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**M**igrants  
**I**ntegration into the  
**L**abour  
**M**arket and  
**E**cological  
**T**ransition



**MILMET**  
**HANDBOOK**

ENGLISH VERSION



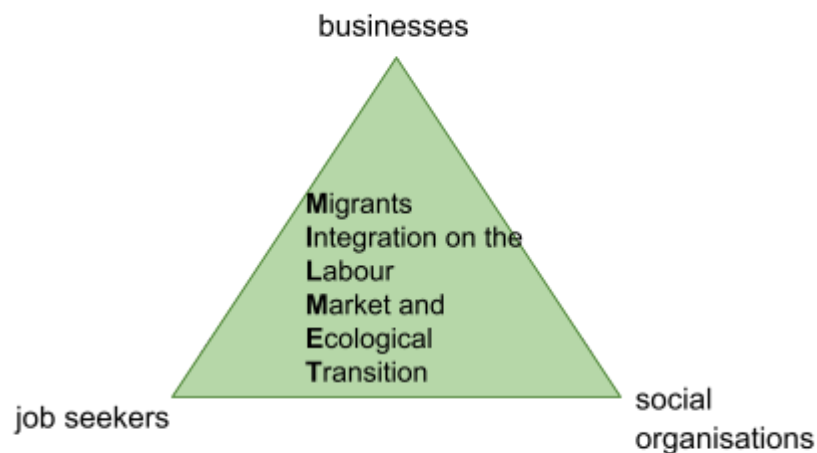
## Summary

- ***Handbook Introduction***
- ***Introduction migration in Europe***
- ***National/Country migration situations***
  1. *France*
  2. *Greece*
  3. *Italy*
  4. *Romania*
  5. *Spain*
- ***Introduction Green Economy***
- ***Sector information (national)***
  1. *France*
  2. *Greece*
  3. *Italy*
  4. *Romania*
  5. *Spain*
- ***Unit description & template (empty)***
- ***Annexes***



## Introduction

The main target groups of this handbook are the three essential actors of labour market integration: companies, social organisations and job seekers. It will be particularly useful for professionals such as trainers, cultural mediators and facilitators who support migrants in their integration into the host society. Indeed, structural barriers limit the access of many migrants to the labour market.



The handbook was edited within the MILMET Erasmus+ project which aims to favour migrants' integration into the labour market by identifying and making use of their vocational skills, putting migrants and green businesses in contact and raising awareness among companies and authorities about migrants' integration issues.

Five organisations in different countries participated in the construction of this handbook and the other project outputs : Afidel in France, Dafni Kek in Greece, Bucovina Institute in Romania, Precious Plastic in Spain (Canary Islands) and Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale in Italy. All partner organisations are involved in labour market integration, migrant rights and/or the development of the green sector economy. The consortium considers that the green economy is essential to many human and environmental needs and can be a valuable source of employment for migrant communities.

In this handbook, users will find:

- Information on the migration context in the five project countries;
- Information on the five sustainable sectors targeted by the project;
- Teaching methodologies: guidelines;
- Teaching unit structures and unit contents.

This handbook comes with a Toolkit with additional tools for the five country languages and five green sectors. It also includes templates which can be used to develop new tools. The handbook and toolkit can be used simultaneously.



In the upcoming sections we will present the migration contexts in the five project countries (France, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain (the Canary islands)) followed by a presentation of five so-called green, or sustainable, sectors on which the partner organisations work:

- Agriculture (France)
- Recycling of materials (Greece)
- Textile upcycling (Italy)
- Furniture upcycling (Romania)
- Plastic recycling (Spain).

The teaching units presented in this handbook are based on the “learning by doing” method, a universal way of acknowledging new competences, both intellectual and pragmatic. Learning by doing is famous for enabling learners to make use of their skills (and make mistakes), rather than keeping them as a grey matter (and never use them). Therefore, this handbook has its teaching sessions planned in two ways: studying the language and using the language through workshops. In this way, learners become the main actors of their learning process.



## Migration contexts

### Migration in Europe

Europe is a destination for migratory routes. The continent can either be a transitional destination or a final one. By its many borders, Europe is reachable from all cardinal points, even if its geographical situation rather permits terrestrial immigration via the bordering South and South-East regions. While legal migration routes are land, sky and sea, the main illegal migration routes focus on land and sea border types, such as : the central mediterranean route, the Western balkan route, the Eastern mediterranean route, the Western mediterranean route, the Western african route, the Eastern borders route, the circular route from Albania to Greece and the Black Sea Route (FRONTEX, 2023). External European border surveillance operations are carried out by The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, commonly known as FRONTEX (FRONTEX, 2023).

However, while “the common area of free movement” (FRONTEX, 2023), known as the Schengen Area, has facilitated people’s movement within Europe, immigration, including how to manage it and how to ensure social integration, is still a central political subject in the EU (European Home Affairs, 2023).

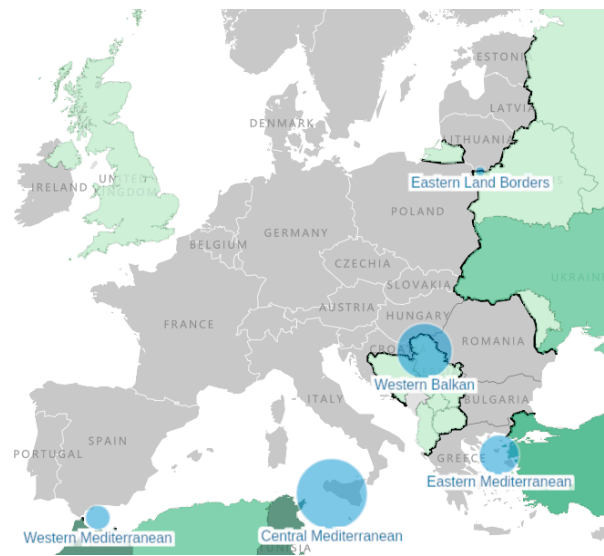


Figure 1 : Screenshot from Frontex (2023) : The current migration situation in Europe

Migration policies in Europe fluctuate according to crises, conflicts and changes. For instance, lately, the EU decided to introduce the temporary protection regime and give asylum seekers harmonised rights across the continent (Consilium, 2022). Migration policies either lengthen or shorten migrants’ processes of integration to the labour market and on the whole, to the society of the host country. Although a European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) works on harmonising asylum practices in all EU+ Member States, national asylum and reception authorities remain responsible for their procedures and systems (EUAA, 2023). This section will therefore present the migration contexts in each of the five partner’s countries : France, Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain (the Canary islands).



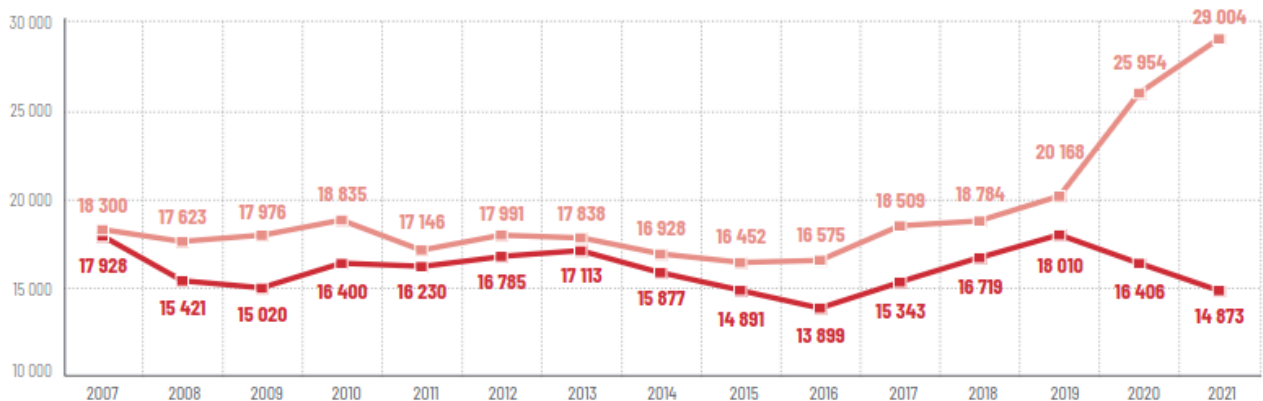
## Migration in France

In 2020, most migrants arriving in France came from the African continent (41%). Other regions of origin were Europe (32%), Asia (16,1%) and to a lesser extent America and Oceania (10,9%) ([Insee](#), 2022). Among those migrants from Africa, most were born in Morocco (9,5%), Algeria (7,1%), Tunisia (4,5%). Among the Europeans, most originated from Italy (4,5%), Spain (3,3%) and the United-Kingdom (3,2%).

In 2021, France recorded :

- 104 190 asylum applications were admitted ([OFII](#)) ;
- 29 004 applications for family reunification, of which 11 358 were admitted ;
- 53 260 medical visits achieved in OFII offices.

Applications for residence in France increased drastically during the covid-19 crisis. Moreover, the gap between the pending demands and the French official acceptance is greater than ever before since 2007. As shown by Figure 1, in 2021 over 29.000 applications were submitted but less than 15.000 received a positive answer.



**Figure 1 Submitted migration demands (pink) and admitted ones (red) from 2007-2021, OFII <sup>1</sup>**

## Immigration procedures and support to migrants

Migrants originating from regions outside of the European Union must apply for the right to permanently or temporarily stay in France, either by seeking political asylum, by applying for family reunification, a long stay visa or medical visa.

When first entering the country, they go through administrative and medical checks. Once the first step is completed, those who want to seek international protection (asylum) submit an application that will be investigated by the French Office of Refugees and Protection of Stateless people ([OFPRA](#), 2023) or

<sup>1</sup> OFII (2022). Edito.

[https://www.ofii.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/HR\\_RA\\_OFII\\_2021\\_21x297\\_p3\\_p114\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ofii.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/HR_RA_OFII_2021_21x297_p3_p114_compressed.pdf)



the National Court of Asylum ([CNDA](#), 2023). During the processing period, asylum seekers are given a temporary authorization to stay in the country as well as material help in the form of an allowance and accommodation in an asylum centre .

