



Textiles: An area in change in the EU and in Sweden

Lars Fogh Mortensen, European Environment Agency

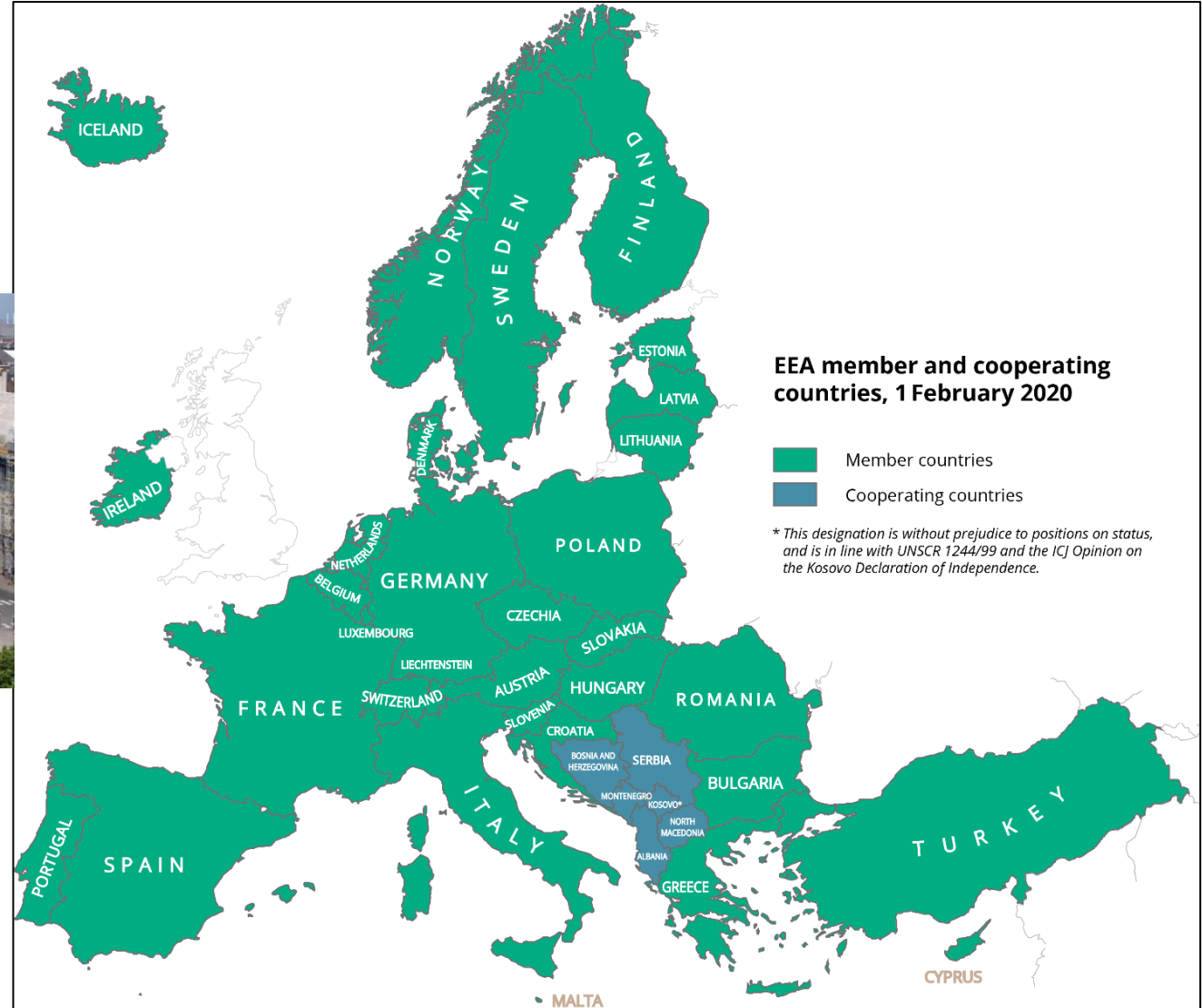
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Chemicals Textile Dialogue, 7 November 2023

The European Environment Agency

EU mandate to monitor Europe's environment and climate



I am responsible for our work with textiles in a circular economy



1. **Amounts**

2. Problems

3. Solutions

High volumes of textiles in the EU

Average times clothes used:
Seven to eight times
(Remy et al., 2016)

Probably less times in 2023!

