



# Main results from the Circwaste project

Boosting Circular Economy  
– Circular economy advancements from  
Finland and around the World  
30th September 2021

Kati Pitkänen, Tiina Karppinen, Hanna  
Salmenperä, Jaakko Karvonen



- **What is Circwaste? (Kati)**
- **Monitoring of the impact of the project and transition to Circular Economy (Tiina)**
- **Measuring the environmental impacts of the project (Jaakko)**
- **Regional and municipal CE roadmaps (Hanna)**



# CIRCWASTE – Towards circular economy

a project designed to achieve the waste targets and assist in making the system level change into circular economy in Finland

# CIRCWASTE objectives and scope

Funding: EU LIFE, Integrated Projects, 2016 – 2023

- Implement the **targets of the National Waste Plan (NWP)** by concrete pilots, research and development actions and effective dissemination
- Mobilize new **projects** supporting circular economy and waste management and launch continuous **processes**
- Create **cooperation** and enhance **networking** to disseminate best practices and project results in Finland and internationally
- Support the **systemic change** towards circular economy in Finland

# 22 partners, 4 regions, 10 forerunner municipalities

## Research institutes and universities

- Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
- Natural Resources Institute (Luke)
- Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology (LUT)
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences (KUAS)
- Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS)

## Waste management companies and enterprises

- GS1 Finland Ltd
- Business Joensuu Ltd
- Kiertomaa Ltd
- Wimao Ltd
- Motiva Ltd
- Pikes Ltd
- Puhas Ltd
- Ramboll Ltd
- Digipolis Ltd

## Municipalities and regions

- Central Finland Health Care District
- City of Jyväskylä
- City of Lappeenranta
- City of Pori
- Regional Council of Central Finland
- Regional Council of North Karelia
- Regional Council of Southwest Finland
- Council of Tampere Region



# 20 actions, in six themes for implementing NWP and circular economy



Regional and strategic cooperation and developing projects



Resource efficiency in construction



Utilization of biodegradable waste and by-products



Utilization of industrial waste and side streams



Digitality and logistics



Utilization of soil



Center for circular economy

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, reflecting the sky. The foreground is dominated by a dense carpet of green moss and small plants, with some dry twigs scattered across it. In the background, rolling hills or mountains are visible under a clear, bright sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# Monitoring the Impacts of the Project and the Transition to a Circular Economy



Monitoring circular economy in Finland

Monitoring in Circwaste

Development of sub-national waste indicators

Towards the inner circles of circularity monitoring

Contributing to the international dialogue on monitoring CE



# Monitoring Circular Economy in Finland

# European CE Monitoring

Focus on waste and material streams, based on existing data

- Need for development and new data acquisition
- A number of development projects (e.g. in EEA)

Table:  
Myllymaa et al. 2021, [link](#)

Theme	Indicator Type	Indicator	Results for Finland (most recent value, if data available)
Production and consumption	1. EU self-sufficiency for raw materials		N/A
	2. Green public procurement		N/A
	3. Waste generation	Generation of municipal waste per capita	551 kg, annual data 2014–2018
		Generation of waste excluding major mineral waste per GDP unit	73kg/EUR 1,000, semi-annual data 2008–2016
		Generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes per domestic material consumption	8.2%, semi-annual data 2008–2016
4. Food waste		N/A	
Waste management	5. Recycling rates	Recycling rate of municipal waste	42.3%, annual data 2014–2018
		Recycling rate of all waste excluding major mineral waste	37%, semi-annual data 2010–2016
	6. Recycling / recovery for specific waste streams	Recycling rate of overall packaging	65.2%, annual data 2013–2017
		Recycling rate of plastic packaging	26.5%, annual data 2013–2017
Recycling rate of wooden packaging		14.5%, annual data 2013–2017	
Secondary raw materials	7. Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand	Recycling rate of e-waste	48.2%, annual data 2013–2017
		Recycling rate of biowaste	72%, annual data 2013–2017
		Recovery rate of construction and demolition waste	87%, semi-annual data, 2010–2016
Secondary raw materials	8. Trade in recyclable raw materials	End-of-Life recycling input rates (EOL-RIR)	N/A
		Circular material use rate (CMU)	2.2%, annual data 2013–2017 7%, Finnish data on 2018 (Lesonen & Pirtonen 2020)
Competitiveness and innovation	9. Private investments, jobs and gross value added	Imports from non-EU countries	28,449, annual data 2015–2019
		Exports to non-EU countries	304,599, annual data 2015–2019
		Intra EU trade	139,656, annual data 2015–2019
Competitiveness and innovation	10. Patents	Gross investment in tangible goods	0.08% of GDP at current prices, annual data 2014–2017
		Persons employed	1.58% of total employment, annual data 2014–2017
Competitiveness and innovation	10. Patents	Value added at factor cost	0.88% of GDP at current prices, annual data 2014–2017
		Number of patents related to recycling and secondary raw materials	16.46, annual data 2011–2015

