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# D2.2

## Report with massive questionnaire evidences

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<b>List of Acronyms .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1. General aim of the FurnCIRCLE survey .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.2. Methodology .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. Presentation of the survey outcomes.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.1. Profile of respondents .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.2. Certifications, labels, and protocols .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2.3. Monitoring the development of a circular economy in the company .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.4. Product information.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2.5. Sustainability management.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2.6. Sustainability legislation awareness .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>3. Thematic insights .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>3.1. Comparison between companies of different sizes .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>3.2. Comparison between companies operating with P.A. and others .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>4. Results discussion and conclusions.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>List of Figures.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Annexes.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Annex I - FurnCIRCLE complete survey .....</b>	<b>45</b>

## List of Acronyms

BREEAM - The Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method  
CE – Circular Economy  
CEN/TC 207 - European Committee for Standardization n. 207 for Furniture work on standards for circular economy  
CSRD - Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive  
EMAS - The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme  
EN - European Norm  
EPD- Environmental Product Declaration  
ESPR – Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation  
EU - European Union  
FSC - Forest Stewardship Council  
GHG – Green House Gas  
GPP - Green Public Procurement  
GRI- Global Reporting Initiative Standards  
ISO - International Organization for Standardization  
LCA - Life Cycle Assessment  
LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design  
NFRD - Non Financial Reporting Directive  
PEF - Product Environmental Footprint  
PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification  
Scope 1,2,3 – Classification of different sources of greenhouse gas emissions  
VOC – volatile organic compounds  
WELL- WELL Building Standard certification, "WELL" is not an acronym but rather a term that embodies the concept of occupant wellness in buildings.

## KEY POINTS

The report presented here is based on the processing of the results of a survey distributed across Europe in the spring of 2024 among companies in the furniture sector, in the framework of the FurnCIRCLE project (<https://furncircle.eu/>).

The objective is to measure the maturity levels of companies over time (2021-2024-2027) for collecting and analyzing data about the furniture industry's circular transition. The four core themes of the survey are:

- Monitoring the development of a circular economy in the company
- Product information
- Sustainability management
- Sustainability legislation awareness

The main sectors participating in the survey are office and hospitality furniture, living room and dining room furniture, and chairs.

A series of certifications/labels/protocols were also investigated, most of which are already well-established and fully developed in our sector due to the growing consumer demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly products in recent years.

Specific insights include analyses considering the different sizes of companies and distinguishing those that work with public administration from others.

There is a noted lack of training and knowledge on how to implement and manage circular practices, which can represent a significant obstacle. Our sector needs to work on this.

Furniture and mattresses are mentioned in the Ecodesign Regulation (ESPR) as final products to be classified as priorities in the first work plan. Consequently, many companies in the furniture sector may be forced to review their production processes to ensure that their products comply with new sustainability requirements and must be supported in this process.

Adapting to new rules requires significant organizational and technological efforts, involving the adoption of new sustainable practices and the upgrading of infrastructure. However, it is noted that companies working with public administration are at the forefront of complying with the new regulations, probably due to the need to comply with GPP criteria.

The topic of training is of interest, and it is necessary to work to ensure that skills in the field of sustainability are valued, also through participation in EU-funded projects.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. General aim of the FurnCIRCLE survey

**FurnCIRCLE - Circular Economy Guidelines and Tools for Application in the EU Furniture Sector** is a European Union-funded project. Its goal is to foster, enhance, and develop social dialogue at regional, national, and European levels within the furniture sector. This project addresses the climate-neutral circular transition, examining its implications for employment, work, and the new skills workers will need.

**FurnCIRCLE** specific objectives are:

- To develop a survey that allows an extensive collection and analysis of sustainability data concerning the general status of companies across the EU.
- To develop practical and validated guidelines to supplement companies existing management models with actions and activities for implementing circular economy (CE) practices.
- To develop and provide companies with an online self-assessment tool to evaluate their maturity and readiness to adopt CE practices.

The questionnaire presented here is a crucial component of the project's development. It seeks to gather relevant data on the circular transition within the EU furniture industry.

The objective of the questionnaire was to measure companies' maturity levels over time using a short and intuitive tool, which is also printable.

This questionnaire enabled us to make comparisons and identify benchmarks and trends based on company size and customer type, assessing past, present, and forecasted future levels of readiness.

## 1.2. Methodology

This survey adopts an innovative approach, aiming to assess the level of integration of sustainability topics within companies. The maturity scale ranges from zero awareness of the topic to full integration into the business process, with monitoring of results and communication to stakeholders.

The questionnaire included a section for general information to profile the participating companies, followed by questions regarding knowledge and interest in certifications, labels, and protocols.

The main body of the survey consisted of four macro areas, as follows:

1. Monitoring the development of circular economy in the company
2. Product information
3. Sustainability management
4. Sustainability legislation awareness

The questions were structured with five descriptions representing five different levels of maturity, ordered increasingly, regarding the application of the circular economy.

The current state was examined in comparison to three years ago, as well as projections for 2027, to identify trends, potential investments, and remaining issues.

Below is an example of a question:

\* 32 Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not currently monitor emissions.	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions (Scope 1 and 2) but has not set reduction targets.	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific reduction targets based on previous performance (e.g. 5% reduction in GHGs compared to base year).	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific science-based targets necessary to meet global targets to address climate change.	The organisation has achieved net zero emissions/ The organisation also monitors Scope 3 emissions.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In this example, it can be observed that level 1 represents the minimum degree of awareness, which progressively increases until reaching the maximum level at 5.

The survey was launched in April and closed in July 2024. It was released in English and contained a semi-automatic translation into the following 10 languages: Italian, Spanish, French, Bulgarian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovenian, and German.

The software used to create the questionnaire was Limesurvey (<https://www.limesurvey.org/>), a digital tool designed to facilitate the collection, organization, and analysis of participant responses.

The results were analyzed in aggregate form, ensuring data privacy and security.

## 2. Presentation of the survey outcomes

This part of the report presents the main results and outcomes of the survey implemented across all partners countries and some other ones.

### 2.1. Profile of respondents

A total of 109 responses were collected, the details of which can be found in the chart below:

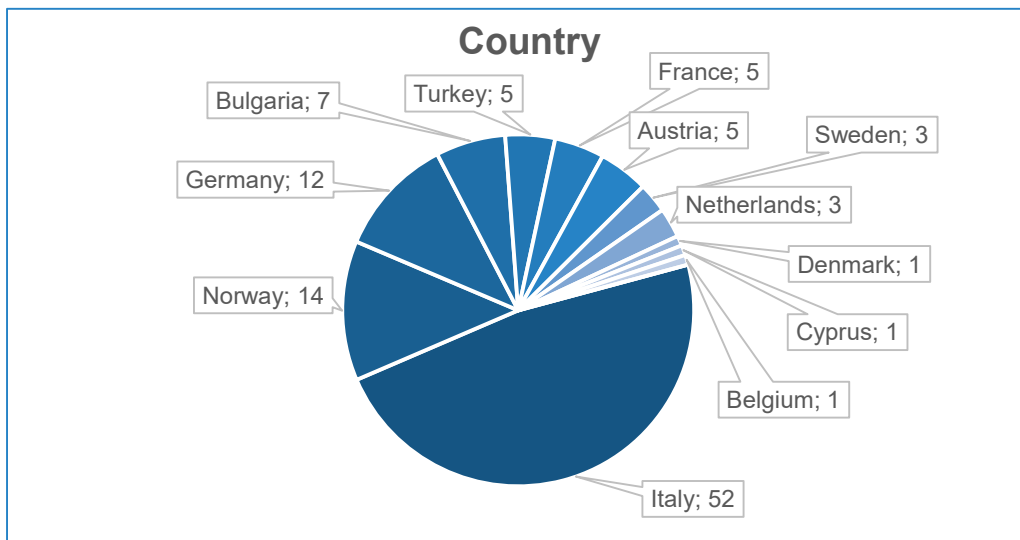


Figure 1- Country of the respondents

The high number of respondents in Italy could be attributed to a growing awareness of sustainability issues. For example, Italian companies associated with FederlegnoArredo have been guided through various projects, including FLA Plus.

FLA Plus (<http://www.fla-plus.it/>) is a virtual platform that provides specialized information and a dashboard of services to support daily activities and occasional consultations. In addition to being a driver for sustainability in the production sector, FLA Plus facilitates the



internationalization of companies and promotes the adoption of sustainability reporting practices.

The general questions also aimed to identify the size of the companies and the main sectors in which the survey participants operate, detailed below:

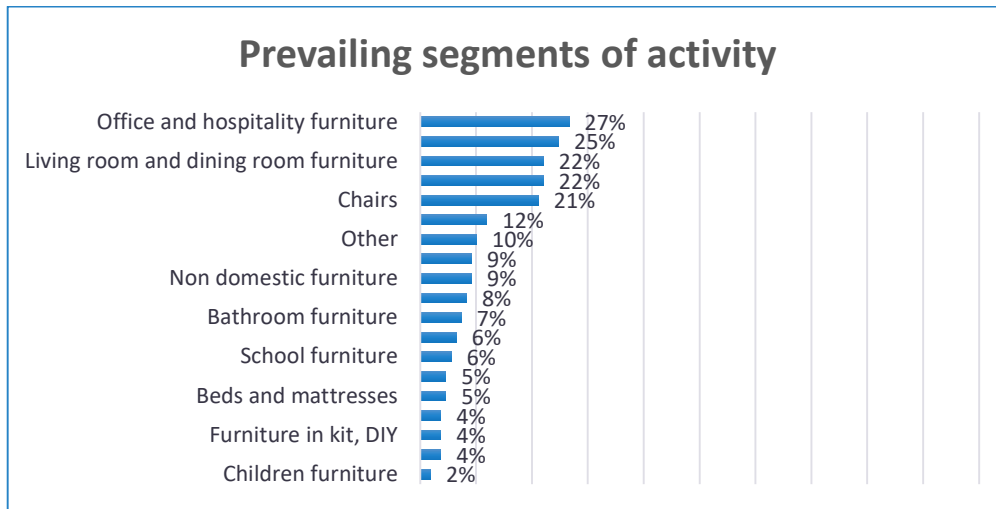


Figure 2 - Prevailing segments of activity of the company

The companies could select up to three segments. The main sectors that emerged were office and hospitality furniture, living room and dining room furniture, and chairs.

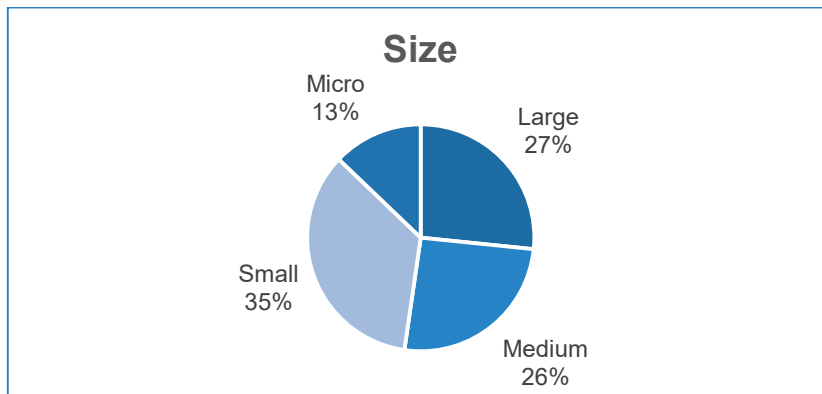


Figure 3- Size of the companies

Regarding size (micro, small, medium, large), the companies are heterogeneous and cover all categories. The definition scale used is in accordance with the European Commission's definition ([SME definition - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/sme_definition_en)).

It is important to note that a significant 27% of the responses come from large companies, which are sensitive to the topic of sustainability, so the answers are skewed in this regard.

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

Figure 1- Identification of the company according to the European Commission's definition.

Additionally, the export percentage and the type of customers the participating companies operate with were analyzed:

Export share of turnover (%) in 2023	Results
<b>0%</b>	9%
<b>1-25%</b>	33%
<b>26-50%</b>	15%
<b>51-75%</b>	22%
<b>76-100%</b>	21%

Figure 2- Export share of the company in 2023

The table presents the distribution of companies' export share of turnover for the year 2023, categorized into different percentage ranges.

- **0% Export Share:** 9% of the companies did not engage in any export activities. This indicates that a small portion of the surveyed companies rely solely on domestic markets for their turnover.
- **1-25%:** 33% of the companies had an export share of turnover between 1% and 25%. This suggests that a significant number of companies have a minor yet notable portion of their revenue coming from exports.
- **26-50%:** 15% of the companies reported an export share of turnover in the range of 26% to 50%. This represents companies with a balanced mix of domestic and international revenue streams.
- **51-75%:** 22% of the companies had an export share between 51% and 75%. This indicates a considerable dependency on export markets for these companies, with more than half of their turnover coming from exports.
- **76-100%:** 21% of the companies were highly export-oriented, with an export share of turnover ranging from 76% to 100%. These companies are heavily reliant on international markets for their revenue.

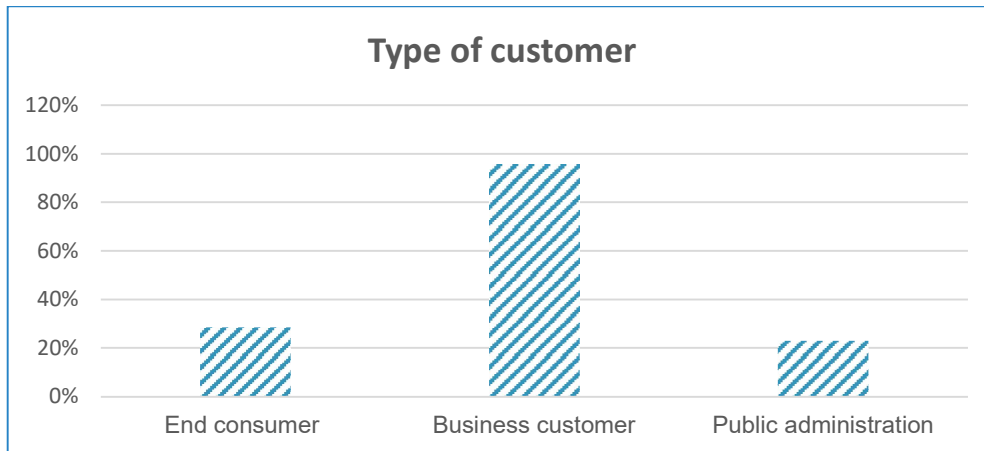


Figure 3- Type of customer of the company

The “End consumer” result is low. Probably the question was not understood correctly; respondents may have considered products sold to dealers and retailer as “Business customer” not considering the final customer, as required by the survey.

Regarding the type of customers, companies operating with “End consumers” reported selling both online and through retailers (on average 77% online and 55% via retailer, respectively).

## 2.2. Certifications, labels, and protocols

The section related to certifications, labels, and protocols included questions for **6 categories**, all optional.

The questions covered:

1. Type I environmental labels done in accordance with ISO 14024 / Products (Ecolabel, Möbelfakta, Blauer Engel...)
2. Other environmental labels/standards (GreenGuard, LEVEL, GPP, ISO 14067, ISO 14021)
3. Management systems (ISO 14001, ISO 14006, ISO 14064...)
4. Wood products chain of custody schemes (PEFC, FSC, ISO 38200)
5. LCA BASED Studies/certifications (LCA, EPD, PEF)
6. Environmental protocols for buildings (LEED, BREEAM, WELL)

The main results about higher ownership percentages and interest rates have been summarized for simplicity in the two graphs below.