The French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII) is in charge of the identification of the education level of migrants. Within the frame of the “Republic Integration Contract” (CIR) ([Service Public](#), 2021) and according to the results of their language tests, migrants must either attend mandatory French classes or are exempted to pass the A1 level (**Common European Framework of Reference**).

According to their situation in France, migrants are proposed housing in different institutions ([CIMADE](#), 2019):

- Regional emergency housing solutions (HUDA). ([Gouv.fr](#), 2023) ;
- Reception centre for asylum seekers: Accommodation for people whose application for international protection is pending (CADA). ([RFSMS](#), 2023) ;
- Temporary accommodation centres for those who have obtained international protection. They also provide socio-economic integration help. (CPH).

## Migrants’ integration in the French labour market

From the moment an adult migrant person has a residence permit in France, he/she is supported by the Job Centre (Pole Emploi) to find a job that suits his/her needs. Current unemployment rates come close to a 7% in Metropolitan France ([Insee](#), 2023). In both genders, the highest rates are seen in the group of 15-25 year olds (women : 14,8% ; men : 18,6%). Migrants' integration in the labour market are particularly affected by factors such as origin and nationality, education level, time spent in France, lack of recognition of qualifications as well as language skills ([Brinbaum](#), Y., 2018, [Chiswick & Miller](#), 2014). Migrants who find employment often do so through their personal networks. Part of the solution to increasing migrants employment is to increase the understanding of the French labour market as well as the French language level. ([Brinbaum](#)<sup>2</sup>, Y. 2018), rather than only following a (non mandatory) training to access skilled positions. In this way, migrants who would have understood the French market and learned the French language, would be skilled and awarded for job vacancy.

Two training-working plans are currently operating in France ([Prefecture](#), 2023, p.83-85) :

- The Housing, Orientation and People’s Employment support (HOPE) aims to facilitate migrants’ integration in French society and thus their access to the labour market. This plan’s approach is to train migrant job seekers for (skilled) jobs in sectors experiencing shortages. It also includes accommodation plans as well as administrative and social support ;



- Global Care and Refugees' Integration (AGIR) is a plan that coordinates actions by different organisations in order to help refugees with hosting, training and administrative support for an average period of 20 months.

## Migrants' integration on the labour market in the Haute-Garonne region

In 2019, the Haute-Garonne area had an employment rate of 75,3% for 15-64 y.o. residents. Ukrainian migrants have a temporary permit of stay in France, allowing them to find a job. ([France bleu](#), 2023) Currently, there is little data on migrants' integration on the local labour market in the Haute-Garonne area although some professional and non-profit organisations gather some data on employment in order to consider the needs of the market for the benefit of job seekers and employers. In fact, each year, the French job seekers agency lists the jobs with the most job offers both on the regional level and on the department level ([IMT de Pole Emploi](#), 2023). For example : personal care (childcare, adultcare), accounting, caretaker, order assistant, all jobs being displayed with the job-offers' link.

According to data by a local labour-market organisation, Job-en-Comminges, the main recruiting sectors around the Saint-Gaudens area are: healthcare (nurse, nursing personnel, personal care assistant), construction industry, industry (mechanic), catering and food service and large retailers (department supervisor). There is, however, no data on the extent to which migrants are employed in these sectors.

The lack of information on migrants' integration on the labour market might have several explanations :

- migrant job seekers commit to a training and don't access the labour-market in the long term well enough to be taken into account in the rates ;
- migrant job seekers have moved to another region, department or administrative district ;
- migrant job seekers have moved out from France ;
- migrant job seekers or with a migration background are not (yet) a criteria taken into account when static on labour-market are made.

Still, in the Comminges administrative district, migrants can have a full training-job-integration process at AFIDEL's, as long as their residence permit is valid and their domiciliation remains the same. To do so, they :

- attend a mandatory OFII linguistic training for the first language level (A1) ;
- attend a second linguistic training for the second language level (A2) ;
- attend a third linguistic training to take an exam (DELF) and testify their A2/B1 level, and also have an internship to confirm their career objectives ;
- attend a francophone training about their future job ;
- become an employee in an organic-garden of the *Cocagne* Network, known as a welfare-to-work program.





# Migration in Greece

## Social Integration

Although the number of the reception places of refugees and migrants in Greece has been increased through temporary camps and the UNHCR accommodation scheme, a large proportion of this population are affected by poverty and homelessness. The ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation), jointly implemented between 2015 and 2021 by the UNHCR, the Greek Government and NGOs, with the financial support of the European Union, provided accommodation to 73,000 individuals and cash assistance to 200,000 all over the country (UNHCR Greece, 2021). While the Ministry of Migration and Asylum continued the programme with ESTIA II the number of migrants accommodated through the programme was significantly reduced and it was announced that the programme will be terminated at the end of 2022 (Greek Council for Refugees & European Council on Refugees and Exiles, 2021).

Between June 2019 and December 2021, another programme, HELIOS (Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection) was supported by the European Commission's Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Greece in collaboration with the Greek government and NGOs. The project supports and promotes the integration of beneficiaries of international protection by providing integration courses, accommodation support, employability support, integration monitoring and sensitisation of local communities. In August 2021, 32,380 beneficiaries had been enrolled in the programme with 5,983 households supported, 15,132 individuals had benefited from rental subsidies (less than 4% of these were in Western Greece), 5,799 had enrolled in integration courses and 5,632 had benefited from job counselling sessions (Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection, 2021). From 2022, the Greek Authorities have taken over the project's management and funding, resulting in 4,719 additional individuals benefiting from new lease agreements (Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection, 2022).

## Labour market & Education

Despite the fact that asylum seekers have the right to access the labour market six months after filing their application for international protection, many continue to face difficulties in doing so. As of the end of 2021, less than 50% of adult asylum seekers (9,707 out of 15,793) had managed to obtain a social security number. Other common obstacles are faced when trying to open a bank account or obtain an unemployment card (GCR, 2021).

Among those asylum seekers who manage to get employed, most work in the informal sector, without access to social security. Moreover, lack of formal documentation makes it difficult for asylum seekers to access vocational training. A survey of the educational background and professional skills of asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, conducted by UNHCR in April and May 2021, found that individuals had skills in 20 different sectors, including trade, engineering, manufacturing, and social work. Only 7% of the participants stated that they had no previous occupation or skills. Moreover,



78% of those interviewed had at least some formal education and 8% had studied at a university (UNHCR Greece, 2021).

## The local situation in Patras

In Western Greece, 146 people have been waiting for their asylum applications to be processed since December 2022 (Ministry of Migration & Asylum, 2022). However, the migrant population residing in the region and in Patras particularly is thought to be much higher, with estimations of around 600 – 1000 individuals<sup>3</sup>, the majority of which are the so-called irregular migrants who live in old, abandoned factories at the coastline of Patras. Most of them have the intention to leave Greece and try to reach Northern Europe. This population is particularly vulnerable to abuse, including police brutality, fear of deportation and receiving limited social aid by the state. Documented and undocumented migrants in Patras typically work in the agricultural sector, as service staff at individual homes or at recycling factories. According to the local press and the president of the Greek-Ukrainian Friendship Association "The Lighthouse" (2023), the number of Ukrainian refugees in Patras are estimated around 40 individuals, 17 families and most of them are employed in the hospitality sector and as carers for the elderly (The BEST portal, 2023). Official data and reports about the number of immigrants and refugees working in the sector of the green economy in Greece or in Patras does not exist.

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<sup>3</sup> Official data does not exist for the exact number of irregular refugees in Patras, the estimates are made from testimonials.



## Migration in Italy

Geography makes Italy a natural gateway to the European Union, especially for those coming from Africa, the Middle East or Southern Asia. In fact, two out of the three main maritime migration routes to the EU, through the Eastern and Central Mediterranean, end in Italy<sup>4</sup>. The Balkan route (by land) is currently the most used path to the European Union.

Migrants arriving on this route often head towards Germany, a route that includes a detour to Trieste, which is on the border with Slovenia.

Thus, it may not come as a surprise that Italy is the fourth recipient of asylum applications in Europe, with 53.610<sup>5</sup> applications in 2021, after Germany (190.545), France (120.685) and Spain (65.295). So far, from 2018 to 2021, 177.950 persons have obtained refugee status in Italy.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 2 Migration routes<sup>7</sup>

Since the beginning of 2016, 124.475 migrants have **arrived in Italy through the Mediterranean route**. The majority arrived from Sub-Saharan Africa through the Strait of Sicily (West-East route), after a long and difficult journey filled with obstacles and ending with an extremely dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea. While the land route, known as “the Balkan route”, has been used for many decades by populations fleeing war and totalitarian regimes, it has in recent years become the scene of a humanitarian tragedy. Thousands of migrants along the route live and travel in extremely poor conditions, facing persecution and violence.

Many migrants arriving in Italy do not wish to stay there definitely but are seeking to continue to Northern Europe, either because they already have family or friends to reunite with or because they see greater possibilities for integration elsewhere.

### A focus on Unaccompanied foreign minors

The activities of *Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale* in the migration sector are mainly addressed at the group of unaccompanied foreign minors. In fact, the cooperative, in collaboration with local actors and public authorities, starting from 2016, has built a large network of structures (short-, medium- and long-term communities), able to host unaccompanied minors and accompany them on a path of gradual autonomy and inclusion, compatible with the legal and the specific Italian situation.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.internazionale.it/notizie/2016/09/13/rotte-migranti-africa-italia>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.openpolis.it/litalia-riceve-meno-richiedenti-asilo-degli-altri-grandi-paesi-ue/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/documentazione/statistica/i-numeri-del-lasilo>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.limesonline.com/afghanistan-migranti-italia-africa-medio-oriente-guerre-carta/124790>



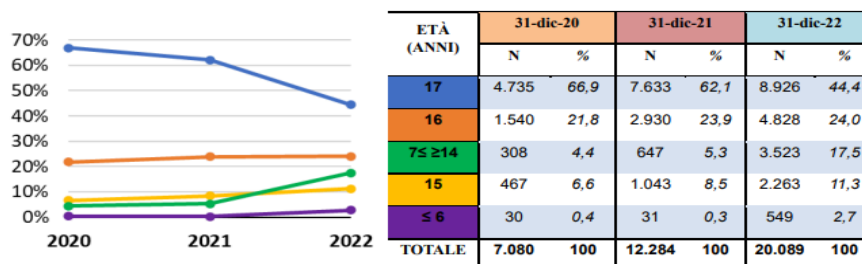
## The situation of unaccompanied foreign minors – legal context

In 2017, Italy became the first European country to adopt legislation specifically aimed at strengthening the rights and situation of unaccompanied foreign minors, the so-called “Zampa” law (n° 47/2017, “Zampa” law).<sup>8</sup> In particular, the law explicitly introduces a ban on the rejection of unaccompanied minors at the border.

