

MONITORING REPORT 2025

European Declaration on Paper Recycling 2021-2030

European Paper Recycling Council

www.paperforrecycling.eu

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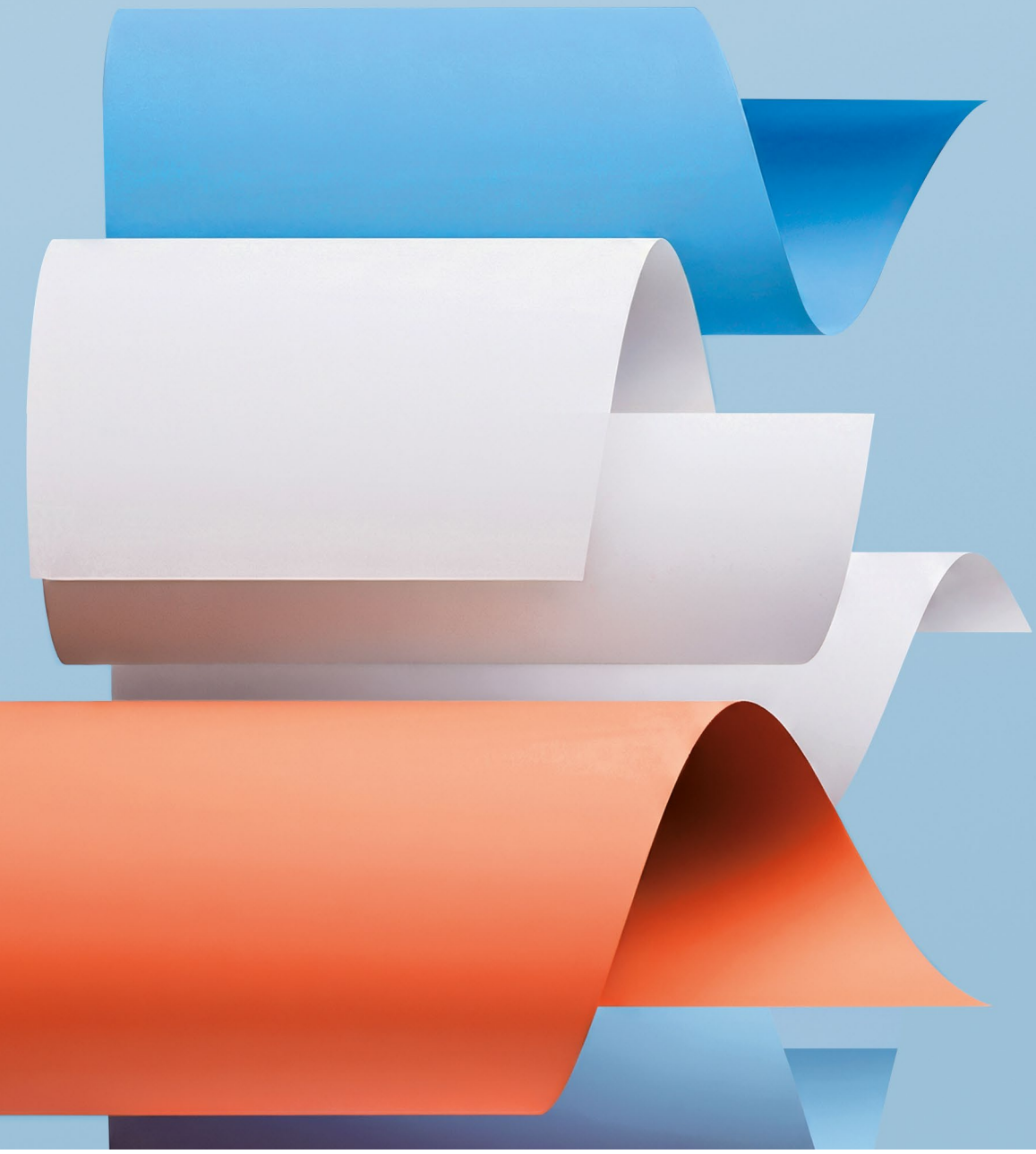