# Strategic Programme to Promote a Circular Economy in Finland

## The first national set of circularity indicators and targets



### Indicator

**Domestic material consumption (DMC)**

**Material input required for domestic end-use material-specifically (RMC)**

**Resource profitability (GDP/RMC)**

**Circular material use rate (CMU)**

**Turnover of circular economy sectors and number of enterprises**

**Eco-innovations**

**Innovative public procurements**

**Amount and recycling rate of municipal, packaging, and construction waste**

**Circular economy barometer for companies and consumers**



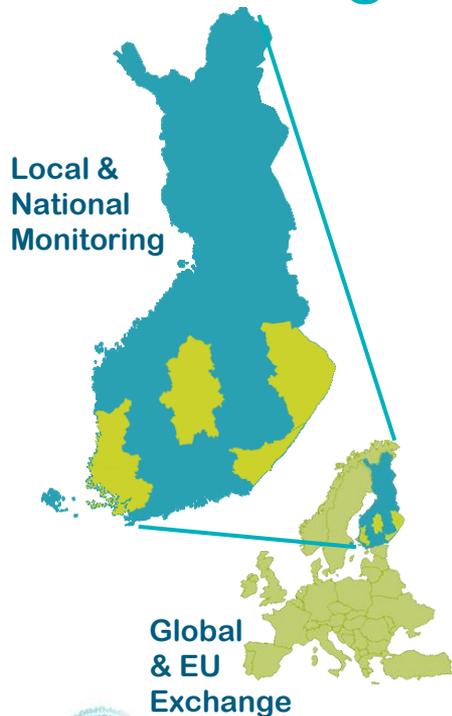
[Link](#)



# How does Circwaste Contribute to the Development of Circularity Monitoring?

# Indicators in Circwaste Project

## Monitoring to support decision-making



Sharing best practices

Support for regions

Roadmaps

Impacts

Open data

Communication

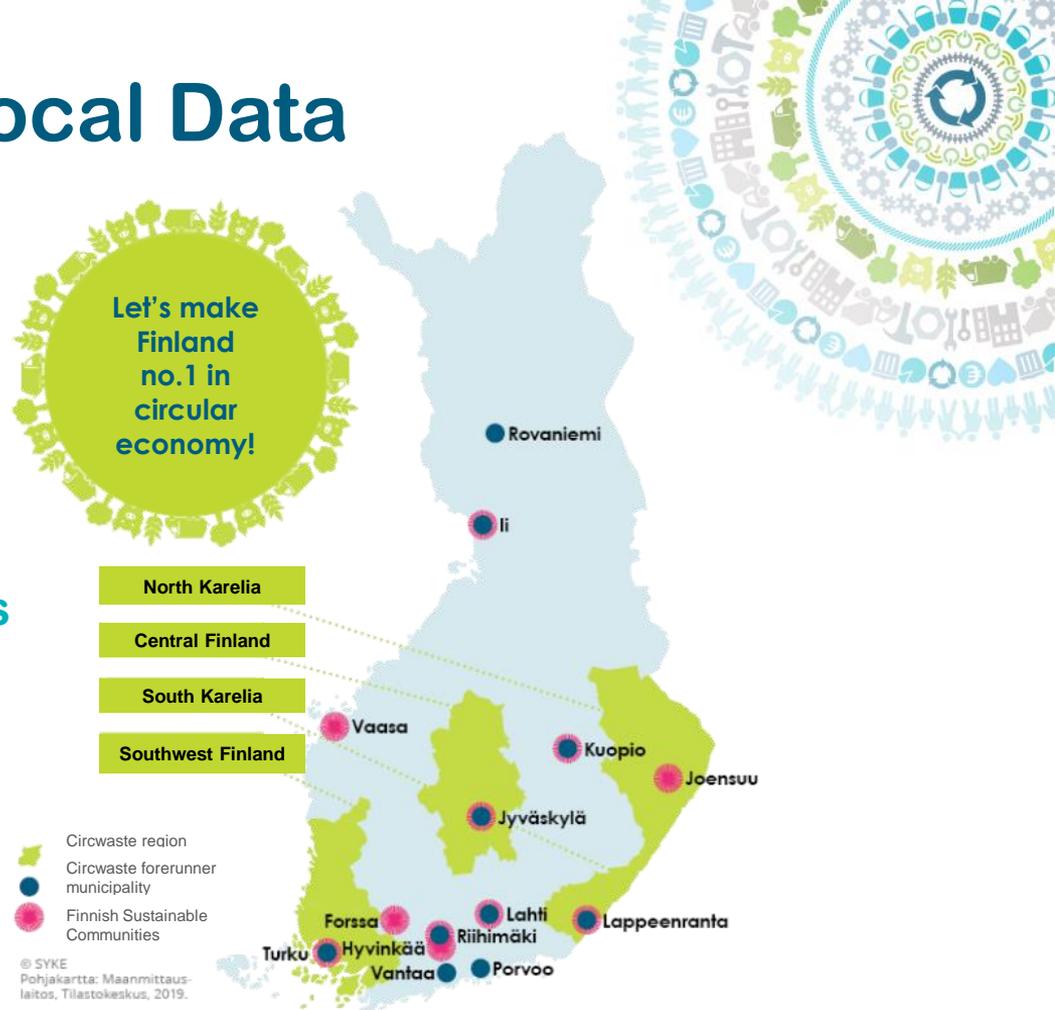
Waste legislation

Strategic planning

National waste plan

# Local Actions – Local Data

Circularity monitoring  
for municipalities and regions



# Municipal Solid Waste Still in Increase

The national monitoring of waste poorly represents the impact of local actions promoting sustainable waste management.