Even if the “Zampa” law considers unaccompanied foreign minors in the same way as Italian teens, there is an important gap between law and reality. Policies that effectively improve opportunities offered to foreign minors are urgently needed, not only in order to meet the needs and potentials of the minors, but also in the context of an ageing Italian population.

The situation is complex, partly because of the increasing number of arrivals of unaccompanied foreign minors. Between January 2021 and June 2022, the number of unaccompanied foreign minors arriving in Italy increased by nearly 100%. This is mainly due to the war and resulting humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.<sup>9</sup> 28% originate from this country.

There are 20,089 unaccompanied foreign minors registered in Italy as of 31 December 2022, a sharp increase compared to 2021 (+64%) due to the humanitarian crisis that has affected Ukraine since February 2022. UAMs are in the majority males (85.1%), and are mostly 17 (44.4%), 16 (24%) or 7 to 14 years old (17.5%), mainly from Ukraine (5,042 minors), Egypt (4,899), Tunisia (1,800), Albania (1,347) and Pakistan (1,082).<sup>10</sup>



Graph 1 - Distribution of unaccompanied minors present as of 31.12.2022 by age group. Comparison with the situation as at 31.12.2021 e to 31.12.2020

## Unaccompanied Minors in Trieste since the period of Corona Virus (from April 2020 in progress) - a short storytelling

Since 2020, due to the pandemic situation, new services have been arranged for refugees and unaccompanied minors arriving in Italy and at Trieste.

During the early months of the Covid-19 outbreak, a 14-day quarantine period (“fiduciary isolation”) was implemented for unaccompanied minors arriving in Trieste in order to prevent the spread of the

<sup>8</sup> <https://openmigration.org/analisi/la-legge-zampa-sui-minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-in-5-punti/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.agensir.it/quotidiano/2022/10/7/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-caritas-e-migrantes-nellultimo-anno-preoccupante-aumento-servono-politiche-ad-hoc/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Documents/Rapporto-approfondimento-semestrale-MSNA-31-dicembre-2022.pdf>



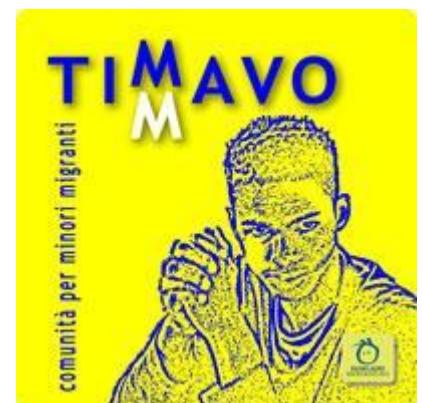
virus in the communities. These measures were activated by the Social Services of the Municipality of Trieste in collaboration with cooperatives as *Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale*. During their stay in quarantine, minors were given the opportunities for legal counselling in relation to their status and follow up possibilities. In addition, the minors received first-line medical care as well as the access to hygiene and healthy food and support linked to their mental health. Minors welcomed in these services, often arrived in quite bad physical conditions after having survived the final part of the route, referred to by the migrants as “the game”, which starts in Serbia/Bosnia and involves a crossing of the Croatian and Slovenian forests on foot for two or three weeks. Limb wounds, injuries, infections from scabies and gastrointestinal problems are common.

For many minors it has been quite challenging to understand and accept the measure of precautionary isolation. That’s why the work on awareness-raising represented an important investment during the Covid-19 period. Not only in regard to the minors, but also referred to their families which expected them to join immediately the final destination (France, Germany...).

In 2022, with the end of the Covid-19 emergency, the municipality of Trieste, in cooperation with *Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale* and further local stakeholders (associations, border police, social cooperatives...), implemented follow-up hosting projects in favour of young unaccompanied migrants. During a stay up to 50 days, the young migrants start to participate in more structured activities: language training, legal and psychological support when needed, as well as support in completing all relevant documentation (foreigners’ permit of stay, tax code and health card). A new kind of services, aimed to create a bridge to the already existing long term Communities.

After the initial period, the minors are placed in educational services/long term communities as the “*Community Timavo*”, created and managed by *Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale* since 2016. Sent by the municipalities, the young migrants can be hosted until the age of 18 or 21 if they attend school or work projects, or are in a situation of fragility.

Educational plans and activities in these services are tailored to the needs, resources and interests of each individual person and the activation of local resources. We consider this the only valid methodological approach, able to create real situations of integration.





## Migration in Romania

After the Romanian Revolution (December 1989), the country presented an increase in immigration, mostly of medical students and business entrepreneurs from countries such as Jordan, Iran, Egypt, and China. However, after Romania joined the EU in 2007, the migration trend reversed. Nowadays, according to the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*<sup>11</sup>, with more than 4 million Romanians living outside the country, Romania ranks 17th among countries of origin of migration worldwide. The ratio between the Romanian population that migrated outside the country and that of another nationality that migrated to Romania is approximately 6 to 1, the number of Romanian emigrants being 6 times higher than the number of foreign immigrants who were in the country at the end of 2020.

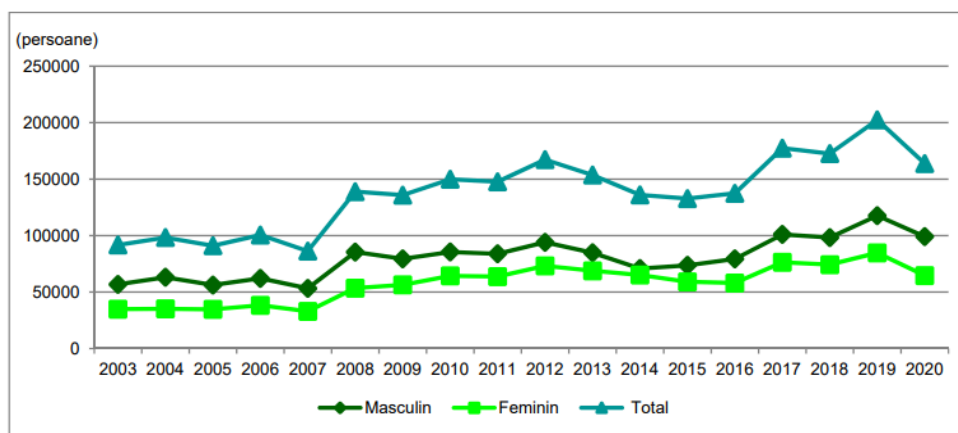


Fig 3. Migrants flow in the period 2003-2020<sup>12</sup>

The *General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII)* report<sup>13</sup> states that, in 2021, over **148,000 immigrants were registered in Romania**, of which **over 96,000 were from third countries**, most of them from **Moldova, Turkey, China, Syria, Nepal** and **over 52,000 are citizens of the European Union / EEA / CH**, most of them being from **Italy, Germany and France**. The main purposes for which foreigners have established their residence on the territory of Romania are **employment, secondment to work, family reunification, studies, beneficiaries of a form of international protection** and establishment of domicile on the territory of Romania. More than one third of the foreign citizens have established their temporary residence or domicile in Bucharest and Ilfov County, and over **5000** have chosen the counties of Constanta, Timiș, and Cluj.

The number of asylum applications also rose in 2021, **standing at 9,591** (out of 148,000 immigrants) by the end of the year. This was a 36% increase in comparison with 2020. The majority of these asylum seekers were from **Afghanistan (4,260), Syria (1,243) and Bangladesh (875)**. During the same reference

<sup>11</sup> Romania among the top 20 countries in the world with the highest emigration,

<https://romania.iom.int/news/romania-among-top-20-countries-world-highest-emigration-romanian>

<sup>12</sup> Institutul Național de Statistică (2021), *Tendințe Sociale*, [https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/tendinte\\_sociale\\_2.pdf](https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/tendinte_sociale_2.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> 2021 *Retrospective on migration in Romania*, <https://igi.mai.gov.ro/repere-din-activitatea-politistilor-inspectoratului-generalpentru-imigrari-in-anul-2021/>



period, 1,120 asylum seekers received [international protection](#)<sup>14</sup>. The report also shares that **1,625 beneficiaries of international protection** were newly enrolled in Romania's [Integration Program](#)<sup>15</sup> in 2021, and **738 completed it**.

In contrast with the situation in most other EU member states, Romania currently has a negative net migration rate, meaning more people are emigrating than immigrating.

## Migrants on the labour market in Romania

The labour market attracted, especially foreigners from countries on the Asian continent, most of the applications coming from citizens of **Nepal (10,448), Bangladesh (8,662), Sri Lanka (6,799), Turkey (7,163), and Pakistan (5,731)**.

According to a [sociological study from 2022](#)<sup>16</sup>, the majority of the employees from South Asia and SouthEast Asia are **young people – 60% between 26 and 35 y/o, 37% between 18 and 25 y/o, only 2% between 36 and 45 y/o and 1% over 45 y/o**. The average age is 27 years. Also, the study showed that 3 out of 4 non-EU workers in Romania are **men (76.8%) and only 23.2% are women**. Majority of them are workers with secondary education, and only a few of them is qualified. The majority works in construction (39%), followed by services (14%) and transport, logistics, housekeeping, etc.

