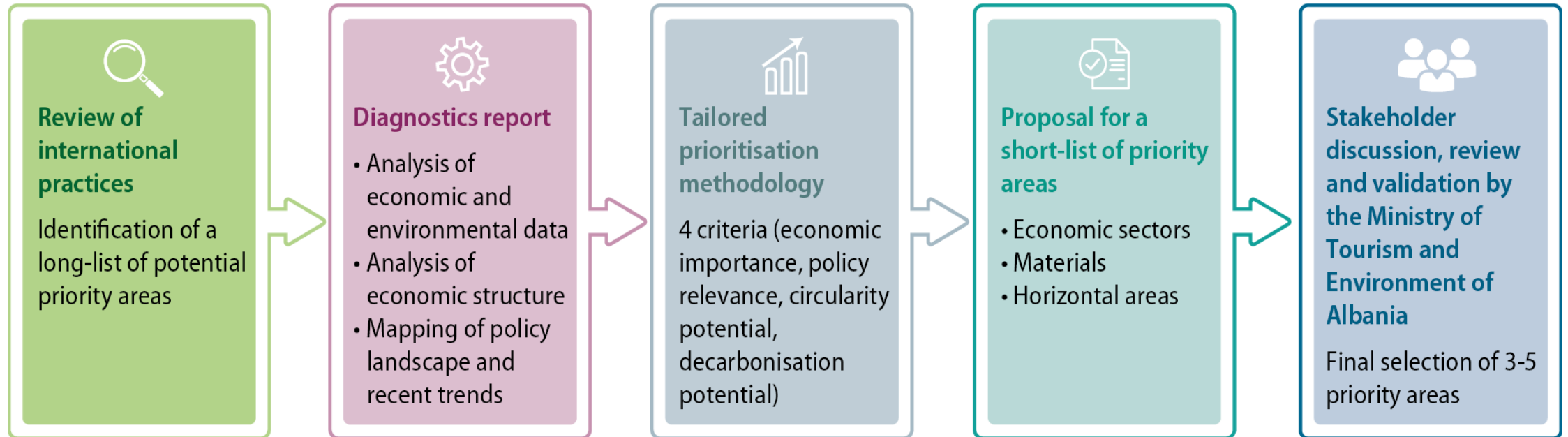
Reduce material and resource consumption, increase productivity levels, and decrease pollution



