

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Cyprus



2021

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General information

Name of the country/region	Cyprus
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Stand-alone programme
Title of programme and link to programme	ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΠΡΟΛΗΨΗΣ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΑΠΟΒΛΗΤΩΝ 2015-2021 (Waste prevention programme 2015-2021) http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environmentnew.nsf/page20_gr/page20_gr?OpenDocument
Duration of programme	2015-2021
Language	Greek
Development process of the programme/revision	A new programme is currently being revised by the EU Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) with technical assistance from the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)
Budget envisaged for implementation of the project	

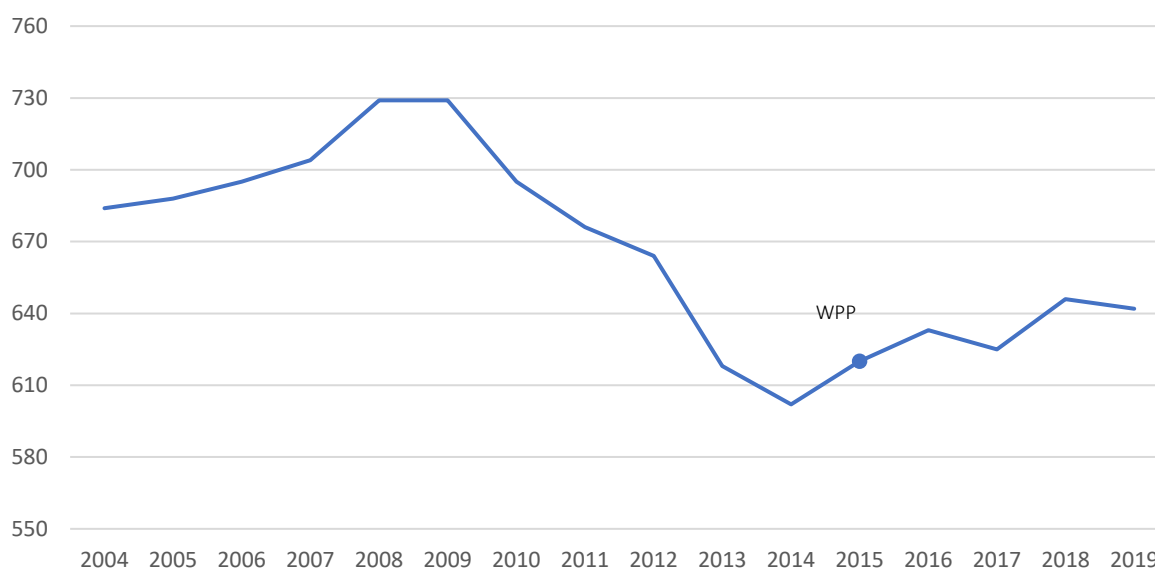
Waste generation

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Cyprus.

Municipal solid waste

- The generation of municipal waste per capita fluctuated highly between 2004 and 2019 (see Figure 1). Overall, Cyprus' generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita decreased from 684 kg (2004) to 642 kg (2019).
- The trend increased between 2004 and 2009, reaching its peak at 729 kg per capita. In the years that followed, however, MSW generation decreased continuously down to 602 kg per capita in 2014.
- Cyprus' first waste prevention programme (WPP) was launched in 2015. As MSW generation is influenced by many factors (e.g. population, household expenditure), the waste prevention measures have not resulted in a decreasing trend.
- Throughout this period, MSW generation remained above the EU average (502 kg in 2019).

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Cyprus (kg per capita), 2004-2019