## The local situation in Suceava, Romania

The number of immigrants who settled permanently in the municipality of Suceava has increased considerably during the last decade, especially in 2017, when there was an increase of over 3000 immigrants compared to the previous year. The latest data from 2019 show that 1198 immigrants settled in the municipality of Suceava, decreasing by approximately 57% compared to 2018 (2804 immigrants).

### The National Strategy for Immigration for 2021 – 2025

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021, the Romanian Government has published the National Strategy for Immigration<sup>17</sup>, which will have effect between 2021 – 2025 and will be monitored by CDMiR - The Coalition for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees in Romania.

Coming as a late measure, considering the fact the last strategy had expired in 2018, the new document emphasises a series of objectives, mechanisms, priorities and policies, to efficiently manage the migration phenomenon in the country.

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<sup>14</sup> *Applying for asylum*, <https://help.unhcr.org/romania/applying-for-asylum/>

<sup>15</sup> *Integration Program*, <https://igi.mai.gov.ro/en/integration-program/>

<sup>16</sup> *Sociological study "Workers from Asia - solution for the labour shortage in Romania"* (2022), by the EWL Migration Platform, Foundation for the Support of Migrants on the Labour Market 'EWL' and the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw, [https://ewl.com.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/EWL\\_WORKERS\\_FROM\\_ASIA\\_IN\\_ROMANIA\\_EN\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ewl.com.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/EWL_WORKERS_FROM_ASIA_IN_ROMANIA_EN_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Guvernul României, 2021, *STRATEGIA NAȚIONALĂ din 19 august 2021 privind imigrația pentru perioada 2021-2024*, <https://shorturl.at/qDIY2>



However, before pointing out these aspects, it is important to take a look at the general context. In doing so, it has been discovered that each year, Romanian authorities **set a fixed number of foreign workers that can be included on the labour market**, which is often extended at the employers' request.

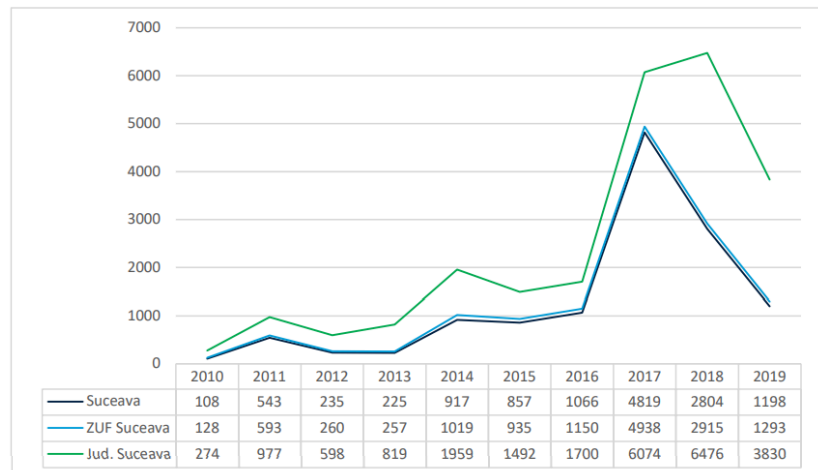


Figure 4. The evolution of the settled immigrants during 2010-2019<sup>18</sup>

In an effort to solve the insufficient workforce issue, around **30.000 migrants** have been welcomed to work here in 2020, compared to 5.500 in 2016. Also in 2020, as a consequence of the SARS – CoV – 2 pandemic, **only 22.307 work permits have been issued as part of the actions to reach the contingent** (which was 30.000 foreign workers), meaning a 74,5% completion rate. Due to travel restrictions, the countries of origin have shifted from Vietnam, Nepal and India in 2019, to Turkey, Nepal and Sri Lanka in 2020.

The 4 general objectives of the strategy are:

- Effective management of the migration phenomenon;
- Strengthening the national asylum system and ensuring compliance with European and international standards;
- Strengthening the response capacity of the Romanian state, regarding the influx of immigrants at border of the national territory;
- Sustained capabilities, necessary to implement policies in the field of migration, asylum and integration of foreigners.

They include actions such as ease of access for foreigners wanting to work in Romania, fighting illegal migration, processing asylum applications efficiently and according to standards, gaining access to non-reimbursable external funds, and many more.

## Report of the fact-finding mission to Romania

In December 2022, Ms. Leyla Kayacik - Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, visited Romania on a fact-finding mission, to assess the situation of Ukrainian refugees who've fled war in their country.

<sup>18</sup> *Strategia Integrată de dezvoltare urbană a zonei urbane Suceava 2021-2030, 2.1. Profil socio-demografic, pp. 1-49, [www.primariasv.ro](http://www.primariasv.ro)*





Her report<sup>19</sup> shows that at the time, more than 100.800 persons had already come to Romania as a consequence of the war, 89% being represented by women with children. The emergency ordinance adopted the same year states that Ukrainian citizens are eligible to benefit from temporary protection (up to one year), independent from their time of arrival.

Even though a refugee status is different from the migrant, it still counts as a movement from one country to another.

Talking about employment, it has been decided that Ukrainian refugees can work in Romania for a maximum of 90 days, without needing a work visa. In December 2022, there were over 5.000 work contracts involving Ukrainian professionals.

## **New employment conditions for migrants**

By the end of last year, new conditions<sup>20</sup> for the employment of migrants have been added to the No. 25 Ordinance from the 26th of August 2014.

New rules impose that within their first year of employment in the country, migrants need to obtain some sort of written consent from their first employer, if they get another job offer.

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<sup>19</sup>Ms. Leyla Kayacik - Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, 2022, Report of the fact-finding mission to Romania, <https://shorturl.at/cfmpR>

<sup>20</sup> European Commission, 2022, *Changes to employment conditions for labour migrants in Romania*, <https://shorturl.at/gIORQ>



## Migration in the Canary islands, Spain

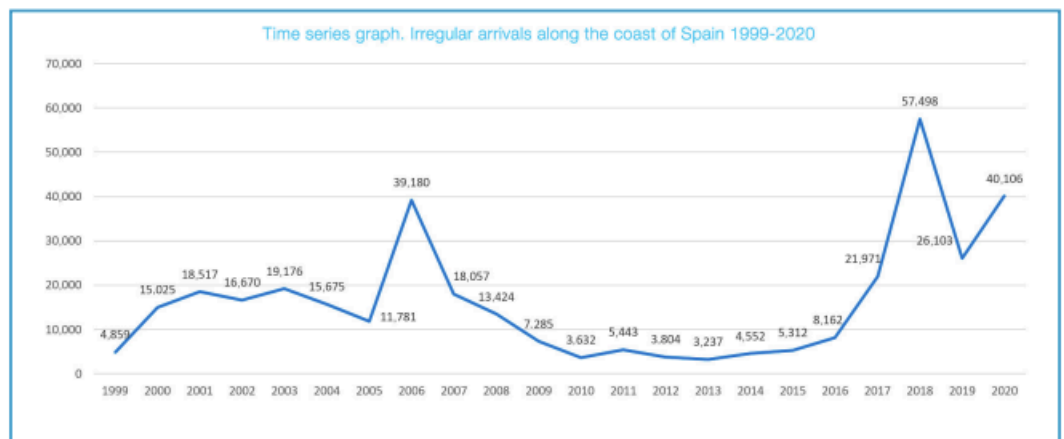
Given the geographical location of Spain, the country has experienced continuous migration from Northern Africa and Western sub-Saharan Africa to its Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts.

Immigration to Spain increased significantly since the end of the 20th century due to its rapid economic growth. Since the year 2000, Spain has presented one of the highest annual immigration rates in the world. At its highest point, in 2010, migrants represented 12.2% of the Spanish population. Spain is also the tenth country on the planet in terms of absolute number of migrants.

Upon the arrival of the economic crisis, the migrant population in the country dropped between 2011 and 2017, down to 9.8% of the national population before increasing again to 11.5% of the national population in 2021. In total, 7,322,408 foreign-born persons (with or without Spanish nationality) were living in Spain in 2021, 15.5% of the total population. The main migrant communities in Spain originate from Latin America, Africa and other parts of Europe.

The number of migrants who have died in their attempt to reach the Spanish coast in 2021 has exceeded 4.400.

Among migrants from outside of Europe, persons from Sub-Saharan



Source: Ministerio del Interior [Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs]. Compiled in-house

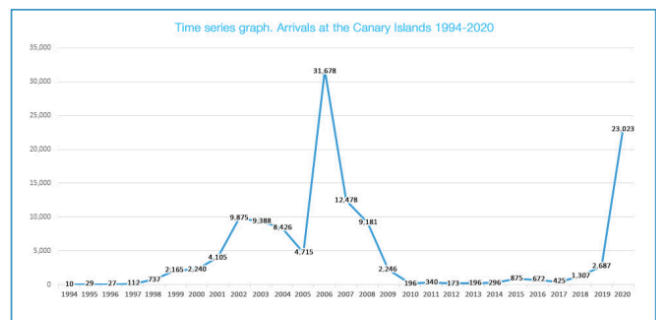
Africa are particularly vulnerable in Spain, particularly because of the difficulty in obtaining documentation. Sub-Saharan immigration to Spain has a long history but was very limited quantitatively until the 1990s. In the second part of the decade persons from Sub-Saharan Africa started arriving in larger numbers and were oriented towards employment in sectors such as agriculture, construction, services and street commerce, characterised by low wages and precarious employment conditions. Between January 1998 and January 2003, the arrival of sub-Saharan immigrants tripled, reaching the figure of 110,000 people.



## Evolution of migration to the Canary Islands

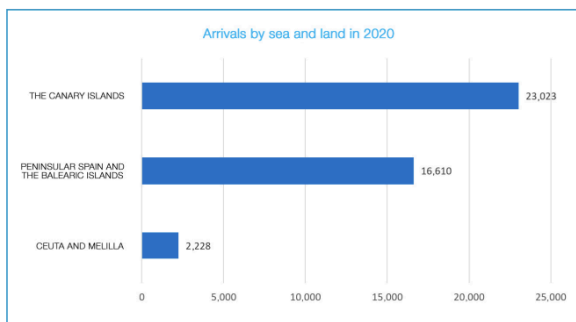
The stand-out feature of 2020 was the arrival of 23,023 migrant individuals to the Canary Islands. Factors affecting the migration from Africa to the Canary Islands include the sharp demographic increase, the negative impact of climate change, social inequalities and armed conflicts. On this occasion, there is a new factor: the increase in the number of undocumented individuals who have travelled to the Atlantic coast of Spain from Morocco. The example of the province of Las Palmas is a very illustrative one. Out of the 19,852 individuals who arrived there in 2020, 60% of them were from Morocco, followed by only 3,104 citizens from Mali.