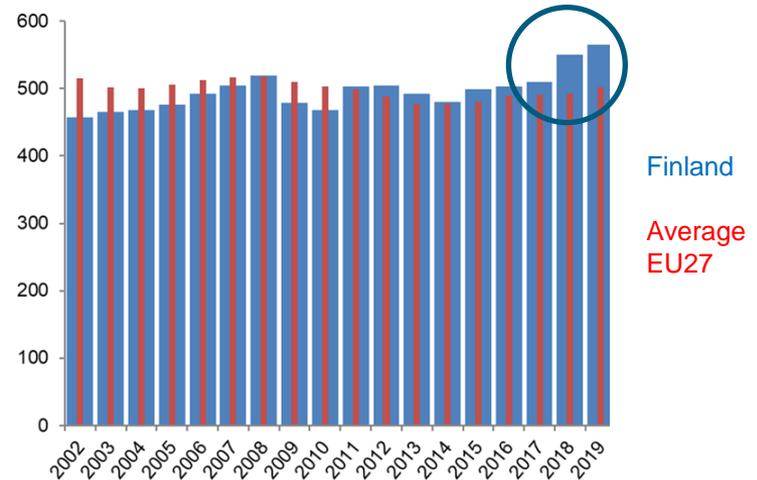
Sub-national monitoring is needed to support municipalities and regions.



The amounts of MSW in Finland and EU27 annually

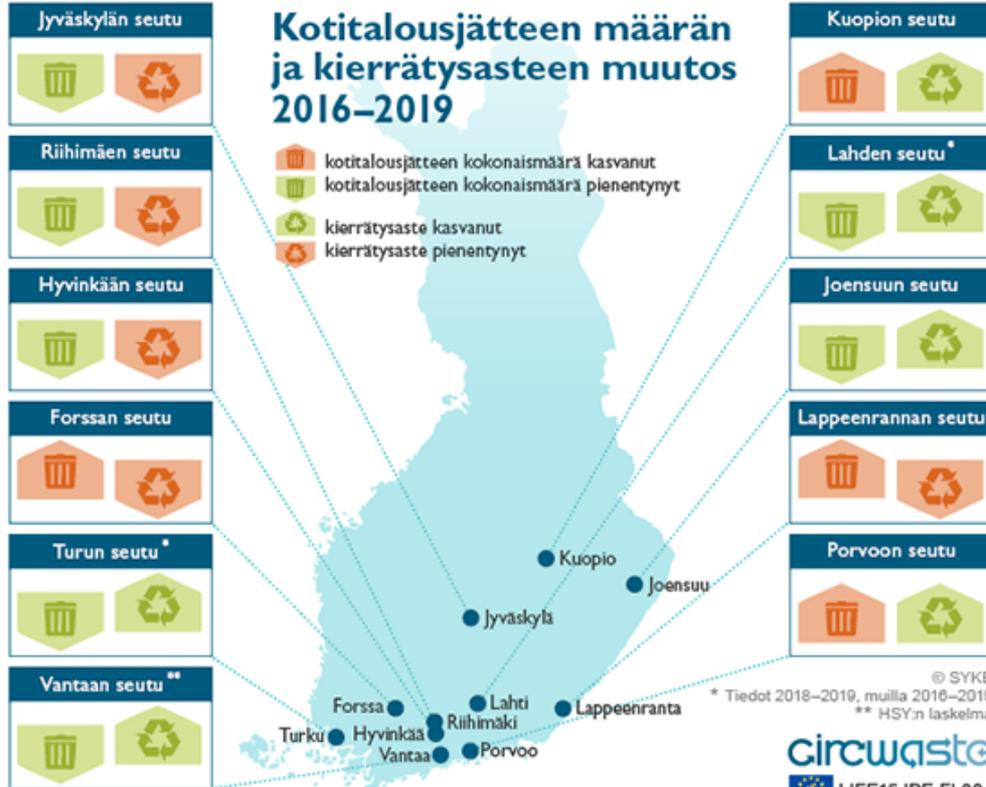
Source: Statistics Finland & Eurostat, graph: SYKE

(kg/person a year)



# Household Waste

The changes in amounts and recycling rates in municipality regions



The amount of household waste decreased in most regions

Recycling did not increase fast enough

#### National targets:

- Decrease in MSW amounts
- Increase in recycling rate

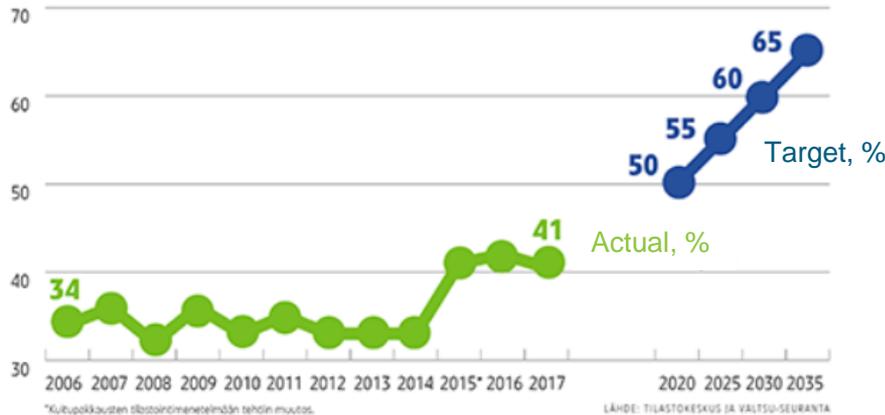
[Link](#)

# Recycling not increasing fast enough

The increase in recycling rates for households is not fast enough in comparison to the EU targets.

