

European Aggregates Association

Providing essential materials for Europe

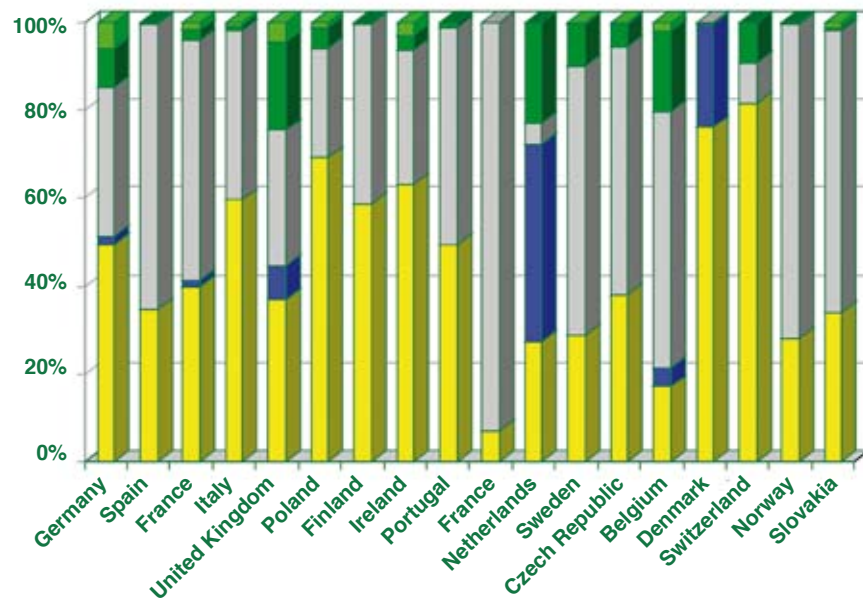
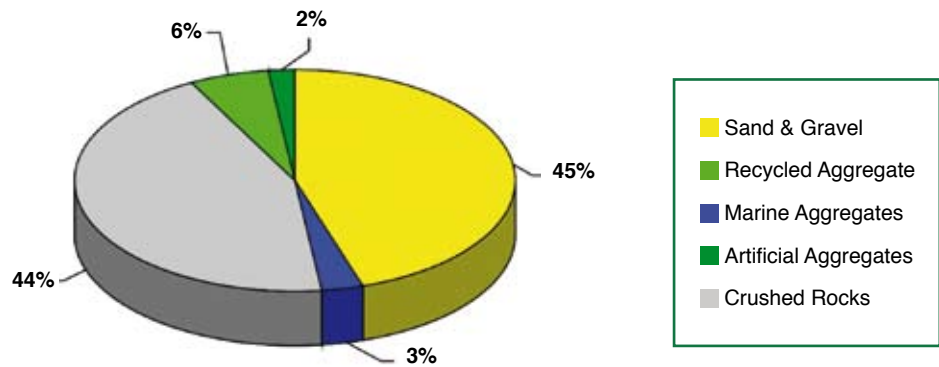


STUDY

Aggregates from Construction & Demolition Waste in Europe

Aggregates Production in Europe

In 2005, the production of recycled materials for aggregates use accounted for 6% of the total production of the aggregates used in the Building and Civil Works activity.



The use of recycled materials from Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste represents one alternative which UEPG encourages in order to meet the demand of aggregates in areas where there is a shortage of natural materials deposits.

Background

The Study was carried out in the context of the revision of the Waste Framework Directive. According to a European Commission study¹, the C&D waste stream accounts for one third of the waste generated in the EU: this represents approximately 1 ton per capita per annum, 40% of which is recovered via the production of recycled aggregates.