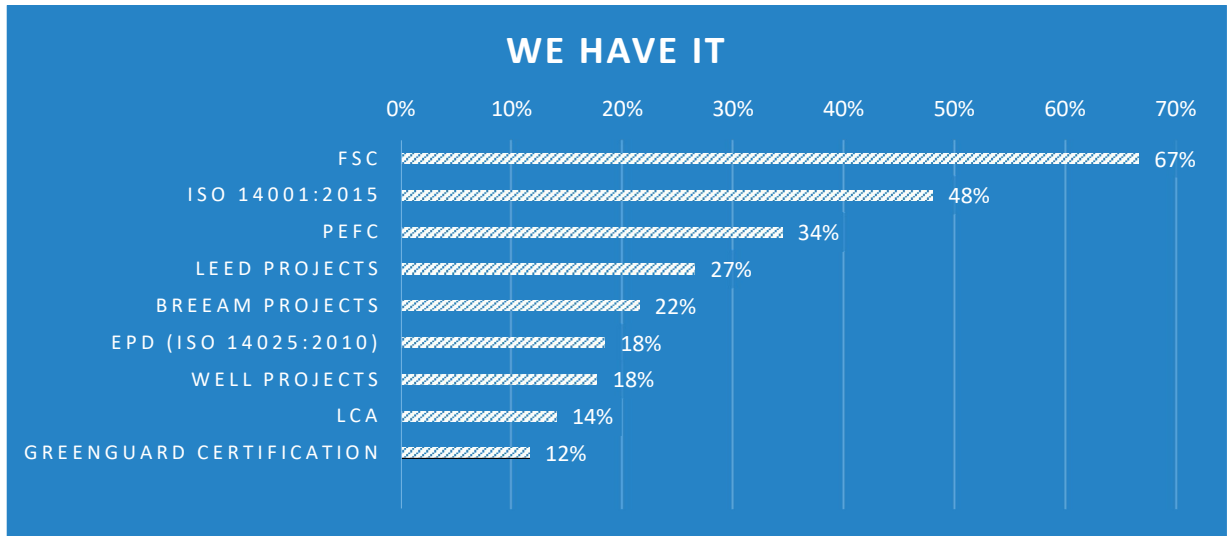


Figure 7- Certifications, labels, and protocols that most companies claim to have

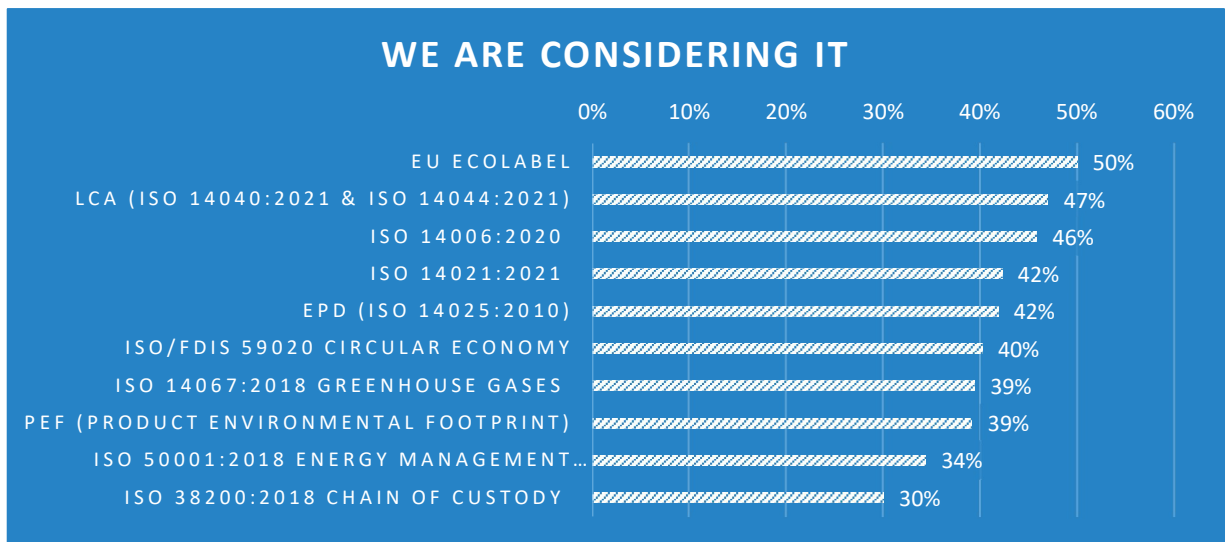


Figure 8- Certifications, labels, and protocols that most companies are considering

It is specified that for this section of questions concerning the certification, the percentages are calculated on the total number of respondents to the single certification and therefore are not comparable.

It is evident that many of the certifications mentioned are already well-established and fully developed. For example, certifications such as FSC and PEFC ensure that products come from responsibly managed forests, adhering to rigorous environmental, social, and economic standards. A

significant percentage of respondents have stated they possess these certifications. We can assume this increase could be linked to the growing consumer demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly products in recent years.

A large portion of the respondents operate within the office sector, which explains the high adoption rates of protocols like LEED and BREEAM. These protocols are widely recognized assessment systems for the design, construction, and management of sustainable buildings.

Furthermore, there is a growing interest in longstanding tools such as the EU Ecolabel and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

A good percentage of respondents stated that they are interested in EPDs, which indeed represent a strategic tool for furniture companies willing to improve their sustainability, comply with regulations, gain competitive advantages, and access new market opportunities.

### **2.3. Monitoring the development of a circular economy in the company**

Chapters 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6 form the core of the survey. All questions were mandatory for this part of the survey.

For each chapter, we present first the overall results graph for the sum of levels 4+5 (companies with higher maturity levels), followed by detailed results for each question.

Companies were asked to select, for each of the three periods investigated (the recent past around 2021, the present 2024, and the near future 2027), the level of maturity they identified with.

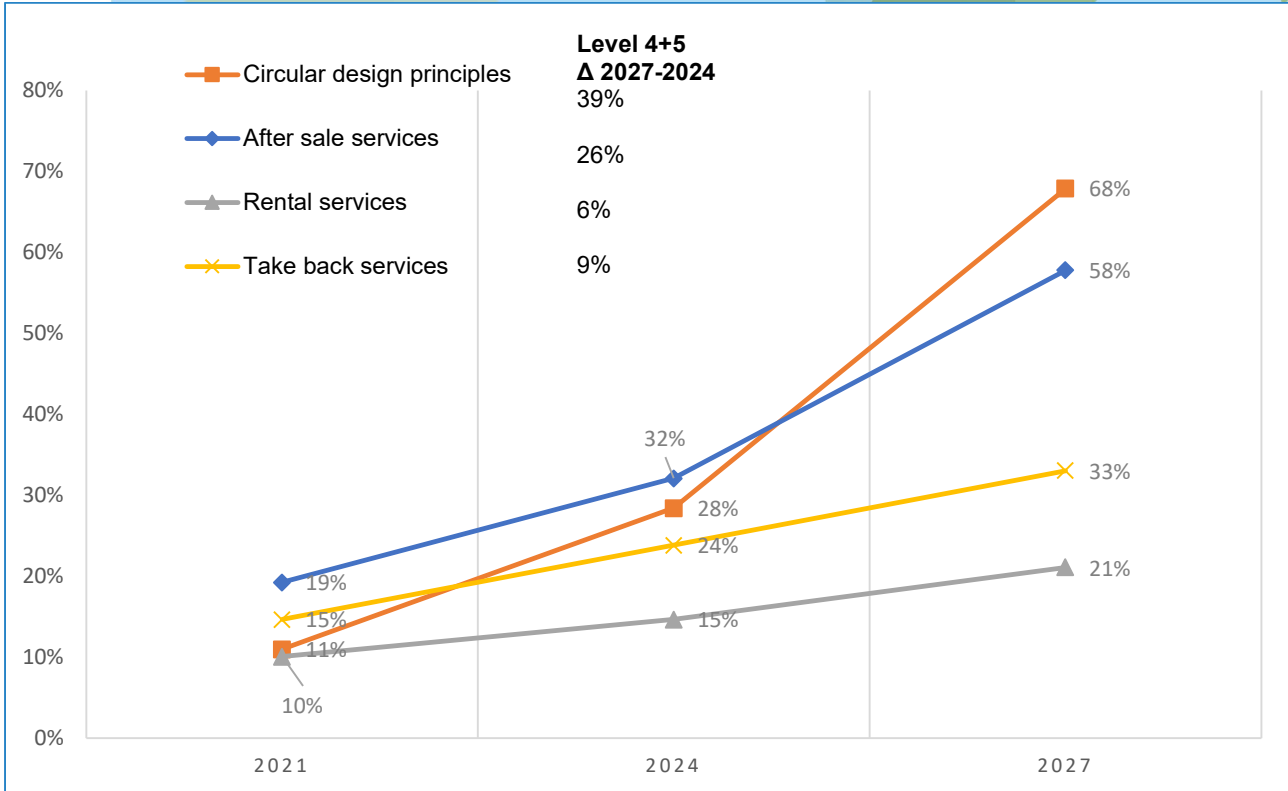


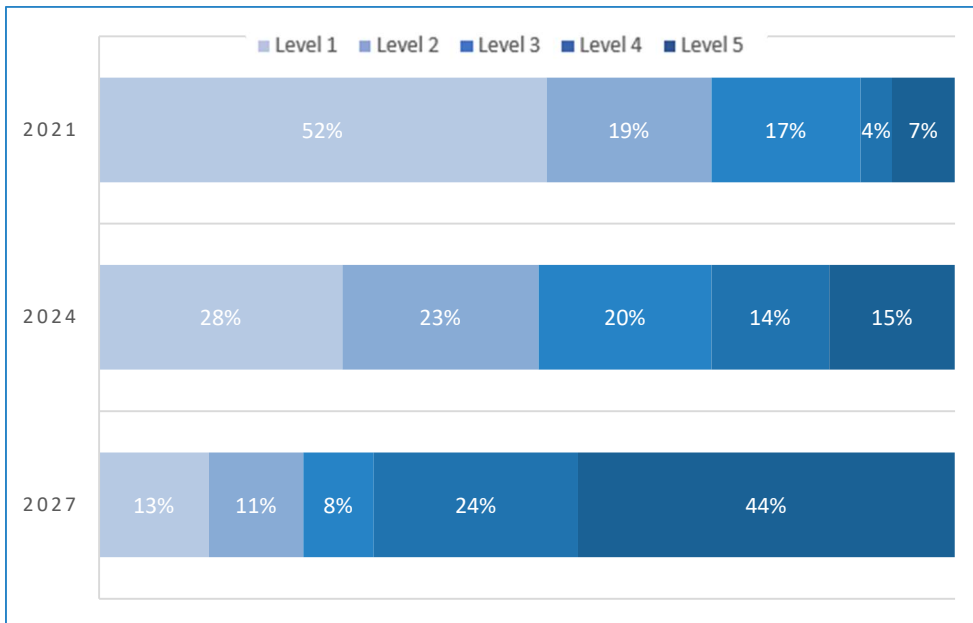
Figure 9- Monitoring the development of a circular economy in the company (level 4+5)

The graph illustrates the projected development of four different service or design principles—Circular design principles, After sale services, Rental services, and Take back services—over the years 2021, 2024, and 2027.

There is a strong trend towards increasing adoption of circular design principles and after sale services, with both expected to see significant growth by 2027.

This suggests a shift towards more sustainable and customer-focused business practices. Rental (delta 2027-2024 only 6%) and take back services also show growth, slower, reflecting a gradual increase in their adoption. The overall trend suggests that companies are increasingly recognizing the importance of sustainability and customer service in their operations.

• **Question 1: Circular design principles**



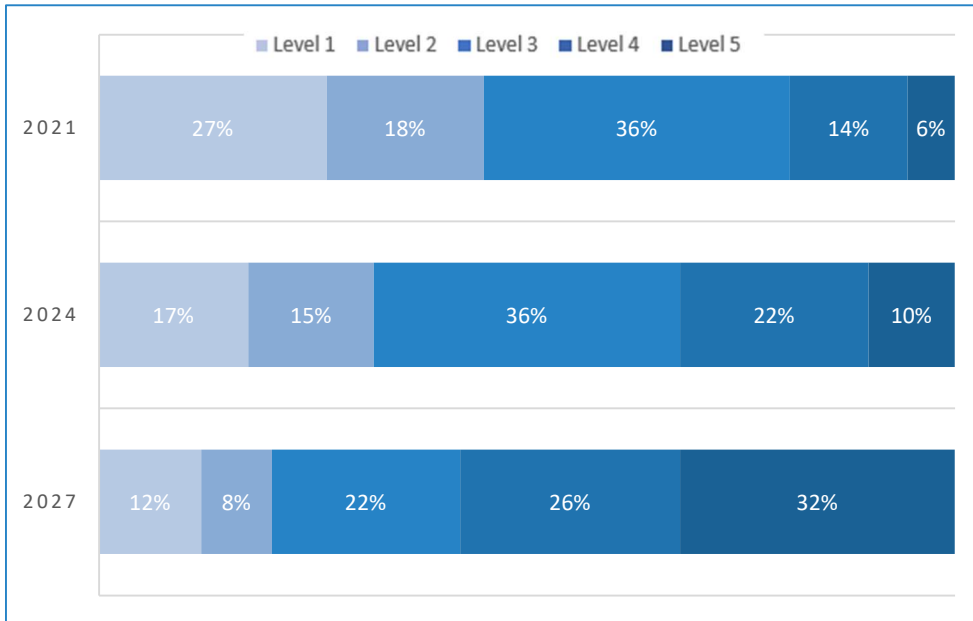
<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation does not have a written procedure to implement eco-design criteria.
2	The organisation applies some eco-design criteria to a limited range of products.
3	The organisation has integrated eco-design criteria into its production but does not communicate them.
4	The organisation implements policies and strategies to integrate eco-design principles and communicates this as a competitive advantage.
5	The organisation implements policies and strategies to integrate eco-design principles, evaluates the associated environmental benefits and communicates this as a competitive advantage.

The chart illustrates the adoption rates of circular design principles over three years: 2021, 2024, and 2027. The percentages are distributed across 5 different levels of adoption, indicating the extent to which companies have embraced these principles.

It shows a clear trend towards increasing adoption of circular design principles over time. While more than half of the companies had not adopted these principles at all in 2021, this figure is projected to decrease significantly by 2027. Concurrently, the proportion of companies with full integration of circular design principles is expected to rise dramatically, from 7% in 2021 to 44% in 2027. This reflects a growing commitment to sustainable design practices and a shift towards more environmentally responsible business operations.

All the following charts follow the same logic.