In 2006 there was a considerable increase in arrivals of sub-Saharan migrants along the coasts of the Canary Islands archipelago. At the time, Spain initiated what became known as the Africa Plan, a new framework for relationships with sub-Saharan Africa.

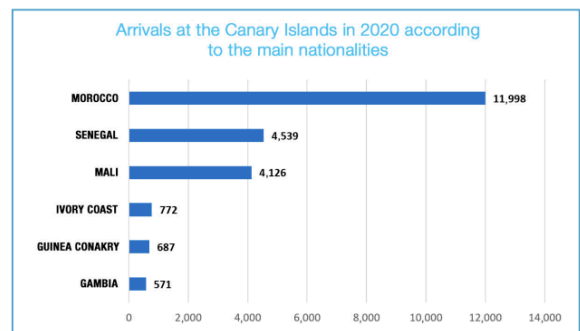


Source: Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs. Compiled in-house

Implementation of the aforementioned plan led to, amongst other things, a more than 60% decrease in arrivals of individuals on dugout canoes at the Canary Islands in 2007 compared with 2006. In general terms, the operation was a relative success since it managed to decrease irregular arrivals from almost 32,000 in 2006 to 12,478 in 2007. Since then, the trend has continued to decrease to just a few hundred arrivals, leaving this channel sealed over the last decade.



Source: Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs. Compiled in-house



Source: Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs. Compiled in-house

The Canary Islands Plan Work to set up new centres providing global care for immigrants who arrive at the coast has been ongoing since late 2019. On 20 November, the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration presented the Canary Islands Plan that includes 7,000 short-term accommodation spaces in tents. Work will also commence to ready military facilities made available by the Ministry of Defence and consolidate a permanent accommodation network on the Canary Islands archipelago.



## **Protection of minors**

Autonomous communities are responsible for protecting minors in their respective territories. For this reason, when a minor is classed as unshielded, the public entity responsible for protecting minors in that geographical area must act as the individual's guardian and provide the necessary measures for his or her protection.

On the Canary Islands, during the so-called 'dugout canoe crisis', numerous unannounced interventions and visits to centres for the protection of minors took place. Between 2006 and 2009, according to data provided by the Canary Islands local government, 2,727 minors were accommodated using emergency resources. On this occasion, ten years later, around 15% of the undocumented individuals who arrived at the coasts of the Canary Islands in 2020 were minors. Data provided by the organism for the protection of minors on the Canary Islands, as of 12 February 2021, places the number of unaccompanied migrant minors under its care at 2,666.

## **Individuals who go missing en route**

According to data provided by the Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs, 23,023 undocumented individuals arrived at the Canary Islands by sea in 2020. They did so in 745 vessels and, in many cases, had to be rescued. UNHCR estimates that, in 2020 alone, at least 480 individuals lost their lives while attempting to reach the islands.



# The Green Economy

## Green sectors in Europe

*“Environmental degradation is expected to affect economic activity more and more.”*

[European Commission](#), 2023

The way humans live, work and overall exist will sooner or later be affected by this environmental degradation, if it isn't already the case.

The European Commission (2020) emphasises that in order to reduce resource depletion and the resulting environmental degradation *“we need to replace the current model with more resilient and sustainable production and consumption patterns, in line with the principles of a 'circular economy'. Moving towards a more productive and less resource-intensive economy requires investment in eco-innovation and can lead to major gains in both competitiveness and job creation.”*

Both the European Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe consider a “green economy” to be key to achieving sustainable development.

The MILMET project seeks to be a part of this *“new economic paradigm”* ([UNECE](#), 2023) by contributing to *“prosperity and human well-being”, “food security improvement”* and the fight against climate change. The project consortium observes in the ongoing societal shift an opportunity for migrants to find work in a growing green labour market.

Partners strive to facilitate migrants' integration into the green economy labour market. Therefore, each partner has focused on the sustainable sector that is the most suitable for their local context: Afidel approaches agriculture in the rural areas around Saint-Gaudens, France ; Dafni Kek presents recycling of materials in Patras, Greece ; Duemilauno Agenzia Sociale focuses on upcycling of textiles in Trieste, Italy, Bucovina Institute works with furniture reconditioning in Suceava, Romania, and Precious Plastic reconditions plastic on Tenerife, Spain.



## The Agricultural sector in France

Agriculture is a sector of great importance for the French and global economies. In fact, France is the 6th exporter of agricultural products in the world, stands for 18,4% of the total European production and is the world's largest exporter of both wine and potato as well as the European lead exporter of beef, grain and eggs ([DelegFrance](#), 2023). The main agricultural productions of the country are cereals, vegetables, flowers and fruits and the country also produces wine and aromatic plants. ([Chambre de l'agriculture](#), 2023)

In recent decades, French agriculture has evolved considerably, partly due to the European Common agricultural policy, moving from a majority of small-scale farms in the 1950s towards fewer and larger professional estates dependent on modern technology. Less than 600 000 farm holdings were left in the year 2000s compared to 2,3 million in 1955. ([Geoportail](#), 2023, [L'agriculture, nouveaux défis](#) – éd. 2007).\*\*

The agricultural sector globally faces the challenges of the climate crisis. In fact, agriculture can seriously impact the environment, including through pollution and degradation of soil, water and air. However, the OECD emphasises that agriculture “can also positively impact the environment, for instance by trapping greenhouse gases within crops and soils, or mitigating flood risks through the adoption of certain farming practices”. ([OECD, Agriculture and the environment](#))

Furthermore, the economic crisis of 2019 has resulted in an increase in costs of energy and other resources for producers.

### Employment in agriculture

The agricultural sector is the second employer in France with 670 000 jobs ([Pole Emploi](#), 2023) with jobs both in the conventional and the organic sector. Jobs can either be either permanent or seasonal (mainly for harvests) and include a range of possibilities including arboriculture, horticulture, animal care and sales. ([IMT](#), 2023). 240 000 recruitments are expected in 2023. At present, the French agricultural sector is experiencing a shortage of labour. The failing “generational renewal” means that for every three farmers who retire only one person takes up farming. ([Chambre agriculture](#), 2022, p.2) Employment in farming thus decreased from 7,1% of total employment in 1982 to only 1,5% in 2019. ([Insee](#), 2023). In conjunction with the climate change crisis, questions arise on how to ensure food security in the country. ([Territoires au futur](#), 2023).

Problems of generational renewal are also present in the rural areas of the Haute-garonne department, in South Western France, where Afidel is located. In fact, 1729 of the 4246 farmers



present are older than 55 which means that over 800 full time farmers are missing ([Territoires au futur](#), 2023).

## Agriculture as a green sector

While one could define “agriculture” being a green sector by definition, the shift towards larger and more automated farms has resulted in an increased pressure on natural resources. Among other, agriculture causes air pollution and is responsible for 97% of the air emissions of ammonia ([Ecologie.gouv](#), 2023). According to the OECD, a “key challenge for the agriculture sector is to feed an increasing global population, while at the same time reducing the environmental impact and preserving natural resources for future generations”. ([OECD, Agriculture and the environment](#))

In recent years, organic agriculture has increased to over 13% of all farms and 10% of the total surface in use for farming. It employs the equivalent of 200.000 full-time workers. Organic farming is also more labour intensive, the national Ministry of agriculture estimates that an organic farm requires 30% more labour than a so-called traditional farm. As a result, organic farms are considered an important motor of job creation in rural areas by the Ministry of agriculture and proponents of small-scale (organic) farming are promoting this as a solution for sustainable development, employment and food security. In fact, [Territoires au futur](#) (2023) estimated that 59,4% of the food supply could be produced by local farms, 90,2% of the food supply could be produced if farms diversified their production and 100% of the food supply could be produced locally if meat consumption was reduced by 50%.

A number of French farmer organisations implement programs in favour of a flourishing and sustainable agricultural sector and a dynamic rural area where communities can find employment.

## Best practices

**Cocagne Alimen’Terre** - <https://cocagne-alimenterre.org/>

Cocagne Alimen’Terre is an NGO which aims to counter the unprecedented ecological and social challenges that humanity is currently facing. The NGO implements grass-root actions in favour of an equal access to food that is of high quality, healthy and sustainable, while ensuring a fair pay for producers. Their work targets both producers, consumers and job seekers.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



In one of their projects, the Gardens of Cocagne, the NGO proposes employment in organic gardens for persons who are far from the labour market. This project aims to help people in long-term unemployment while supporting sustainable and healthy local food production.

**CIVAM Occitanie - Solid'R - <https://www.civam-occitanie.fr/-ACCUEIL-REFUGIES->**

The French agricultural and rural development organisation CIVAM has implemented a pilot project aiming to favour migrants' employment in rural areas through job-training for refugees and asylum seekers on small-scale farms. The project has been implemented in a few regions in France and aims to help migrants identify their know-how's, discover local professions, build a career plan and gain autonomy.





# Recycling of materials in Greece

## Policies

Solid waste management requires the design and implementation of national integrated systems which are sustainable and effective. Thanks to the reuse and the recycling of materials such as paper, glass, aluminium, plastic and metal, large amounts of raw materials and energy can be saved. In Greece, public willingness to protect the environment and improve public health is leading to a shift from waste management policies towards policies for sustainable materials management. According to the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, the goal is the transition towards a “*model of self-sustainable development*”, that guarantees, among others, an equitable and long-term distribution of natural resources and a more relevant, equitable and appropriate development for all actors and future generations (EU Commission, n.d.). This transition is also expected to create new employment opportunities in the sustainable economic sector. (Υ.Π.Ε.Κ.Α., χ.χ.α).