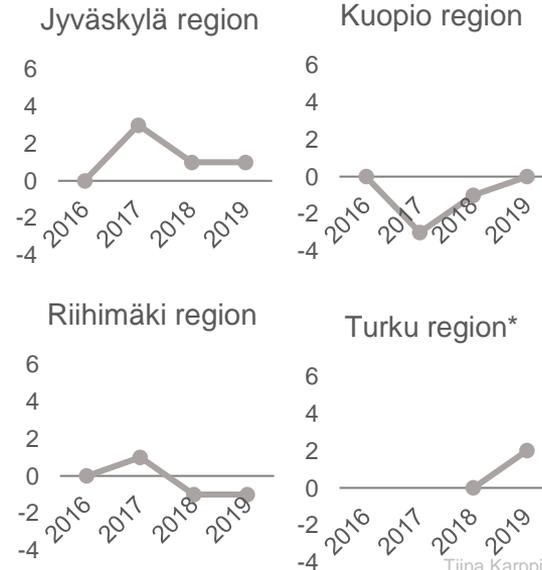


## Recycling Rate and Targets for MSW



Source: Statistics Finland and monitoring for National Waste Plan  
Graph: Ministry of the Environment 2019

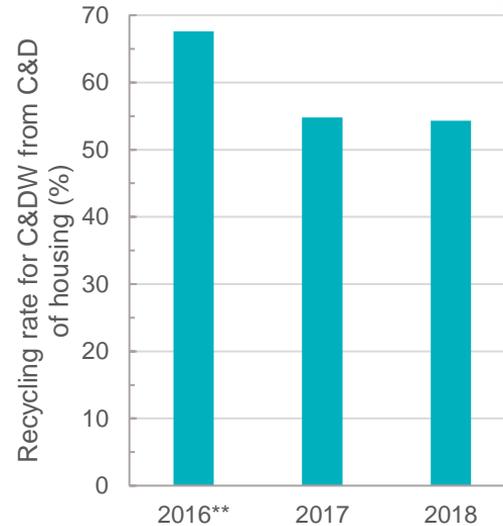
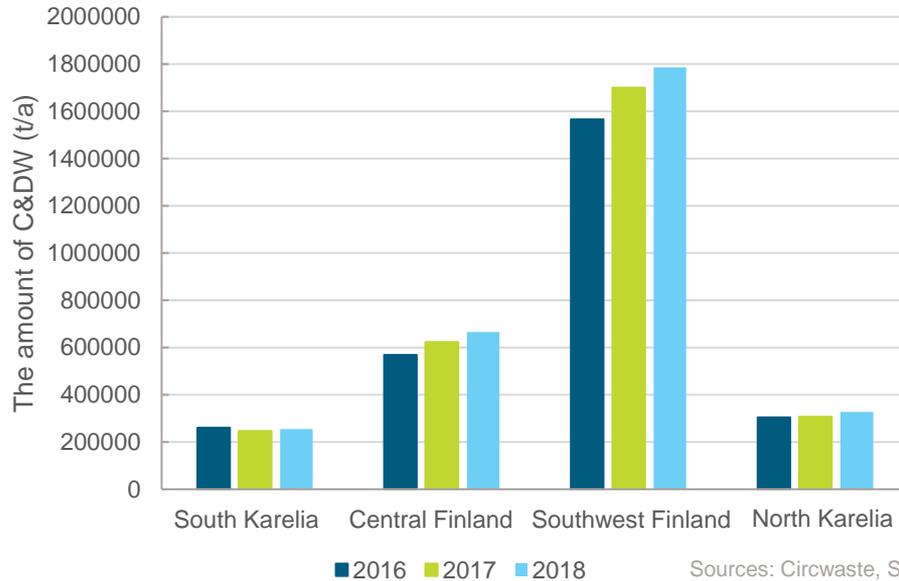
## Change in the recycling rate of household waste (%-units compared to 2016 or \*2018)



**Note**  
Results represent only part of the sub-national monitoring. For more info, see: [link](#).

# Construction and Demolition Waste

Room to improve in decreasing the amounts, increasing recycling, and monitoring



- National Targets:**
- Decrease in amount
  - Recycling rate 70%
  - Risk management
  - Better monitoring