Increase societal awareness of circular economy concepts



Roadmap development process

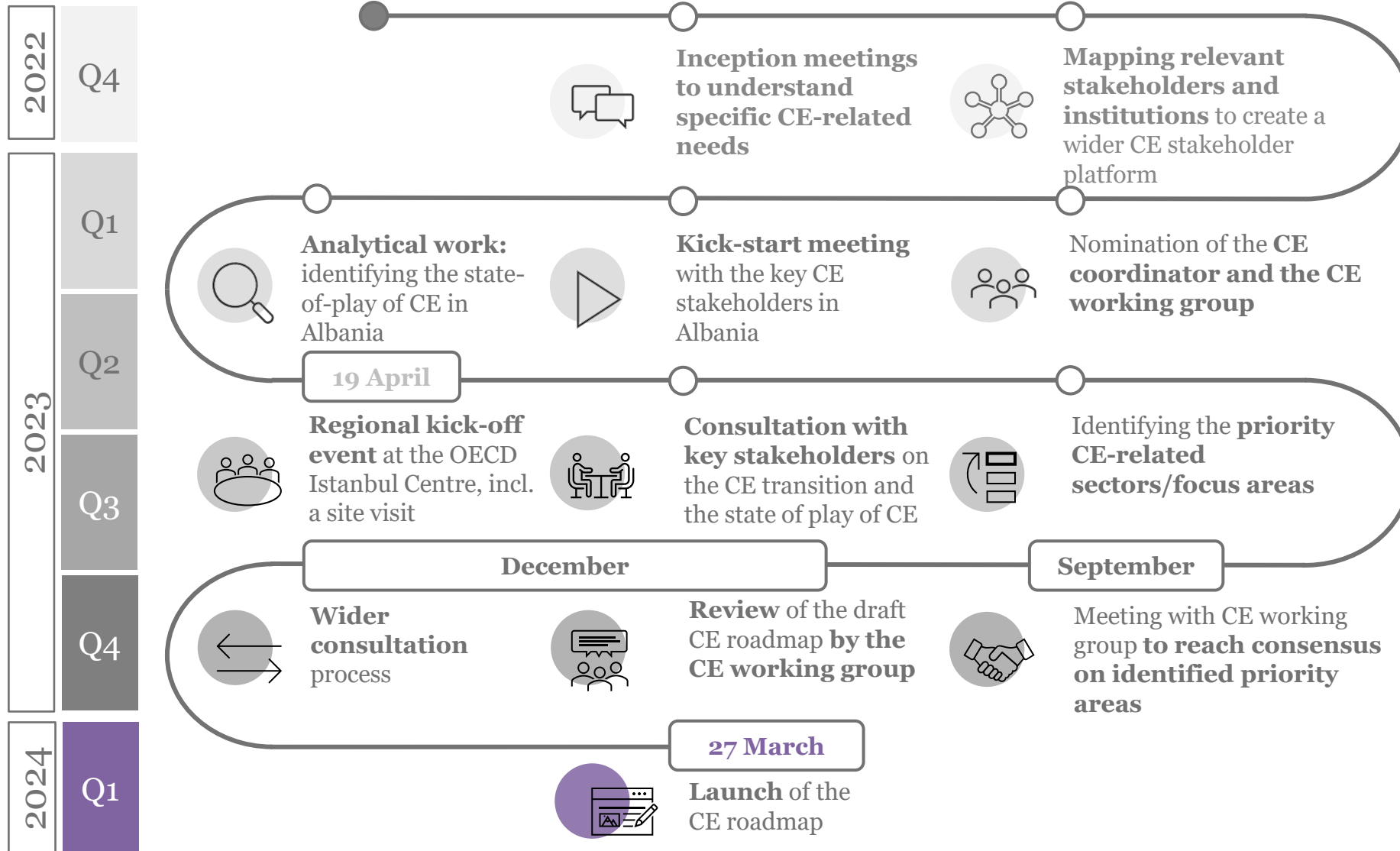


Key ingredient:

Consultation process with key stakeholders, including the government, private sector, civil society, academia and IOs **throughout the CE roadmap development** to obtain insight into their views, experiences, challenges, needs and concerns regarding the circular transition.



Timeline and key milestones





Main circular economy stakeholders in Albania



Government

Leading Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

- Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
- Ministry of Local Government
- Albanian Investment Development Agency
- Institute of Statistics
- National Environment Agency



Non-government stakeholders



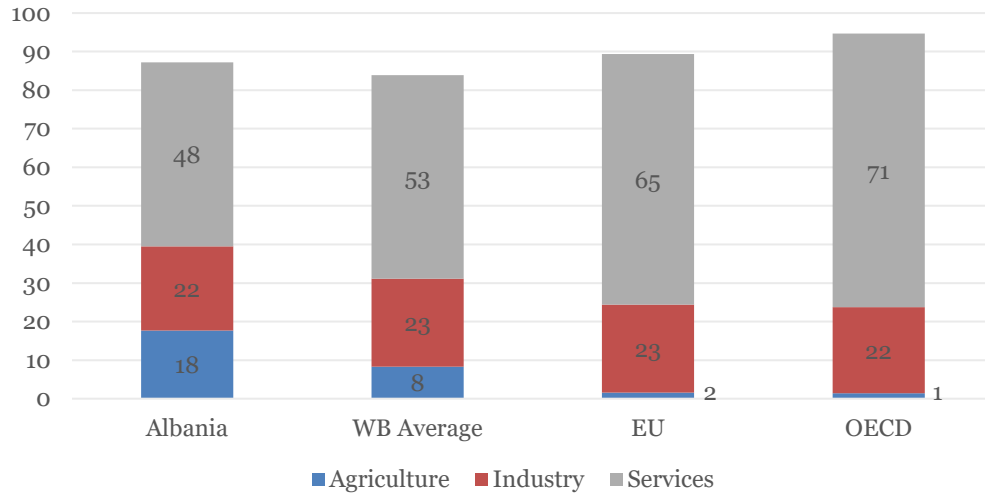


RECAP OF DIAGNOSTICS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ALBANIA



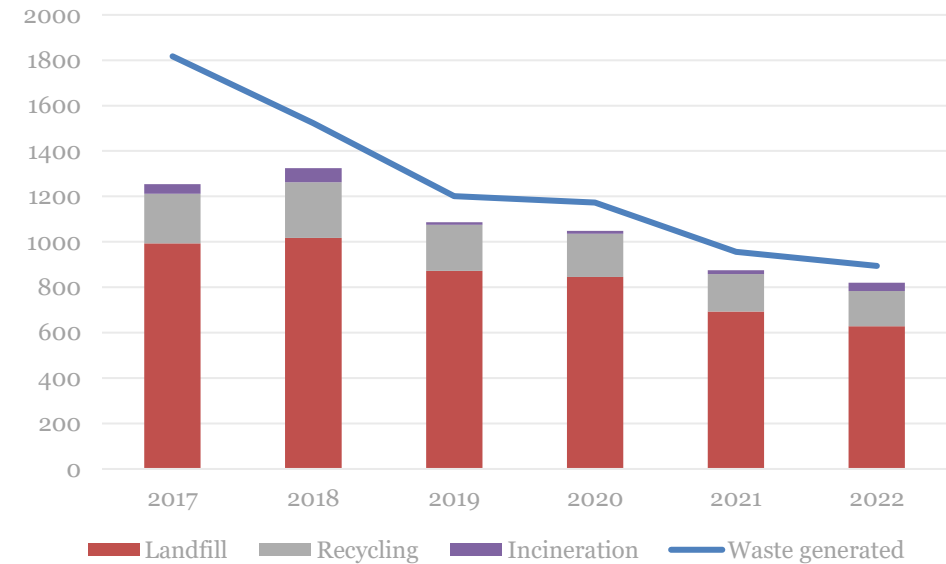
Albania's key economic features and environmental trends relevant to circular economy

