



PLASTICS RECYCLING INDUSTRY IN EUROPE

MAPPING OF INSTALLED PLASTICS RECYCLING CAPACITIES

PLASTICS RECYCLING INDUSTRY IN EUROPE, 2020

Installed input capacity for recycling of plastic waste in Europe increased by 13%, in comparison to 2019.

Despite the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, market demand and legislative support have enabled the exceptional growth in the sector. Plastics recycling industry remains resilient and continues its work towards making plastics circular.

In this report you will find an overview of the installed input capacities for the main plastic waste streams in Europe and their distribution across the different countries.



**650+ RECYCLING
FACILITIES**



**9.6 MILION TONNES
INSTALLED CAPACITY**



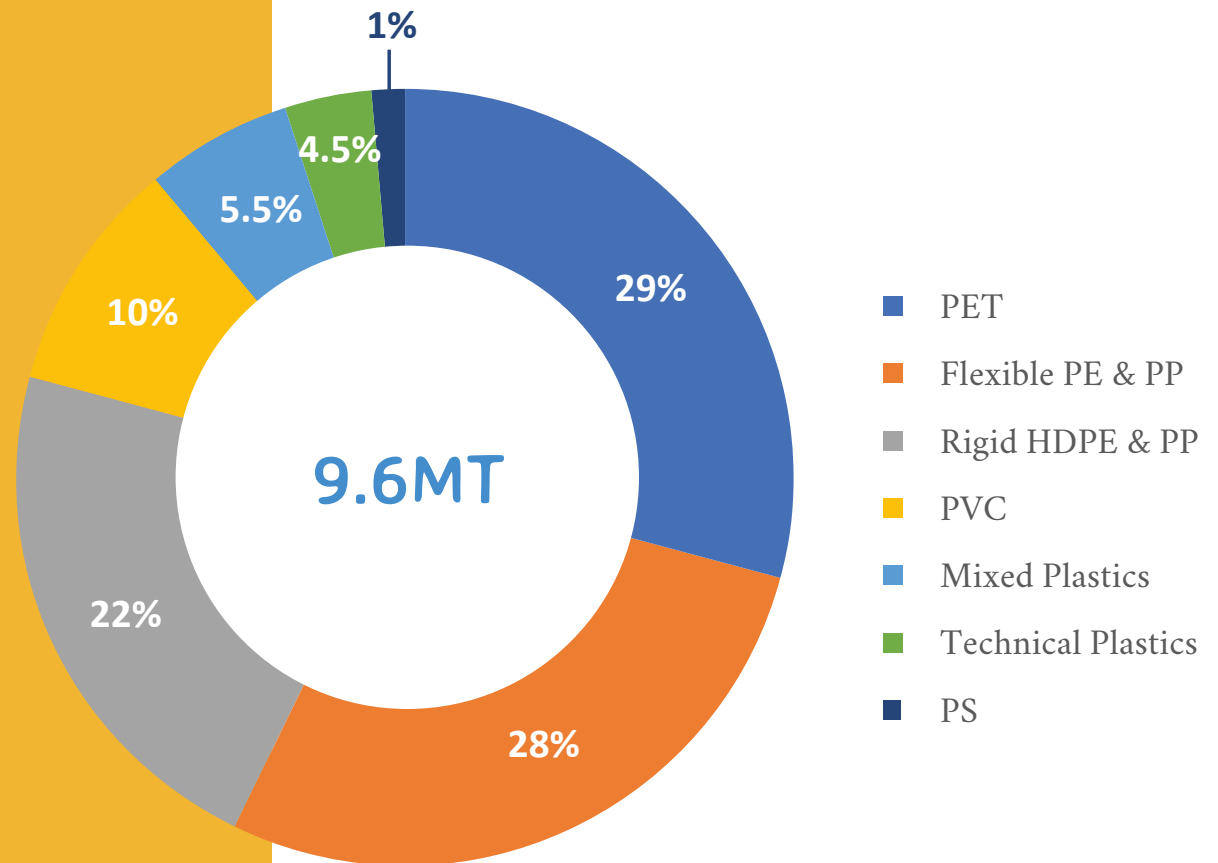
**€7.7 BILLION
TURNOVER**



20.000 EMPLOYEES

SHARE OF INSTALLED PLASTICS RECYCLING INPUT CAPACITY IN EU27+3¹, PER POLYMER TYPE

PET, flexible PE & PP, and rigid HDPE & PP retain the highest share of the overall capacity in EU27+3, representing nearly 80%.