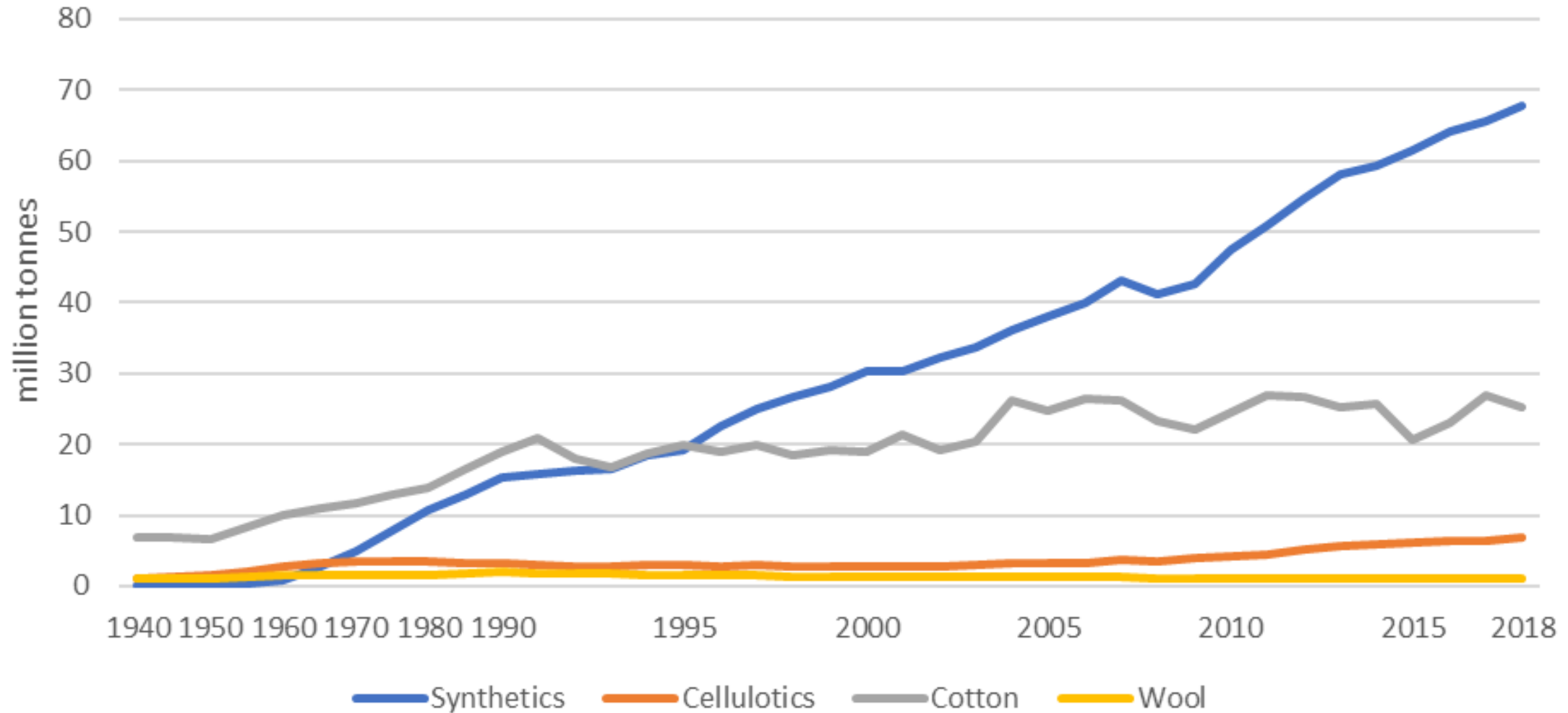


Annual consumption of 14.8 kg per person in the EU (2020)

Source: [Textiles and the environment: the role of design in Europe's circular economy](#) — European Environment Agency (europa.eu)