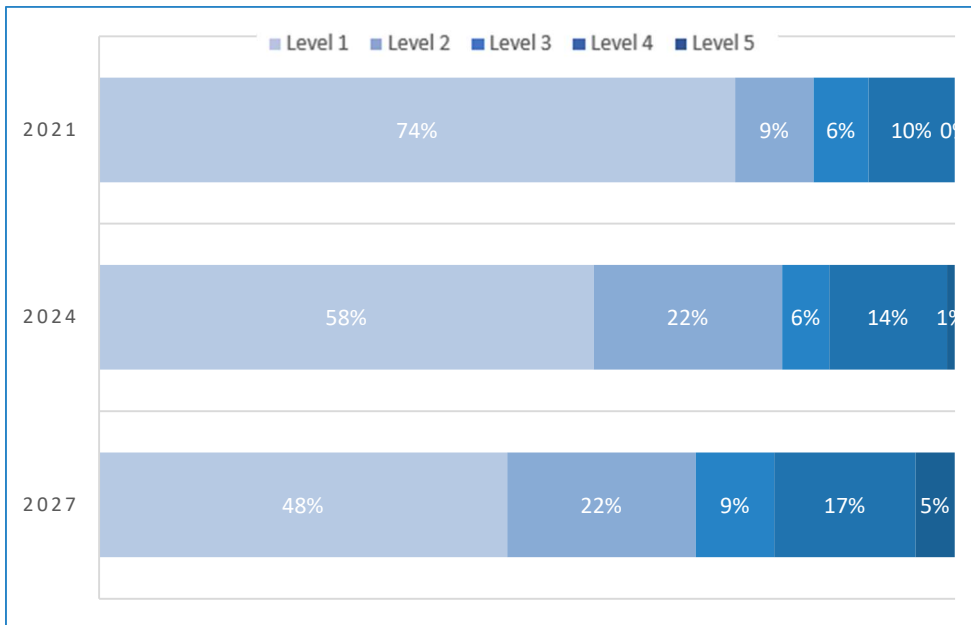
- **Question 2: After sale services: spare parts, repair and refurbishment**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation does not offer after-sales services.
2	The organisation provides the possibility of buying spare parts to prolong the life of some of its products.
3	The organisation offers the possibility of buying spare parts to prolong the life of all or most of its products.
4	The organisation offers after sale services including refurbishing service for some products.
5	After sale services, including refurbishing, are a substantial part of the company main business and are actively communicated.

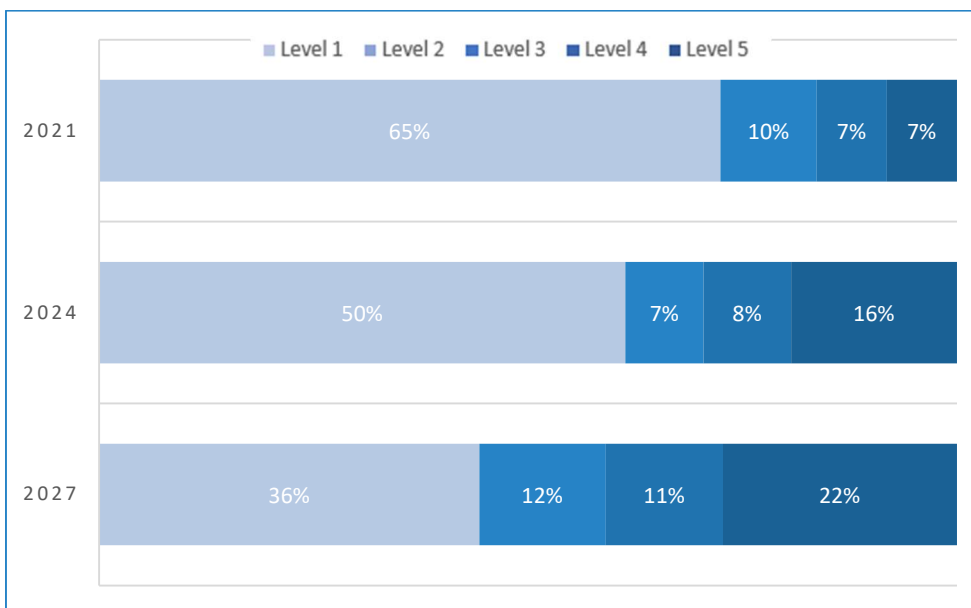


• **Question 3: Rental services**



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not offer a rental service for his products and has never approached the topic.
2	The organisation has considered the rental model but implementation is not foreseen in a near future.
3	The organisation is currently working on the implementation of a rental service for some of its products.
4	The organisation already offers the possibility to rent some of his products.
5	Renting/leasing is the main business model of the company.

• **Question 4: Take back services**



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not offer a take back service for his products and has never approached the topic
2	The organisation has approached the possibility of taking back his products but it's not feasible
3	The organisation is currently working on the implementation of a take back service for some of its products
4	The organisation offers the possibility to take back some of his products when a new product is purchased
5	The organisation takes back some of his products that can sometimes being marketed again

For rental services and take back services, it is noticeable that adoption remains consistently low. Better strategies have not yet been addressed and adopted. The change is expected to be very slow.

In Chapter 3, there is a section dedicated to exploring one topic discussed here.

- Rental services

## 2.4. Product information

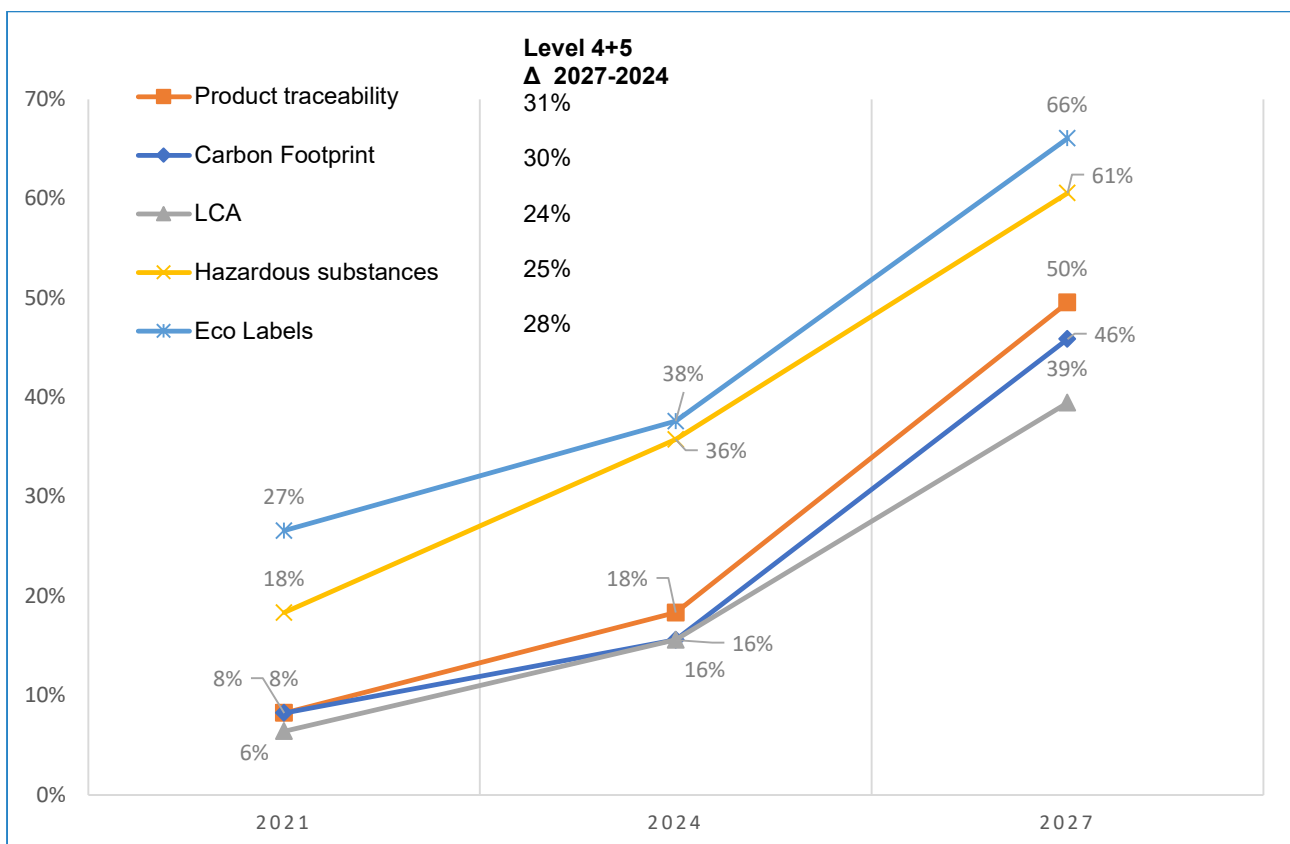


Figure 10 - Product information (level 4+5)

The chart illustrates the adoption rates of product information over three years: 2021, 2024, and 2027. The percentages are distributed across 5 different levels of adoption, indicating the extent to which companies have embraced these principles.

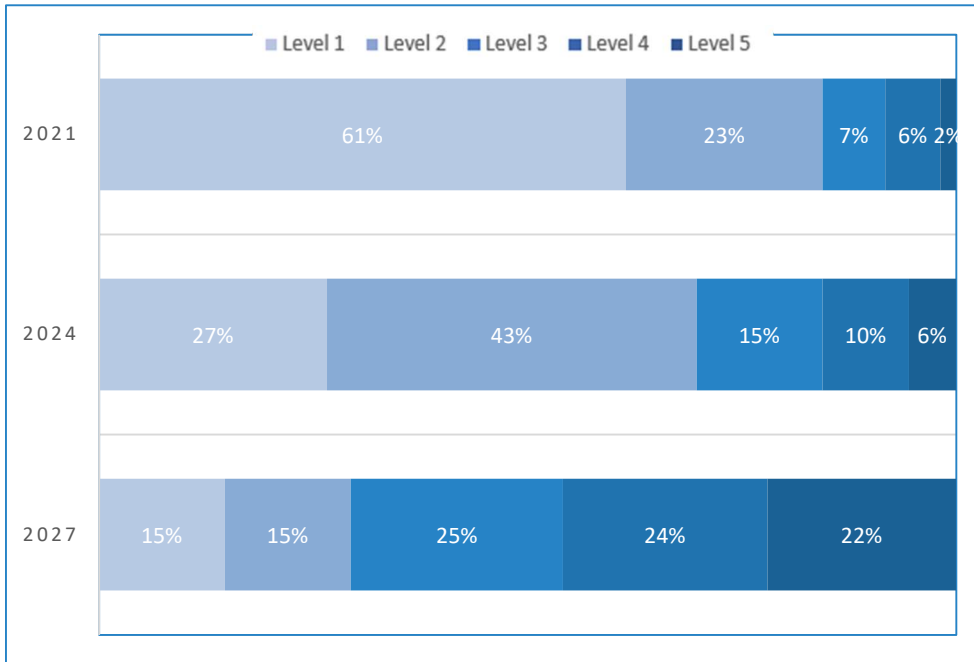
In summary, we can assume that the growth of product information awareness in 2027 will likely be driven by a mix of technological advancements, regulatory pressures, and shifts in consumer expectations.

- Question 1: Product traceability**



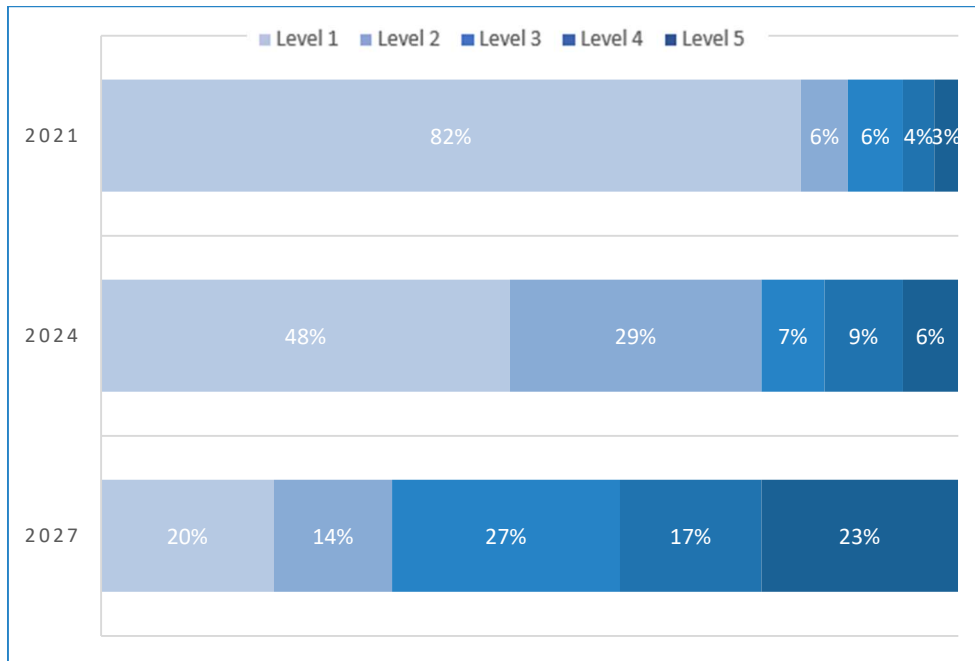
Level	Description
1	The organisation is not aware of the digital product passport.
2	The organisation is aware of the topic but has not taken any specific action.
3	The organisation is aware of the topic and plans to take some preparatory actions .
4	The organisation actively follows the topic and started collecting data from suppliers in a systematic way in anticipation of the digital product passport.
5	The organisation has defined, collects and communicates information it considers relevant for the implementation of the digital passport along the value chain.

• **Question 2: Carbon Footprint for products**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation does not know the emissions associated with its products.
2	The organisation knows the main source of the emissions associated with its products, but does not systematically quantify them.
3	The organisation systematically quantifies the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions associated with its products, although the scope of the calculation does not cover the full life cycle of the products.
4	The organisation systematically quantifies the GHG emissions associated with its products and the scope of the calculation covers the full life cycle of the products.
5	The organisation has an assessment system certified by a third party (e.g. ISO 14067) and defines plans to reduce these emissions.

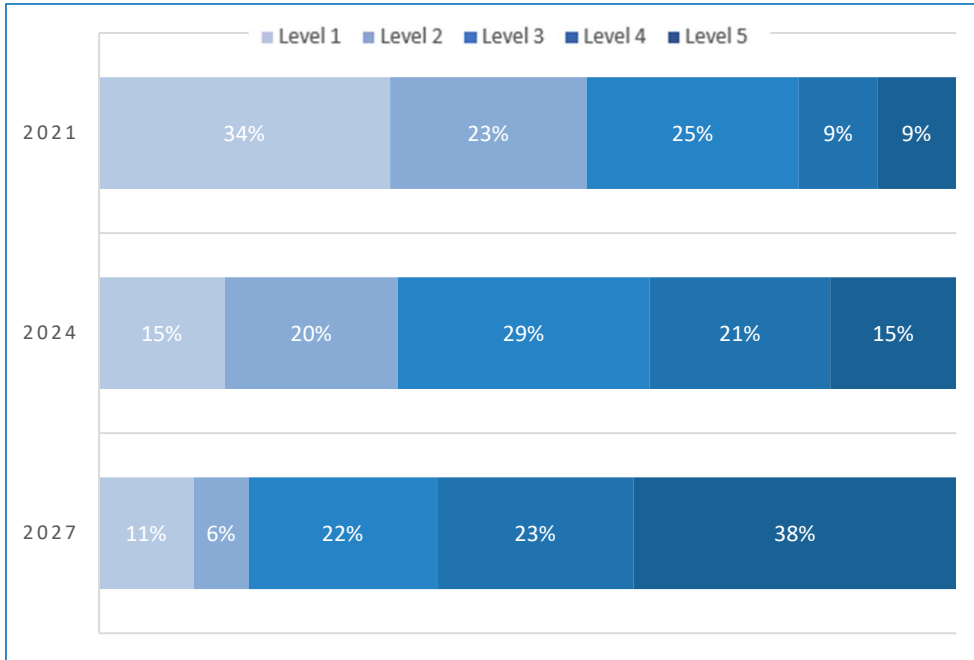
• **Question 3: Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation has identified the significant environmental aspects of the product, but does not conduct detailed LCA studies.
2	The organisation conducts some LCA studies for some of its products, but does not communicate the results.
3	The organisation conducts LCA studies for some of its products, and communicate the results.
4	The organisation conducts LCA studies for some of its products and based on the results implements improvements in the design phase in a systematic way (e.g. comparison of alternatives, selection of materials, etc.), and communicate the results.
5	The organisation conducts LCA studies for most/all of its products, based on the results implements improvements in the design phase in a systematic way (e.g. comparison of alternatives, material selection, etc.), and communicates the results

