

Industrial Waste Strategy for Greece

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Keywords: industrial waste, Greek waste strategy, synergies, symbiosis

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ABSTRACT

Waste is a growing challenge for EU and Member States' governments to pave the way for a sustainable development and support the shift towards an economy that is efficient in the way it uses all resources. In line with the circular economy model, the ultimate goal is to reduce the amounts of waste generated, and where the generation of waste is unavoidable, to turn waste into a resource, to achieve higher levels of recycling and to limit the use of disposal.

In Greece, there is a considerable potential for improving waste management to make better use of resources, open up new markets, create new jobs, while helping to avoid negative impacts at local level due to landfilling. Proper management of industrial waste remains a challenge, with data on the actual treatment path missing for part of this waste stream. On the other hand, industrial symbiosis is proven to deliver wide-scale environmental, economic and social benefits. Greek industry, as an actor, can deliver the objective for a resource efficient economy, contributing thus to the implementation of national waste agenda and reducing costs for industry in the longer term.

According to 2011 waste data, 17.2 million tonnes of industrial waste are produced in Greece each year, of which 136 thousand tonnes is hazardous. On average, only 20% of industrial waste is recovered. The rest goes to landfills or other disposal activities, whereas the bulk of which is ashes from electricity production and slag from non-ferrous metal production.

The presentation aims to disseminate to the scientific community, decision makers and stakeholders the study on the recently officially adopted National Waste Management Plan, focusing on the strategy developed for industrial waste management in Greece. Taking into account existing knowledge and progress made in Greece, Industrial Waste Strategy builds upon the Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe and the 7th Environment Action Programme to 2020. Major interventions focus on strengthening record-keeping and traceability of industrial waste and on facilitating industrial synergies to allow waste or by-products of one industry to become inputs for another.