Note: Shoes also made of non-textiles

Global fibre demand



1. Amounts

2. **Problems**

3. Solutions

Fourth highest pressures on average as shown by EEA



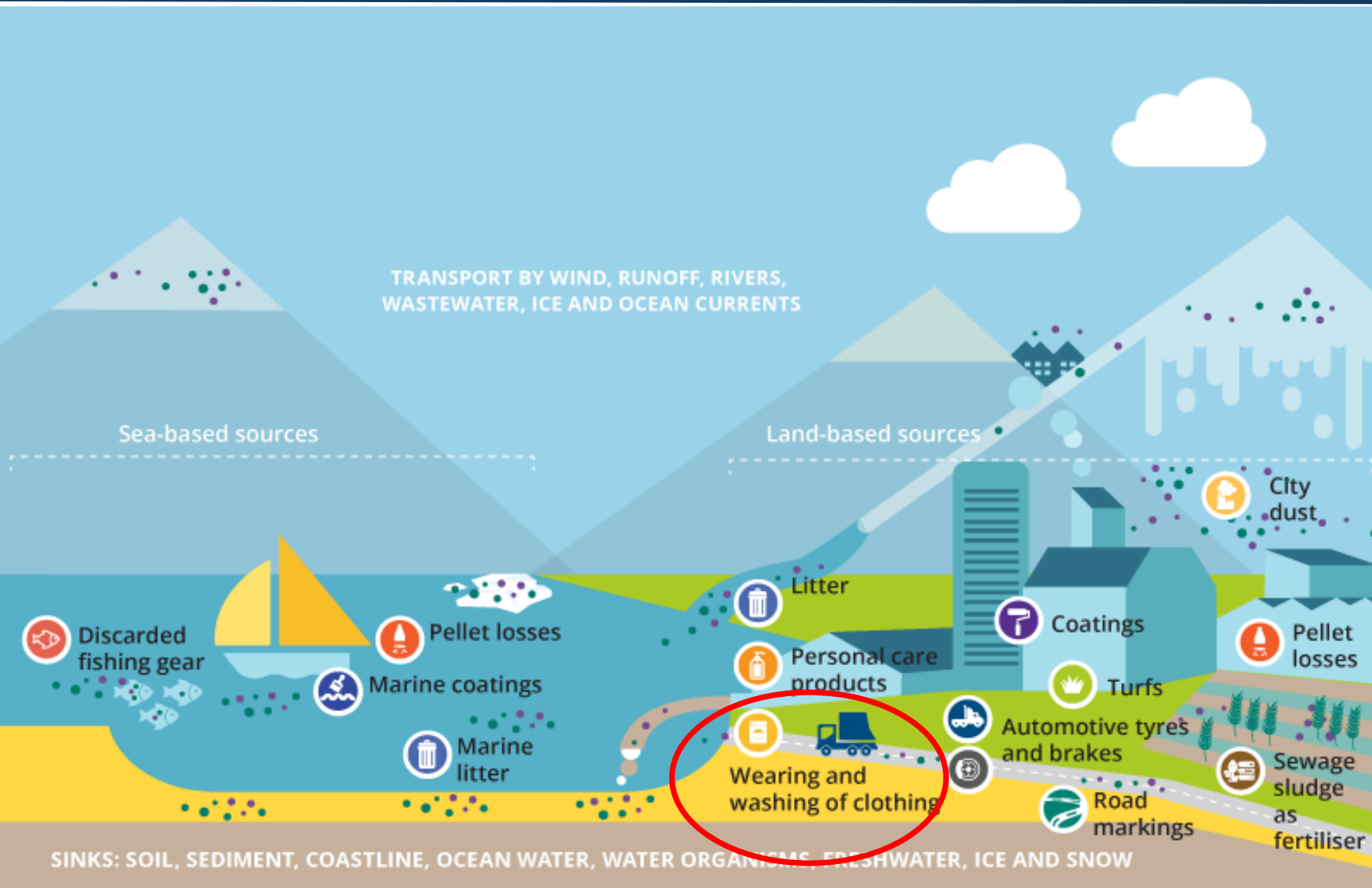
European consumption of textiles has the **fourth highest impact** on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.



It is one of the **top three pressures on water and land use**, and the **top five in terms of raw material use and greenhouse gas emissions**.

Source: [Textiles and the environment: the role of design in Europe's circular economy — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2022/04/textiles-and-the-environment)

Microplastics from textiles



About 8% of European microplastics released to oceans are from synthetic textiles — globally, this figure is estimated at 16-35%

Source: [Microplastics from textiles: towards a circular economy for textiles in Europe — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