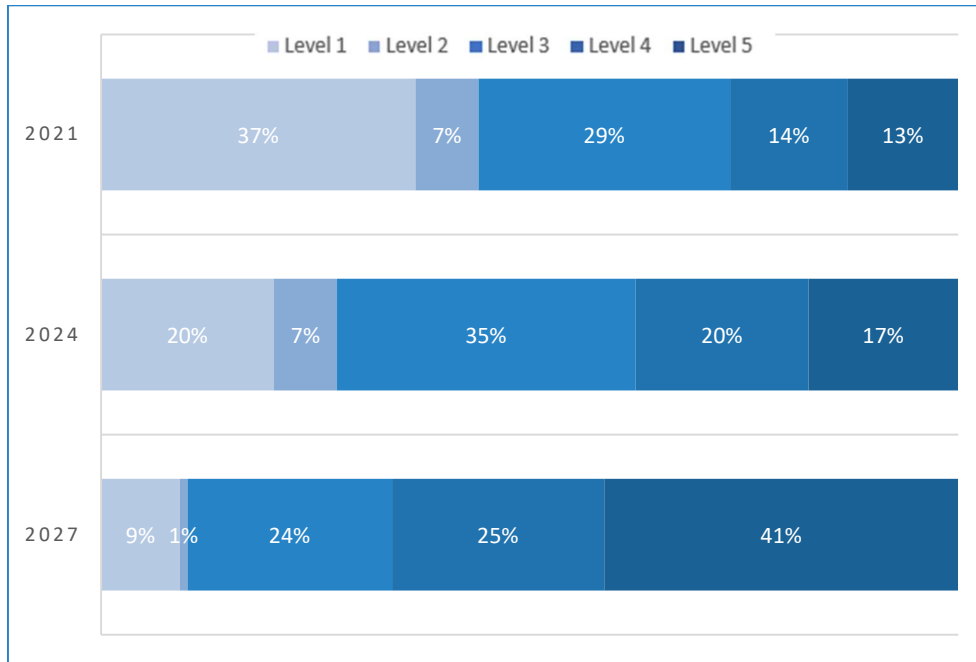
Regarding the Carbon Footprint and LCA (questions 2 and 3), it is possible to see that for most companies, in 2024 these topics are still to be approached (Level 1+2 around 70%) but the forecast for 2027 show a dramatic increase of the figures, with just about 1/3 of the companies that think they won't reach a higher level of adoption/integration of these tools into their strategies.

• **Question 4: Hazardous substances**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation has identified hazardous substances used in its production cycle, but has not defined substitution strategies.
2	The organisation has identified alternatives without hazardous substances in its production cycle and in the products it purchases, but has not defined a prioritised substitution policy.
3	The organisation applies a purchasing policy and strategies with specific criteria concerning hazardous substances.
4	The organisation applies a purchasing policy and strategies with specific criteria concerning hazardous substances and has reduction targets.
5	The organisation implements a policy and strategies for a complete substitution of the most critical substances.

- **Question 5: Eco Labels**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation is not aware of the environmental criteria required by the relevant eco-labels for its products or materials.
2	The organisation is aware of the environmental criteria required by the relevant eco-labels for its products or materials, but does not comply with them.
3	The organisation has a product or material that meets most of the relevant eco-labels criteria, but does not apply for any label.
4	Some of the organisation's products or materials are eco-labelled and are actively communicated.
5	The organisation's most representative products or materials are ecolabelled and are actively communicated.

In Chapter 3, there is a section dedicated to exploring two topics discussed here.

- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Hazardous substances

## 2.5. Sustainability management

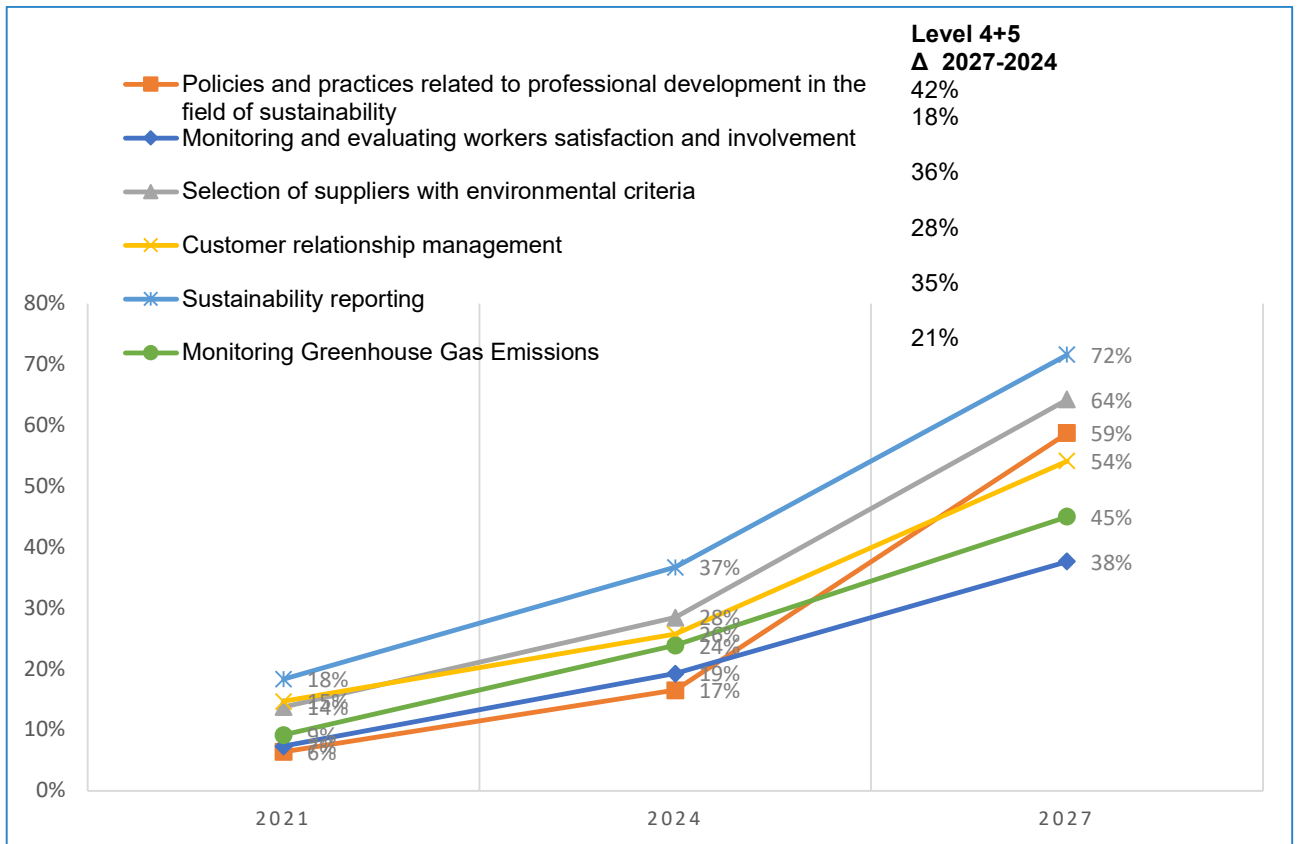
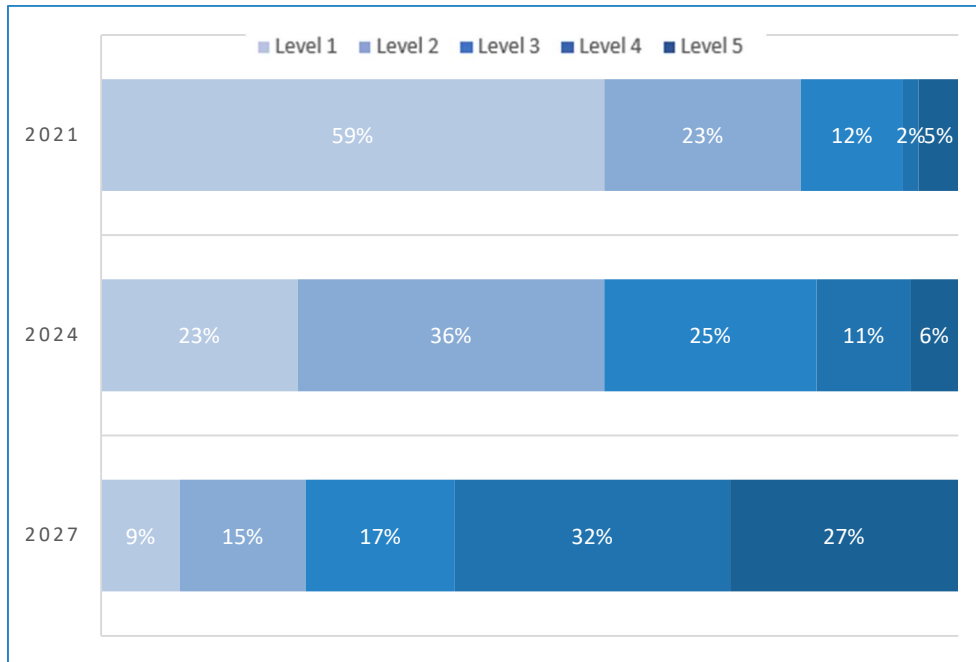


Figure 11- Sustainability management (level 4+5)

The chart shows the evolution of six sustainability practices (level 4+5) from 2021 to 2027. The chart clearly highlights a positive trend in all analyzed sustainability practices, with significant percentage increases from 2021 to 2027. The greatest increase has been registered in employee training on sustainability topics and the selection of suppliers with environmental criteria. This suggests a growing awareness and commitment of companies towards sustainability, both in internal processes and in their interaction with suppliers and customers. Companies are also recognizing the importance of employee training and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrating an increasingly holistic approach to sustainability.



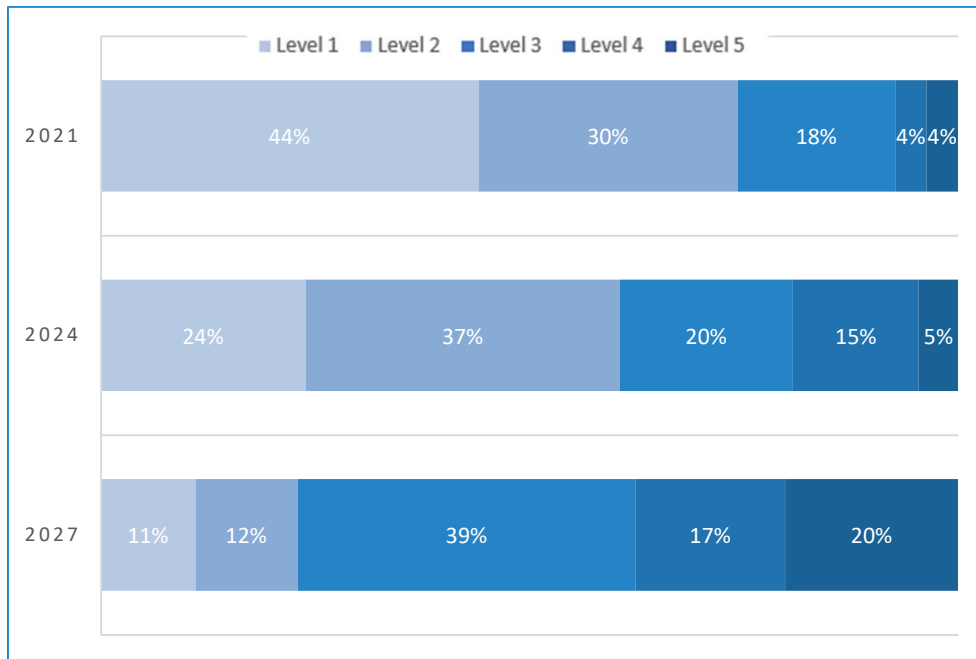
- **Question 1: Policies and practices related to professional development in the field of sustainability**



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not offer sustainability training for workers.
2	The organisation offers sustainability training without a specific planning.
3	The organisation has a sustainability training program for some specific workers.
4	The organisation has a sustainability training program for most workers.
5	The organisation has a sustainability training program for workers and stakeholders.

This issue is considered a priority across all industries and countries. It is expected that worker training will be the primary focus, as shown by the comprehensive summary chart and the specific chart. This indicates a shift from a Level 1 percentage of 59% in 2021 to a Level 5 percentage of 27% in 2027. It has to be noted, though, that today (2024), 59% of the companies does not have a planned training program on sustainability (levels 1+2).

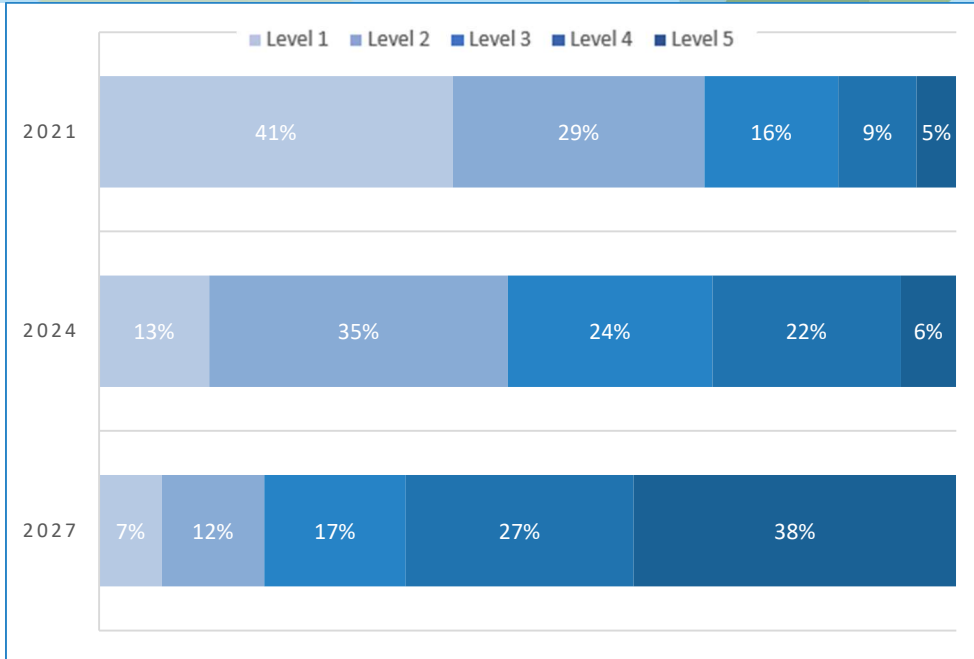
- Question 2: Monitoring and evaluating workers satisfaction and involvement**



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not conduct workers satisfaction exercises.
2	The organisation conducts workers satisfaction exercises but not on a regular basis.
3	The organisation conducts regular workers satisfaction exercises and plans specific actions according to the results.
4	The organisation conducts regular workers satisfaction exercises, compares the results with industry benchmarks and plans specific actions according to the results.
5	The organisation conducts regular workers satisfaction exercises, compares the results with industry benchmarks and communicate the results in order to attract talents.

Regarding the monitoring of worker satisfaction, it is noteworthy that the sum of levels 3+4+5 increases from 26% in 2021 to 76% in 2027. This indicates that companies are making significant efforts in corporate welfare programs.

