

Textiles in Europe's circular economy

Flanders event on circular textiles
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(online contribution)

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The European Environment Agency

EU institution with the mandate to monitor Europe's environment and climate



Our team analyse circular economy in Europe

Points



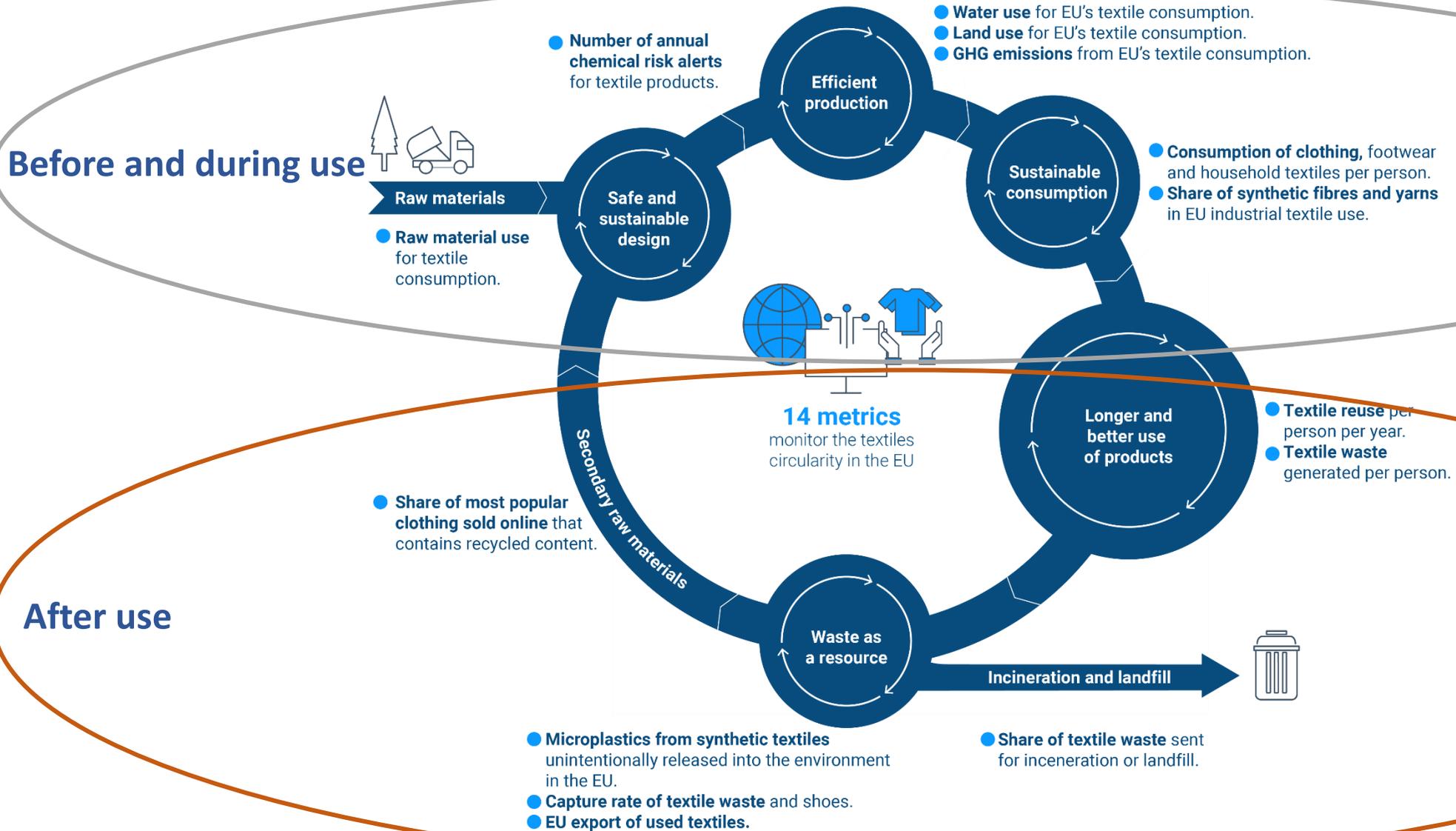
1 14 EEA metrics to measure textile circularity in Europe