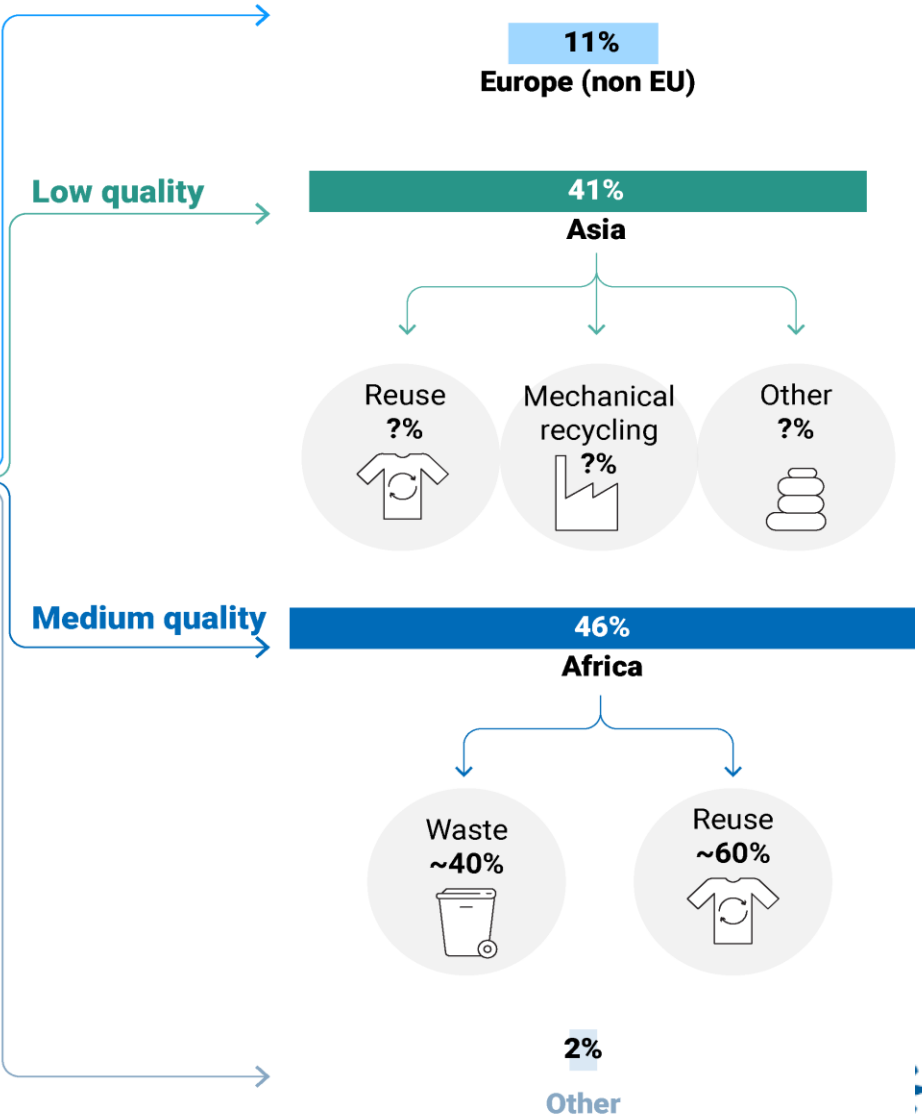
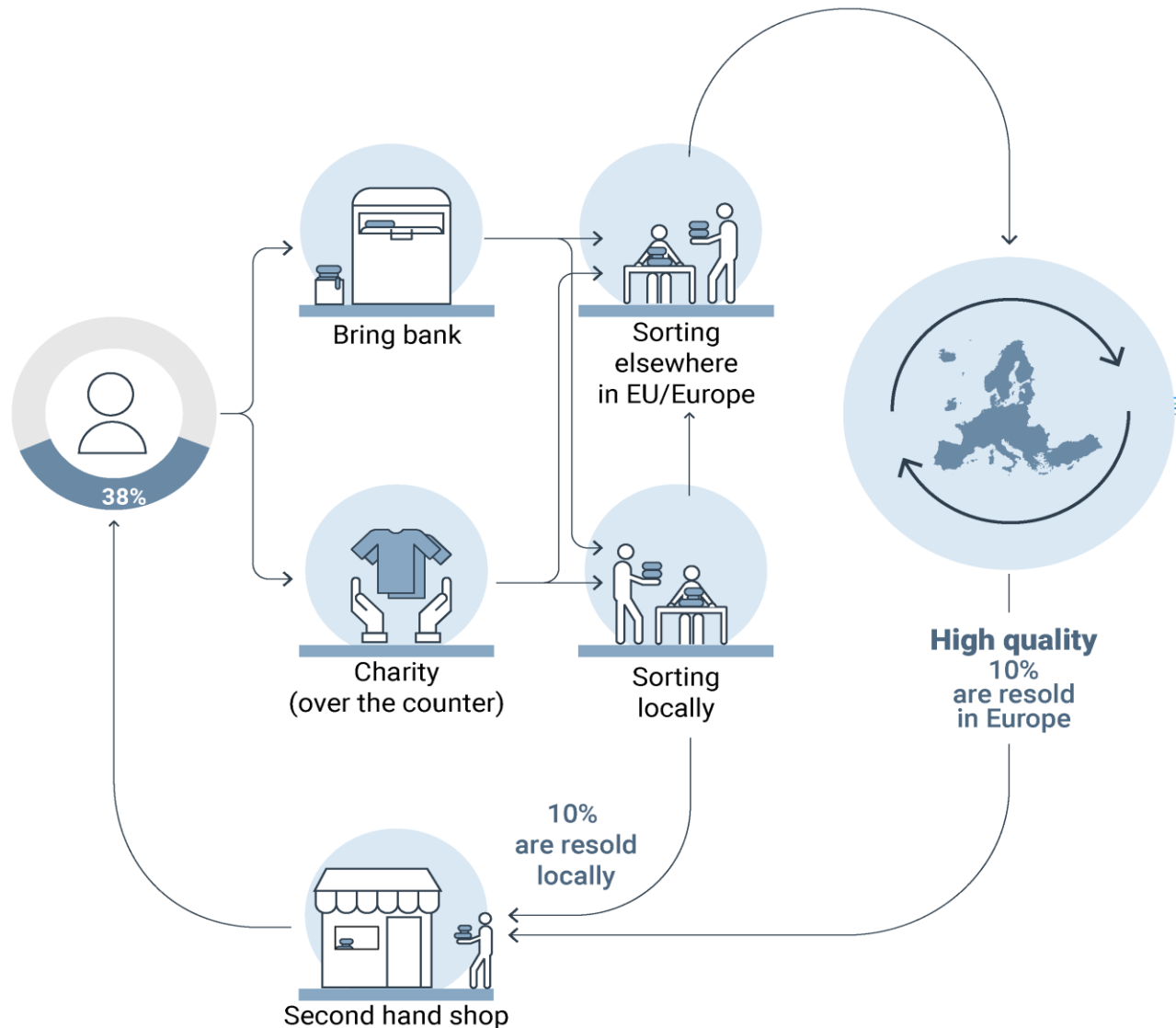