1 EUROPEAN PAPER RECYCLING RATE 2025: 76.4%

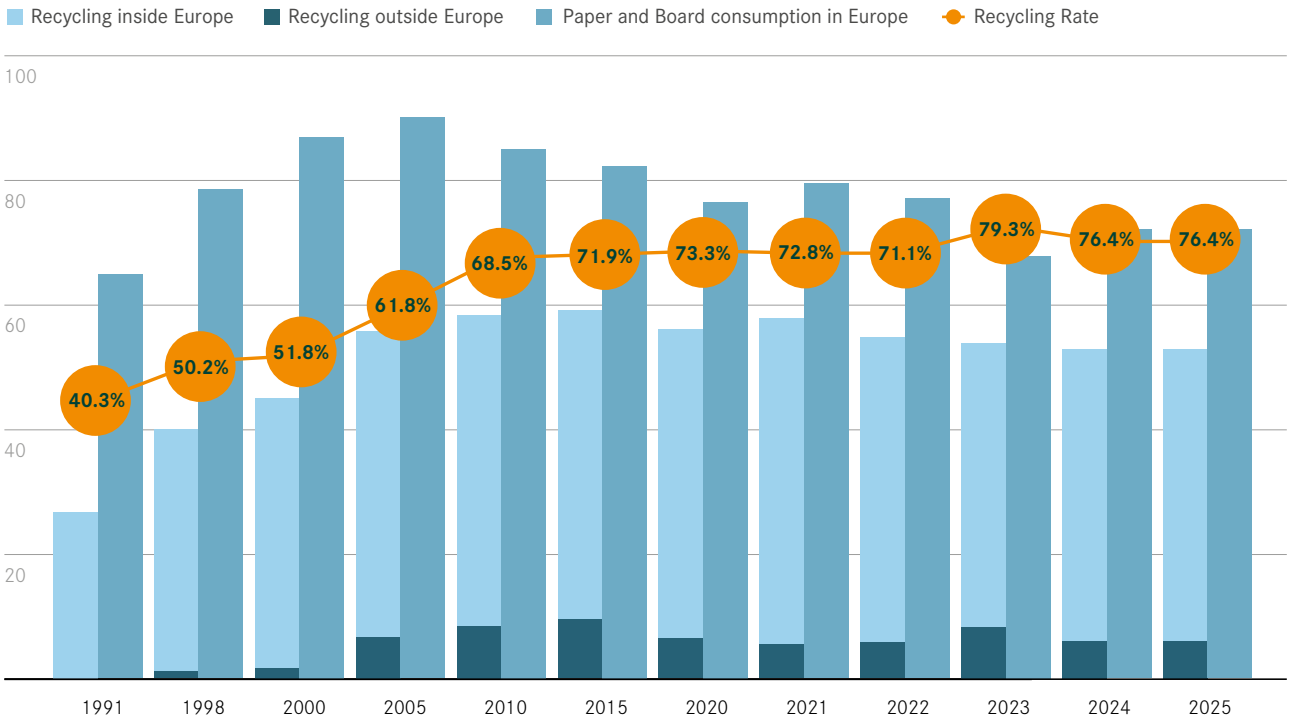
Since 2000, the European paper value chain has been committed to the two-fold aim of improving recycling and increasing efforts to remove obstacles hampering paper recycling in Europe. The signatories of the new European Declaration on Paper Recycling 2021-2030[1] committed to reach a 76% paper recycling rate by 2030.

Already in 2025, 76.4% of all paper and board consumed in Europe was recycled. The recycling rate is defined as the ratio between the recycling of used paper, including net trade of Paper for Recycling (PfR), and consumption of new paper and board. In a year-to-year comparison, the total amount of paper and board collected and recycled in the paper sector in 2025 decreased by 0.3% to 53.9 million tonnes, while consumption of paper and board decreased by 0.4% to 70.5 million tonnes. As consumption of paper and board has decreased the same way as the recycling of paper and board within and outside Europe, the recycling rate remained at 76.4% in 2025.

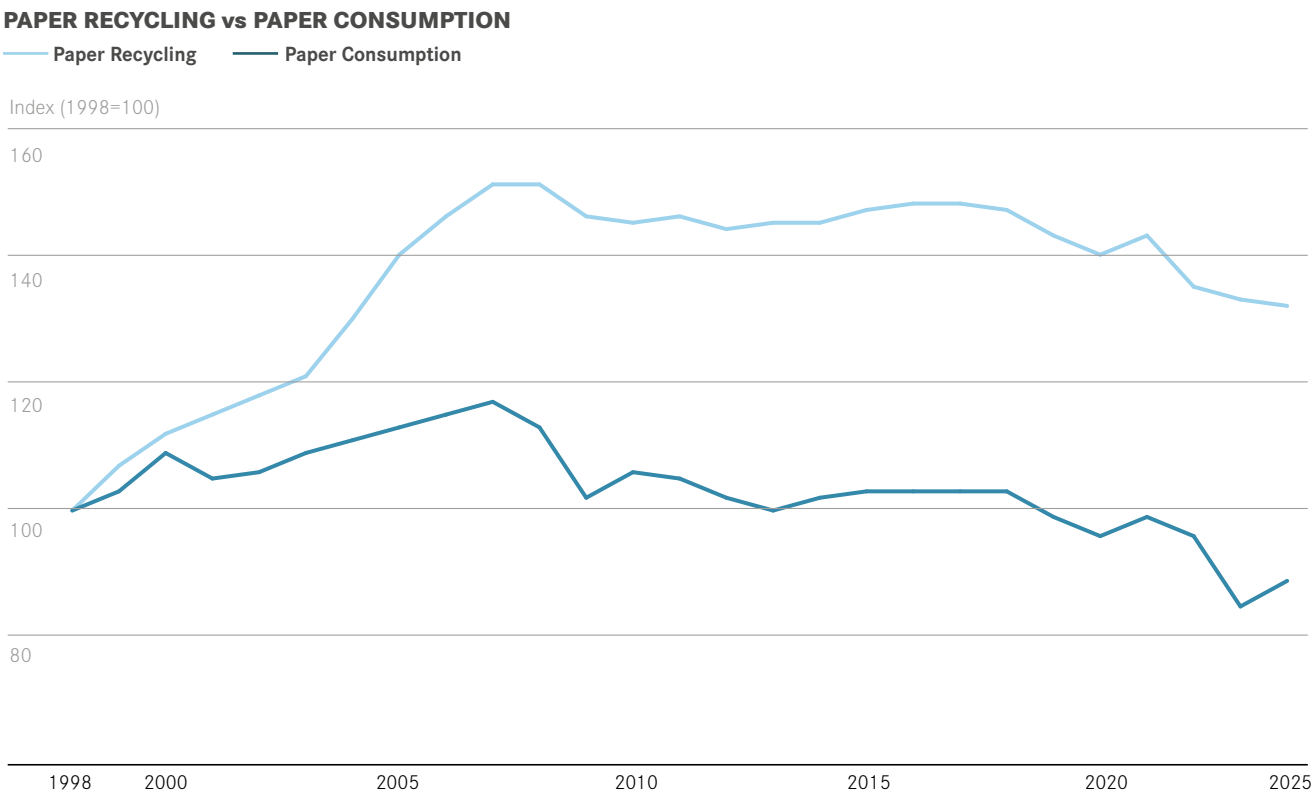
The stable recycling rate reflects the long-standing commitment of the paper industry and its partners to circularity. For decades, stakeholders across the value chain have worked together to build and maintain efficient collection, sorting and recycling systems, signaling a well-functioning market for paper for recycling, where supply and demand remain closely aligned. Consistent collection volumes and steady demand from paper mills have ensured a reliable circular flow of materials across the value chain.