¹ Study on waste generated and treated in Europe, 2005 edition

Recycling and Industry profitability

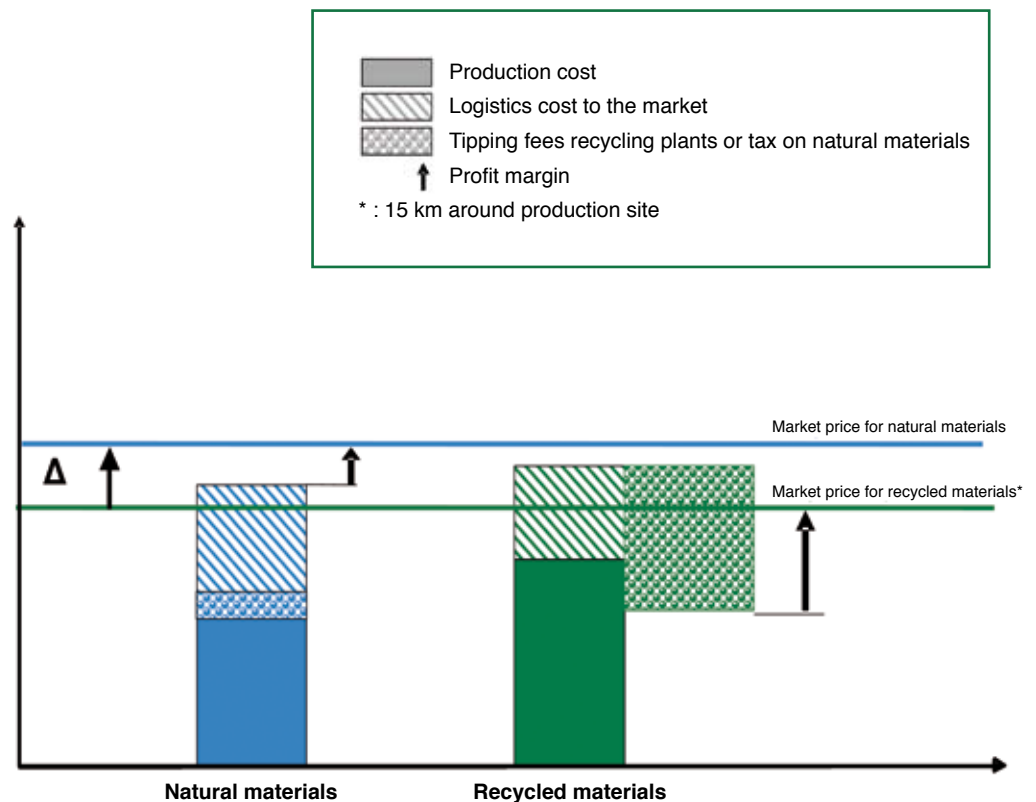
Depending on the nature of C&D waste, collected materials can be used either directly or processed in special installations.

C&D waste processing represents today a genuine industry which profitability depends on the technical, economic, geological and political environment of the markets in which it operates.

The comparative study of micro markets shows that profitability strongly varies from one area to another. It is therefore essential for a future operator to know precisely the adequacy between demand and supply before entering the market.

The Study shows that the following factors have an impact on profitability:

- 1 Shortage of natural material deposits on the market;
- 2 Significant and steady Building and Civil Works activity ;
- 3 Direct implication of upstream and downstream actors;
- 4 Support from public authorities to purchase high quality products;
- 5 Taxation scheme adapted to local conditions.

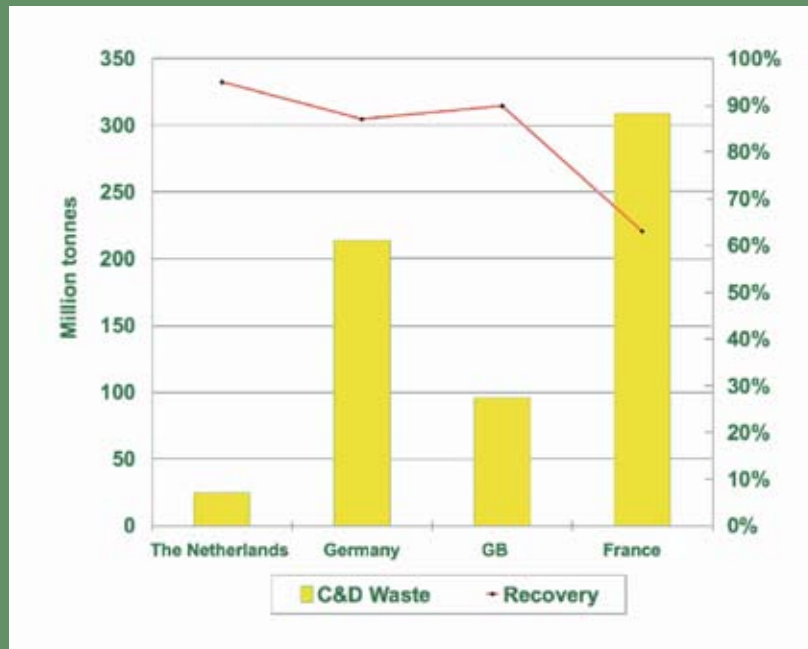


State of Play

- Recycled aggregates have an environmental-friendly image as they contribute to :
 - ☺ save natural resources
 - ☺ reduce landfill sites
 - ☺ reduce negative effects of transport
- ...but still suffer from a low acceptability due to:
 - ☹ a reluctance of certain building designers and managers
 - ☹ a lack of support from public procurement

Conclusion

- Construction waste is a significant renewable source of recycled aggregates.
- Thanks to the continuous improvement of the legal framework, incentives from competent authorities and technical innovation, some European countries have achieved a high recovery rate of construction waste.



- Before entering the recycling business, it is essential that operators examine carefully local conditions.