EU exports of used textiles flows

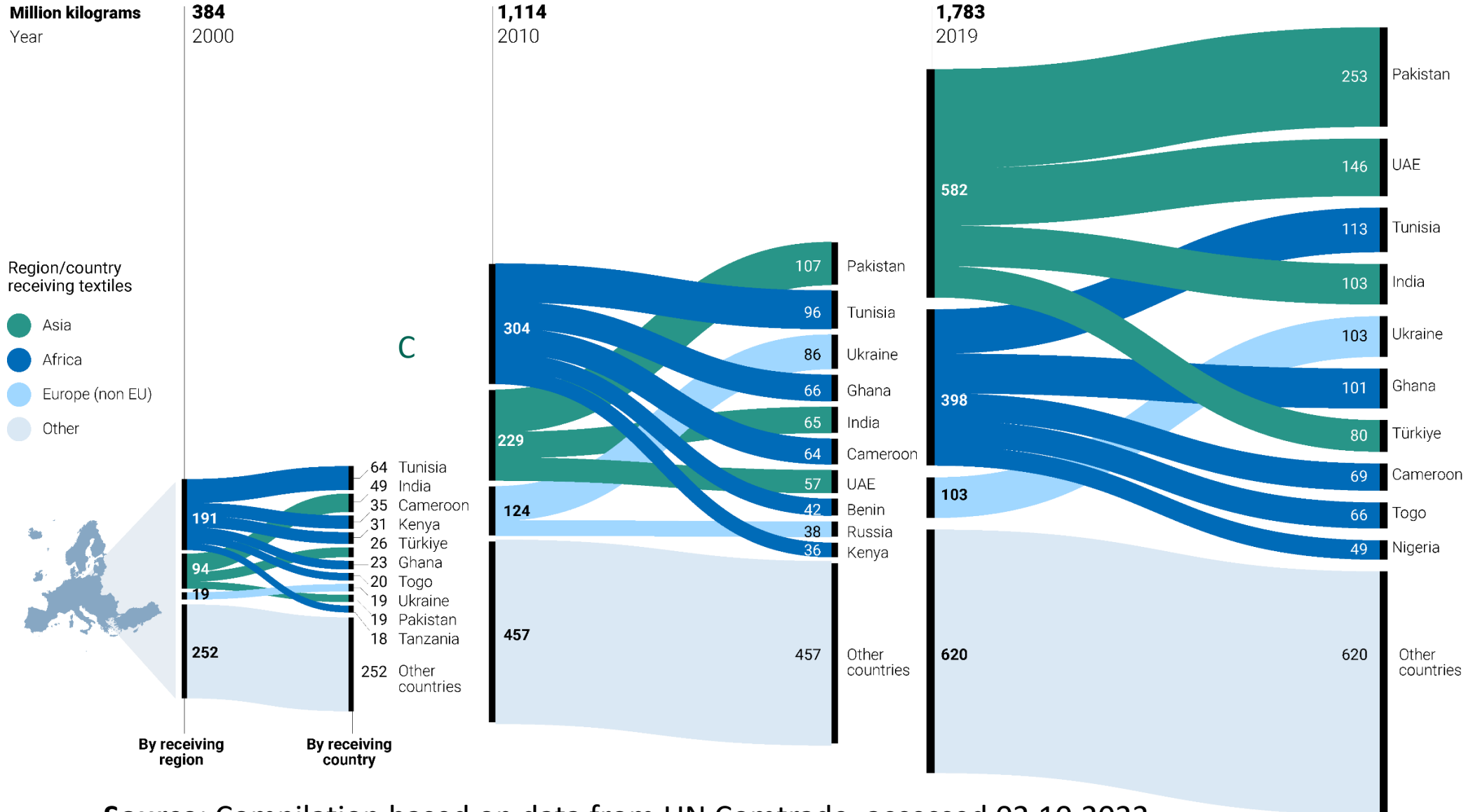
What happens to used textiles from the EU