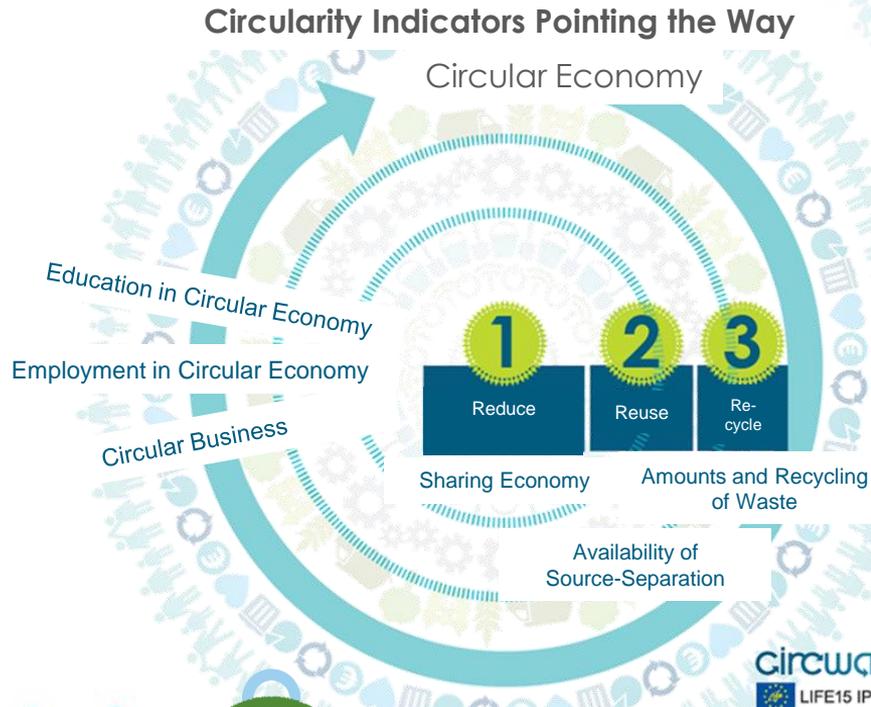
Sources: Circwaste, SYKE, Statistics Finland, monitoring of National Waste Plan

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, surrounded by reeds and greenery. The foreground is dominated by a dense carpet of moss and small plants, with some dry twigs scattered across it. The background shows rolling hills under a soft, hazy sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# Towards the Inner Circles of Circular Economy

# New Data to Capture the Inner Circles of Circular Economy

Monitoring the small changes to capture the beginning of a systemic change.



# Social Aspects of Circular Economy



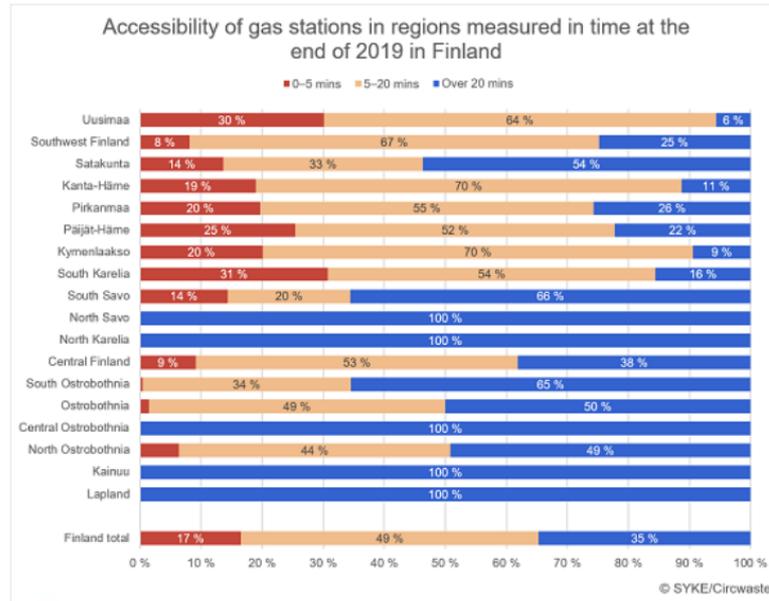
How does the transition to circular economy affect well-being?

How do people adjust to the changes of lifestyle?

How easy is the circular everyday life in different regions in Finland?

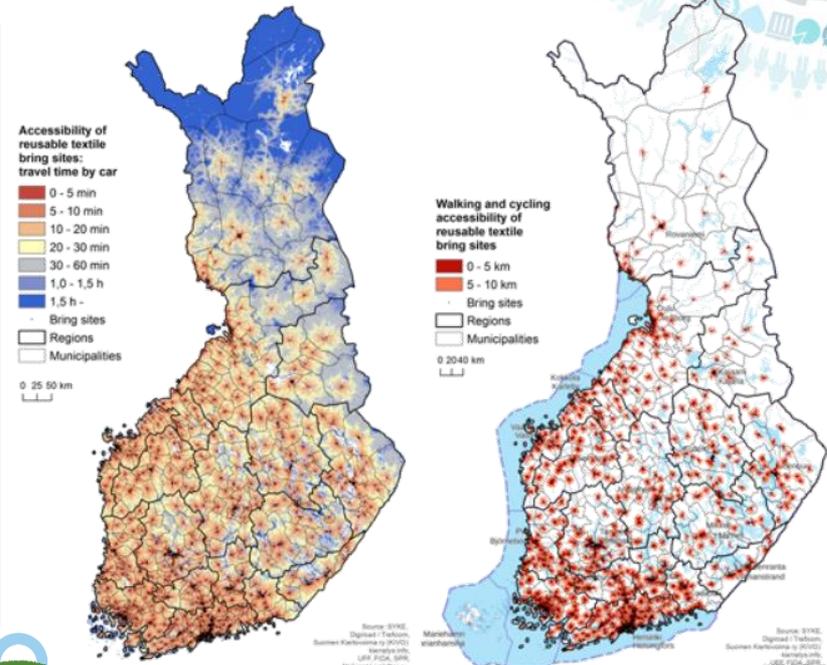
# Accessibility of Circular Everyday Life