Value added by grouped activity in Albania (% of GDP), 2021



- Albania is a **service-oriented** economy, largely driven by the tourism sector. Large share of SMEs can be a key driver in achieving circular objectives.
- Slow progress in adoption of new technology and innovation in the **industry sector**. Largest industrial sectors are energy and carbon intensive and there remains untapped CE potential.
- Agriculture** is dominated by subsistence farming on small and fragmented holdings with low-skilled jobs. A CE transition could foster growth in the sector and improve water, energy and waste management

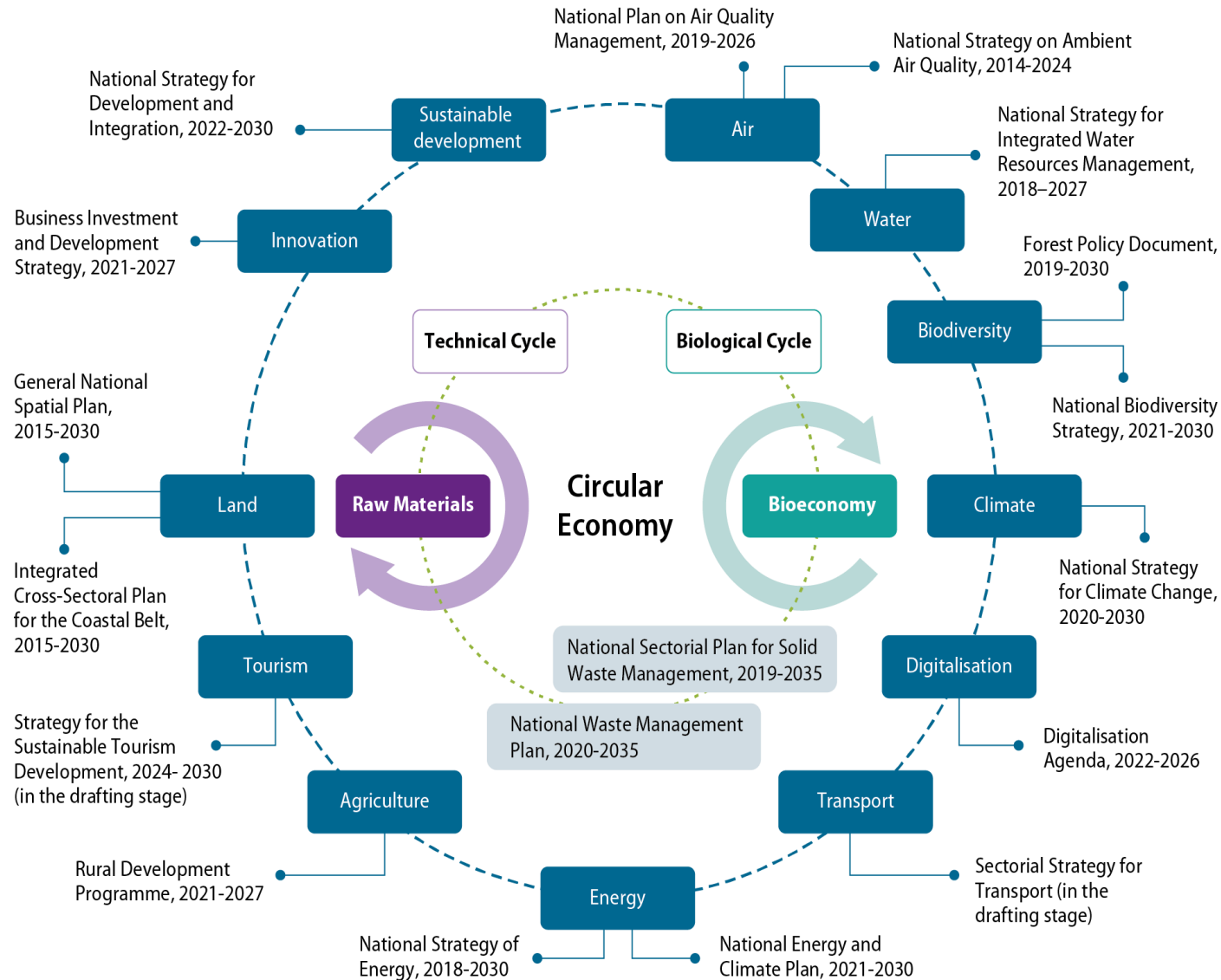
Municipal waste generation and treatment (%), 2017-2022



- The DMC** of metal ores and fossil energy carriers and materials has increased in recent years, impacting imports.
- Resource productivity** is improving, reached an all-time high value in 2021, but remains well below EU average.
- Waste management** is a challenge: inadequate waste separation (80% landfilled) and low recycling rates, mainly conducted by informal waste pickers.