EU used textile exports

38% of textiles are eventually collected separately for reuse or recycling



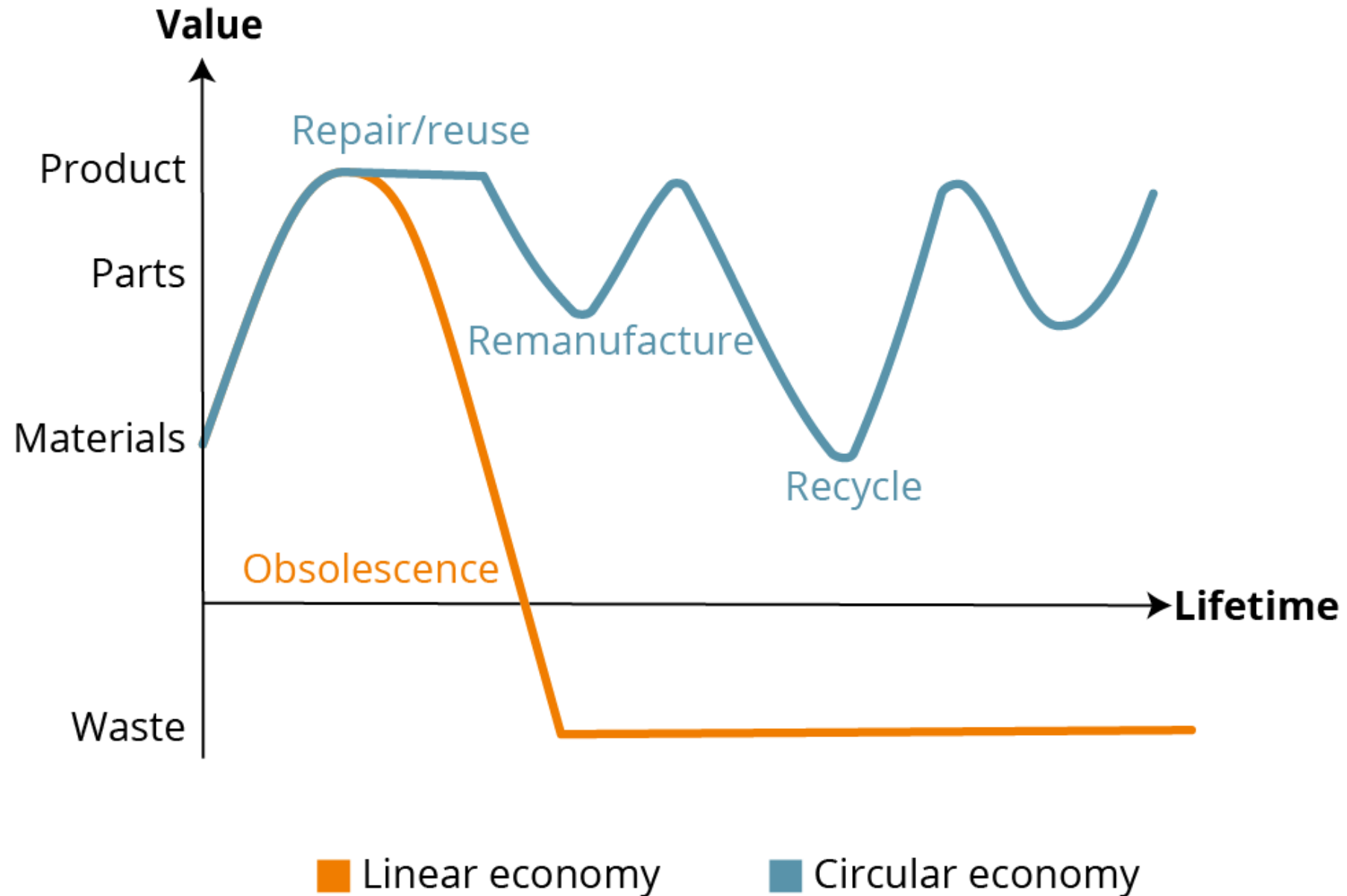
EU exports of used textiles, 2000, 2010, 2019



