

KEY MESSAGES

- ▲ Encourage the application of an optimal construction design philosophy to **ensure the longest possible lifespan**, to minimise initial material use, to have a built-in adaptability and minimal end-of-life demolition.
- ▲ Having a recognised **European specific End-of-Waste criteria** for all Member States.
- ▲ Work with the political and regulatory bodies to determine what kind of **measures to promote recycled aggregates** would work best in each Member State. National projects to promote aggregates recycling should consider the **physical infrastructure needed for recycling**, 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** and to benchmark the improvements of use made by individual Member States.



KEY FACTS

- ▲ **Aggregates** are **granular material** used in construction including sand, gravel, marine aggregates, crushed rock, recycled and manufactured aggregates.
- ▲ **Natural Aggregates** are derived from natural sources and are processed as defined in European Standards. Natural aggregates resources, in most parts of Europe, are available in such amount that the supply for the European economy was secure if access was granted sufficiently.
- ▲ **Recycled Aggregates** are derived from the **reprocessing of materials** previously used in construction, including **construction and demolition residues**, as defined in European Standards. It is acknowledged that **recycled aggregates cannot completely substitute natural aggregates**.

Life Cycle of Aggregates

A resource efficient industry



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 (sand, gravel & crushed rock)

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

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



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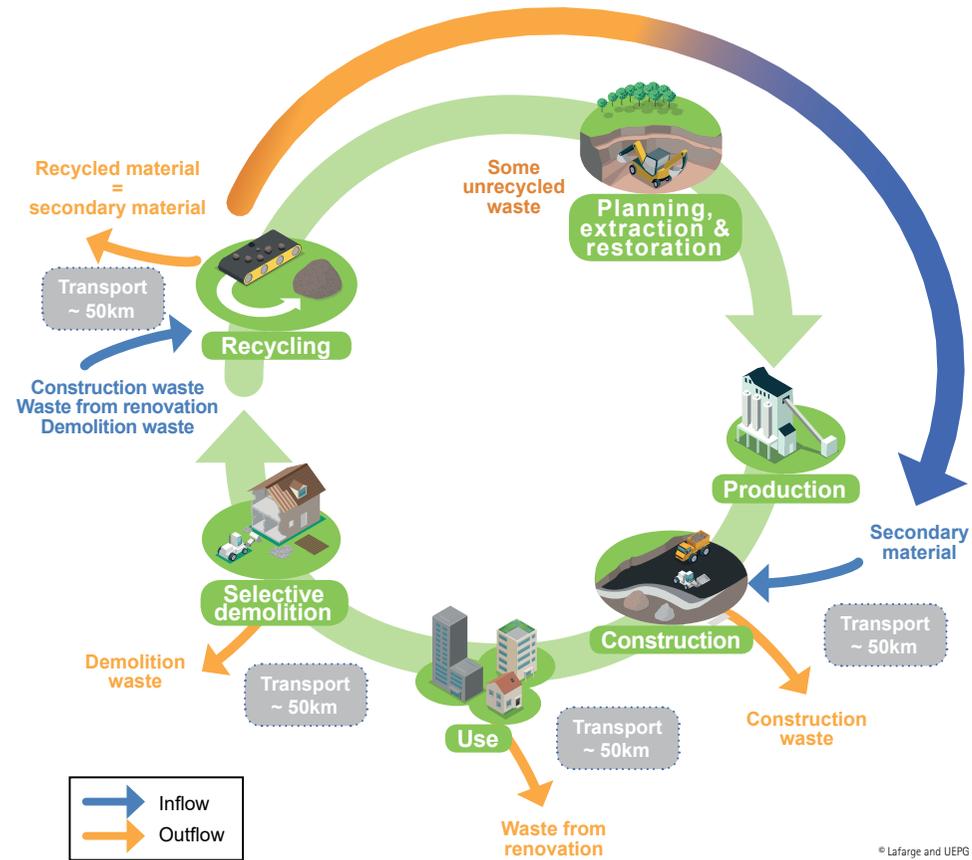
KEY MESSAGES

- ▲ 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 **12–20% of the current total demand of aggregates**.
- ▲ Ensure that the Waste Framework Directive recognises that **waste from one process could be the raw material for another** and that all current unfounded barriers restricting the movement of such materials are quickly removed to realise a circular economy.
- ▲ Encourage the European Commission to **acknowledge the product status of recycled aggregates** and to endorse the adoption of established Member State Quality Protocols that implement End of Waste Criteria in their markets. This implies the **promotion of recycled aggregates where economically, environmentally and technically feasible** respecting the given technical standards.



OBJECTIVES

- ▲ To promote efficient and **sustainable use of raw materials** in order to realise the circular economy;
- ▲ To support the **development of end-of-waste criteria** for construction and demolition waste;
- ▲ To make sure that **natural and recycled aggregates are subject to the same environmental and quality criteria** in their respective applications;
- ▲ To support Member States in their ambitions to **use more recycled aggregates in appropriate applications** or to maintain higher recycling rates.



- ▲ UEPG supports the concept of circular economy and the use of the waste hierarchy, including recycling where technically, environmentally and economically feasible.
- ▲ UEPG endorses the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol which constitutes a significant contribution to the efforts towards an EU Circular Economy Model.