Existing policy landscape relevant to circular economy

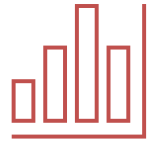




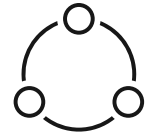
SELECTION OF PRIORITY AREAS



Selected 3 priority areas for Albania



Economic instruments



Circular business models for SMEs



Plastics, with a focus on marine litter

3 cross-cutting areas

Municipal waste management

Tourism

Knowledge and awareness raising



LEVERAGING ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Economic instruments

Objectives

Economic instruments have been proven to offer a cost-effective way to encourage behavioural change and spur innovation, while also generating potential revenue.

Did you know?

A new **law on EPR** should be adopted in the second quarter of 2024 and will establish EPR takeback schemes for

- packaging
- waste from electrical and electronic equipment
- batteries and accumulators.

Overview of economic instruments





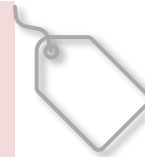
Key recommendations: economic instruments

- **Increase recycling and material recovery by implementing planned extended producer responsibility (EPR) take-back schemes** to increase the collection and recycling rates of specific waste streams (e.g. packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, and accumulators).
- **Strengthen the incentives provided by fiscal instruments** for the circular economy and **implement new measures to address different stages in the product life cycle** (e.g. landfill tax, materials taxes, household waste charge reforms).
- **Gradually increase the use of green public procurement** criteria as award criteria for a more circular supply of products and services.

Good practice: Green Public Procurement As A Driver For Change In Italy

Since 2016, Italy mandates that public entities incorporate Green Public Procurement criteria for selecting products and services.

This approach, backed by specific legislation and voluntary certification like the “Remade in Italy” label, not only encourages environmental sustainability by the providers, but also unlocks tax benefits for businesses meeting minimum recycled content standards.