EUROPEAN PAPER RECYCLING 1991-2025

Source: Cepi 2025



[1]https://www.paperforrecycling.eu/publications/





Looking back at the progress made since 1998 - the base year for the first voluntary commitment set in the European Declaration on Paper Recycling - recycling has increased by 34.4% (13.8 million tonnes). In strong contrast, consumption of new paper and board since 1998 increased up until 2007 and dropped back to the level of the 1990s in the following years.

The majority of European countries, in particular 20 countries, sustain recycling rates above 70%; While paper packaging continues to achieve the highest recycling performance among packaging materials, reaching 87% as an EU average.

Europe continues to lead globally in paper recycling, maintaining its position as the region with the highest recycling rates worldwide. In Europe, during 2025, every fibre completed on average 4.2 cycles of recycling and use while the world average in 2024 was 3 times.

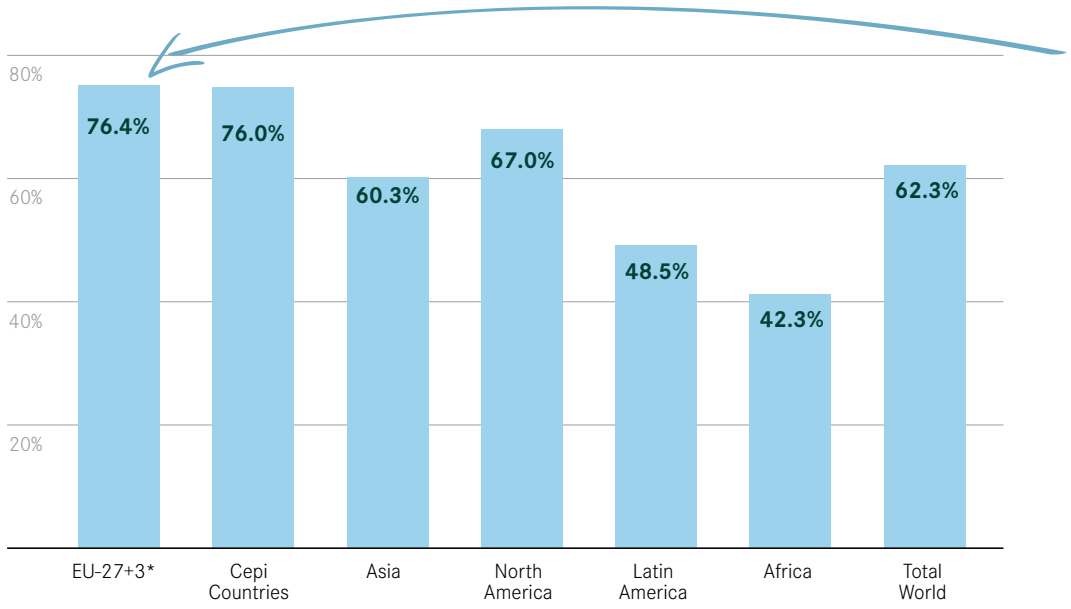
EU legislators renewed the recycling targets for packaging waste[2]; it is clear that the well-functioning paper recycling chain is a key driver for meeting these targets. According to the latest Eurostat data, the recycling rate of paper and cardboard packaging in EU 27 in 2023 was 86.6%, higher than all other materials. In absolute volumes, more paper packaging was recycled than all other packaging materials combined.

[2]Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

RECYCLING RATE IN WORLD REGIONS IN 2024

Cepi, Fastmarkets – 2024

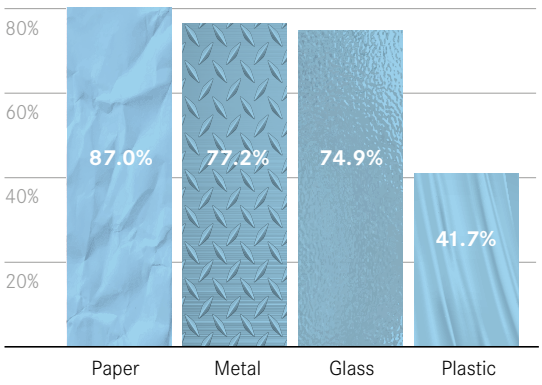
*EU-27+3 (The UK, Norway and Switzerland)



EUROPE IS THE PAPER RECYCLING CHAMPION!