Source: Compilation based on data from UN Comtrade, accessed 02.10.2022

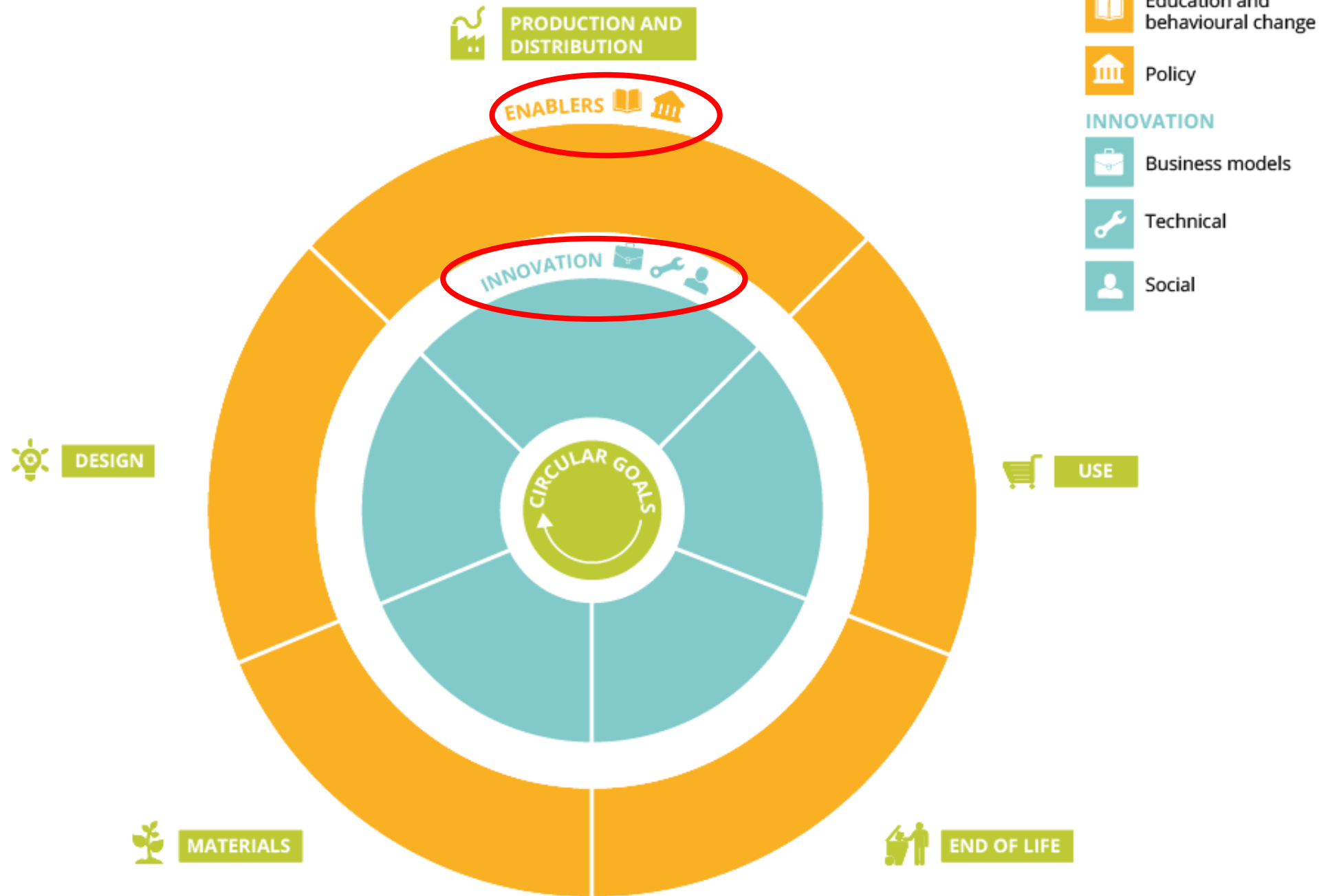
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1. Amounts
 2. Problems
 3. **Solutions**

