

Success factors for a Circular Economy Model in the Aggregates Industry

Thilo Juchem
UEPG President



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About Aggregates – EU data

THE AGGREGATES SECTOR IS BY FAR THE LARGEST AMONGST THE NON-ENERGY EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES



UEPG IN A NUTSHELL



The aggregates sector is by far
the largest
amongst the non-energy
extractive industries
In numbers of sites, companies, numbers
employed and tonnages produced.



The aggregates industry comprises
15,000
companies (mostly SMEs).



Aggregates demand is just on
5 tonnes
per capita per year.



producing at
26,000
sites across Europe



The European [EU28+EFTA, 2015]
aggregates demand is
2.7 billion
tonnes/year,
representing an annual turnover
of an estimated €15 billion.



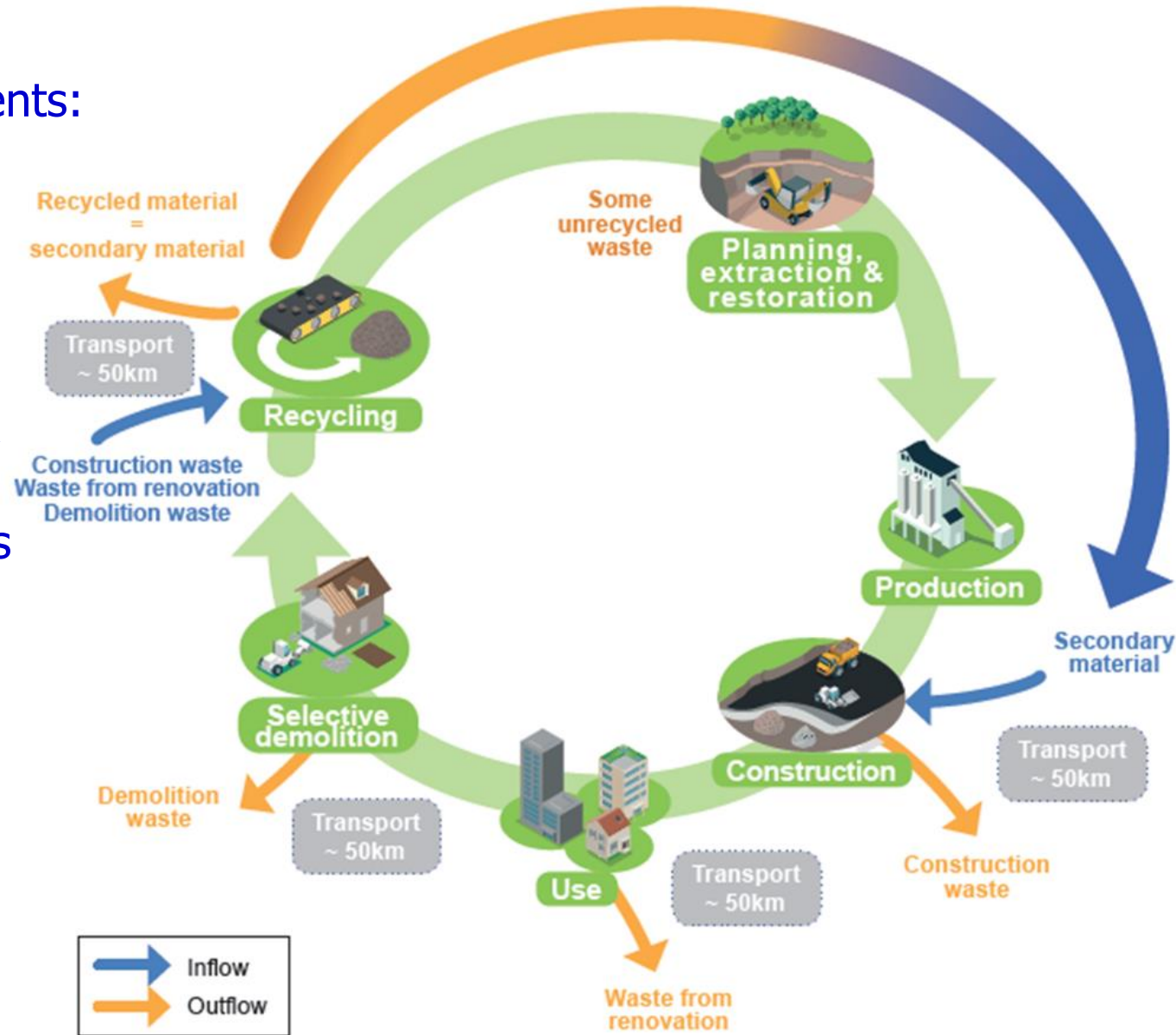
with just over
200,000
people employed
(including contractors).

Our Circular Economy Model

Towards a circular economy for aggregates

Legislative requirements:

- By 2020, 70% of all construction and demolition waste to re-use; recycle or backfill;
- EU Member States report data on an annual basis



Our commitment

- **UEPG supports the concept of circular economy** and the use of the waste hierarchy, including recycling where technically, environmentally and economically feasible.
- **UEPG represents both the producers of primary and secondary aggregates producers** – the business model of companies is changing
- **UEPG officially endorsed the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol** and supports the European Commission in promoting its application.
- **UEPG is cooperating with stakeholders in the circular economy, e.g. the European Demolition Association (EDA).**

The truth is ...

- ... in practice, the available amount of recycled aggregates of the appropriate quality, would not allow for the complete substitution of natural aggregates. Even with the total recycling of all construction and demolition waste, it would only cover some 12-25% of the current total demand of aggregates.
- Aggregates are heavy/bulky material massively used – long transport distances could become unsustainable.
- A tax on primary raw materials will not lead to higher recycling rates – Germany has obtained high recycling rates without aggregates tax



Success factors

- To make sure that natural and recycled aggregates are subject to the same environmental and **quality criteria** in their respective applications;
- The **physical infrastructure** needed for recycling and sorting, the economic viability to recycle and the education of customers on the benefits of using recycled materials;
- Promote the collation of **accurate statistics** to show the availability of recycled aggregates close to the time and point of demand and to benchmark the improvements of use made by individual Member States.
- **Transfer of knowledge** and exchange of good practice examples – Stakeholder Platform



Success factors

- **Optimal construction design** to ensure longest possible lifespan, to minimise initial material use, to have a built-in adaptability and minimal end-of-life demolition;
- Having recognised **End-of-Waste criteria** for all EU Member States;
- **Manufactured aggregates:** waste from one process could be the raw material for another.
- Too much focus on recycling – **apply Waste Hierarchy** (avoid waste, re-use on site);



THANK YOU



European Aggregates Association

Rue d' Arlon 21, 1050 Brussels, Belgium, EU

+32 22 33 53 00

secretariat@uepg.eu

EU Transparency Register: 15340821653-49

www.uepg.eu



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@UEPG_Aggregates