2023 PACKAGING RECYCLING RATES

(source EUROSTAT)

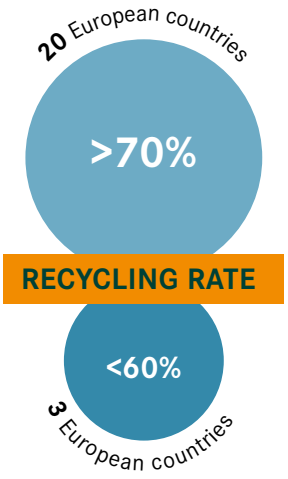


NATIONAL RECYCLING RATES IN EUROPE

20 European countries exceeded the 70% recycling rate (17 in 2024).

3 European countries were below 60% (5 in 2024).

Source: Cepi 2025



Reporting on domestic recycling rate and international flows of Paper for Recycling:

The European Declaration on Paper Recycling 2021-2030 introduces a more consistent monitoring of the domestic recycling rate, excluding net trade. The reporting only takes into consideration PfR utilisation in European paper mills excluding net trade (46.3 million tonnes), divided by paper and board consumption. The domestic recycling rate in 2025 was 65.8%.

A net volume of 7.5 million tonnes (14% of the total collection of 53.9 million tonnes) was bought by third countries, outside the commitment region (EU-27, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland). The formerly high Chinese demand for European PfR has decreased to levels close to zero. The key importers of European PfR were India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand. Overall, net exports of PfR outside Europe have increased by 13.9% compared to 2024.

Paper recycling is a “Made in Europe” industry. As collection, sorting and recycling take place in Europe, paper recycling prolongs value creation and job opportunities in Europe from a renewable and predominantly European resource: wood. Making recycling easy and simple, year after year, requires a huge effort by the paper value chain. We explain these efforts in our annual monitoring reports and are proud of the progress. For the commitment period of 2021-2030 the recycling rate calculations are independently verified by Deloitte.

2 PROGRESS IN QUALITATIVE TARGETS

EPRC members, spanning 14 sectors of the European paper recycling value chain, are working collectively to improve the paper recycling rate by 2030. Their commitment is reflected in the signing of the European Declaration on Paper Recycling and in their ongoing efforts to achieve its qualitative targets. Through initiatives focused on collection, ecodesign and innovation, and stakeholder engagement, they actively contribute to making paper recycling more effective and widespread.

COLLECTION: Enhancing the Quality and Quantity of Paper Recycling

Recycling begins with collection, a key step in ensuring that paper and board are recovered effectively for recycling. Efficient collection schemes help secure both the quantity and quality of secondary raw materials needed by recyclers. By keeping materials, including packaging, separate at collection, contamination is reduced and sorting becomes more efficient, providing a steady supply of high-quality Paper for Recycling. This not only improves recycling performance but also drives innovation and investment in advanced recycling technologies, reinforcing Europe's green economy and accelerating the shift to a circular economy.

In 2025, EPRC members actively advanced a range of initiatives aimed at improving paper collection across different product formats and applications.

Providing consumers with clear and consistent sorting instructions is a key instrument in improving separate collection performance. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) addresses this need by introducing harmonised sorting labels for packaging and waste collection receptacles throughout the EU. The aim is to facilitate correct sorting by households and create greater consistency in collection systems across Member States. Cepi and fellow EPRC members have supported this process through their participation in stakeholder consultations on the development of an EU-wide harmonised labelling system.

While the proposed system is currently based on the material composition of packaging, Cepi has called for its eventual alignment with the recyclability assessment framework established under the PPWR. Linking labelling requirements to recyclability performance would help ensure that packaging is channelled to the most appropriate recycling route. Furthermore, greater integration between recyclability-based labelling and the Design for Recycling framework could enhance the overall effectiveness of the system, as such labels convey information about a packaging item's suitability for specific recycling processes rather than solely identifying the material from which it is made.

The Food and Beverage Carton Alliance (FBCA) continued to strengthen the knowledge base needed to enhance the collection of liquid packaging cartons (LPCs). Through its Centre of Expertise and close collaboration with member representatives leading national initiatives across EU Member States, FBCA supported the development of country-specific collection roadmaps and promoted a shared understanding of key challenges, including fragmented collection systems, data deficiencies, and inconsistencies in policy implementation.

FBCA also maintained its monitoring of collection and recycling performance for liquid packaging cartons across the EU-30 and assisted its members in engaging with national authorities to improve both the coverage and quality of collection systems. These efforts help ensure a more reliable supply of high-quality material for recycling, thereby supporting greater efficiency and effectiveness throughout the recycling value chain.

The International Association of the Deinking Industry (INGEDE) remained dedicated to preserving and strengthening paper recycling loops across Europe. The association advocated for paper and cardboard products made from white fibres to remain within the graphic paper recycling stream, while ensuring that brown fibres continued to be effectively used in the production of packaging papers suitable for contact with dry, non-greasy food products.

INGEDE actively promoted the interests of paper recyclers through its participation in key industry events and platforms, including the INGEDE Symposium, 4evergreen, and packaging standardisation forums. It supported the separate collection of both PfR and composite packaging and remained committed to maintaining high-quality recovered paper streams and efficient recycling systems.

Ecodesign and Design for Recycling

Ecodesign continued to play a central role in advancing a truly circular paper recycling loop. By designing products with their end-of-life phase in mind, including the way they would be collected, sorted, processed, and recycled, stakeholders helped ensure that materials could successfully re-enter the value chain. This contributed to reducing waste, conserving natural resources, and improving overall recyclability. Ecodesign also supported compliance with evolving EU legislative requirements and sustainability objectives, notably those established under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR).

Design for Recycling principles continued to be integrated into the product development process, enabling packaging designers to identify and reduce features that could hinder recycling. Improvements such as eliminating unnecessary components, enhancing the separability of packaging elements, optimising the use of adhesives, and selecting recycling-compatible barrier solutions contributed to better recycling outcomes while preserving product functionality and performance.