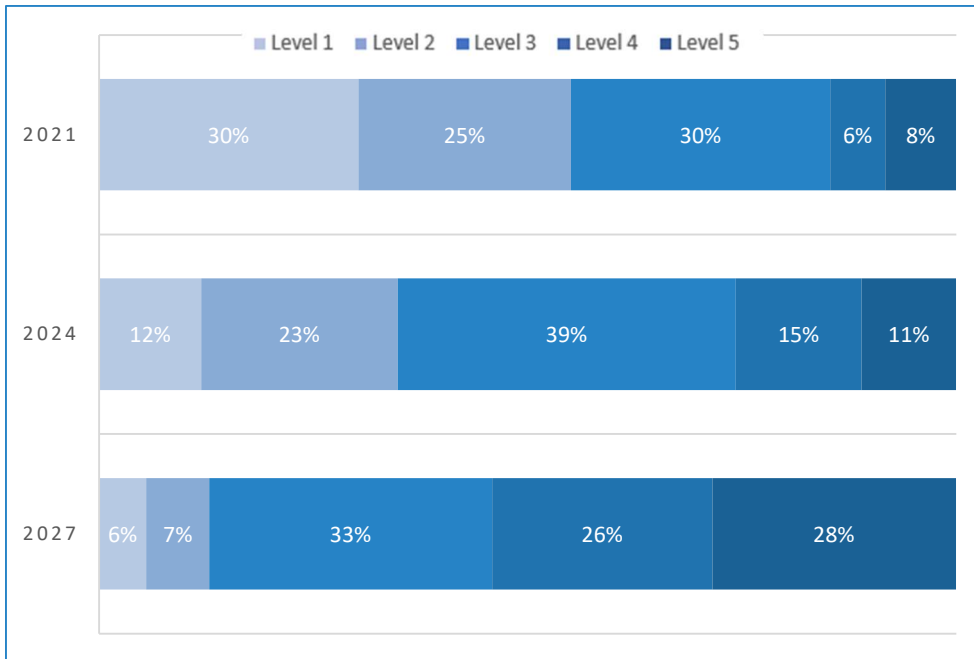
- Question 3: Selection of suppliers with environmental criteria**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation has no green purchasing criteria.
2	The organisation adopts a green purchasing policy for some of its products and suppliers.
3	The organisation adopts a green purchasing policy for most of its products and suppliers.
4	The organisation adopts a systematic methodology for evaluating its suppliers.
5	The organisation has a green purchasing strategy and communicates the environmental, economic and social objectives and benefits associated with it.

Regarding the selection of suppliers with sustainability criteria, already today 87% of companies have implemented specific criteria at least for some products or suppliers (levels from 2 to 5) and by 2027 it is expected that 65% of companies have achieved on this topic high levels of integration (levels 4+5).

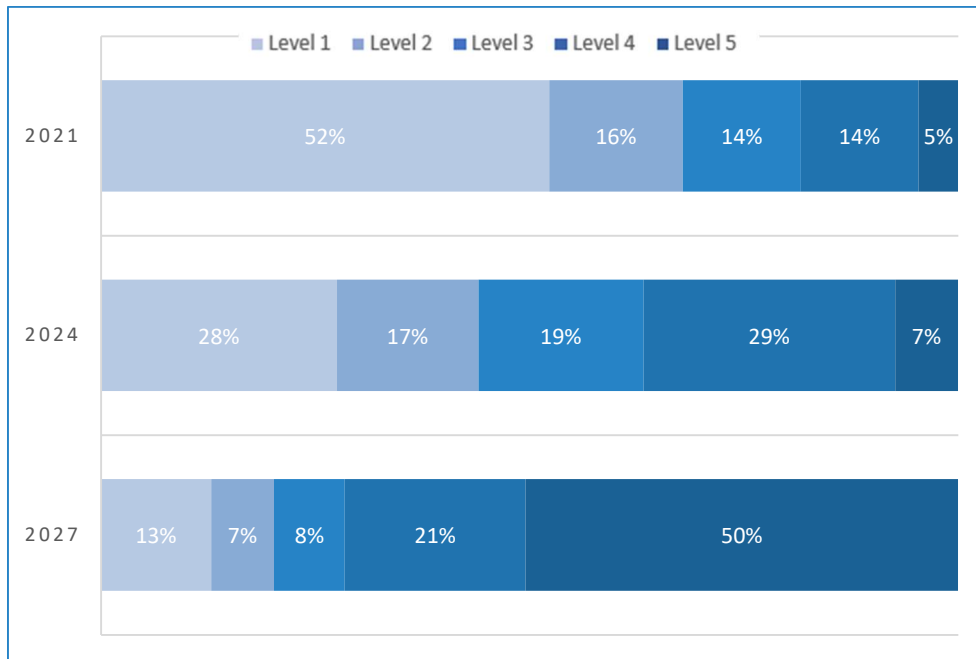
- **Question 4: Customer relationship management**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation does not monitor the level of customer satisfaction.
2	The organisation monitors the level of customer satisfaction occasionally.
3	The organisation monitors the level of customer satisfaction on a regular basis.
4	The organisation has a procedure to feed the product design process with feedback from customers.
5	The organisation involves customers in activities to improve its products and services according to customer satisfaction results.

In 2021, customer satisfaction was not monitored in a structured way (levels 1+2 accounted for 55%). Today, the situation is changing, and it is expected that by 2027, customers will be much more involved in processes and services (levels 4+5 will reach 54%).

• **Question 5: Sustainability reporting**

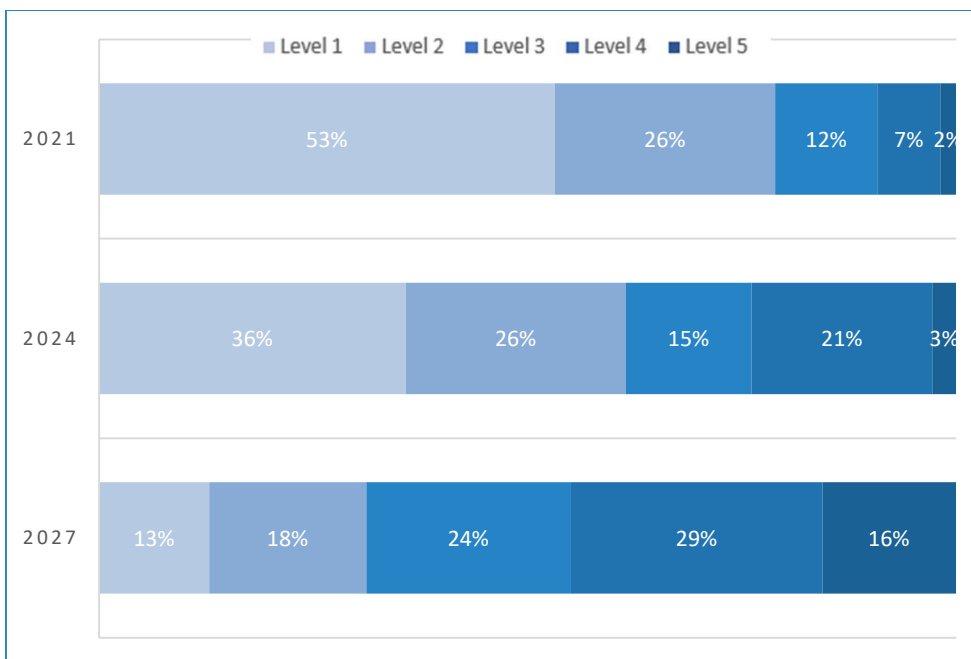


<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	The organisation does not collect data in a structured way on its sustainable performance.
2	The organisation periodically collects data but does not communicate it externally.
3	The organisation collects data and communicates it occasionally but not in a structured way.
4	The organisation publishes its sustainability report (e.g. through GRI framework).
5	The organisation publishes its sustainability report that is verified by a third party and/or integrated with the financial report.

We note here a strong influence of legislation. The "Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive - CSRD" (Directive 2022/2464) officially came into force on 2023 and replaces the previous one "Non-Financial Reporting Directive - NFRD" (Directive 2014/95/EU).

In 2027 50% of companies plan to publish a verified sustainability report.

• **Question 6: Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions**



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not currently monitor emissions.
2	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions (Scope 1 and 2) but has not set reduction targets.
3	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific reduction targets based on previous performance (e.g. 5% reduction in GHGs compared to base year).
4	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific science-based targets necessary to meet global targets to address climate change.
5	The organisation has achieved net zero emissions/ The organisation also monitors Scope 3 emissions.

In Chapter 3, there is a section dedicated to exploring three topics discussed here.

- Policies and practices related to professional development in the field of sustainability
- Selection of suppliers with environmental criteria
- Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**2.6. Sustainability legislation awareness**

The following legislative and voluntary instruments have been selected due to their potential impact on promoting the transition of the furniture sector toward the circular economy.

The investigated legislation consists of:

- Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

- Taxonomy EU for Sustainable Activities - Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2486
- CEN/TC 207 "Furniture"

The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), which entered into force on 18 July 2024, is a framework legislation that aims to improve the environmental sustainability of products to make sustainable products the norm and to reduce their overall carbon and environmental footprint over their lifecycle, as well as to ensure their free movement within the internal market.

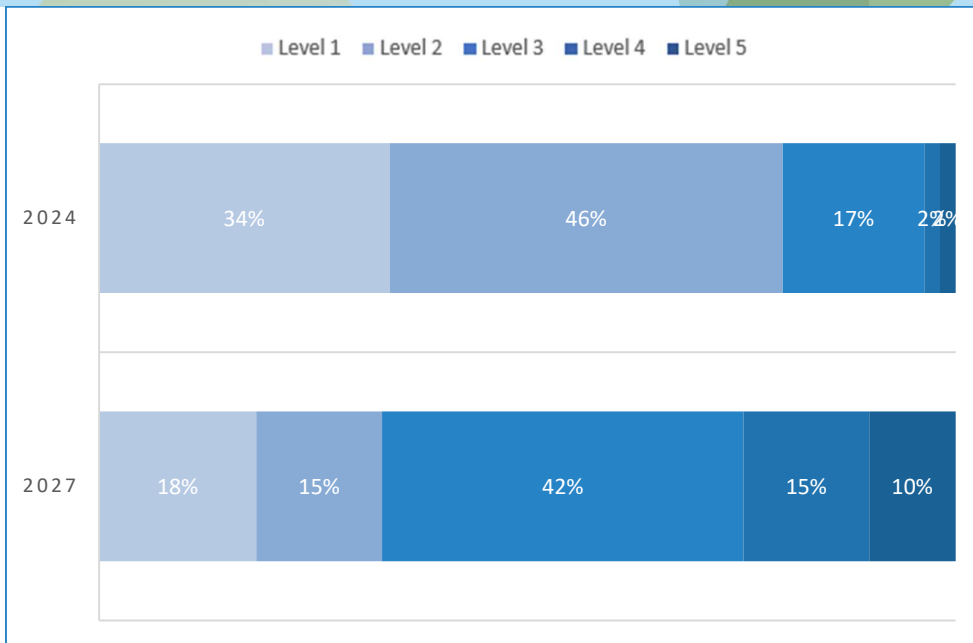
The main goal of the ESPR is to establish mandatory ecodesign criteria for products. The ESPR builds on the experience of the EU ecodesign and energy labelling legislation which applies since 2009 to energy related products. This legislation led to ecodesign and labelling requirements for energy related products that drove the customer purchasing behaviour and the performance improvement of those products. The ESPR extends the scope of the 2009 Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC) to non-energy related products and to further criteria to address the sustainability performance of products beyond energy efficiency.

The EU taxonomy is a cornerstone of the EU's sustainable finance framework and an important market transparency tool. It helps direct investments to the economic activities most needed for the transition, in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The taxonomy is a classification system that defines criteria for economic activities that are aligned with a net zero trajectory by 2050 and the broader environmental goals other than climate.

The Taxonomy Regulation entered into force on 12 July 2020. It establishes the basis for the EU taxonomy by setting out the 4 overarching conditions that an economic activity has to meet in order to qualify as environmentally sustainable.

CEN/TC 207 "Furniture" works on developing standards that support the circular economy. The objective is to promote sustainability and resource efficiency within the furniture industry by establishing guidelines and requirements for the design, production, and end-of-life management of furniture products. This includes creating standards that facilitate recycling, reuse, and the use of sustainable materials, ultimately aiming to reduce waste and environmental impact.

- **Question 1: Knowledge of “Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)”**



**Level Description**

Level	Description
1	The organisation is not specifically aware of the effects of the ESPR legislation on its work.
2	The organisation is becoming aware of the ESPR framework but has not yet implemented any action.
3	The organisation is aware of the ESPR framework and is implementing strategies in accordance with the ESPR principles.
4	The organisation has implemented all of the ESPR requirements and is using them to distinguish/position itself in the marketplace.
5	The organisation is aligned with the ESPR requirements and monitors the legislative process to adjust for future requirements in advance.

The chart illustrates the distribution of knowledge levels with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) across two years: 2024 and 2027. The compliance levels are categorized into five levels, from Level 1 (lightest blue) to Level 5 (darkest blue).

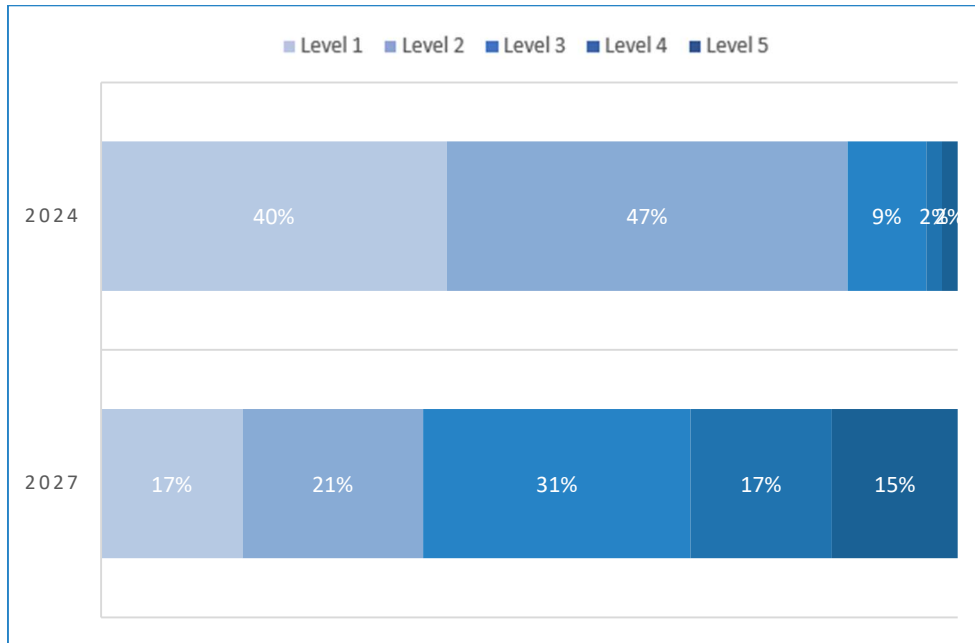
Overall, the new Ecodesign Directive 2024 builds upon the foundations of the 2009 directive, expanding its scope and strengthening regulations to promote a more sustainable and circular economy.

The 2009 directive was mainly focused on energy-related products and improving energy efficiency, while the 2024 directive has an expanded scope that includes a broader range of products and emphasizes sustainability, circular economy, and lifecycle impacts. The 2024 directive places a stronger emphasis on sustainability and the circular economy, promoting longer product lifespans, repairability, and recyclability.

We would like to point out that in 2024, once the regulation is approved, the sum of levels 1+2 will be equal to 80%. By 2027, the majority of products comply with Level 3, with significant proportions at Levels 4 and 5, indicating an overall improvement in adherence to the ESPR standards.