Circular economy: Keep the value in the system

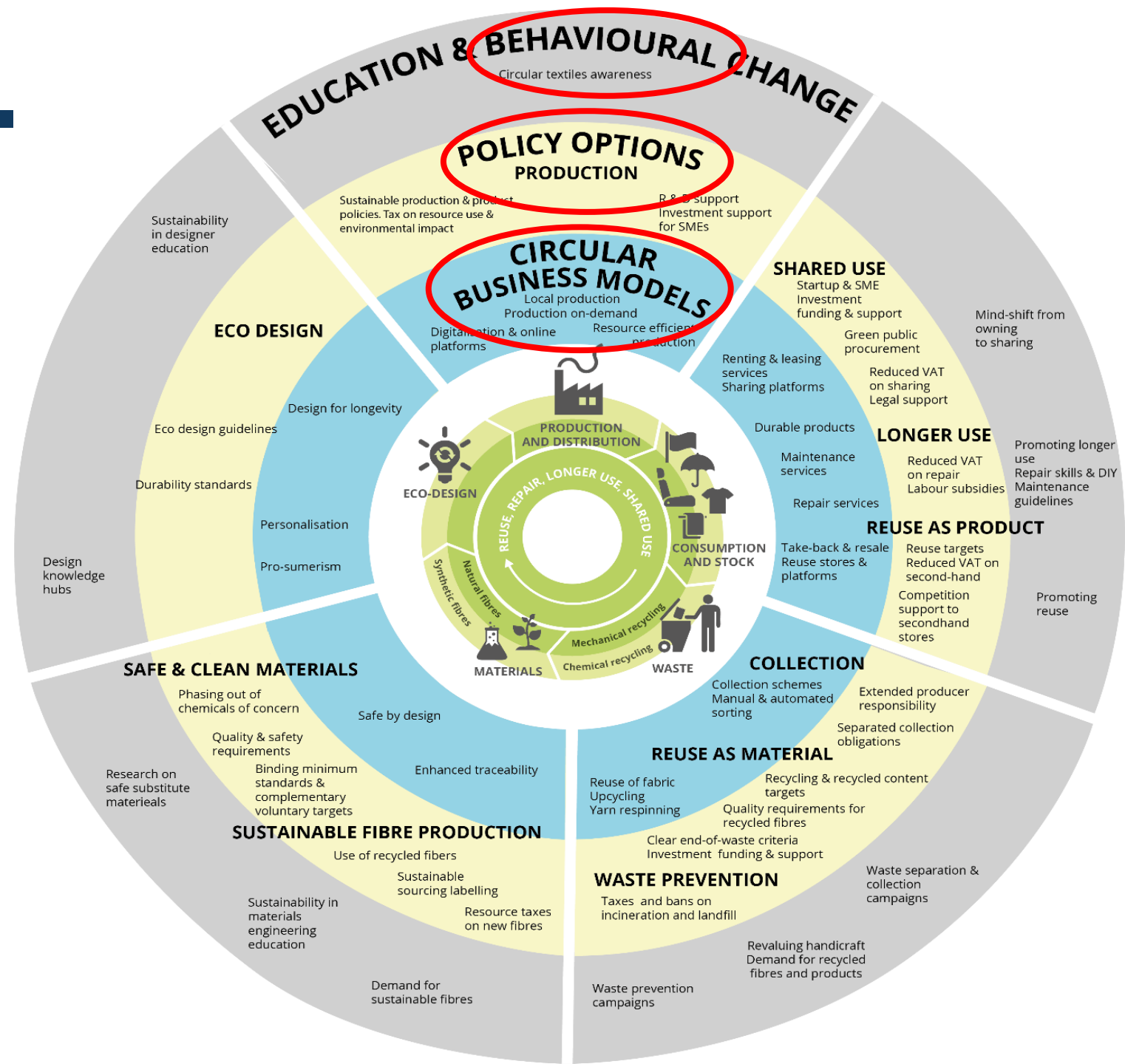


EEA Framework for circular business models

[A framework for enabling circular business models in Europe — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)



EEA “menu” of solutions



<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/textiles-in-europes-circular-economy>

EU Strategy on Sustainable and Circular Textiles (2022)



Propose mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility for textiles with eco-modulation of fees**



Address the **unintentional release of microplastics** from synthetic textiles



Restrict the **export of textile waste** and promote sustainable textiles globally



Incentivise **circular business models**, including reuse and repair sectors



Encourage companies and Member States to **support the objectives** of the Strategy



Set **design requirements for textiles** to make them last longer, easier to repair and recycle, as well as requirements on minimum recycled content



Introduce clearer information and a **Digital Product Passport**



Tackle greenwashing to empower consumers and raise awareness about sustainable fashion



Reverse **overproduction and overconsumption**, and **discourage** the destruction of unsold or returned textiles





Thank you

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European Environment Agency

