

# Circular Economy in Greece

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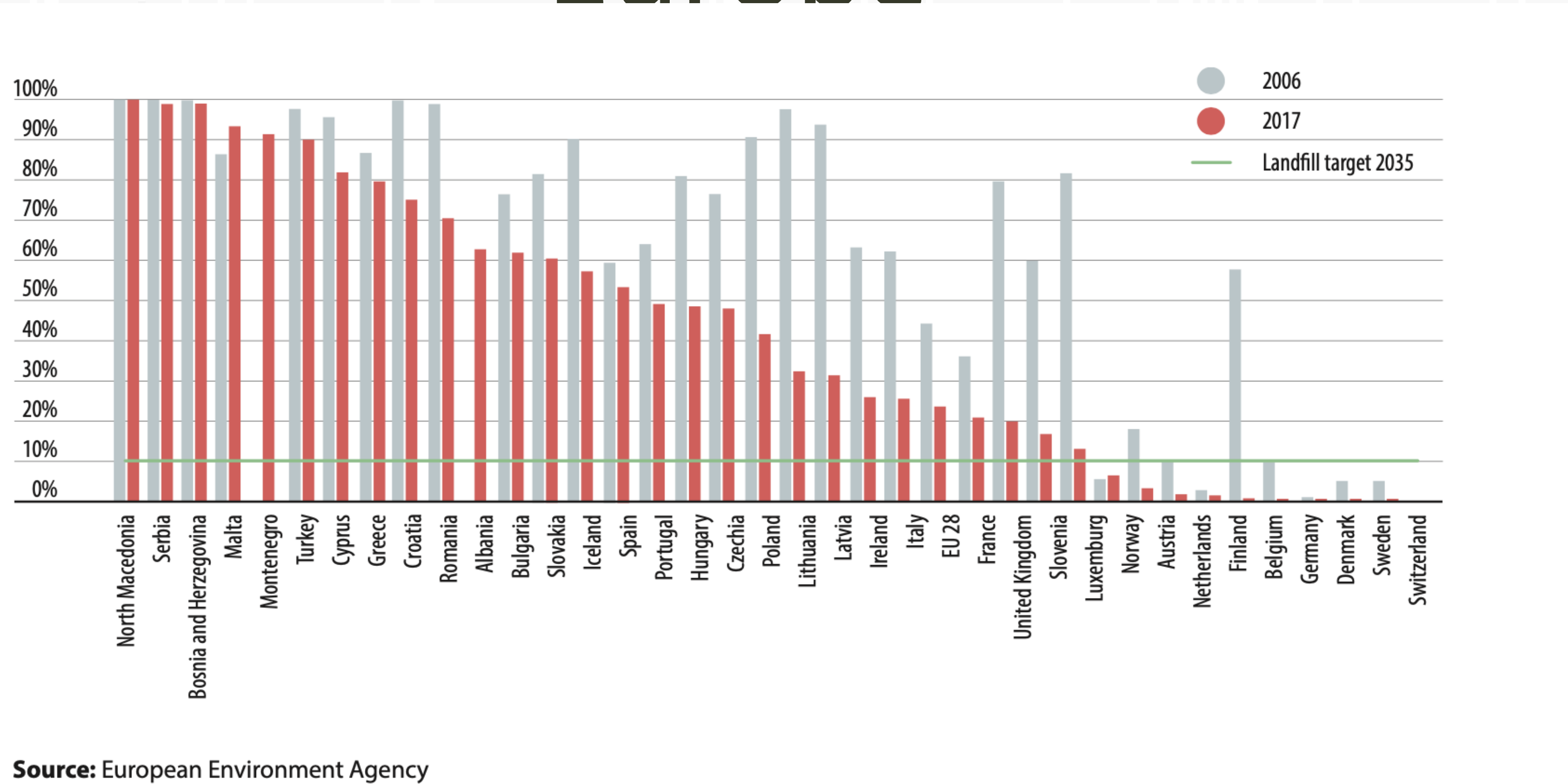
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# The long-term (2030) goals of the National Action Plan on Circular Economy

- ❖ Moving up the waste hierarchy by focusing on preventing waste and improving recycling
- ❖ Supporting circular entrepreneurship by promoting “industrial symbiosis” and business clusters
- ❖ Supporting circular consumption patterns of re-using, re-storing and repairing rather than buying new products, especially for electrical and electronic devices
- ❖ enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships across industry, academia, and civil society
- ❖ monitoring progress towards a circular economic model through SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) indicators.