• **Question 2: Knowledge of Taxonomy EU for Sustainable Activities - Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2486: Eco-Sustainability Criteria for Economic Activities in the European Union**

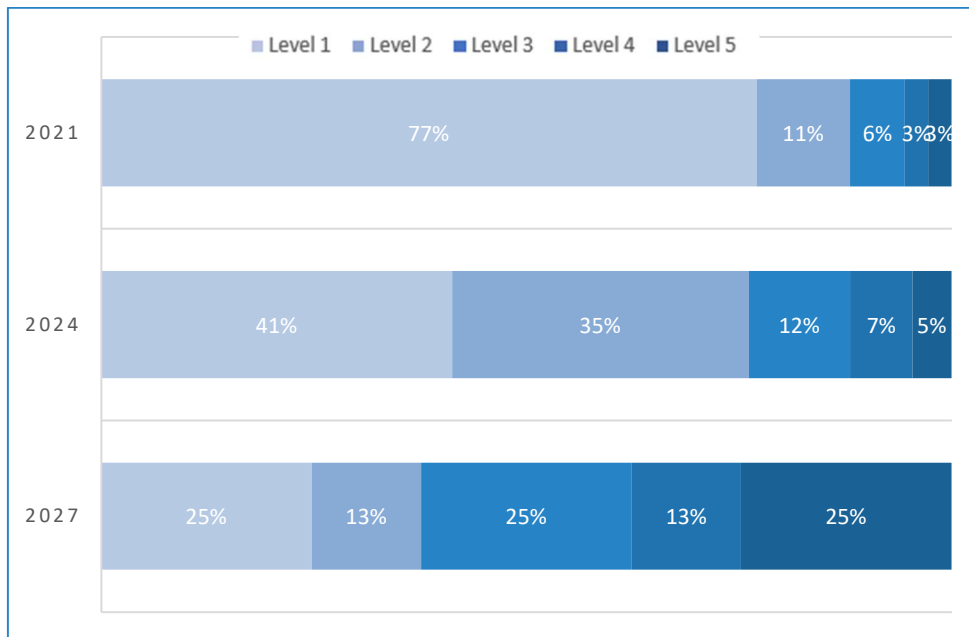


**Level Description**

Level	Description
1	The organisation has no specific knowledge of the European Taxonomy for sustainability.
2	The organisation is becoming aware of the legislation, but has not yet studied the appropriate way to apply the European taxonomy to its activities.
3	The organisation has calculated its level of taxonomy eligible activities.
4	The organisation has calculated its level of alignment with the European taxonomy.
5	The organisation calculated its level and has a strategy for improving it.

The trend in the knowledge of Ecodesign is observed also for Taxonomy. The chart does not consider the year 2021 but starts from 2024. It should be noted that 87% (2024, Level 1+2) of companies are still not informed about this topic, which will have significant effects on how companies will be evaluated and considered in the coming years by investors, banks and the financial world.

- **Question 3: Knowledge of CEN/TC 207 "Furniture" work on standards for circular economy**



**Level Description**

Level	Description
1	The organisation applies the national or European (EN) standards required by law or by its customers.
2	The organisation integrates EN standards into its development process but is not aware of the ongoing work related to the new circular economy standards for furniture (e.g. EN 17902 on dis-/re-assembly).
3	The organisation integrates EN standards into its development process and knows about CEN/TC 207 work on Circular Economy related standards for furniture (e.g. EN 17902) but has not yet implemented them.
4	The organization is participating (including indirectly, through its trade association or national mirror committee) in the development of the Circular Economy-related standards and has tested their application to its products.
5	The organisation consider compliance with the Circular Economy-related standards for furniture as a design rule.

The CEN Technical Committee has existed for a long time, while CEN 207 regarding the Circular Economy has been around for a shorter period. It is expected that awareness will increase: in 2024, the sum of levels 4+5 is 12%, while in 2027 it rises to 38%.

### 3. Thematic insights

#### 3.1. Comparison between companies of different sizes

Some key themes have been identified through data analysis, highlighting how company size impacts the results. Specifically:

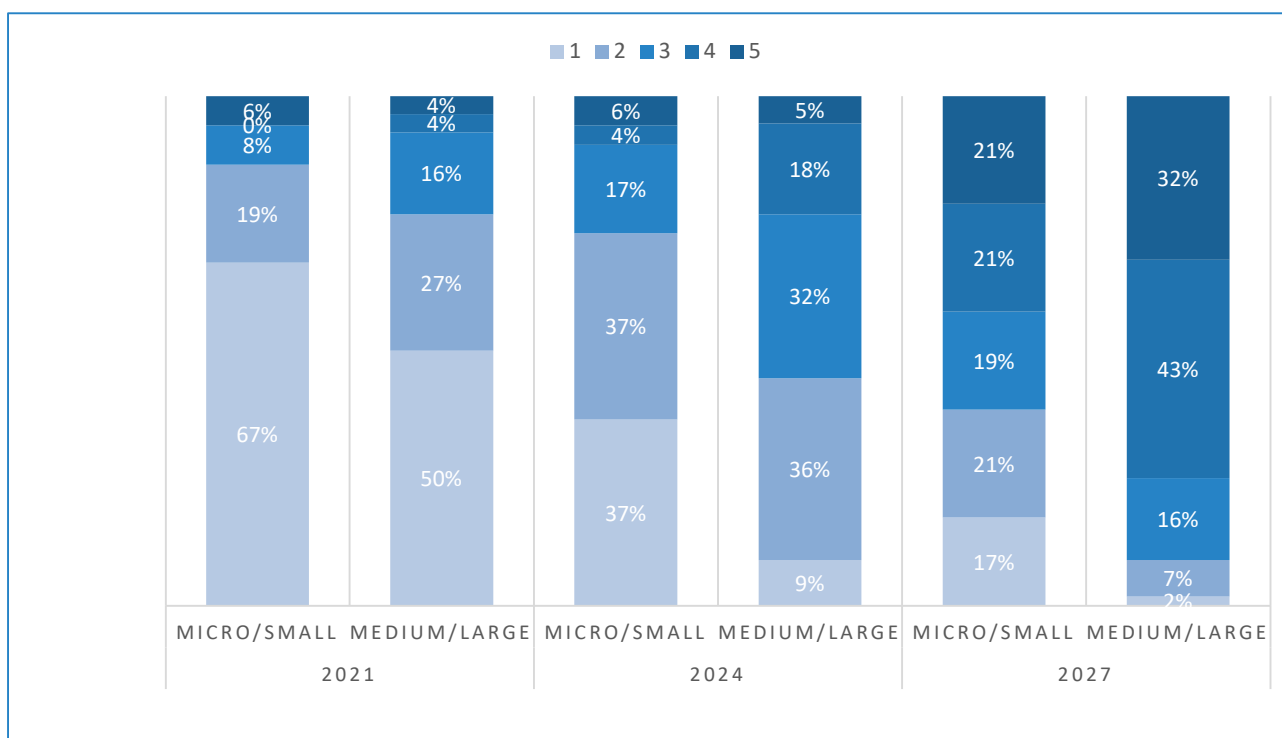
1. Policies and practices related to professional development in the field of sustainability
2. Selection of suppliers with environmental criteria
3. Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This chapter aims to present the results obtained from a comparison between micro-small companies (n. 52 companies) and medium-large ones (n. 57 companies).

Below are the details.

### SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

- Policies and practices related to professional development in the field of sustainability

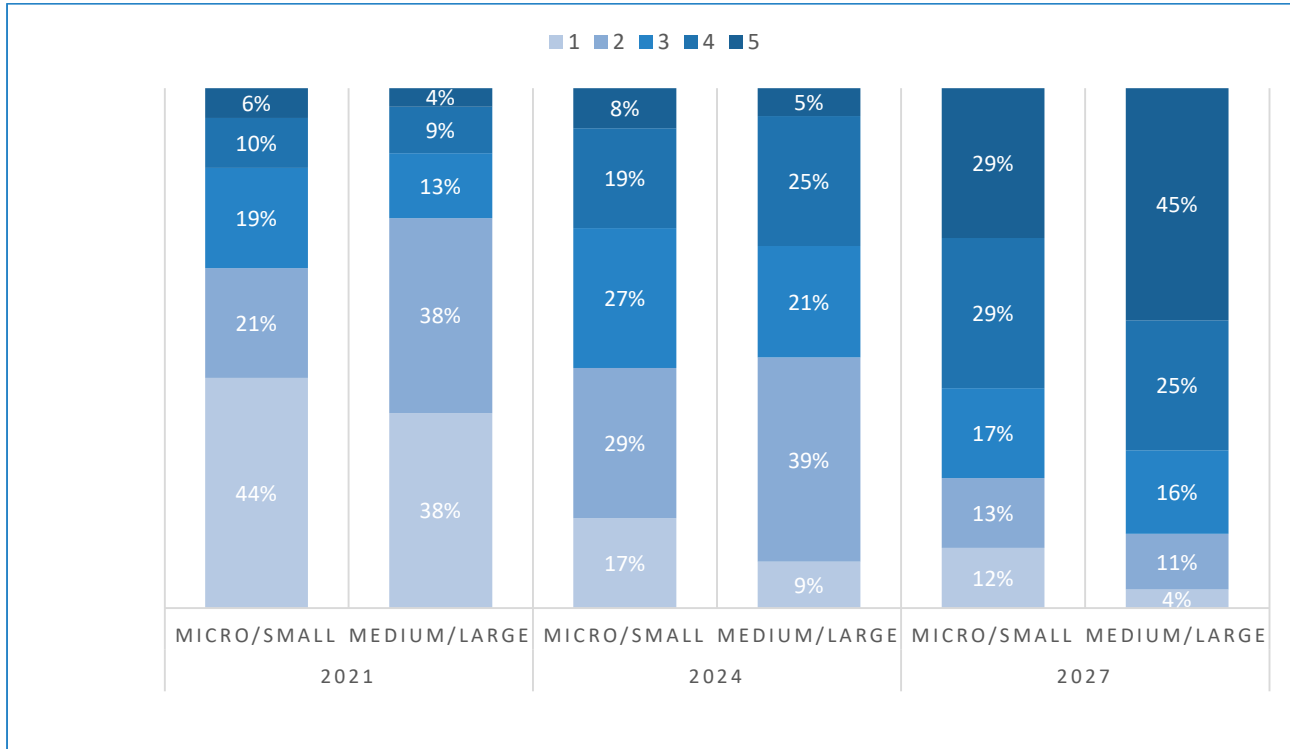


Level	Description
1	The organisation does not offer sustainability training for workers.
2	The organisation offers sustainability training without a specific planning.
3	The organisation has a sustainability training program for some specific workers.
4	The organisation has a sustainability training program for most workers.
5	The organisation has a sustainability training program for workers and stakeholders.

As of 2024, over 50% of medium and large companies have established a training plan, whereas only 27% of micro and small businesses have done so. Although there are improvements, significant efforts are still needed in the training sector.

## SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

- Selection of suppliers with environmental criteria

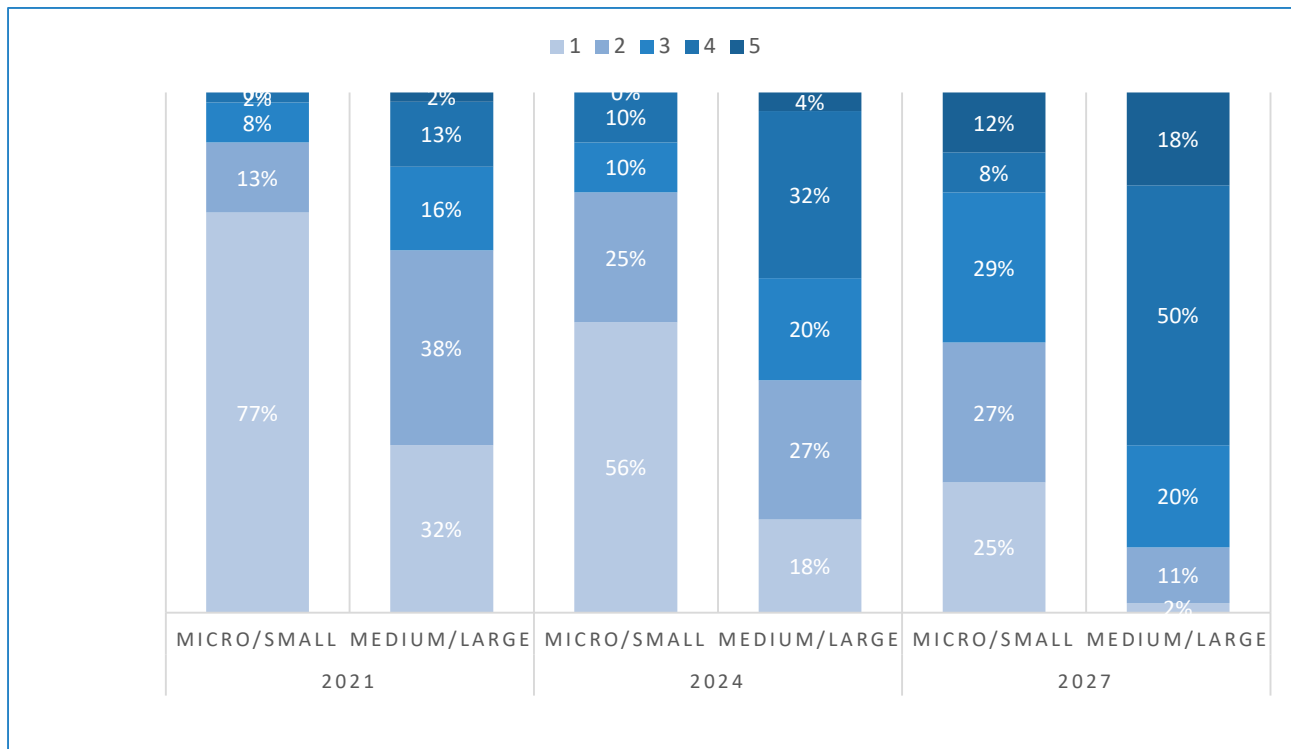


Level	Description
1	The organisation has no green purchasing criteria.
2	The organisation adopts a green purchasing policy for some of its products and suppliers.
3	The organisation adopts a green purchasing policy for most of its products and suppliers.
4	The organisation adopts a systematic methodology for evaluating its suppliers.
5	The organisation has a green purchasing strategy and communicates the environmental, economic and social objectives and benefits associated with it.

In 2024, the difference between micro-small and medium-large companies appears less pronounced, suggesting that company size may not be so relevant. One possible reason could be the procurement policies for wood, which are largely adopted and already require the use of certified wood.

## SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

- Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not currently monitor emissions.
2	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions (Scope 1 and 2) but has not set reduction targets.
3	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific reduction targets based on previous performance (e.g. 5% reduction in GHGs compared to base year).
4	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific science-based targets necessary to meet global targets to address climate change.
5	The organisation has achieved net zero emissions/ The organisation also monitors Scope 3 emissions.

The chart clearly shows a difference: large companies are already required to monitor their emissions, such as in sustainability reporting. By 2027, this difference remains significant, and this should be highlighted. It is important to note that this requirement will also extend to SMEs within the value chain, even though they seem to be less concerned about it at present.