The accessibility of the nearest fuel station for gas vehicles as time distance from home with a car

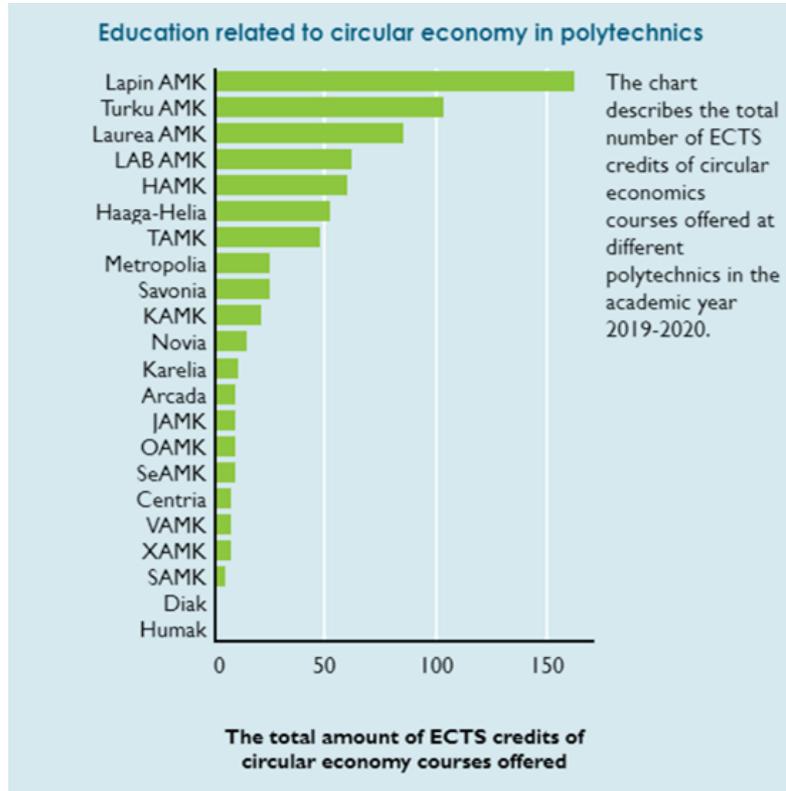


## Reusable textile bring sites

Accessibility of textile bring sites: length of driving distance and accessibility on foot or bike in 2019



# Higher Education in Circular Economy



- Number of course credits in courses with "circular economy" in their name or course description
- Universities of applied sciences in Finland
- Annually updated

# Sharing Economy

## City bikes

– sharing economy to support sustainable city traffic

## Library items in public libraries

– making sharing economy familiar and accessible to all



# Employment in Circular Economy

## Supportive employment in the circular economy

### Work trials as refuse sorters



### Wage subsidised as refuse sorters



[Link](#)

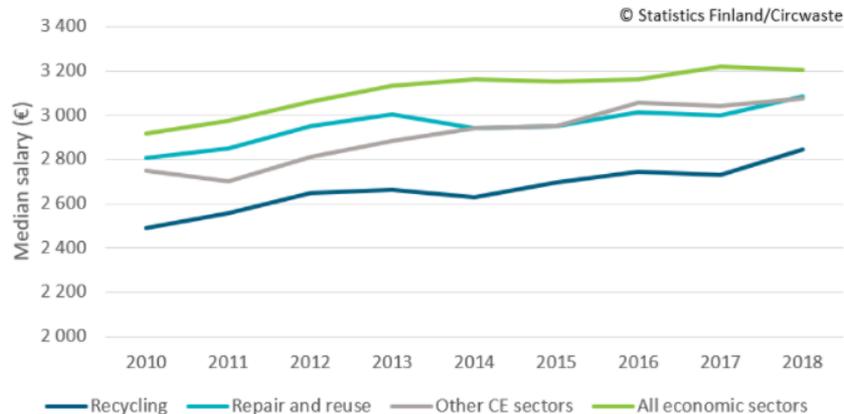
## Indicators for the circular economy business



[Link](#)