CIRCULAR BUSINESS MODELS FOR SME_s



Circular business models for SMEs

Key facts

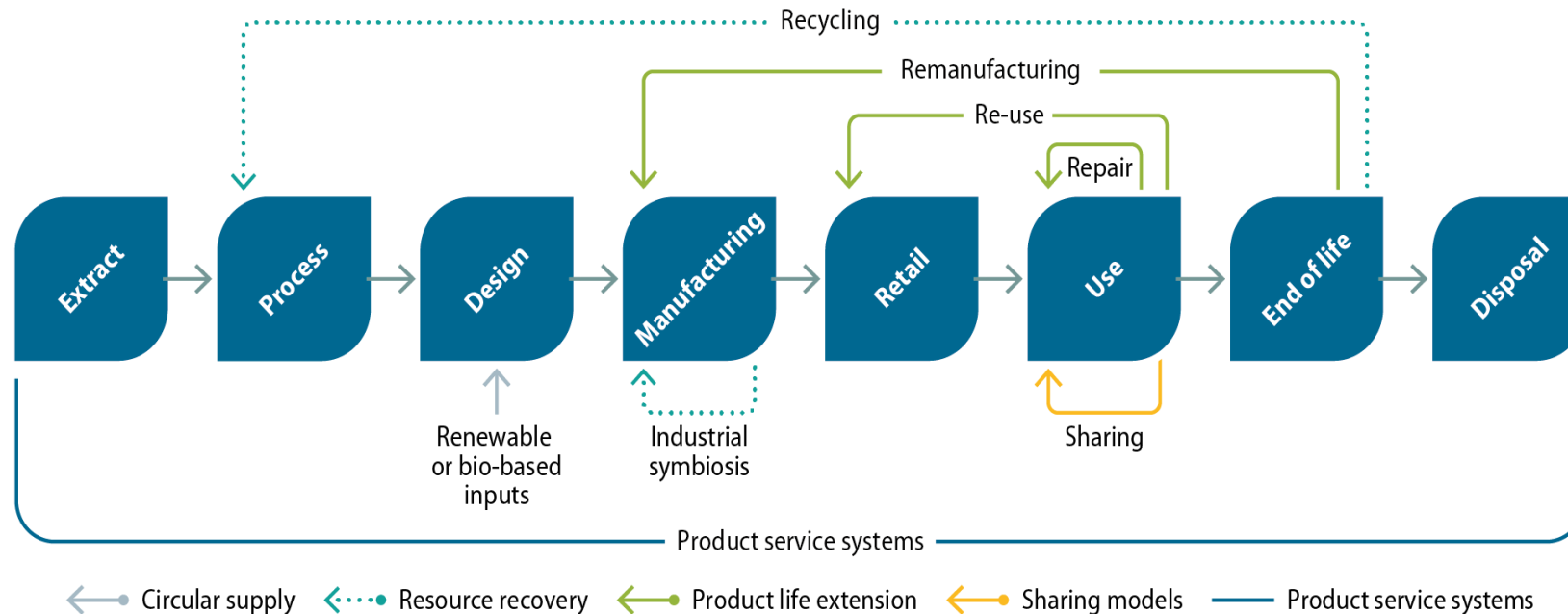
In Albania, SMEs account for

- 99.8% of enterprises
- 81.9% of employment
- 85% working in services

Did you know?

Only 20% of Albanian businesses believe that their business models allow for a shift towards a circular economy, with added costs and the lack of government subsidies being the most significant impediments in this regard.

What are circular business models?





Key recommendations: circular business models for SMEs

- **Provide financial support for scaling up circular business models** by introducing calls for SMEs within existing and new funding programmes and offer corresponding non-financial support.
- **Establish and strengthen multi-stakeholder co-operation within and across value chains** by establishing outlets for collaboration (e.g. circular economy business platforms, investor-entrepreneur matchmaking events).
- **Strengthen collaboration between SMEs and academia** (through grants for collaborative R&D, innovation vouchers or supporting the establishment of collaborative research centres).
- **Raise SMEs' awareness and education** on the circular economy through different engagement channels (e.g. communication campaigns, training programmes, administrative support).

Good practice: Turkey Circular Economy Platform

Established by the Business Council for Sustainable Development of Türkiye (2020). The platform:

- provides practical solutions, incentives, news and opportunities in the field of the circular economy.
- includes a knowledge hub and measurement tools and offers training, financial opportunities and consultancy services for companies.
- manages the Turkey Materials Marketplace (TMM), an e-commerce platform for industrial symbiosis.