EPRC members actively contributed to the development and implementation of robust design frameworks, assessment methodologies, and testing protocols aimed at ensuring that products met high recyclability standards. Their efforts supported the industry's transition towards more circular and recycling-friendly product design.



Cepi revised and published the third version of the Cepi Recyclability Test Method[3] for mills operating conventional recycling processes. The method provides a harmonised laboratory procedure to assess the recyclability of common paper and board grades and serves as the basis for recyclability assessments under the 4evergreen Fibre-based Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Protocol[4] for conventional recycling mills.

To further strengthen the robustness and reliability of the methodology, Cepi also organised a reproducibility programme in 2025 to establish a laboratory validation programme for the harmonised test method. The initiative brought together a group of laboratories that had been instrumental in developing the methodology, enabling the assessment of its reproducibility across different testing facilities and supporting its consistent implementation throughout the paper value chain.

EPRC members contributed to the development of Design for Recycling (DfR) criteria within CEN Technical Committee 261 Working Group 3. The criteria are expected to underpin future PPWR recyclability requirements and shape packaging design and recycling performance. Following their completion, the CEN standards will be submitted to the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) to support the preparation of the Delegated Acts that will establish the Design for Recycling criteria applicable to packaging from January 2030.

The European Printing Ink Association (**EuPIA**)[5], has contributed its technical expertise to the revision of criteria across several ecolabelling schemes for printed products, helping to ensure that sustainability requirements remain practical, science-based, and aligned with industry realities.

The European Corrugated Packaging Association (FEFCO) which is a CITPA member, published its Factsheet on Recyclability for Corrugated Cardboard Packaging[6], providing an overview of key considerations related to the collection, sorting, and recycling of corrugated packaging. Supported by operational testing results, the publication offered evidence-based guidance on the recyclability performance of corrugated packaging materials and contributed to a better understanding of Design for Recycling principles across the value chain.

In addition, CITPA member FEFCO released the Product Carbon Footprint Calculation Checklist for Corrugated Board Packaging[7], providing practical guidance for the calculation of product carbon footprints (PCFs) for corrugated packaging. In a sector where similar products are manufactured by multiple producers, the checklist promoted a harmonised approach to PCF calculations, helping to improve transparency, credibility, consistency, and comparability across the value chain. By supporting the use of common methodologies, the publication contributed to more reliable environmental assessments and informed decision-making throughout the corrugated packaging sector.

The International Confederation of Paper and Board Converters in Europe (CITPA) further advanced carbon transparency efforts through alignment with PACT (Partnership for Carbon Transparency)[8]. During the reporting period, the CITPA CO_2 Guidelines were officially recognised among PACT-approved methodologies for product carbon footprint (PCF) calculations and received an "*Overall Aligned Approach*" statement. This recognition strengthened the credibility of the methodology and supported greater consistency, comparability, and interoperability in carbon footprint reporting across industries and value chains.

[3]https://www.cepi.org/cepi-recyclability-test-method-version-3/
[4]Read more about the 4evergreen deliverables in chapter 3
[5]https://www.eupia.org/key-topics/recycling/#paper
[6]https://www.fefco.org/sites/default/files/FEFCO%20Factsheet%20on%20Recyclability%20for%20Corrugated%20Cardboard%20Packaging_October%202025_FINAL%20%281%29.pdf
[7]https://www.fefco.org/sites/default/files/documents/2025-10%20-%20FEFCO%20-%20PCF%20Calculation%20Chart%20-%20v1.3.pdf
[8]https://www.carbon-transparency.org/pact-methodology

The Food and Beverage Cartons Alliance (**FBCA**) further advanced its Design for Recycling (DfR) Guidelines[9] and contributed to the development and alignment of recyclability assessment methodologies in preparation for upcoming EU legislative requirements. The launch and promotion of the RECY:CHECK protocol[10] provided a harmonised, science-based approach for assessing the recyclability of fibre-based composite packaging, helping stakeholders prepare for future recyclability performance requirements under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR).

These tools enabled producers, brand owners, and recyclers to align on common design requirements, support the implementation of modulated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees, and drive continuous improvements in packaging design. By promoting compatibility with existing collection, sorting, and recycling systems, they also contributed to strengthening the circularity and recyclability of fibre-based packaging across the value chain.

Robust recyclability assessment methodologies also provide an important foundation for the implementation of modulated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees. By linking packaging recyclability and environmental performance to economic incentives, these frameworks encourage continuous improvements in packaging design and helped channel investment towards more circular and resource-efficient solutions.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrated the commitment of EPRC members to advancing harmonised, science-based approaches to ecodesign and recyclability. Through their contributions to testing methodologies, Design for Recycling guidelines, standardisation activities, and regulatory implementation, EPRC members supported greater circularity within the paper value chain, strengthened confidence in recyclability assessments, and helped ensure that fibre-based products could be effectively collected, recycled, and returned to productive use across Europe.

Driving Innovation Across the Value Chain

Research and development continued to play a critical role in addressing current and future recycling challenges as materials, products, and regulatory requirements evolved. EPRC members remained strongly committed to innovation initiatives aimed at improving paper recovery, optimising recycling processes, reducing waste generation, and increasing the valorisation of by-products from recycling operations. These efforts helped ensure that the industry remained at the forefront of technological progress while contributing to the EU's circular economy and sustainability objectives.