# Municipal waste landfill rates in Europe



# National Circular Economy Action Plan, Greece aims to achieve the following by 2020:

- achieve a radical reduction of the per capita produced waste
- increase reuse and recycling of wastes, with a separate collection of recyclable waste and of bio-waste, to reach **50% of total municipal solid waste** produced from a **25%** where it stands today
- reach a 74% recovery and **less than 30% disposal** of total municipal solid waste produced from the current **82% disposal**
- create around **15,900 new jobs** and the increase of the annual turnover of the waste management related businesses.

# Objectives of the new National Waste Management Plan (ECHR) are the following:

- Landfill at 10% in 2030, five years before the Community obligation (2035)
- Cessation of uncontrollable food waste and rehabilitation of illegal landfills until 2022
- Increase recycling 55% in 2025 and 60% in 2030 (including biowaste)
- Separate collection of organic waste (brown bin) and development of relevant infrastructure throughout the country by 2022
- Full coverage of the country until 2030 with 43 Waste Treatment Plants (WACs) and 43 – 46 Bio Waste Treatment Plants (MEVA)
- Four power plants with energy recovery from waste of MEAs.



# What are the barriers

- ❖ Prolonged economic crisis (2008-2018)
- ❖ GDP Shrink
- ❖ Over double unemployment rate on youth (vs EU)
- ❖ No universal education-training-reskilling scheme by the Government
- ❖ Training per company basis
- ❖ Public consultation Vs Policy making process
- ❖ collective bargaining agreement -?-



# Skill Training Needed

- ❖ Crucial input by European Trade Union Institute -Workshops & Seminars
- ❖ Collaboration-participation with Institute of SME in Greece
- ❖ Health & Safety at Work Institute - bipartite
- ❖ More is needed to raise awareness



# Thoughts

- ❖ production in a circular economy is more labour-intensive than it is in a linear economy
- ❖ we are very far from a circular economy
- ❖ no well functioning EU Secondary raw material
- ❖ Automation: implemented to complement rather than completely replace human labour (only if skills are adequate to experienced workers)





# What is wrong with the Circular Economy Action Plan

- ❖ More categories will be coming in the upcoming months- more legislation-more confusion
- ❖ Revision of the construction sector in circular economy
- ❖ Textiles, buildings and electronic equipment have so far been unaddressed at the EU level
- ❖ No clear- or absent mention on the skills required for a Circular Economy and initiatives
- ❖ Little research on health and safety risks facing informal and formal workers in different recycling activities

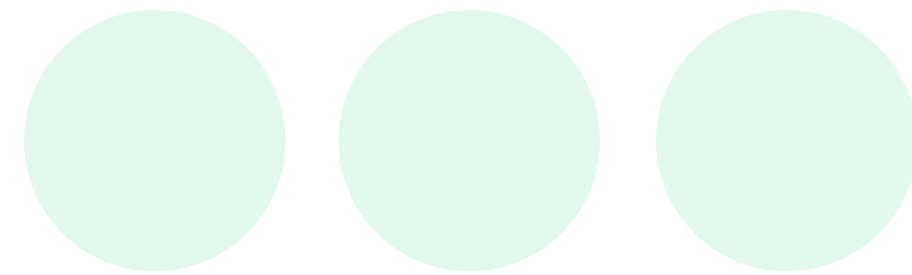


- ❖ waste management and recycling are often low-wage and raise worker safety issues
- ❖ construction sector is seeing an increasing trend of hiring contract workers, without the necessary levels of unionization or regulation that go along with decent work principles

# Good Practices so far

- ❖ In wastewater treatment (Public owned Corporation) updated training -new technologies- informed workers on H&S and environmental impacts
- ❖ Per company basis: Cement Industry, Oil refinery, Fishery  
Plastic collection & recycling/reuse

# Thank You



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