PLASTICS, WITH A FOCUS ON MARINE LITTER



Plastics, with a focus on marine litter

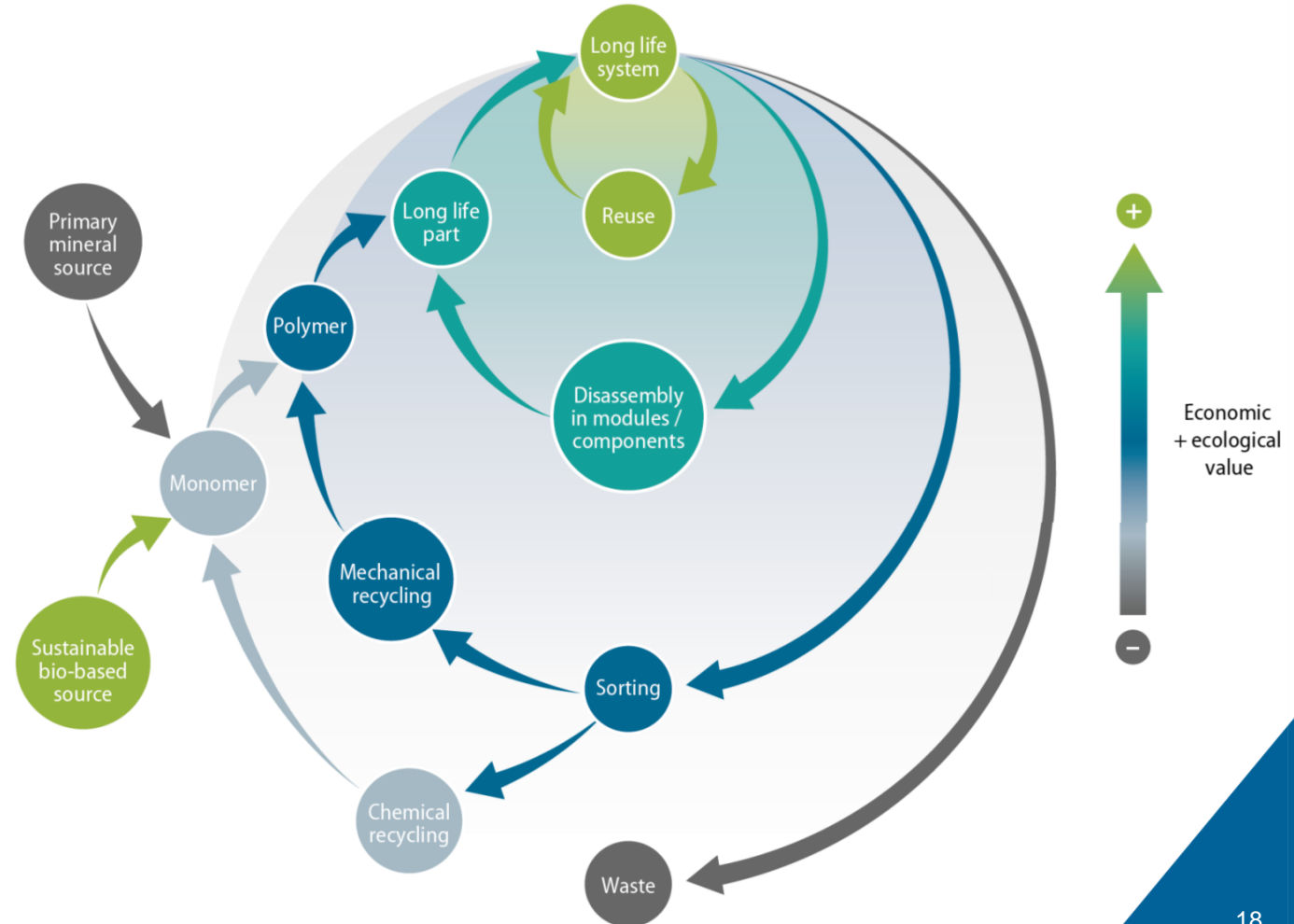
Key facts

- Lack of comprehensive data on plastics
- Very low rates of recycling
- Substantial leakage of (often untreated) plastic waste into the Adriatic-Ionian basin
- Strategic material to several economic sectors (textile, fishing, packaging, construction)

Did you know?

Albania amended its waste management law to ban the use of certain categories of plastic bags in March 2022 and has partially aligned with the EU directive on single-use plastics.

The circular plastics life cycle





Key recommendations: circular business models for SMEs

- **Close the plastics loop through increased recycling and better waste management** by investing into infrastructure and other measures targeting plastic packaging waste (e.g. extended producer responsibility take-back schemes, deposit-refund systems).
- Shift demand from single-use plastics to alternatives and more reuse through a **ban on single-use plastic products and targeted green public procurement**.
- **Curb virgin plastics use through design and production-related measures** (e.g. eco modulated fees, minimum recycled content requirements, taxes on plastics).
- Implement cross-cutting measures to **raise awareness** on preventing plastic waste **and develop a strategy** to curb marine plastic litter.

Good practice: Croatia Initiative To Minimise Tourist Industry Plastic Pollution

- Dubrovnik, a city where waste can quadruple in the summer, has pledged to eliminate single-use plastics by 2030. This commitment involves enhancing waste management and creating Reuse Centres, integral to the “Plastic Smart Cities Croatia” initiative.
- This strategy encompasses legal changes, educational campaigns, and active involvement of the tourism industry.





MONITORING FRAMEWORK



Monitoring framework - an integral feature of the roadmap

The proposed monitoring framework for Albania has a two-tier structure:

- A set of headline indicators to monitor the economy-wide circular transition in Albania, largely based on the European Union's circular economy monitoring framework** and grouped into five categories: 1) production and consumption; 2) waste management; 3) secondary raw materials; 4) competitiveness and innovation; and 5) global sustainability and resilience .
- A set of indicators per priority area to monitor the progress made on specific recommendations** (e.g. qualitative ones: the implementation has started, is ongoing or completed).



Indicator ¹	Description	Link to recommendation	Source ²
Economic instruments			
Tax revenues or savings generated from circular economy-related tax instruments	Amount (ALL)	Applies to all recommendations concerning tax instruments	Data to be provided by the Ministry of Finance and Economy
Recovery rate of packaging waste	Ratio of overall packaging waste prepared for reuse, recycled or subject to material recovery to packaging waste generated (%)	Effectively implement planned extended producer responsibility (EPR) take-back schemes	Data to be provided by the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)/National Environment Agency
Establishment of a Special Fund for Circular Economy ³	Action-specific indicator for monitoring the creation of the fund (yes/no)		Data to be provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment/ Ministry of Finance and Economy
Share of income distributed to the Special Fund for Circular Economy ³	Income raised from the fund for the fulfillment of the EPR Law (% , ALL)		Data to be provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment/ Ministry of Finance and Economy
Establishment of a programme for supporting reuse and recycling credit schemes	Action-specific indicator for monitoring the creation of the programme (yes/no)	Introduce reuse and recycling credit schemes that would offer payments for the removal of items from municipal waste for recycling and reuse	Data to be provided by the Ministry of Finance; municipal authorities
Illegal landfills	Change in the number of illegal landfills, amount of illegally discarded municipal waste (m ³)		INSTAT
Landfill tax proceeds	Amount (ALL)	Implement landfill tax discounts for good sorting/high recycling	Data to be provided by the Ministry of Finance and Economy
Waste collection coverage	Share of households that have access to a reliable waste collection service	Reform household waste charges (introduce a gradual increase of waste charges with discounts for good waste management practices, promote low-cost pay-as-you-throw schemes and improve enforcement)	Data to be provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment; municipal authorities
Campaigns to raise public awareness on waste charges	Action-specific indicator monitoring the implementation of comprehensive, culturally appropriate public education and awareness-raising initiatives		Data to be provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment; municipal authorities
Waste generation	Generation of municipal waste per capita (kg per capita); generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes per GDP unit (kg per EUR 1 000, chain linked volumes [2010])		INSTAT
Separate collection	Share of municipal waste collected separately compared to all municipal waste generated (%); separate collection of paper, metal, plastic and glass		INSTAT
Uptake of home composting	Measures the extent of home composting		Indicators to be developed, data to be collected by municipal authorities, would require specific surveys