Among the notable initiatives, **Cepi's Clean Processes and Products Forum (CPPF)** continued to advance the development and deployment of strategies and technologies designed to remove or mitigate the impact of components of concern within circular value chains. The Forum worked to strengthen the scientific and technical evidence base supporting advocacy on substances of concern, while raising awareness among members and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and practical solutions.

A key strength of the CPPF remained its ability to bring together expertise from across and beyond the paper value chain. Through collaboration with suppliers, technology providers, research institutes, and universities, the Forum generated valuable insights into emerging challenges, including PFAS, microplastics, and other substances of concern relevant to the paper industry.

INGEDE continued to support the **SPaRe research project**[11] as a minority sponsor. The project focused on the assessment of pulper rejects and the recovery and utilisation of their individual components. In addition to reducing fibre losses, SPaRe explored sustainable recovery pathways for non-fibre fractions, including plastics, while recognising that thermal recovery may remain appropriate in specific cases.

As part of this work, significant progress was made in improving fibre recovery from rejects. A laboratory methodology was also further developed to determine the fibre content of rejects in a reliable and reproducible manner. Once validated, the method is expected to facilitate the objective assessment and benchmarking of industrial processing technologies, supporting efficiency improvements throughout the recycling value chain.

FBCA continued to support research, technical development, and knowledge-sharing activities across the value chain, with a particular focus on maximising recyclability, improving system performance, and minimising environmental impacts. Through its Centre of Expertise and dedicated working groups, FBCA provided structured technical support and facilitated collaboration among its members, National Associations, recyclers, and external stakeholders. This included responding to numerous enquiries related to recycling technologies, recycling system performance, and the interpretation of evolving policy requirements.

FBCA also contributed technical and scientific expertise to the development of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodologies, environmental footprint approaches, and environmental benchmarking initiatives for liquid packaging cartons. These activities strengthened the evidence base underpinning policy discussions and sustainability claims across the sector.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrated the commitment of EPRC members to innovation as a key enabler of circularity. By investing in research, fostering collaboration across the value chain, and developing science-based solutions to emerging challenges, EPRC members contributed to improving recycling performance, maximising the value of recovered materials, and ensuring that fibre-based products remained a sustainable and competitive choice within Europe's circular economy.

[9] https://fbcaglobal.com/storage/files/fbca-liquid-packaging-cartons-design-for-recycling-guidelines-v2-2025.pdf
[10] www.recycheck.com
[11] https://www.ants.rwth-aachen.de/cms/iar/forschung/aktuelle-forschungsprojekte/~bkkrho/spare/?mobile=1&lidx=1

Education and Information Sharing: Engaging Stakeholders Across Europe

Educating consumers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers continued to be essential to the success of recycling initiatives. By sharing knowledge, promoting transparency, and supporting information campaigns, EPRC members helped raise awareness of the importance of recycling and encouraged best practices in collection, sorting, and recovery. These efforts fostered informed decision-making, strengthened public trust, and supported behavioural changes that contribute to more sustainable consumption and disposal patterns.

EPRC members remained actively engaged in disseminating information, promoting dialogue, and supporting stakeholder education across Europe.

Cepi and FBCA continued their support for Greensource[12] in 2025, a platform and social media campaign providing stakeholders and the wider public with facts, data, and insights on the forest-based sector. Greensource continued to develop and promote content focused on circularity, including videos, fact sheets, and educational resources highlighting the contribution of the forest-based value chain to the circular economy and sustainable resource use.

Cepi also continued to lead the Circular Choices campaign[13], bringing together 20 European associations from across the forest-based sector and representing the largest coalition of the forest-based bioeconomy at EU level. Building on several years of coordinated advocacy and stakeholder engagement, the campaign further strengthened the visibility of the sector within the European policy debate. In the lead-up to the 2024-2029 European Commission mandate, Circular Choices highlighted the needs, challenges, and solutions of the forest-based bioeconomy, demonstrating its contribution to sustainable growth, resilience, climate objectives, resource efficiency, and industrial competitiveness. These efforts helped reinforce the recognition of the forest-based sector as a strategic contributor to Europe's environmental, economic, and societal goals.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrated the commitment of EPRC members to promoting stakeholder engagement and raising awareness of the benefits of recycling and circularity. By supporting education, dialogue, and evidence-based communication, EPRC members contributed to a better understanding of the role of fibre-based products within the circular economy and encouraged greater participation across the value chain.

FEICA continued to promote knowledge sharing and stakeholder awareness on packaging recyclability through the publication of its report, Labelling Adhesives in the Context of Packaging Recycling[14]. The report provided insights into the role of labelling adhesives in packaging recycling systems and supported informed decision-making across the packaging value chain. In parallel, FEICA organised a dedicated webinar in April 2025[15], bringing together stakeholders to discuss challenges, solutions, and best practices related to adhesive selection, packaging design, and recycling compatibility. These activities contributed to a better understanding of the impact of adhesives on recyclability and supported the development of more recycling-friendly packaging solutions.

CITPA member FEFCO continued its communication and outreach activities through a range of publications and stakeholder engagement initiatives. The FEFCO Activity Report 2024[16] highlights the organisation's work in support of the corrugated packaging industry and the circular economy. In addition, the FEFCO Sustainability Charter[17] sets out the sector's commitments to advancing sustainability, resource efficiency, and circularity throughout the value chain.

FEFCO also maintained strong engagement with stakeholders through Unboxing Insights, its monthly newsletter. By 2025, the newsletter had reached an audience of more than 14,000 LinkedIn followers, helping disseminate information on sustainability, innovation, policy developments, and industry best practices.