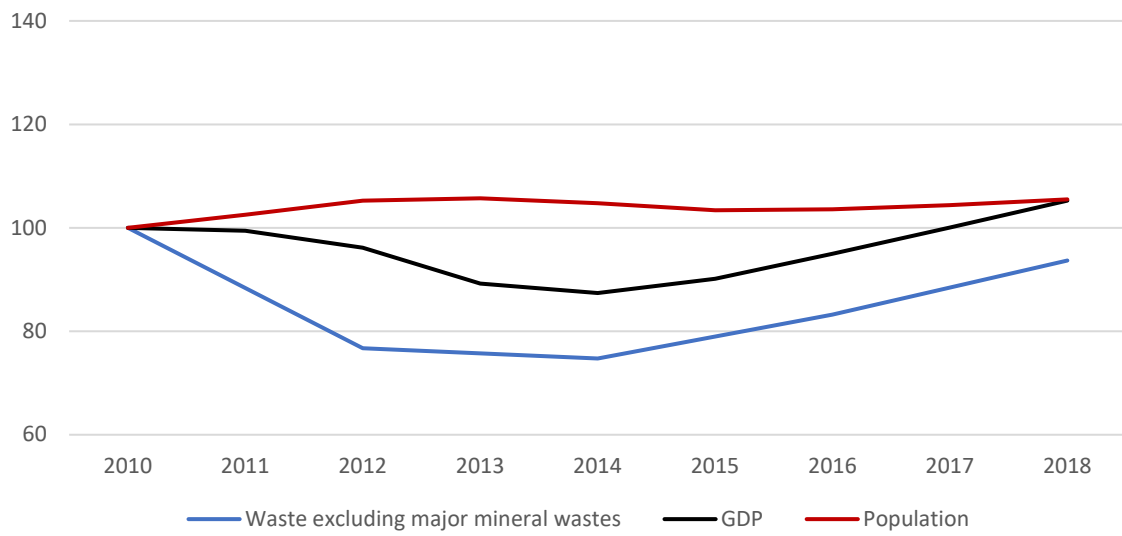


Source: Eurostat Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

Total waste

- Cyprus' waste generation (excluding major mineral wastes) followed a u-shaped curve between 2010 and 2018 (see Figure 2). First it decreased, reaching its minimum in 2014, before increasing steadily throughout the years that followed.
- An identical trend can be observed for Cyprus' economic growth expressed in GDP. Although a longer time series is needed to confirm conclusions on potential decoupling trends, it can be stated that, in Cyprus, waste generation is strongly linked to its economic growth and decoupling has not yet taken place.
- A link between waste generation and population growth, which remained steady over time, cannot be observed.
- As observed for MSW, the measures in Cyprus' first WPP, implemented in 2015, did not lead to a decreasing trend.

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP and population in Cyprus, 2010-2018 (2010 = 100)



Source: Eurostat.

Waste prevention programme

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	The aim of the programme is to decouple economic growth from environmental impacts associated with waste generation. The main focus is changing consumer behaviour, promoting reuse and reducing the generation of specific waste streams
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture• Construction and infrastructure• Manufacturing• Sale, retail, transport• Households• Private service activities, hospitality• Public services
3. Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food/organic• Construction and demolition waste• Hazardous waste• Household/municipal waste• Paper, cardboard, paper products• Packaging (including plastic bottles, bags)• Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)/batteries• Manufacturing waste• Other (e.g. textiles, clothing, plastic toys, bulky waste)
4. Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Households• Local government• Small and medium-sized enterprises• Tourism• Agriculture and construction sector• TV and radio media• Educational institutions• Supermarkets and shopping centres• Public sector• Private sector

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1. Indicators proposed	<p>The indicators include the following.</p> <p>Changing consumer behaviour:</p> <p>Biodegradable waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• amount of biodegradable waste per inhabitant sent to landfill (kg/year)• amount of biodegradable waste per inhabitant (kg/year);• amount of compostable biodegradable industrial waste (kg/year)• amount of organic waste collected separately (tonnes/year)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> share of households participating in home composting, in relation to all households <p>Reuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quantity of materials (WEEE, clothes, furniture) reintroduced into the market (number of pieces) repair of WEEE, clothing, furniture and toys (percentage) <p>Hazardous waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quantity of hazardous waste collected separately (tonnes/year)
2. Quantitative targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 % of the total municipal solid waste collection to be collected separately by 2021 with an ultimate target of 50 % by 2027 50 % of the recyclable material in municipal waste to be recycled in preparation for reuse by 2020 15 % of the organic municipal waste to be collected separately by 2021 since July 2016, the maximum quantity of biodegradable material that can be sent to landfill is 95 000 tonnes (Chapter 6, p. 15)
3. Monitoring of programme	The programme states that measures will be monitored on an annual basis, using specific indicators
4. Evaluation of the programme	The national waste prevention programme 2015-2021 is the first WPP established in Cyprus. The programme states that measures will be evaluated on an annual basis, using specific indicators. The aim is to assess the progress of the WPP and to collect data that will help competent authorities to set realistic targets. Table 5.1 in the programme shows a detailed schedule of the implementation of measures between 2015 and 2021. The table includes schedules for meetings, the development of educational programmes, legislative measures, financial measures and incentives, the implementation of programme measures, and the evaluation of measures and the programme

Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic instruments, such as incentives for purchasing goods without packaging or making consumers pay for
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	specific items or packaging elements (Chapter 2, p. 21)
Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), repairable, reusable and upgradeable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote eco-design (systematic integration of environmental considerations into product design, with the aim of improving the environmental performance of the product throughout its life cycle) (Chapter 2, p. 20) • Promote reliable eco-labels in a single labelling scheme (Chapter 2, p. 21)
Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent those materials becoming waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the use of recyclable materials as raw materials in Cyprus (Chapter 6, p. 10)
Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the reuse and/or repair of appropriate discarded products or their components, in particular through the use of educational or economic measures, logistical measures or other measures such as support for or the establishment of accredited repair and reuse networks, particularly in densely populated areas (Chapter 2, p. 21) • Organise public awareness campaigns on waste prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and home composting (Chapter 6, p. 24)
Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on waste prevention practices to help industry implement the best available techniques (Chapter 2, p. 20)
Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on waste prevention practices to help industry implement the best available techniques (Chapter 2, p. 20) • Foster agreements with industry, such as on the use of product panels to provide information on waste prevention and products that have less impact on the environment (Chapter 2, p. 21)

<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services, as well as in households as a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030</p>	
<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products</p>	
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at EU level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to Article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the network of green points; the aim of the project is the construction and operation of a number of waste collection and sorting points to serve local authorities and citizens in the separate collection of specific waste streams, such as bulky, hazardous waste (motor oils, lamps and other waste electrical and electronic equipment, etc.), green waste, waste from construction and demolition and other specific types of waste from households and similar sources (Chapter 6, p. 21) • Minimise the presence of hazardous substances and materials as components of packaging material or any component of packaging (Chapter 2, p. 11) • Restrict the type and presence of specific, potentially hazardous, harmful constituents in waste and the resulting effluents • Limit the potential and expected leachability of specific, potentially hazardous, harmful components • Restrict the ecotoxicological properties of waste and the resulting effluents (Chapter 2, p. 14)
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling</p>	

<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products; where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory</p>	
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds</p>	
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in awareness-raising campaigns or provide support to businesses through financial, advisory or other means. These measures can be particularly effective in cases involving small and medium-sized enterprises operating through established business networks (Chapter 3, p. 20) • Use awareness-raising and information campaigns aimed at the general public or specific consumer groups (Chapter 3, p. 21) • Organise public awareness campaigns on waste prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and home composting (Chapter 4, p. 24)

Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Food waste prevention

Food waste generation

According to estimates, Cypriot households generate 95 kg of food waste per capita, which is equal to more than 113 000 tonnes per year (UNEP, 2021).

Measures to prevent food waste

The LIFE project 'FoodPrint' addresses the environmental problem of food waste in Cyprus. The project aims to bridge the gap between awareness and behaviour of key stakeholders regarding the environmental problem of food waste.

The core measures of FoodPrint are:

- the development of a cooperation network for social food donations;
- workshops and consultations with stakeholders (target groups are food service and hospitality sector companies, professionals, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and students);
- the development of project material, i.e. specific project material targeting the project's key audiences and, in particular, businesses and households/consumers to provide practical information and knowledge on food waste prevention;
- an awareness campaign on food waste prevention and management among consumers, the food industry and the hospitality sector, from 2020 to 2023 ⁽¹⁾;
- the introduction of the 'FoodPrint' award by the Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB), promoting companies that actively work to reduce food waste and targeting those directly involved in the food sector, such as the hotel and restaurant sectors and food retail ⁽²⁾.

The AKTI Project and Research Centre is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that has launched the 'Sincerely, Food Cyprus' project.

The main activities of the project are:

- the Food for Peace Campaign, a bi-communal action that will focus on culinary arts students at two universities;
- presentations in schools to raise awareness;
- door-to-door awareness raising in two communities;
- a cooking competition focusing on reducing food waste during preparation;
- guidelines such as a small information brochure and a notebook on measures to prevent food waste ⁽³⁾.

Waste mapping guidance for hotels in Cyprus is a guide primarily designed to meet the needs of hotel operators and other organisations in the Cyprus tourism industry. The guide identifies the sources, types and quantities of waste generated and investigates where and how waste is generated. The process helps prioritise areas where simple actions can be taken to minimise waste, save money and achieve sustainable waste management ⁽⁴⁾.