ANY QUESTIONS ?



Thank you for your attention!

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MKseeurope

Launch of the Roadmap Towards Circular Economy of Albania

Panel Discussion: From Design to Implementation

Speakers



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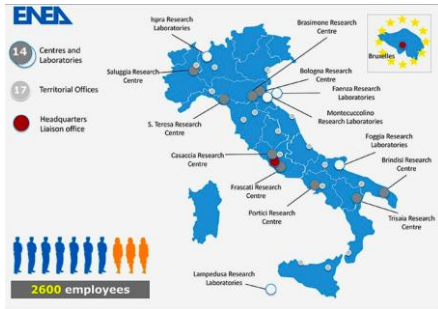
Circular Economy solutions: Examples from ENEA's projects

A Roadmap towards Circular Economy of Albania
Tirana, 27° March 2024

Rovena Preka PhD – ENEA /Sustainability Department / Resource Efficiency Division



ENEA for Circular Economy



National and International Networks:

- ECESP
- ICESP
- Symbiosis Users Network (SUN)

Advanced infrastructures for production and characterization of innovative materials, recovery / recycling and enhancement of resources such as **water, biotic resources, chemicals from by-products, scraps, waste and wastewater.**

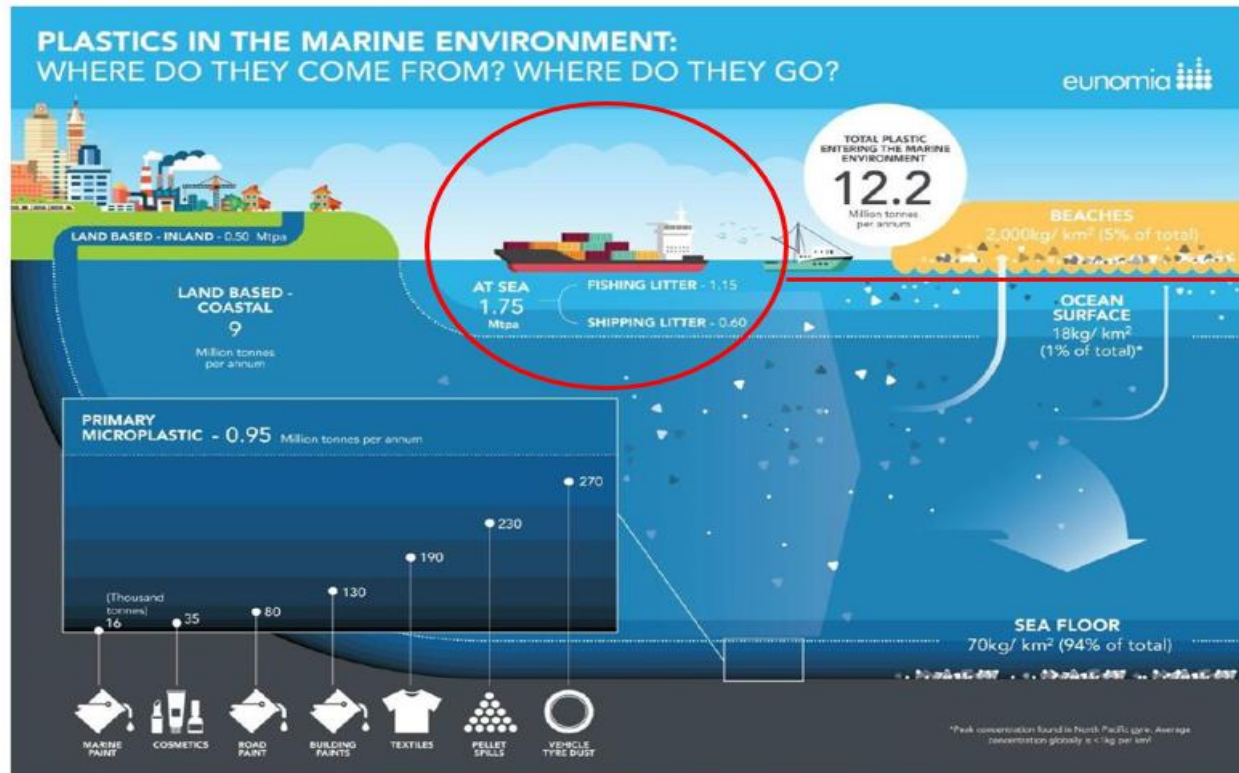
- Process Eco-innovation
- Product Eco-innovation
- System Eco-innovation