FBCA further promoted understanding of the recyclability of liquid packaging cartons (LPCs) through evidence-based communication and practical examples from dedicated recycling processes. In parallel, it contributed to discussions on recyclability assessment methodologies, standardisation, and market perception challenges, including those related to PolyAl.

Through their active participation in initiatives such as Fibre Packaging Europe and 4evergreen, certain EPRC members continued to facilitate collaboration and provide technical expertise across the value chain. These activities enhanced knowledge sharing, improved stakeholder alignment, and supported informed engagement with policymakers, regulators, and industry partners.

Collectively, the educational initiatives, communication activities, technical guidance, and stakeholder engagement efforts of EPRC members helped foster a shared understanding of circularity, supporting higher recycling rates, informed policymaking, and a stronger circular economy for fibre-based products.

[12]https://www.eugreensource.org/
[13]https://www.circularchoices.eu/
[14]https://www.feica.eu/wp-content/uploads/RAM-EX-001-002_Labelling-adhesives-in-the-context-of-packaging-recycling.pdf
[15]View the presentation slides https://www.feica.eu/wp-content/uploads/FEICA-Webinar-Labelling-Adhesives-in-Packaging-Recycling-Presentation.pdf
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[16]www.fefco.org/sites/default/files/documents/FEFCO%20Activity%20Report%202024-WEB%20_.pdf
[17]www.fefco.org/sites/default/files/documents/2025-07%20-%20FEFCO%20-%20Sustainability%20Charter%20-%20v1.2.pdf

3 4EVERGREEN: A COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM THAT PERFECTS CIRCULARITY IN FIBRE-BASED PACKAGING

4evergreen is an alliance of over 110 organisations across the **fibre-based packaging** value chain. Its members include paper and board producers, packaging manufacturers, brand owners, retailers, recyclers, and waste management companies. The alliance also brings together suppliers of non-fibre materials such as inks and adhesives, technology providers, research institutions, and start-ups.

Together, these members are working to improve the circularity of fibre-based packaging. Their shared goal is to achieve a **90% recycling rate** by 2030, building on the current rate of 83,1% for paper and board packaging (Eurostat, 2022). To support this ambition, 4evergreen has developed a set of practical tools and guidelines, including:

- the **Recyclability Evaluation Protocol**[18] describes the assessment and score calculation procedures of the technical recyclability of fibre-based packaging items and/or materials for three different types of paper recycling mill processes: conventional, flotation-deinking, and specialised. Following a beta release in December 2022, Version 1 was published in January 2025.

- the **Circularity by Design Guideline**[19], now in its third version, helps companies design packaging compatible with recycling systems. In fact, the primary purpose of the document is to explain how different parameters, elements and materials of fibre-based packaging impact recycling processes and subsequent pulping reject recovery. It includes a decision tree and a checklist to support better design choices.

- the **Guidance on Improved Collection and Sorting**[20] provides recommendations written based on best practices, which are intended to aid the implementation of future collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure, to meet EU legal requirements. The document was updated in 2024 to include new insights on sorting technologies, organic contamination, and recycling in hospitality and on-the-go settings.

These two latter deliverables were updated in late 2024, adding more knowledge to their circularity toolbox. The alliance also strongly emphasises communication and outreach. In 2024, it launched an Ambassadorship Programme[21] and hosted its fifth Annual Conference[22], which brought together industry leaders and policymakers. In 2024, 4evergreen celebrated the achievements of its members through the second edition of the Circularity Success Stories[23], which highlighted innovative projects that contribute to the alliance's goals.

In 2025, 4evergreen is focusing on refining its tools and strengthening collaboration across the fibre-based packaging value chain. The alliance will also tackle barriers to packaging circularity and expand outreach through refreshed communications and stronger ties with industry partners. Read more about what we have achieved and what is waiting ahead in our latest Annual Report[24].

The deliverables are available on the 4evergreen website:
https://4evergreenforum.eu/about/guidelinesandprotocol

4ever green

[18]https://4evergreenforum.eu/wp-content/uploads/4evergreen-Report2025-V8.pdf
[19]https://4evergreenforum.eu/wp-content/uploads/4evergreen-Circularity-by-Design3.pdf
[20]https://4evergreenforum.eu/wp-content/uploads/4evergreen-WS-3-2024.pdf
[21]https://4evergreenforum.eu/ambassadors/
[22]https://4evergreenforum.eu/4evergreen-alliance-discussed-key-developments-for-the-fibre-based-packaging
[23]https://4evergreenforum.eu/circularity-success-stories/
[24]https://4evergreenforum.eu/wp-content/uploads/4evergreen-annual-report-2024.pdf

4 DATA QUALITY: 2025 DATA

The data used to calculate recycling rates is collected by Cepi and comes from a questionnaire sent to its national member associations in 19 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). Cepi's national associations supply the data, collected from their members' mills and companies, as well as official sources where appropriate.

In case data is not supplied to Cepi within the requested deadline, it is estimated using different sources such as AFRY or Eurostat.

The data in this report includes PfR utilisation and trade plus paper and board production, trade and consumption for non-Cepi members of the EU-27 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Malta), and Switzerland. The data is obtained from AFRY Management Consulting.

After submission to Cepi, the data may be adjusted by the source, in particular the trade data obtained from customs authorities. Cepi takes the adjustments into account, with the figures being considered as final and published in the subsequent report (e.g. 2024 figures are given in this report).

Following this rigorous process, the 2024 recycling rate was revised at 76.4%.