### 3.2. Comparison between companies operating with P.A. and others

Some key themes have been identified through data analysis, highlighting how working with the public administration impacts the results. Specifically:

1. Hazardous substances

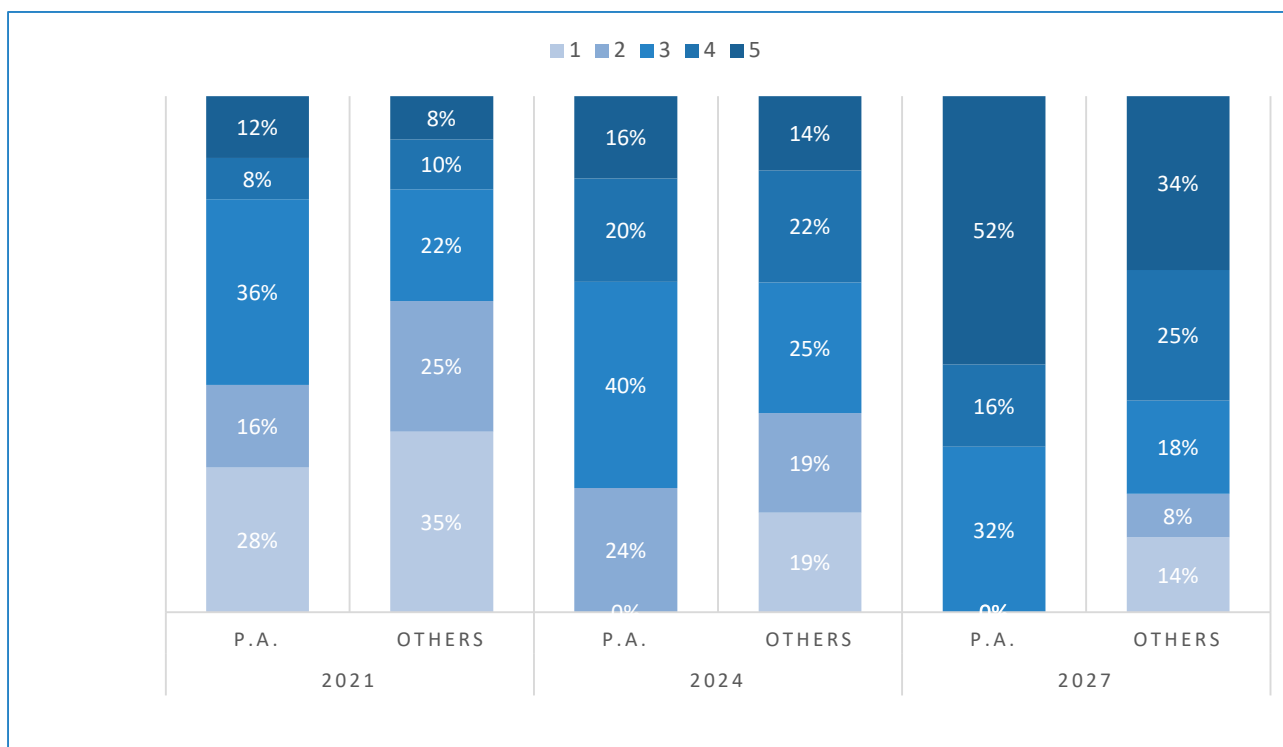
2. LCA
3. Rental services

In the graphs is represented the comparison between companies operating also with the public administration (n. 25) and others (n. 84).

Below are the details.

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

- **Hazardous substances**



Level	Description
1	The organisation has identified hazardous substances used in its production cycle, but has not defined substitution strategies.
2	The organisation has identified alternatives without hazardous substances in its production cycle and in the products it purchases, but has not defined a prioritised substitution policy.
3	The organisation applies a purchasing policy and strategies with specific criteria concerning hazardous substances.
4	The organisation applies a purchasing policy and strategies with specific criteria concerning hazardous substances and has reduction targets.
5	The organisation implements a policy and strategies for a complete substitution of the most critical substances.

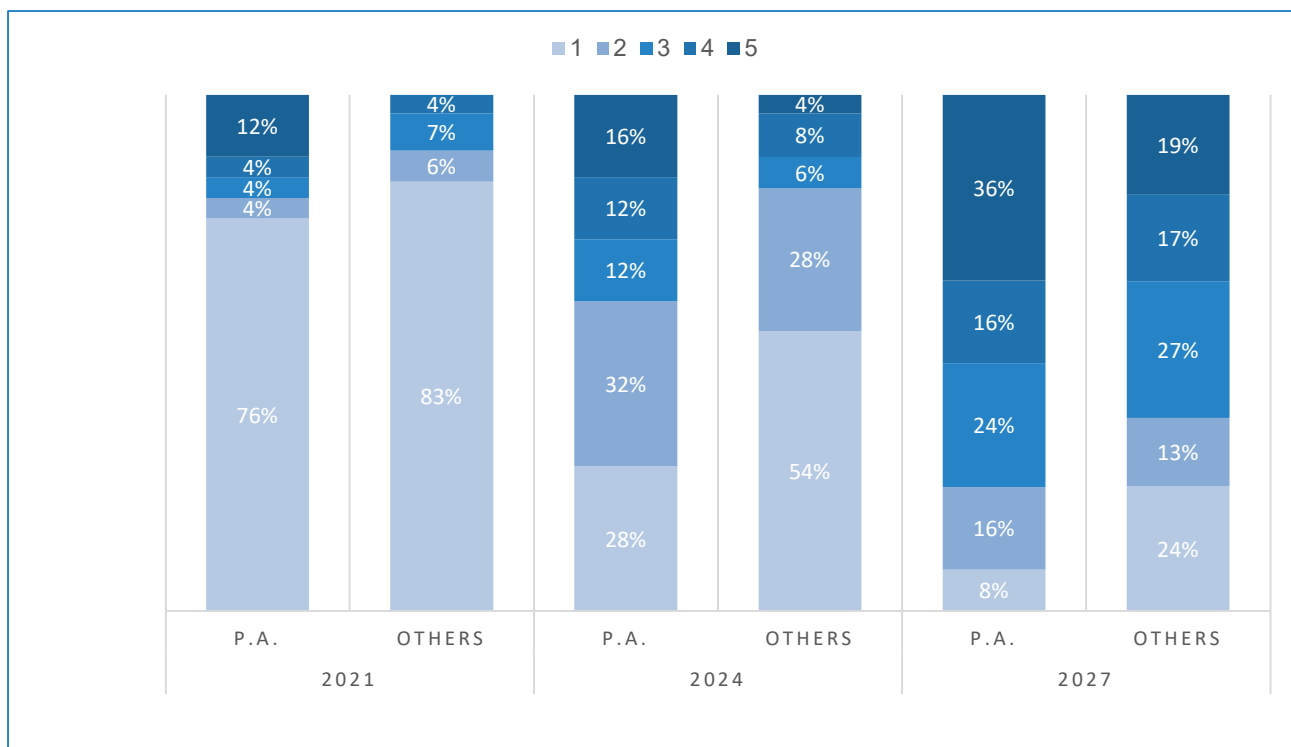
It is important to remember that Green Public Procurement (GPP) by public administrations is a strategy through which public authorities purchase goods, services, and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their lifecycle. The link between GPP and hazardous substances is significant: GPP promotes the purchase of products containing fewer harmful chemicals.

This can include, for example, low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, eco-friendly cleaning products, and construction materials free from toxic substances. Thus, companies that operate with public administrations, that are already dealing with these requirements, will find themselves more advanced today and in the future.

Companies that must comply with GPP criteria show a significantly higher level of maturity than others.

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)



Level	Description
1	The organisation has identified the significant environmental aspects of the product, but does not conduct detailed LCA studies.
2	The organisation conducts some LCA studies for some of its products, but does not communicate the results.
3	The organisation conducts LCA studies for some of its products, and communicate the results.
4	The organisation conducts LCA studies for some of its products and based on the results implements improvements in the design phase in a systematic way (e.g. comparison of alternatives, selection of materials, etc.), and communicate the results.
5	The organisation conducts LCA studies for most/all of its products, based on the results implements improvements in the design phase in a systematic way (e.g. comparison of alternatives, material selection, etc.), and communicates the results

In 2027, as much as 36% (level 5) of companies working with the public administration reported that they will implement Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for many or all of their products.

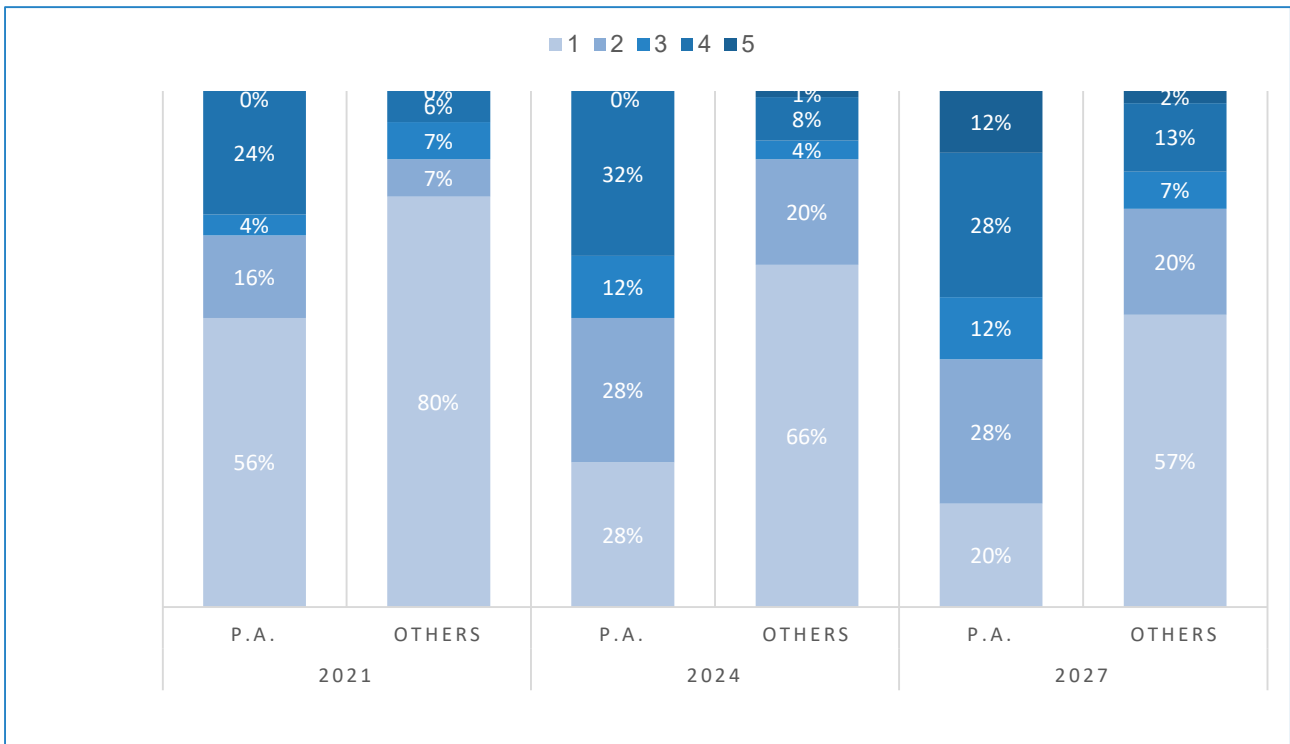
LCA provides detailed information on the environmental impacts associated with different options. By understanding these impacts, companies and public administrations can make better decisions that prioritize environmentally friendly choices. This includes selecting products with lower overall impacts, choosing services that reduce waste, or designing projects that minimize ecological footprints.

By identifying areas where environmental impacts can be reduced, administrations can implement changes that lead to more sustainable operations and project outcomes.

LCA is not specifically required by GPP criteria. It's possible that the confidence with several sustainability aspects and the demands of business customers have led the companies that work with public administrations to a larger utilization of LCA tools.

## MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE COMPANY

- Rental services



Level	Description
1	The organisation does not offer a rental service for his products and has never approached the topic.
2	The organisation has considered the rental model but implementation is not foreseen in a near future.



- 3 The organisation is currently working on the implementation of a rental service for some of its products.
- 4 The organisation already offers the possibility to rent some of his products.
- 5 Renting/leasing is the main business model of the company.

Public administrations are increasingly focused on sustainability and environmental responsibility. In many jurisdictions, public administrations are subject to regulations and policies that encourage or mandate sustainable practices.

Rental services (sometimes required by GPP criteria) align well with these goals by promoting the efficient use of resources and reducing waste. By opting for rental services, they can minimize the environmental impact associated with purchasing and disposing of goods.

#### 4. Results discussion and conclusions

The European Union is integrating over time circular economy principles into its policies and regulations. Initiatives such as the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan and now also the ESPR aim to transition towards a more sustainable economy by promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and the recycling of materials.

We can say that in recent years there is growing awareness and engagement on circular economy issues. Educational campaigns, community initiatives, and Projects funded by the EU are contributing to a broader understanding of the benefits of circularity and the need for systemic change.

Regulations and standards can vary significantly between jurisdictions, creating uncertainties and challenges for companies attempting to adopt circular models.

The lack of standardization or clear guidelines can present a hurdle. Measuring and monitoring the environmental impacts and benefits of circular economy practices can be complex.

Without clear data and performance metrics, companies may find it difficult to assess results and demonstrate the advantages of their initiatives.

The adoption of circular economy practices also requires specific skills and appropriate training for companies.

As we saw in chapter 2.5 (question 1) today 59% of companies do not have a planned sustainability training programme. This gap must be filled and efforts made to improve training at various levels, since the current situation is unsatisfactory.

The survey reveals a difference related to company size in this regard: half of the medium and large companies surveyed have implemented a training plan, while micro and small businesses lag behind. Despite some progress, significant efforts are still needed in the training sector.

Monitoring emissions is crucial in the circular economy, as it allows companies to assess environmental impact throughout the product lifecycle. By combining monitoring with circular practices such as reuse and recycling, companies can identify opportunities to reduce emissions and improve resource efficiency. This approach not only supports sustainability but also helps comply with increasingly stringent environmental regulations.

Large companies are already required to monitor their emissions, for example through sustainability reporting.

This creates a difference in size which the survey data show to be significant even in the near future, and it is important to stress this point. It

should be noted, however, that this requirement will also extend to SMEs in the value chain, although they currently appear less concerned.

Implementing circular economy practices indeed may surely require significant investments in new technologies, infrastructure, and training. These initial costs can pose a barrier, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises that may not have the necessary financial resources. Substantial funding and financial support for projects and initiatives that promote the goals of the circular economy is definitely needed.

Moreover, supply chains in the context of the circular economy can become more complex. Managing the recovery, recycling, and reuse of materials demands sophisticated logistics and effective coordination among various stakeholders in the supply chain.

As known companies that embrace the circular economy can reap a range of benefits.

Enhancing brand value is an example of benefit, as sustainability and circular economy principles can boost a company's reputation and attract environmentally conscious consumers, leading to increased customer loyalty and a stronger market position.

Circular economy also fosters innovation and creates new business opportunities. By developing new products, services, and business models, companies can open up new revenue streams and drive growth through innovative solutions and technologies. Additionally, adopting circular economy practices can help companies stay ahead of regulations and avoid potential penalties, ensuring compliance with both current and future environmental laws and standards.

By diversifying resource sources and creating closed-loop systems, companies can reduce their vulnerability to external shocks. Moreover, enhancing resource efficiency through circular economy practices reduces dependence on finite resources and minimizes environmental impacts related to resource extraction and waste.

Sustainable growth is supported as circular economy practices contribute to long-term, resilient business models, creating a more sustainable supply chain and positively impacting the economy and society.

New business models, such as rental service (chapter 2.3 question 3) or take back (chapter 2.3 question 4), struggle to take off because they require a change in consumer habits, involve high initial costs for companies, and need adequate infrastructure and logistics.

Companies that lead in circular economy practices can gain a competitive advantage by differentiating themselves from competitors, attracting

investment, and tapping into new markets. Being a pioneer in sustainability can set a company apart and establish it as a leader in its industry.