Legal legislation on “Packaging and alternative management of packaging and other products” (2939/2001 and 4042/2012) consolidates the “extended producer responsibility” and state the mandatory participation of the producer in the management of packaging (ibid.). The New National Waste Management Plan (ΕΣΔΑ) 2020 - 2030 set targets compatible with the EU Directives on source separation, which are also part of the Circular Economy Package Directives. The National plan aims to increase the amount of municipal solid waste that is reused and recycled to at least 55% of the total waste produced nationally (calculated by weight) by 2025 and 60% by 2030. A target is also set to limit landfilling to 10% of municipal solid waste by 2030 (Υ.Π.Ε.Κ.Α., χ.χ.β).

## Institutions

The Hellenic Recycling Organisation (E.O.AN.) is the competent body of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change for the design and implementation of recycling policies in Greece. It is responsible for the approval, supervision, and control of alternative management systems and monitors achievement of national recycling and recovery targets for those materials according to the National Waste Management Plan and at the regional and local level (Υ.Π.Ε.Κ.Α., 2021).

To date, four alternative management systems for packaging and packaging waste have been approved and are operating through the cooperation between producers or importers of packaging products and local authorities who are legally responsible for the collection of municipal waste (E.O.AN., χ.χ.). One of them, the Hellenic Recycling Recovery Company (ΕΕΑΑ) operates the Centres for the sorting of recyclable materials (ΚΔΑΥ).

In general, the process of the recycling of the materials in the country and the Hellenic Recycling Recovery Company faces many difficulties. The main cause stems from the failure of the competent authorities to address long-standing problems. Tax evasion in Greece associated with the enterprises producing or using recyclable and non-recyclable materials, is still not being tackled effectively and currently stands at 42% of the general tax evasion percentage and it concerns materials waste that does not participate in the official system, therefore not fulfilling their legal obligations (ΕΕΑΑ, 2022).



## Recycling data

According to the Hellenic Recycling Agency, the production of packaging waste was estimated to 814,700 tons for the year 2018, an overall increase of 4% compared to 2017. Out of this, 506.980 tons were recycled. Table 1 shows the estimated packaging waste production by material and the percentage of this that is currently recycled.

Material	Produced Packaging Waste	Materials Recycling	Recycling	
			Target	Performance
Glass	14,400	13,390	100	92.9
Plastic	12,100	11,420	95	94.8
Paper	16,700	16,280	100	97.5
Metal				
Aluminium	1,900	1,570	83	82.6
Other	19,600	18,320	93	93.5

**Table 1:** Material waste production and their recycling quantities (E.O.AN., 2018)

## The situation in Patras

In the Municipality of Patras there are 26 large-capacity underground recycling bins, 3,030 blue bins for plastic, aluminium and paper, 250 bins with yellow lid for printed paper, 94 bins for glass and 26 bins for small electrical appliances, light bulbs, and printer toners (Δήμος Πατρέων, χ.χ.). The Centre for the sorting of recyclable materials in Patras has temporarily ceased operations, pending a decision on the municipal council's approval of the proposal of the Hellenic Recycling Recovery Company, which implies transferring the collection of the recyclable material and the operation of the local material recovery facility to the Municipality. The Municipality of Patras opposes this proposal, suggesting that they do not have the necessary expertise on operating the facility and there is not a comprehensive provision for the high costs for the collection, the transportation and the sorting of recyclable materials, which will necessarily be borne by the public (Δήμος Πατρέων, 2022).

## Best practices

There are a number of factories operating in the Patras' industrial area that deal with the recycling of different materials, mainly metal and aluminium. Unfortunately, access to data



regarding their operation, the number of workers they employ and their general contribution to the recycling process is lacking. In addition, several start-ups, innovative enterprises and NGOs operating in the extended area of Patras, are associated with the recycling of different materials and adopt the principles of circular economy.

The social cooperative enterprise "[Recycling at the source](#)" aims to disseminate recycling by separating materials at home, at work and in public places (paper, plastic, metal, electrical appliances, batteries, oil). The initiative has collected and disposed of hundreds of tons of first quality recyclable materials to local industries since 2014. Many volunteers visit their warehouse and bring their sorted recyclables. The cooperative also organises Repair Cafes, where electronic appliances and computers are repaired and then donated to schools.

[Coffeeco](#) uses byproducts from coffee, beer and wine, to create microbiome-friendly skincare ingredients. By collecting and managing coffee waste, they are reducing the environmental impact of coffee consumption, especially in the city of Patras where a lot of coffeehouses operate. Their Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) shows that for every ton of coffee ground that is reused, they eliminate 176 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the environment.

[PHEE](#) uses a type of seagrass, the dead leaves of the angiosperm *Posidonia Oceanica*, which according to scientists is one of the oldest living organisms on Earth. *Posidonia* leaves are washed up on the Mediterranean coast in large quantities annually and are disposed of as waste. The PHEE team became the first company worldwide to fully use angiosperm as a raw material in order to create the PHEE-board, a highly aesthetic cellulose-based flat panel which can be applied in various industries such as furniture, accessories, packaging, interior decorations and many more.

The social enterprise [Liofyllo](#) uses different varieties of olive leaves, the agricultural waste from the olive oil production process (from the tree to the mill), and creates an innovative, environmentally friendly material. They manufacture two types of biodegradable panels aiming to make the products and their production process environmentally friendly. The panels have potential applications in a wide range of products. So far, Liofyllo has managed to upcycle 7,500 kg of olive leaves and 1,300 kg of olive wood.



## Textile Reuse and Upcycling in Italy

Faced with the scenario of a sector, the Textile and fashion industry, that represents the second most polluting industry in the world (after the oil industry) and due to the waste of resources - especially water - the issue of textile waste recovery becomes fundamental. In recent years, fast fashion has become more and more widespread, leading to a sharp increase in the quantity of garments produced but also in the amount of waste, consisting mainly of synthetic materials, which now account for 60% of the textile fibres placed on the market (polyester is the most widely used fibre). In the textile waste cycle, only 1% of the world's waste is recovered in the form of new clothes, one reason why textile waste has also become an important part of the European Commission's New Deal, which invites Member States to implement separate collection of Textiles from 1 January 2025 as one of the sustainable targets of the circular economy directives.

### The situation in Italy

Since January 1, 2022, the obligation to separate textile waste has been in force in all municipalities in Italy. This is the result of the Italian transposition of the directives of the ***circular economy action plan (CEAP)*** (European Commission, 2020) which brought forward the starting point by three years, compared to 2025 established at EU level. The relevance of textiles in Europe is demonstrated by the fact that the 2020 European Action Plan on the circular economy has identified Textile as one of the priority sectors, announcing the publication of a dedicated Strategy.

### The textile waste collection chain

The exclusive responsibility for the collection of urban waste in Italy is entrusted by law to the Municipalities, to the Consortia of Municipalities or, by delegation of the latter, to the public service managers, who in turn entrust the collection of this fraction of urban waste through a public tender to a company with the necessary authorisations to manage the collection. It is an articulated system of actors and channels that deals with the second life of used clothes, represented on the one hand by the separate collection of the textile fraction, identified by the EWC (European Waste Code) codes 20.01.10 and 20.01.11, and which in practice provides for collection in the appropriate containers, after a selection phase, the passage to the re-use, recycling or disposal channel. It is also possible to give a second life to used clothing through alternative channels to separate waste collection: art. 14 of Law 166 of 2016 promotes the



transfer to charitable associations that distribute them to those in need, clothes that are therefore not considered as waste, but as a gift.

A few figures taken from the latest *report Italy of recycling 2021 by the Foundation for Sustainable Development*, a cross-section of the circularity of the supply chain: compared to 2010, the number of Italian companies that deal with the repair of textile articles increased by 162%. In 2019 companies operating in the textile sector produced 480.000 tons of textile. Compared to 2010, an increase of 39.5%. Due to the tendency of "fast fashion", the growth rate of textile waste from urban collection has been around 228%. In 2019, 46% of textile waste was sent for material recovery, while 11% went to disposal. Another 43% is used for intermediate activities, such as pre-treatment and storage, an activity typically carried out by Social Cooperatives that take care of the collection, in agreement with the Municipalities.

**Positive effects** of the collection and valorisation of the textile fraction of municipal waste:

- **Environmental.** It prolongs the life of products and materials, reducing the consumption of raw materials and energy to produce new ones.
- **Economic.** The costs of collection are not borne by citizens; public administrations save the costs of disposing of approximately 130.000 tonnes of waste per year, which at current prices can be estimated at around 2.5 million euros per year.
- **Social.** An activity, especially with regard to collection, largely carried out by social cooperatives that guarantee the employment of personnel from disadvantaged groups.

## Challenges and solutions

On the one hand, there is a need for an overall reorganisation of the system that can only be implemented with targeted government intervention, and on the other hand, total transparency and clarity towards the public.

Several studies suggest that second-hand goods will outstrip fast fashion. And this is a positive forecast because having higher quality garments that last longer, even if they move on to new markets, is certainly better than continuing to churn out very low-quality products that are not very durable and have dangerous chemical components.

- It will be necessary to define rules to support the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) criterion (i.e. the rule, enshrined in Directive 851/2018, that the producer of a good is also responsible at the post-consumer stage, i.e. for its management once the good becomes waste).
- Another step that needs to be taken is to increase the points where waste can be delivered to make it easier for citizens.
- Recycling activities must take place in a widespread manner throughout the territory and recycling facilities must be expanded.



- The recovery of what is collected must be maximised and the quantities that end up being disposed of reduced. Today this is partly made difficult by fast fashion products made of materials that are not easily recyclable.

## Best Practices

The following two good practices specify the activities that social enterprises/social cooperatives in particular develop in the textile recycling and reuse sector. Both Social Cooperatives, Lister Social Tailoring at Trieste and Quid at Verona, realise activities in the Green Economy sector of Textile recycling, creating at the same time the opportunity for persons with vulnerabilities (Mental Health, Migration, former inmates etc.) to introduce themselves in a sustainable job and humanly qualitative working environment.