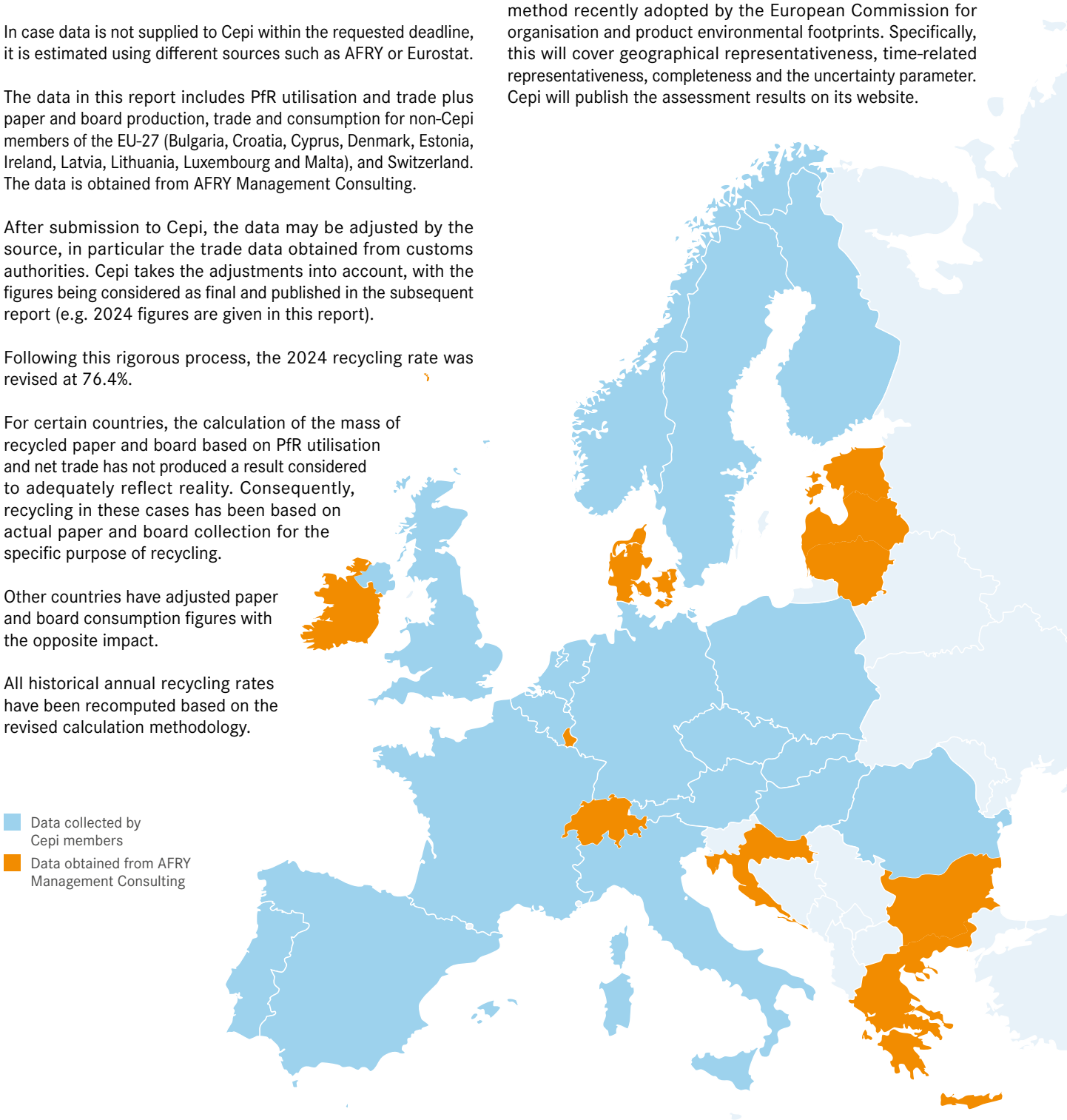
For certain countries, the calculation of the mass of recycled paper and board based on PfR utilisation and net trade has not produced a result considered to adequately reflect reality. Consequently, recycling in these cases has been based on actual paper and board collection for the specific purpose of recycling.

Other countries have adjusted paper and board consumption figures with the opposite impact.

All historical annual recycling rates have been recomputed based on the revised calculation methodology.

Cepi has commissioned an external verification of the recycling rate calculation since 2000 (see Assurance Reports 2011 - 2015 by EY, 2006 - 2010 by PricewaterhouseCoopers and 2000 - 2005 by Pöyry in the respective Annual Reports). Since 2015, external verification has been conducted by Deloitte and this contract has been extended for the ongoing period of the European Declaration.

As an annual exercise, data quality will be assessed using a method recently adopted by the European Commission for organisation and product environmental footprints. Specifically, this will cover geographical representativeness, time-related representativeness, completeness and the uncertainty parameter. Cepi will publish the assessment results on its website.



The European Paper Recycling Council (EPRC) was set up as an industry self-initiative in November 2000 to monitor progress towards meeting the paper recycling targets set out in the 2000 European Declaration on Paper Recycling. Since then, the commitments in the Declaration are renewed every five years.

The EPRC has committed itself to meeting both a voluntary recycling rate target of 76% in the EU-27 plus the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Norway by 2030 as well as qualitative targets in areas such as waste prevention, ecodesign, research and development, education and information.

Signatories

www.cepi.org

www.citpa-europe.org

www.emfa.eu

www.ingede.org

www.europeantissue.com

www.fepe.org

www.intergraf.eu

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