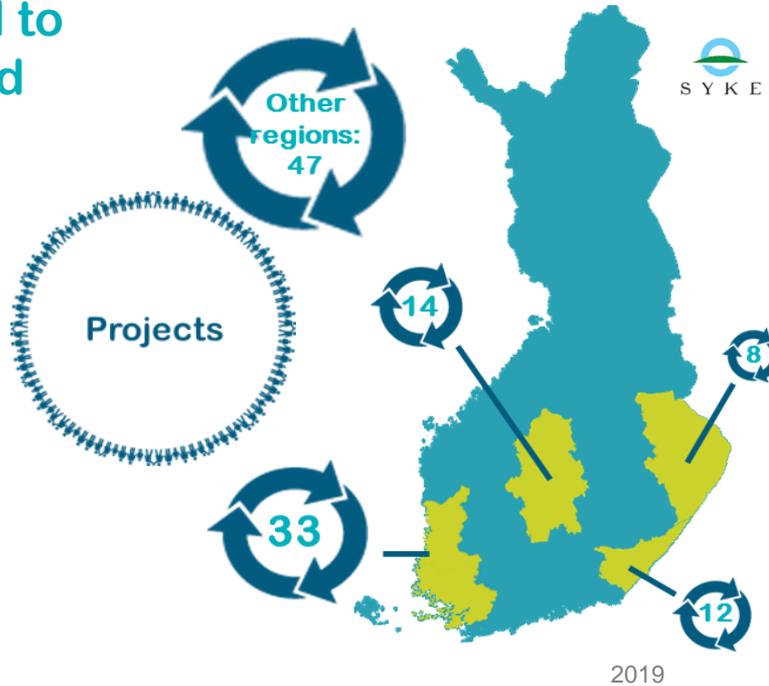
Statistics Finland

## Median salaries at circular economy sectors



# Research and Development Activity

R&D projects related to circular economy and waste management





# Contributing to the Dialogue on Circularity Monitoring

# International Cooperation in Circularity Monitoring



## Bellagio declaration on the principles of circularity monitoring (EEA)

- Work continues "The Bellagio Partnership", [Link](#)

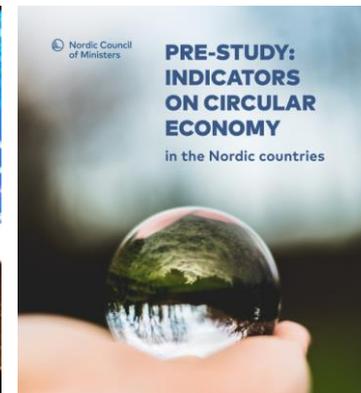
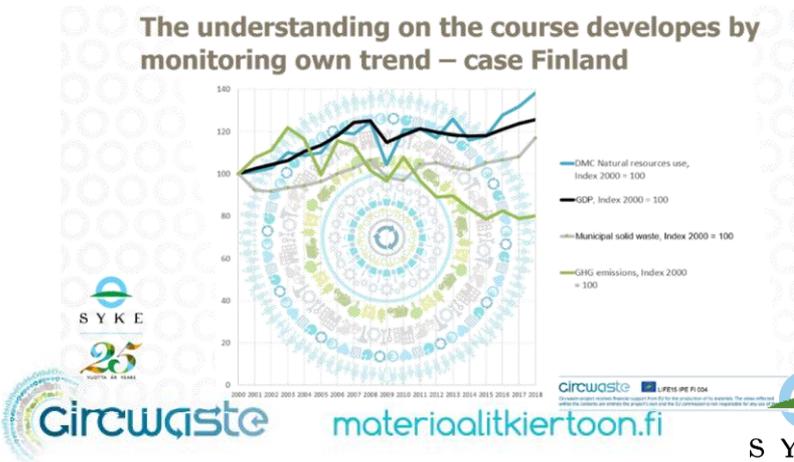
## Nordic cooperation

- Circwaste contributed as Finnish best practices: [Link](#)

## European cooperation in development of circularity monitoring

- EPA Network (Network of the Heads of Environmental Protection Agencies)

### The understanding on the course develops by monitoring own trend – case Finland



A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The foreground is dominated by a dense carpet of vibrant green moss, with some dry twigs and small plants scattered throughout. In the background, rolling hills or mountains are visible under a clear, bright sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

What would you monitor?



# Building regional and municipal circular economy road maps

Boosting the circular economy

30.9.2021

Hanna Salmenperä, Finnish Environment Institute

# Strong national commitment

The program of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's government  
Finland, a forerunner of the circular economy.

Government resolution on the Strategic Programme for Circular Economy 8.4.2021

Vision in 2035: Our economic success is founded on a carbon-neutral circular economy society

From Recycling to a Circular Economy – National Waste Plan to 2023

The Plastics Roadmap for Finland

Plastics road map in brief

Finnish road map to a circular economy 2016-2025



**REDUCE  
AND REFUSE,  
RECYCLE  
AND REPLACE**

**A PLASTICS ROADMAP FOR FINLAND**



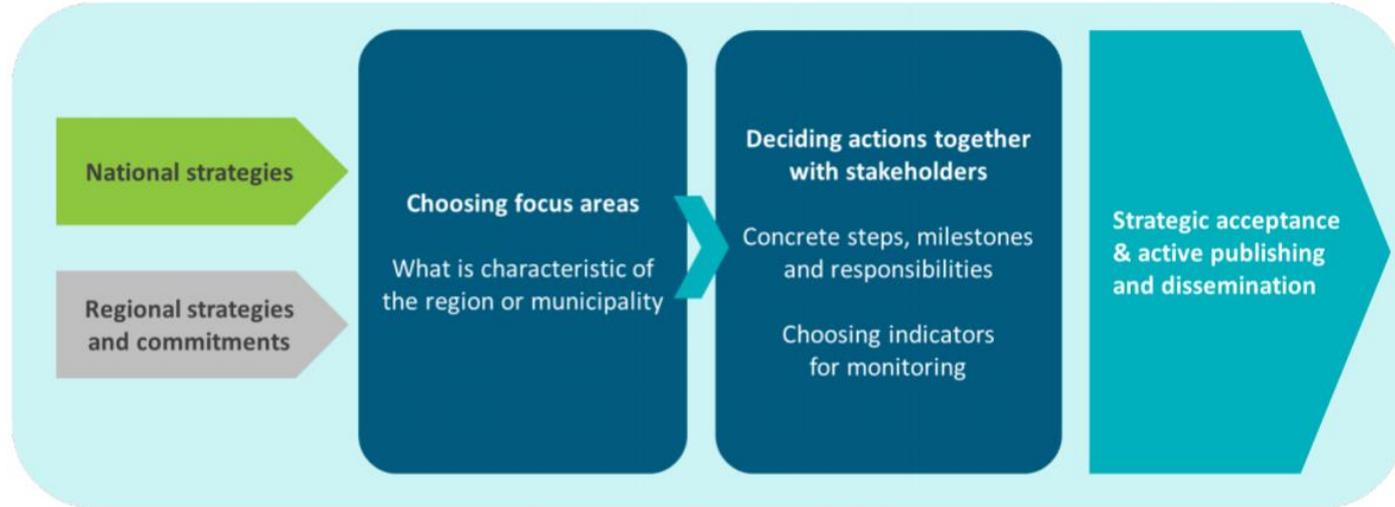
# Regions and municipalities can act as accelerators of the circular economy!