Customer engagement becomes more effective with circular economy models, which often involve product recall or repair services. To strengthen relations and communication with customers, labels and certifications were disseminated and shared values.

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a strategy used by public administrations to purchase goods, services, and works with a reduced environmental impact over their entire lifecycle. A key aspect of GPP is its focus on minimizing the use of hazardous substances. This means encouraging the purchase of products with fewer harmful chemicals, such as low-VOC paints, eco-friendly cleaning products, and non-toxic construction materials.

Companies that engage with public administrations and adhere to these GPP requirements are likely to be more advanced both now and in the future. By 2027, 36% of companies (Chapter 3.2) plan to implement Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for many or all of their products. LCA helps in assessing the environmental impacts of products and services, enabling better decision-making to favor environmentally friendly options, reduce waste, and minimize ecological footprints.

Although LCA is not a specific GPP requirement, its adoption is growing among companies working with public administrations, driven by sustainability goals and business demands. Public administrations are increasingly committed to sustainability, and regulations often promote or require sustainable practices.

Rental services, which may be required by GPP, support these goals by improving resource efficiency and reducing waste. Opting for rental services helps to lessen the environmental impact associated with the purchase and disposal of goods.

## List of Figures

- Figure 4- Country of the respondents
- Figure 5- Prevailing segments of activity of the company
- Figure 6- Size of the company
- Figure 4- Identification of the company in accordance with the European Commission's definition.
- Figure 5- Export share of the company in 2023
- Figure 7- Type of customer of the company
- Figure 7- Certifications, labels, and protocols that most companies claim to have
- Figure 8- Certifications, labels, and protocols that most companies are considering
- Figure 9- Monitoring the development of a circular economy in the company (level 4+5)
- Figure 10 - Product information (level 4+5)
- Figure 11- Sustainability management (level 4+5)

## Annexes

### Annex I - FurnCIRCLE complete survey

## FurnCIRCLE

Circular Economy Guidelines and Tools for Application in the EU Furniture Sector, is a project funded by the European Union which aims to promote, strengthen and develop social dialogue at regional, national and European level in the field of furniture, to address the debate on the climate-neutral circular transition, including the analysis of the implications and changes for employment and work and the new skills needs for workers that this transition will entail.

FurnCIRCLE aims to provide industry companies with:

- practical and validated guidelines to complement existing management models with actions and activities for the implementation of CE practices;
- an online tool for self-evaluating their level of maturity and real readiness to deploy CE practices. The questionnaire that we propose is a key part of the development of this project: it aims to collect relevant data on the circular transition for our sector, the furniture industry, at the EU level.

The data will be analyzed in aggregate form and the results of the survey will be published on the official website: <https://furncircle.eu/>. We thank you in advance for the time you spend on the compilation, sure that you appreciate our intent.

“A circular economy is instrumental in delivering our ambitious goal of turning Europe into a climate-neutral continent by 2050, in reducing pollution and in halting biodiversity loss, while reinforcing EU’s sustainable competitiveness and industrial base. The circular economy must become beneficial not just for the frontrunners but to all citizens and economic players across value chains, throughout Europe and beyond. The EU can play an important role in establishing the circular economy at the core of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals globally.” (Circular Economy Action Plan, 2020)

There are 35 questions in this survey.

### PRIVACY AGREEMENT

1 I consent to the processing of my personal data by FurnCIRCLE program management \*

- Yes

I have read the privacy policy regarding the processing of personal data. Show policy.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

2 Company name \*

3 VAT number \*

4 Email reference \*

5 Compiler role \*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- CEO/Owner
- Environmental manager
- Other

6 Which are the prevailing segments in which your company is active? \*

Please select from 1 to 3 answers.

- Kitchen furniture
- Bathroom furniture
- Bedroom furniture
- Upholstered furniture
- Living room and dining room furniture
- Beds and mattresses
- Outdoor furniture
- Chairs
- Office and hospitality furniture
- Interior fittings (building joinery - floors, doors)
- Furniture in kit, DIY
- Non-domestic furniture (hospitals, retirement homes, airports, churches, theatres and cinemas)
- Custom-made residential furniture/appliances
- School furniture
- Children furniture
- Commercial furnishings
- Panels
- Components
- Other

7 In which country are you located? \*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Other

8 What is your company size as at 31 December 2023?\*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Micro
- Small
- Medium
- Large

[Link to the definition of the companies size according to the European Commission](#)

9 In 2023, how much did your company export? \*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- 0%
- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%

10 What type of customer does your company operate with? \*

Please select from 1 to 3 answers.

- End consumer
- Business customer
- Public administration

11 If your company operates with end consumer, does it sell... \*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item: Yes /No

- Via retailers
- Online

## CERTIFICATIONS, LABELS AND PROTOCOLS

12 Type I environmental labels done in accordance with ISO 14024 /Products			
	We have it	We are considering it	We don't know - We are not interested - N/A
EU Ecolabel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Möbelfakta	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blauer Engel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nordic Swan Ecolabel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NF Environnement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13 Other environmental labels			
	We have it	We are considering it	We don't know - We are not interested - N/A
Greenguard certification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European LEVEL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Green Public Procurement label (GPP)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO 14067:2018 Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO 14021:2021 Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



14 Management systems			
	We have it	We are considering it	We don't know - We are not interested - N/A
ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO 14006:2020 Environmental management systems — Guidelines for incorporating ecodesign	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO 14064-1:2019 Greenhouse gases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO 50001:2018 Energy management systems - Requirements with guidance for use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO/FDIS 59020 Circular economy - Measuring and assessing circularity performance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15 Wood products chain of custody			
	We have it	We are considering it	We don't know - We are not interested - N/A
PEFC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FSC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ISO 38200:2018 Chain of custody of wood and wood-based products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16 LCA BASED Studies/certifications			
	We have it at least for some products	We are considering it	We don't know - We are not interested - N/A
LCA (ISO 14040:2021 & ISO 14044:2021 Environmental management - Life cycle assessment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EPD (ISO 14025:2010 Environmental labels and declarations - Type III environmental declarations)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PEF (Product Environmental Footprint)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17 Does your company offer any products suitable for...?			
	We have it	We are considering it	We don't know - We are not interested - N/A
LEED Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BREEAM Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WELL Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other environmental protocols for buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CIRCULARECONOMY IN THE COMPANY

In this section, it is required to examine the implementation of the circular economy within the company, focusing on aspects related to eco-design and business models.

In column, there are five sentences describing different levels of maturity regarding the application of the circular economy. These levels are sorted in increasing order of maturity.

For each row labelled with the recent past (around 2021), the present (2024), and the near future (2027), select the most appropriate maturity level from the five options provided. Each row should have only one answer entered, corresponding to the respective year.

\* 18 Circular design principles

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not have a written procedure to implement eco-design criteria.	The organisation applies some eco-design criteria to a limited range of products.	The organisation has integrated eco-design criteria into its production but does not communicate them.	The organisation implements policies and strategies to integrate eco-design principles and communicates this as a competitive advantage.	The organisation implements policies and strategies to integrate eco-design principles, evaluates the associated environmental benefits and communicates this as a competitive advantage.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 19 After sale services: spare parts, repair and refurbishment

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not offer after-sales services.	The organisation provides the possibility of buying spare parts to prolong the life of some of its products.	The organisation offers the possibility of buying spare parts to prolong the life of all or most of its products.	The organisation offers after sale services including refurbishing service for some products.	After sale services, including refurbishing, are a substantial part of the company main business and are actively communicated.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 20 Rental services

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not offer a rental service for his products and has never approached the topic.	The organisation has considered the rental model but implementation is not foreseen in a near future.	The organisation is currently working on the implementation of a rental service for some of its products.	The organisation already offers the possibility to rent some of his products.	Renting/leasing is the main business model of the company.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 21 Take back services

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not offer a take back service for his products and has never approached the topic	The organisation has approached the possibility of taking back his products but it's not feasible	The organisation is currently working on the implementation of a take back service for some of its products	The organisation offers the possibility to take back some of his products when a new product is purchased	The organisation takes back some of his products that can sometimes being marketed again
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

In this section, we examine the traceability of products, the carbon footprint, the Life Cycle Assessment, the management of hazardous substances and ecological labels.

In column, there are five sentences describing different levels of maturity regarding the application of the circular economy. These levels are sorted in increasing order of maturity.

For each row labelled with the recent past (around 2021), the present (2024), and the near future (2027), select the most appropriate maturity level from the five options provided. Each row should have only one answer entered, corresponding to the respective year.

\* 22 Product traceability

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation is not aware of the digital product passport.	The organisation is aware of the topic but has not taken any specific action.	The organisation is aware of the topic and plans to take some preparatory actions .	The organisation actively follows the topic and started collecting data from suppliers in a systematic way in anticipation of the digital product passport.	The organisation has defined, collects and communicates information it considers relevant for the implementation of the digital passport along the value chain.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 23 Carbon Footprint for products

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not know the emissions associated with its products.	The organisation knows the main source of the emissions associated with its products, but does not systematically quantify them.	The organisation systematically quantifies the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions associated with its products, although the scope of the calculation does not cover the full life cycle of the products.	The organisation systematically quantifies the GHG emissions associated with its products and the scope of the calculation covers the full life cycle of the products.	The organisation has an assessment system certified by a third party (e.g. ISO 14067) and defines plans to reduce these emissions.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 24 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation has identified the significant environmental aspects of the product, but does not conduct detailed LCA studies.	The organisation conducts some LCA studies for some of its products, but does not communicate the results.	The organisation conducts LCA studies for some of its products, and communicate the results.	The organisation conducts LCA studies for some of its products and based on the results implements improvements in the design phase in a systematic way (e.g. comparison of alternatives, selection of materials, etc.), and communicate the results.	The organisation conducts LCA studies for most/all of its products, based on the results implements improvements in the design phase in a systematic way (e.g. comparison of alternatives, material selection, etc.), and communicates the results
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 25 Hazardous substances

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation has identified hazardous substances used in its production cycle, but has not defined substitution strategies.	The organisation has identified alternatives without hazardous substances in its production cycle and in the products it purchases, but has not defined a prioritised substitution policy.	The organisation applies a purchasing policy and strategies with specific criteria concerning hazardous substances.	The organisation applies a purchasing policy and strategies with specific criteria concerning hazardous substances and has reduction targets.	The organisation implements a policy and strategies for a complete substitution of the most critical substances.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 26 Eco Labels

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation is not aware of the environmental criteria required by the relevant eco-labels for its products or materials.	The organisation is aware of the environmental criteria required by the relevant eco-labels for its products or materials, but does not comply with them.	The organisation has a product or material that meets most of the relevant eco-labels criteria, but does not apply for any label.	Some of the organisation's products or materials are eco-labelled and are actively communicated.	The organisation's most representative products or materials are ecolabelled and are actively communicated.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

In this section, the questions concern the development of professional training programs on sustainability, relations with stakeholders, the sustainability report and the monitoring of emissions of GHG.

In column, there are five sentences describing different levels of maturity regarding the application of the circular economy. These levels are sorted in increasing order of maturity.

For each row labelled with the recent past (around 2021), the present (2024), and the near future (2027), select the most appropriate maturity level from the five options provided. Each row should have only one answer entered, corresponding to the respective year.

\* 27 Policies and practices related to professional development in the field of sustainability

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not offer sustainability training for workers.	The organisation offers sustainability training without a specific planning.	The organisation has a sustainability training program for some specific workers.	The organisation has a sustainability training program for most workers.	The organisation has a sustainability training program for workers and stakeholders.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 28 Monitoring and evaluating workers satisfaction and involvement

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not conduct workers satisfaction exercises.	The organisation conducts workers satisfaction exercises but not on a regular basis.	The organisation conducts regular workers satisfaction exercises and plans specific actions according to the results.	The organisation conducts regular workers satisfaction exercises, compares the results with industry benchmarks and plans specific actions according to the results.	The organisation conducts regular workers satisfaction exercises, compares the results with industry benchmarks and communicate the results in order to attract talents.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 29 Selection of suppliers with environmental criteria

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation has no green purchasing criteria.	The organisation adopts a green purchasing policy for some of its products and suppliers.	The organisation adopts a green purchasing policy for most of its products and suppliers.	The organisation adopts a systematic methodology for evaluating its suppliers.	The organisation has a green purchasing strategy and communicates the environmental, economic and social objectives and benefits associated with it.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 30 Customer relationship management

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not monitor the level of customer satisfaction.	The organisation monitors the level of customer satisfaction occasionally.	The organisation monitors the level of customer satisfaction on a regular basis.	The organisation has a procedure to feed the product design process with feedback from customers.	The organisation involves customers in activities to improve its products and services according to customer satisfaction results.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 31 Sustainability reporting

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not collect data in a structured way on its sustainable performance.	The organisation periodically collects data but does not communicate it externally.	The organisation collects data and communicates it occasionally but not in a structured way.	The organisation publishes its sustainability report (e.g. through GRI framework).	The organisation publishes its sustainability report that is verified by a third party and/or integrated with the financial report.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 32 Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation does not currently monitor emissions.	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions (Scope 1 and 2) but has not set reduction targets.	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific reduction targets based on previous performance (e.g. 5% reduction in GHGs compared to base year).	The organisation regularly monitors and records emissions and has set specific science-based targets necessary to meet global targets to address climate change.	The organisation has achieved net zero emissions/ The organisation also monitors Scope 3 emissions.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SUSTAINABILITY LEGISLATION AWARENESS

In this section, it is required to assess the level of familiarity with European industry legislation, focusing mainly on ESPR, Taxonomy and CEN/TC 207. As some standards are still being developed, the level of knowledge may not be high at present.

In column, there are five sentences describing different levels of maturity regarding the application of the circular economy. These levels are sorted in increasing order of maturity.

For each row labelled with the recent past (around 2021), the present (2024), and the near future (2027), select the most appropriate maturity level from the five options provided. Each row should have only one answer entered, corresponding to the respective year.

### \* 33 Knowledge of "Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)"

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation is not specifically aware of the effects of the ESPR legislation on its work.	The organisation is becoming aware of the ESPR framework but has not yet implemented any action.	The organisation is aware of the ESPR framework and is implementing strategies in accordance with the ESPR principles.	The organisation has implemented all of the ESPR requirements and is using them to distinguish/position itself in the marketplace.	The organisation is aligned with the ESPR requirements and monitors the legislative process to adjust for future requirements in advance.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### \* 34 Knowledge of Taxonomy EU for Sustainable Activities - Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2486: Eco-Sustainability Criteria for Economic Activities in the European Union

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation has no specific knowledge of the European Taxonomy for sustainability.	The organisation is becoming aware of the legislation, but has not yet studied the appropriate way to apply the European taxonomy to its activities.	The organisation has calculated its level of taxonomy eligible activities.	The organisation has calculated its level of alignment with the European taxonomy.	The organisation calculated its level and has a strategy for improving it.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### \* 35 Knowledge of CEN/TC 207 "Furniture" work on standards for circular economy

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION PER ROW

	The organisation applies the national or European (EN) standards required by law or by its customers.	The organisation integrates EN standards into its development process but is not aware of the ongoing work related to the new circular economy standards for furniture (e.g. EN 17902 on dis-/re-assembly).	The organisation integrates EN standards into its development process and knows about CEN/TC 207 work on Circular Economy related standards for furniture (e.g. EN 17902) but has not yet implemented them.	The organization is participating (including indirectly, through its trade association or national mirror committee) in the development of the Circular Economy-related standards and has tested their application to its products.	The organisation consider compliance with the Circular Economy-related standards for furniture as a design rule.
Past (2021)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Today (2024)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future (2027)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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