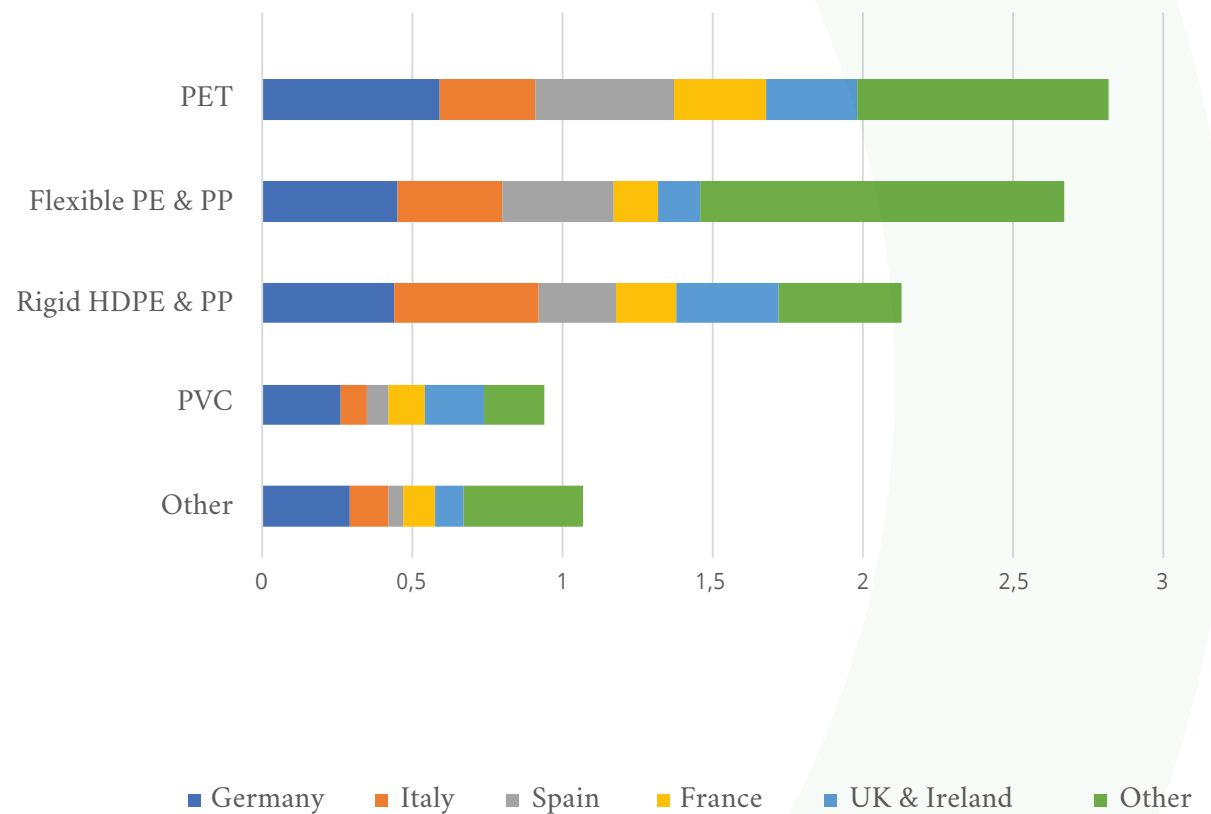
TOTAL INSTALLED PLASTICS RECYCLING INPUT CAPACITY IN EU27+3, PER POLYMER & PER COUNTRY (MT)

The total installed plastics recycling capacity in EU27+3 grew by 1.1mt.

Highest increase was observed for rigid HDPE & PP, with a growth of more than 23%. Italy and Germany are the leading countries for this stream, representing more than one third of the overall capacity.

Installed recycling capacity for flexible PE & PP has increased by roughly 10%. This material was once deemed difficult to recycled, but fast-paced technological developments in collection, sorting and recycling, made it possible to recycle film back to film.

Germany (21%), Spain (16%), Italy (11%) and France (11%) are countries with highest capacities for recycling of the PET stream.

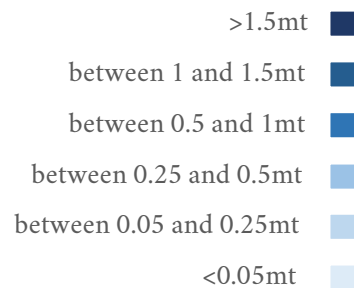


TOTAL INSTALLED PLASTICS RECYCLING INPUT CAPACITY IN EU27+3, PER COUNTRY

Top 5 countries with the greatest capacities for recycling of plastic waste are, respectively: Germany, Italy, Spain, UK and France.

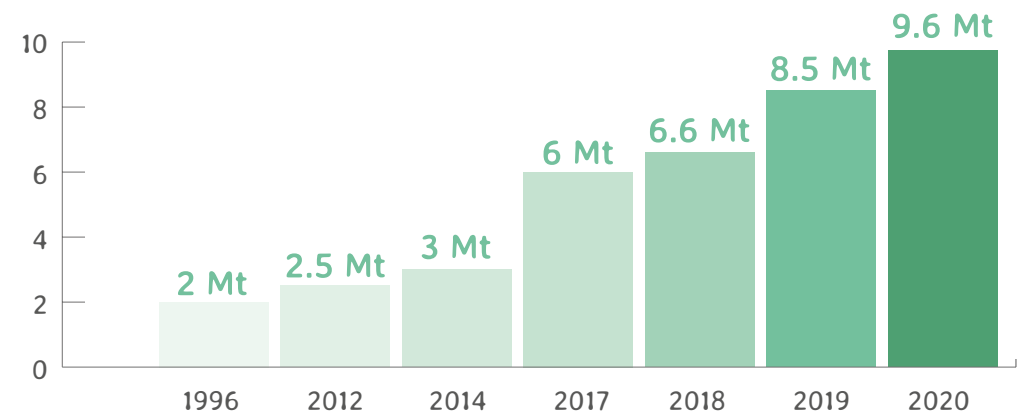
With the right legislative support in, unlocking of additional collection and high-quality sorting tonnages, and advancement of recycling technologies, plastics recycling activities could triple by 2030.

European recyclers are an essential part of the puzzle in addressing plastic waste and have a significant potential in contributing towards a carbon-neutral Europe.



EVOLUTION OF INSTALLED PLASTICS RECYCLING INPUT CAPACITY IN EU27+3

Over the past two decades plastics recycling has been growing and just within 4 years it grew by almost 60%.



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