*Lister* mainly uses textiles (broken umbrellas, old jeans and coats, promotional banners, ties, etc.) that are supplied by the community, and transform them into new products such as backpacks, wallets, bags, pen holders, flying kites, etc.

*Quid*, creates collections born thanks to the recovery of surplus fabrics made available by prestigious companies in the fashion and textile sector. In a world that produces at unthinkable speeds, they support the idea of recovery, upcycling and waste reduction.

### **Lister Sartoria Sociale (Social Tailoring) <https://www.listersartoriasociale.it/>**

A frequent picture during rainy and windy days (Bora): broken umbrellas thrown into bins or on the corners of the street and can have a new life. But not only, also jeans, ties, banner, sails....., are transformed by the workers (30% with vulnerabilities) of the Social Cooperative Lister.



### **Verona – QUID <https://www.quidorg.it/>**

“New life for people and textiles”

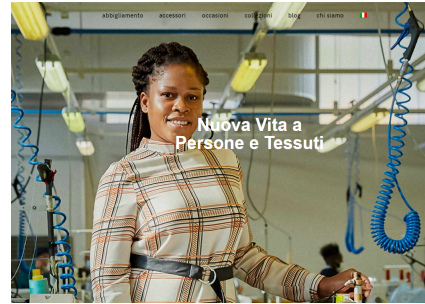
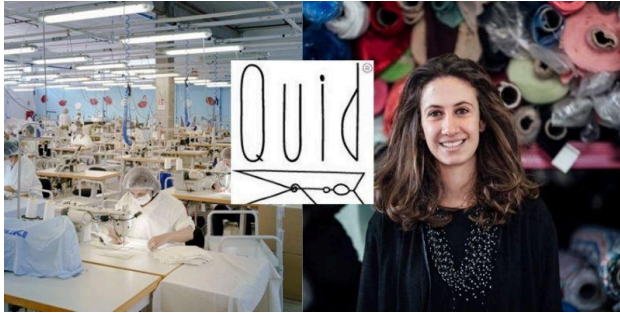
Quid garments are born from recovered high quality fabrics.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Quid garments are handcrafted by women with a personal background of fragility.  
Ethical fashion. Social innovation. Sustainable clothing. Secure payments. Eco-fashion fabrics.





## Furniture Reconditioning in Romania

The manufacture of furniture represents approximately 4-5% of the manufacturing industry in Romania. The potential for circularity in this sector mainly concerns the use of more sustainable materials and the application of circular design principles in the production phase, as well as the improvement of the management of furniture waste and in particular wood waste. At the same time, the circular economy concept also acknowledges the importance of resources dynamics, using, as much as possible, recycled materials found in the biosphere, to help restore the natural resources, the biodiversity and ecosystems.

In September 2022, the Department of Sustainable Development within the Romanian Government published the National Strategy for Circular Economy<sup>21</sup>, which presents an analysis of the main economic sectors and industries.

The document highlights that Romania is among the least performing European countries in terms of waste generation and the use of recycled materials. Moreover, on the criteria of resource productivity, which is one of the most important indicators of sustainable consumption and production, Romania registered the lowest score in the EU in 2019. The European Commission concluded that the country has not made any progress in the last 10 years in terms of using circular secondary materials.

Even more concerning, in the period of 2009-2018, only 1,4-1,6% of the total workforce was hired in a circular economy related sector, in the recycling or repairing/ reuse field, much less than the European average. This also comes as a consequence of the fact that Romanians are reluctant towards waste minimization, preferring to replace products instead of repairing them, or not paying attention to greener solutions (eg. transport, energy, and so on).

### The furniture industry

In terms of sustainable development, the furniture industry faces specific challenges, such as the intensive exploitation of wood, which threatens the local ecosystem and the biodiversity, as well as the use of synthetic materials and harmful plastics to improve the properties of the products, leading to soil pollution. (National Strategy for Circular Economy, 2022)

Another issue concerns the level of knowledge among consumers, who often have little information on how to extend a product's lifetime or choose the least harmful materials. Moreover, the use of low-quality materials and poor design of furniture limits the lifetime of furniture and the potential for a successful second life. Limited collection and underinvestment in the collection and logistics for furniture take-back, high costs of repair and refurbishment

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<sup>21</sup> Secretariatul General al Guvernului (2022), *Strategia națională privind economia circulară*, [https://sgg.gov.ro/1/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Strategia-economie-circulara\\_18.08.2022.pdf](https://sgg.gov.ro/1/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Strategia-economie-circulara_18.08.2022.pdf)





and weak demand for secondhand furniture are additional barriers to an improvement of this situation.

The implementation of circular design principles, a reduction in the use of synthetic materials, an increase of selective waste collection, investments in furniture return infrastructures and recycling technologies are some of the ways to tackle this problem and decrease the amount of furniture that ends up in a landfill. In addition, local furniture refurbishing services create new employment opportunities, as seen in the best practices below.

## How can employers in the furniture sector help?

Through collaboration with educational institutions, including post-secondary training in woodworking or furniture construction, employers have the possibility to propose on-the-job training for their staff, thus contributing to the development of new skills.

At community level, more information and transparency of the process, from collection to recycling/utilisation is needed, as well as the establishment of collection centres or points, which should be provided by local public authorities, in partnership with sanitation companies and other collectors that ensure the collection of used furniture.

In Romania, on the occasion of the Earth Day in 2023, between the 22-23rd of April, the first ever Upcycled Furniture Fair, "NEW AND OLD WOOD", was organised with the aim to promote an innovative model of social economy and zero waste<sup>22</sup>.

Only 5 months into trying to organise the fair, the In Context Association of Art had managed to process over 500 kilos of wood, from chairs and tables, to desks and bedsides.

## Best practices

### "Mobilier Meșeșugit"<sup>23</sup> - Production and Reconditioning

Mobilier Meșeșugit is a craft workshop that produces solid wood furniture for the home and garden. The company also offers professional services for refurbishing old



<sup>22</sup> Radio România Cultural, 2023, *Primu Moldova în perioada 22-24 aprilie*, Centr

<sup>23</sup> [www.mobiliermestesugit.ro](http://www.mobiliermestesugit.ro)



furniture. Established in Suceava as a work point within the Biosilva Association, it represents a social economy structure. All the products made in the furniture workshop are mostly made by hand, in limited or unique series, respecting the traditional techniques of wood processing, and the naturalness of the solid wood is what really emphasises their value.

### **RECOREDI Association - a better future for vulnerable people / Social Enterprise for Insertion**

Recoredi Association is an NGO that does recycling, reconditioning with chalk paint and reupholstering, with employees from the social system. They also have a second-hand furniture store in France.



### **Zinnas Holtz - <https://tapiteriidragos.ro/>**

Zinnas Holtz is a social enterprise in Romania and grantee of the POCU „SuccES – Structuri de creștere a calității economiei sociale” project. A small team of four people provide upholstery services including free services for NGOs working with vulnerable populations.

### **Emmaus Satu Mare - <https://shorturl.at/eintS>**



Photo source: Recycl'Art

crockery or toys.

Based in the Northern part of the country, the Romanian branch of Emmaus is one of the main social enterprises in Romania focusing on work inclusion. The NGO offers social support services for post-institutionalized young people, who are encouraged to learn, work and engage in economic activities that involve the collection and reconditioning of second-hand products such as furniture,



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Recycl'Art** - <https://shorturl.at/eguPV>

Recycl'Art is a furniture company located in Târgu-Mureş, co-founded by Roman Works Association. It is specialised in creating furniture and other objects from recycled wood and materials, while supporting the labour market inclusion of vulnerable people. The enterprise works with people who had histories of addictions, Roma persons, or persons from rural areas. In partnership with other organisations, Recycl'Art provides accommodation to their workers. Moreover, teenagers with various mental health issues are invited daily around the workshop.



# Plastic pollution and recycling in the Canary Islands, Spain

## A growing concern for the environment

The concern to preserve the natural environment is growing in the Canary Islands. The Canary Islands administration is putting in place policies and programs to improve their renewable energy park and the sustainable and efficient use of resources in order to achieve the European Union objectives to reduce the carbon footprint to a limited extent before 2030 and reach zero emissions by 2050.

Moving towards a green economy is considered an "unavoidable challenge" if the islands want to conserve their natural resources and rich biodiversity and the islands' administrations are actively promoting this sector. In fact, more than a hundred companies orbit around renewable energy on the islands today and 300 companies are also members of Ecoembes, a non-profit environmental organisation that coordinates packaging recycling in Spain. However, specialists warn about the great environmental challenge that the government is facing: creating a new tourism model with multiple market niches.

In Spain in general, recycling is one of the tools with which individuals and companies contribute to caring for the environment. Recycling is improving in the Canaries: in 2019 alone, the Canaries deposited 14.5% more bricks in "yellow containers" (recycling containers) compared to the previous year (Ecoembes). Each citizen of the Canary Islands separated 12.1 kg of plastic, metal and cardboard containers for subsequent recycling.

Nevertheless, according to a recent Greenpeace report (2019), only 25.4% of plastic packaging was recovered in Spain in 2016. The rest, which often ends up mixed with other waste in the garbage, ends up in landfills, incineration or in the environment. Also a big part of the plastic is exported to other countries, normally China or Philippines, with no clear activity of the end of these resources. Spain would have exported in 2016 alone a total of 318,926 tons of plastic waste and China would have been the main importing country with a total of 1,640,976 tons.