Volunteer initiatives such as Zero Food Waste Cyprus collect food waste from local markets and redistribute it to those in need ⁽⁵⁾.

For a more comprehensive mapping of country efforts to prevent food waste, please visit the [European Commission's Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#).

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.foodprintcy.eu/>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.foodprintcy.eu/oeb-foodprint-awards-for-reducing-food-waste/>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.akti.org.cy/portfolio/sincerely-food-cyprus/>

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[https://www.tourism.gov.cy/tourism/tourism.nsf/All/A9F84CCB90BC8BEFC225849D003A4B90/\\$file/Waste_Mapping_Guidance_Hotels.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.tourism.gov.cy/tourism/tourism.nsf/All/A9F84CCB90BC8BEFC225849D003A4B90/$file/Waste_Mapping_Guidance_Hotels.pdf?OpenElement)

⁽⁵⁾ <https://zfwcy.org/>

Reuse of products

Data

With regard to the Commission Implementing Decision (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC), this section will be updated by the EEA accordingly.

Measures to support reuse

The waste prevention programme 2015-2021 stipulated that 50 % of recyclable materials (paper, plastic, metal, glass) in municipal waste should be processed for reuse by 2020. (Chapter 2, p. 9).

In addition, the WPP developed and implemented a 3-year integrated public information and awareness campaign. The LIFE Know Waste campaign successfully promoted the concepts of prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling in Cyprus. The integrated communication strategy used TV, radio, print and online media, social media, education and training activities, and public participation in actions in the community (Chapter 6, p. 12). The campaign published posters, publications and leaflets ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁶⁾ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4926

Best practice examples

Preventing food waste

Zero Food Waste Cyprus is an initiative by young volunteers to reduce food waste by collecting [surplus produce](#) from local markets and redistributing it to those in need. The bi-communal initiative has two projects — one in Nicosia and one in Kyrenia — helping people in need by involving young volunteers ⁽⁷⁾.

The Rescued Box initiative aims to combat food waste and actively contribute to solving the problem by buying seasonal produce from local farmers who are all certified and comply with EU directives. Each week customers receive a recyclable box of the freshest fruit and vegetables on the island. This avoids food waste through using excess produce and the use of plastic, and reduces the environmental footprint by optimising delivery routes. Rescued Box donates 10 % of the proceeds each week to charities working to alleviate hunger ⁽⁸⁾.

Reusing products

Let's Make Cyprus Green is a non-profit organisation that aims to raise public awareness of the environmental pressure humans cause, especially the damage caused by excessive and improper waste disposal and the use of plastic. Let's Make Cyprus Green is committed to replacing single-use plastic with reusable products to avoid the millions of tonnes of oil needed to produce plastic and the increasing greenhouse gas emissions created by its production and disposal. The website offers reusable products such as glass straws, reusable shopping bags, bamboo toothbrushes and other environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use products ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://zfwcy.org/>

⁽⁸⁾ <https://rescuedbox.com/our-mission/>

⁽⁹⁾ <https://www.letsmakecyprusgreen.com/about-us/>

Links to the circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces not only the input of natural resources into the economy but also the efforts required to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches to improving circularity are often linked to successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into the Cypriot WPP.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	Promoting eco-design (systematic integration of environmental considerations into product design, aiming to improve the environmental performance of the product throughout its life cycle) (Chapter 2, p. 20)
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	Promoting the reuse and/or repair of appropriate discarded products or their components, in particular through the use of educational or economic measures, logistical measures or other measures such as support for or the establishment of accredited repair and reuse networks, in particular in densely populated areas (Chapter 2, p. 21)
Recycling	Yes	Strengthening recycling activities. The strategy aims to reduce the negative environmental impacts of waste throughout its life cycle, from production to final disposal (cradle to grave), through prevention and recycling (Chapter 2, p. 1)
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	Using planning measures or other economic instruments that promote the efficient use of resources (Chapter 2, p. 20). Economic instruments, such as incentives for purchasing goods without packaging or making consumers pay for specific items or packaging elements (Chapter 2, p. 21). Finance measures and incentives (Chapter 6, p. 16)
Circular business models	No	
Eco-innovation	Yes	Businesses, organisations and consumers should develop and adopt patterns of production and consumption with the least possible impact on the environment. Targeted

		public policies with clear long-term objectives for investment planning and innovation are also needed (Chapter 2, p. 3)
Governance, skills and knowledge	No	