Integrated innovative **approaches** for the transition to circular economy and low-emission systems

- Urban Areas
- Territory and sea
- Value Chain
- Industrial System

Patents and softwares for circular economy

Plastic in the marine environment: the sources of macroplastic and microplastic in the world's oceans



1.75 Mtpa:
FISHING and SHIPPING LITTER



OUR RESEARCH:
IS IT POSSIBLE TO RECOVER AND TO RECYCLE THIS KIND OF PLASTIC?

Research approach for mussel net

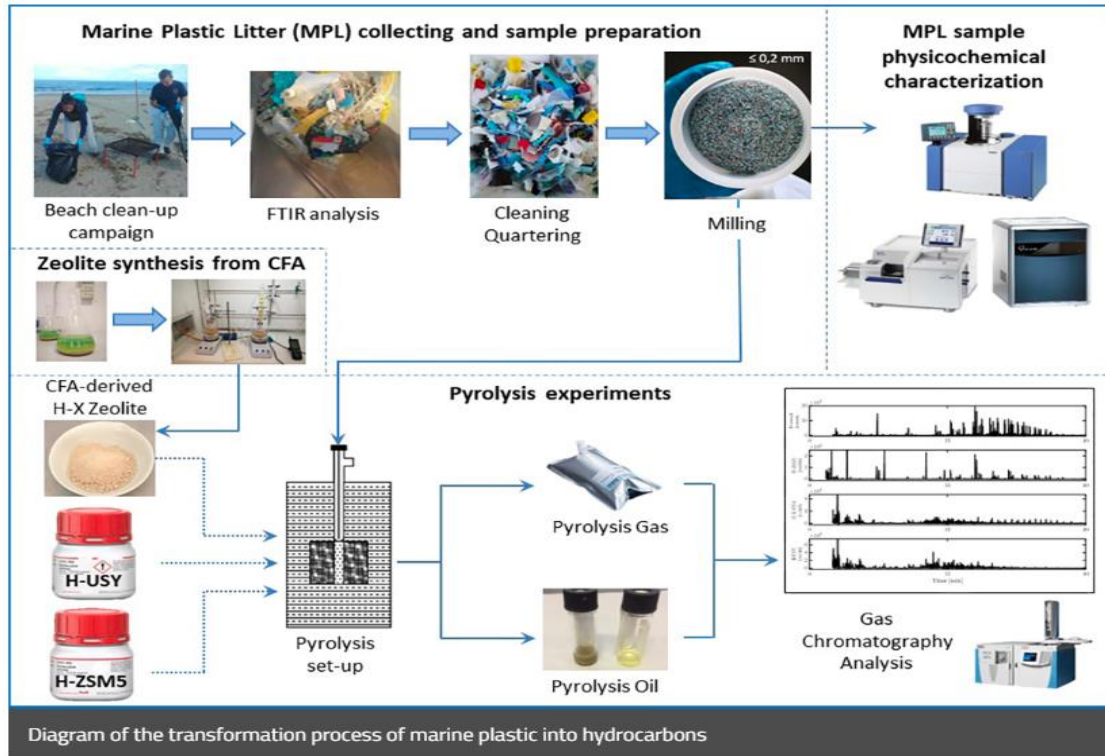
- **Mussels net** is the most common category of waste plastics which is possible to find in both the target territories involved in the project.
- A **mechanical recycling** test was carried out. It consist of different phase:
 - **Physical and Chemical Washing**
 - **Characterization**
 - **Milling**
 - **Densification in granules for extrusion**



**EXTRUSION OF MUSSEL NET TO PRODUCE A FILAMENT
TO BE USED AS A TONER IN 3D PRIINTIG PROCESS**



Pyrolysis: ENEA devises new process to turn plastic marine litter into oil



It is about a process to turn over 90% of plastic waste from the sea into new "oil" to be used as a product for new plastics, paints, solvents and countless organic compounds. This activity was conducted as part of the European interregional Italy-Croatia project "**NETWAP**" on the reduction and innovative management of waste

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