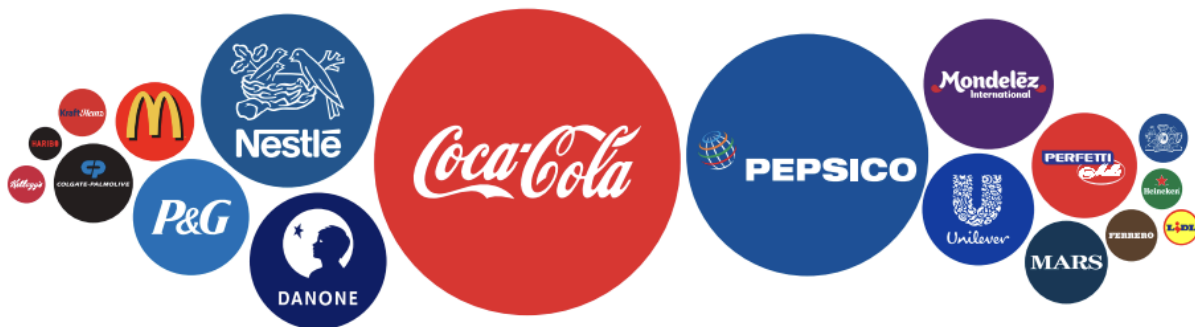
The Canary Islands is in fact one of the areas of the world most affected by the presence of microplastics in the sea according to the Implamac project in which some 50 scientists from Madeira, Azores, Cape Verde and the Canary Islands are investigating the impact of microplastics in the waters and marine ecosystem of Macaronesia. Microplastics are little pieces of plastic (less than 5mm) which are created when plastic arrives in the sea and starts to fragment in little pieces. It becomes a part of the sea ecosystem and is eaten by fish, entering the food chain.



## Recycling and reuse of plastics

Giving value to plastic is part of the solution to plastic pollution. First of all it is important that companies accept their responsibility in the complete life cycle of its products and the packaging in which they are sold. The environment is bearing the brunt of a planned 40% increase in plastics production and companies (from 2018 to 2028).

The responsibility for the plastic pollution problem does not lie with "individual polluters," but with polluting companies that must adopt sustainable solutions and systems to stop this crisis. Nevertheless, consumers of goods have an opportunity and an obligation to hold corporations accountable for the plastic pollution they force into the marketplace and to require that they market food, beverages, and personal care products without packaging or contained in reusable packaging. In 2018, the Break Free From Plastic campaign engaged nearly 10,000 volunteers in 239 cleanups in 42 countries on 6 continents, collecting over 187,851 pieces of plastic pollution. By conducting "brand audits" during the cleanups on beaches, the teams catalogued thousands of parent companies marketing many thousands more consumer brands found as plastic pollution collected in the countries represented. The analysis of that data reveals the Top Polluters worldwide from participating brand aud



its ("[In search of the World's Top Corporate Plastic Polluters, 2018](#)")

Image 1: Volume of companies plastic pollution, Audit plastic Report, Greenpeace 2018

Despite some advances, plastic production is still growing and no companies or governments are implementing brave enough policies or putting in place the technologies needed to end this planetary issue. A 2019 EU Directive aims to reduce the presence of single-use plastics in all EU Member states by 2026 by banning single-use plastics when "sustainable alternatives are easily available and affordable". (European Commission, 2019) Ideally, household and single-use plastic would be banned across the planet.



## Best practices

As a worldwide ban on single-use plastics is a long way from being achieved, several lines of work are being taken to reduce plastic pollution:

- Consumer awareness measures on the use of plastic such as improving the access to more ecological practices such as ecological bulk supermarkets where products can be refilled over and over again without the indiscriminate use of plastic as usual.
- Measures to clean up beaches and natural spaces in order to prevent plastic from interfering with the ecosystem and the food chain.
- Generation of technologies that can give plastic resources a second life and thus acquire a value that it currently does not have. The Precious Plastic movement is found throughout the planet and facilitates the implementation of local recycling technologies. This movement sees plastic as a good resource that can facilitate human life but that must be sufficiently valued so that it is not wasted.

Precious Plastic Canarias designs and builds DIY (do it yourself) machinery to facilitate the local recycling of different types of plastics. The designs must be attractive enough to enter the market.

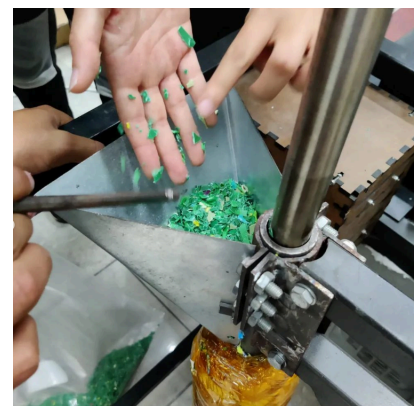
Mainly two types of plastic are recycled: HDPE and PP.

The recycling process is divided into:

1) Separation by type of plastic and colour, we will look at the numbers engraved between triangles, 2 HDPE and 5 PP mainly.

2) Thanks to the shredding machine, we will shred the plastic by type and colour in order to store it and improve the quality of production.

3) Casting of the plastic, in this step we can make use of different types of machine. The injector will heat the plastic to inject it into previously manufactured moulds, it will be used for small or medium-sized products.





The extruder will be used to make products that can be moulded thanks to a continuous thread of hot plastic that will come out.



The plate machine can manufacture plates of different sizes.

4) Finally, we will use cutting machines such as CNC or other tools to give a good finish to the product.

At the moment, from the year of its constitution in 2019 to the year 2023 Precious Plastic Canarias has achieved:

- Collected and recycled more than 400 kg of plastic.
- Built over 10 different recycling machines for the Canary Islands and other countries (Norway, Italy...)
- Made more than 10 different product designs.
- Raised awareness among over 1000 students.
- Promoted its work in over 20 massive cultural festivals.





# Language training description

## Unit description

The Unit structures provide an overview of the teaching sessions. Each Unit has linguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatic objectives which are addressed by teaching sessions.

<b>Practical guide</b>	
Linguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatological objectives	
Linguistic	
Grammatical	- sentence structure - masculinum / femininum - singular / plural - words value : noun, verb, adjective
Lexical	- nouns - adjectives - verbs ) vocabulary
Phonetics	- common sounds - diferent sounds - spelling, syllabs, articulation
Sociolinguistic	
- social scale : what is important for a learner to know about : the culture of his/her new host country the relationship to other citizens the formal / informal situations the daily life	
- linguistic : how the language will influence on the environment of the learner : to know how to ask for something to know how to talk in a formal / informal situation to know how to explain a situation to know how to ask for something	
Pragmatic	
- what skills will be useful for a learner in his/her environment (people, personal or professional life)	
- what skills are important for a learer to use to take action on his/her environment (people, personal or profesional life)	
- what skills a learner needs to master to integrate	

The MILMET consortium provides two Units for every green sector/partner langage, each divided into three sessions. Users of the Handbook can combine sessions, which differ in duration, according to their needs, the resources available, the number of learners and the length of their trainings. For example, in some cases a session can be taught for one hour a day during fifteen days (extensive training) whereas at other times the same session can be delivered in a seven hour-day (intensive training).



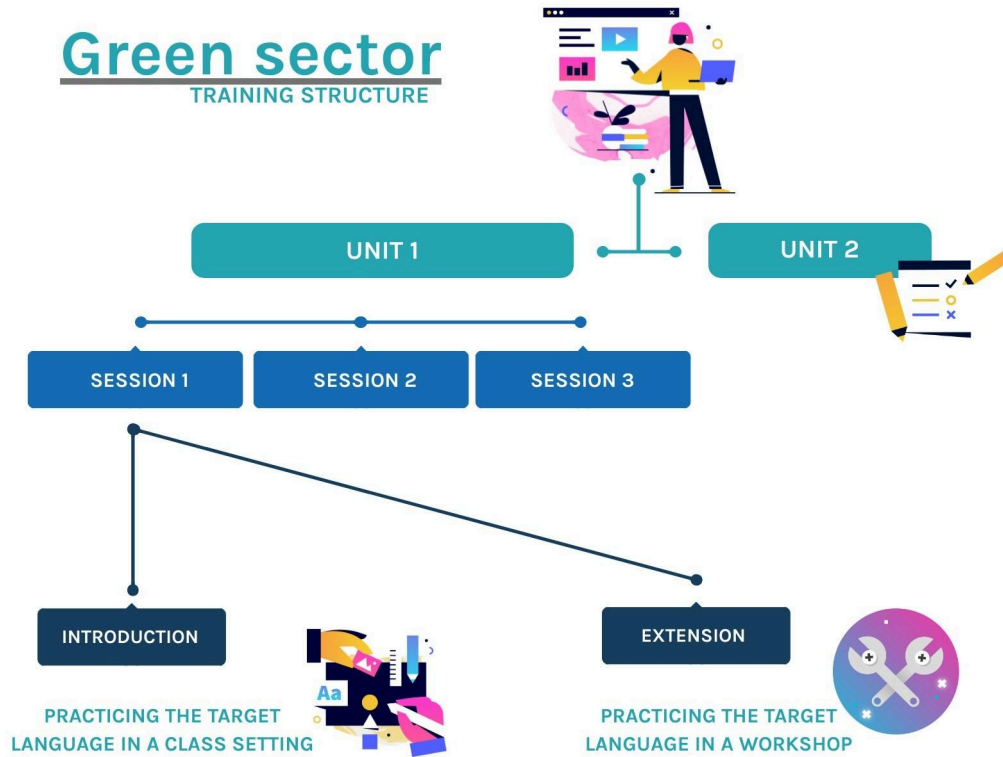


Each session’s structure provides information on : necessary tools, proceedings, working methods and duration. These guidelines are displayed chronologically : the session starts with an icebreaker, followed by the topic introduction, and then linguistic practice (identification, conceptualisation and systematisation), as following :

- Identification : getting acquainted with the new linguistic content
- Conceptualisation : understanding how the new linguistic content is to be used
- Systematisation : learning to use the new linguistic content appropriately.

Flow summary table	Unit1 Session1			7 HOURS
Step	Necessary tools	Proceedings	Working method	Duration
Icebreaker				
<u>Introduction</u>				
Working on langage : identification				
Working on langage : conceptualisation				
Production : systematisation				
<u>Extension</u>				
Working on langage : identification				
Working on langage : conceptualisation				
Production : systematisation				
<u>Assessment</u>				

Last, the MILMET project aims for migrant learners to build skills necessary for their integration on the green economy labour market. Therefore, each training session is divided into two moments : a full linguistic training taking place in the classroom, and a practical workshop where learners use their new skills (ideally in a different setting!).



It's up to you now : access units on our [website](#) !



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