- With strategic commitments, 4 regions and 10 municipalities have engaged in ambitious and concrete efforts to regionally achieve the goals of the NWP and CE
- CE Road maps > Varying time frame, target setting, focus areas and process





# CE Road map – a tool for strategic commitments



The expert network of Circwaste has provided the facilitation for the work of compiling the CE road maps.

# Road map work continues...

Follow-up of implementation and the impacts are evaluated.

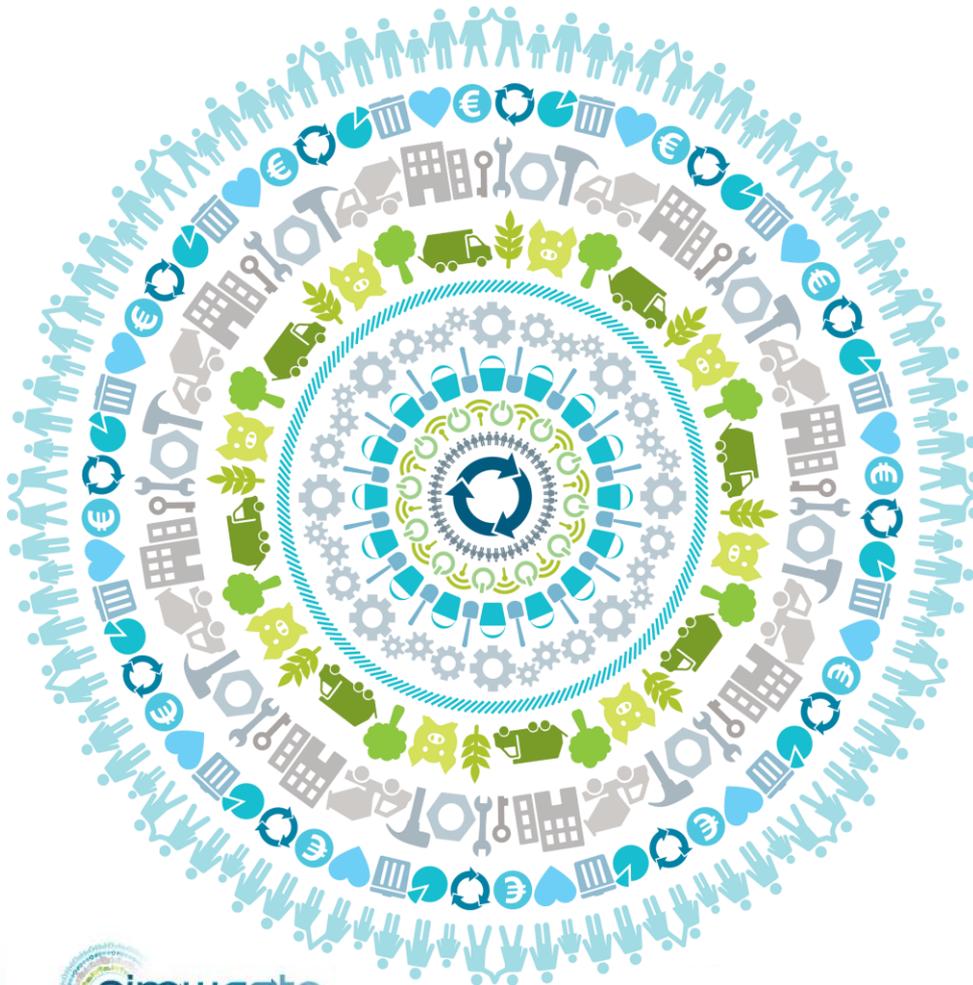
The road maps of the regions have been updated during the project with new priorities and concrete measures.

Replicability is easy and learnings will make it possible to create even better and more effective plans in the future.

# Read more about road maps:

[https://www.materiaalitkiertoon.fi/en-US/Goals\\_and\\_measures/Goals\\_of\\_municipalities\\_regions\\_and\\_businesses](https://www.materiaalitkiertoon.fi/en-US/Goals_and_measures/Goals_of_municipalities_regions_and_businesses)

[https://www.materiaalitkiertoon.fi/fi-FI/Tyokalut/Kiertotalouden\\_tiekartat/Alueiden\\_tiekartat](https://www.materiaalitkiertoon.fi/fi-FI/Tyokalut/Kiertotalouden_tiekartat/Alueiden_tiekartat)



**Thank you for your  
attention!**

**More information:**  
[www.circwaste.fi](http://www.circwaste.fi)