2 The EU textiles strategy: 4 years on

3 The future of EU textiles policies and the EEA metrics



14 metrics to measure circularity of textiles



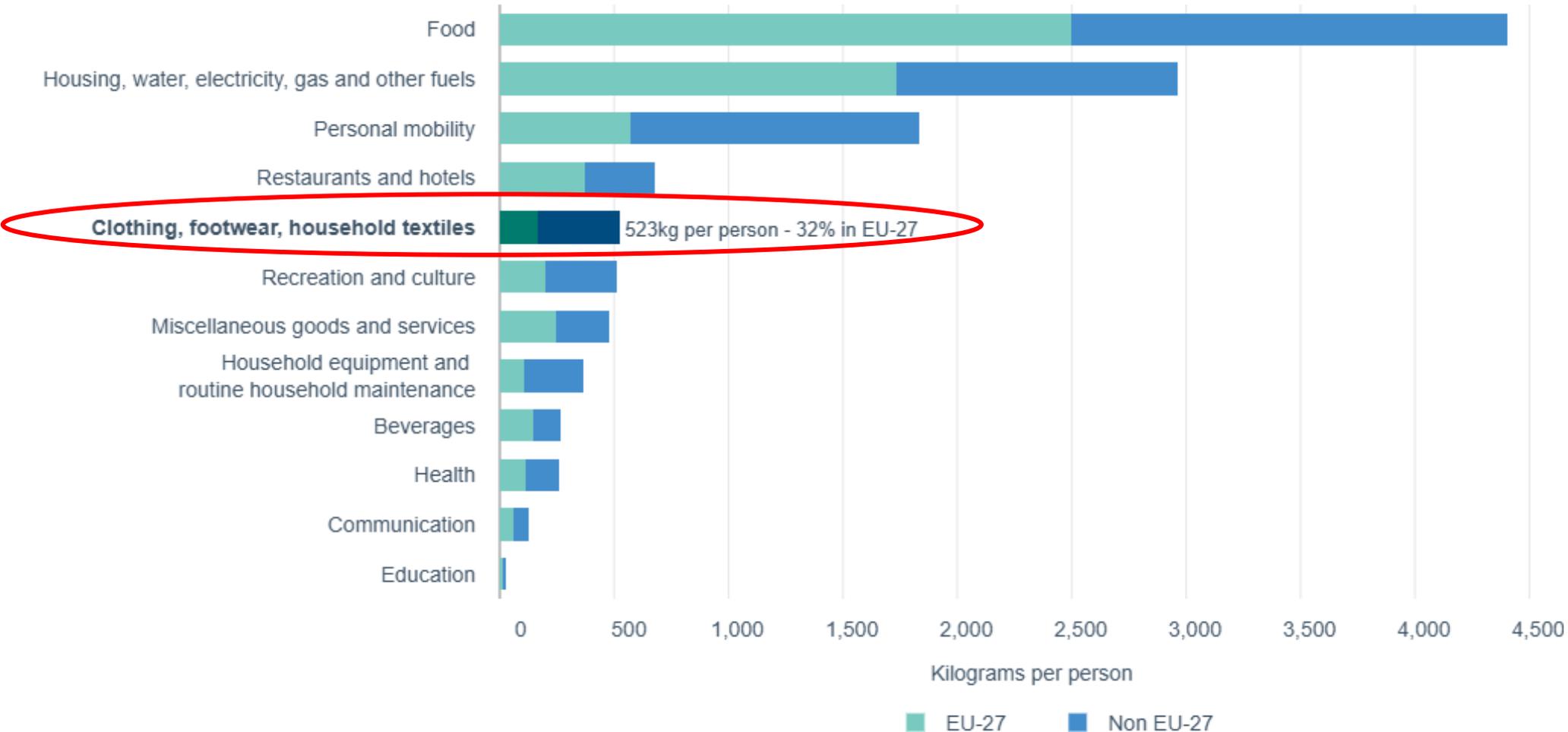
EU consumption of textiles

19 kg per person per year on average (2022)



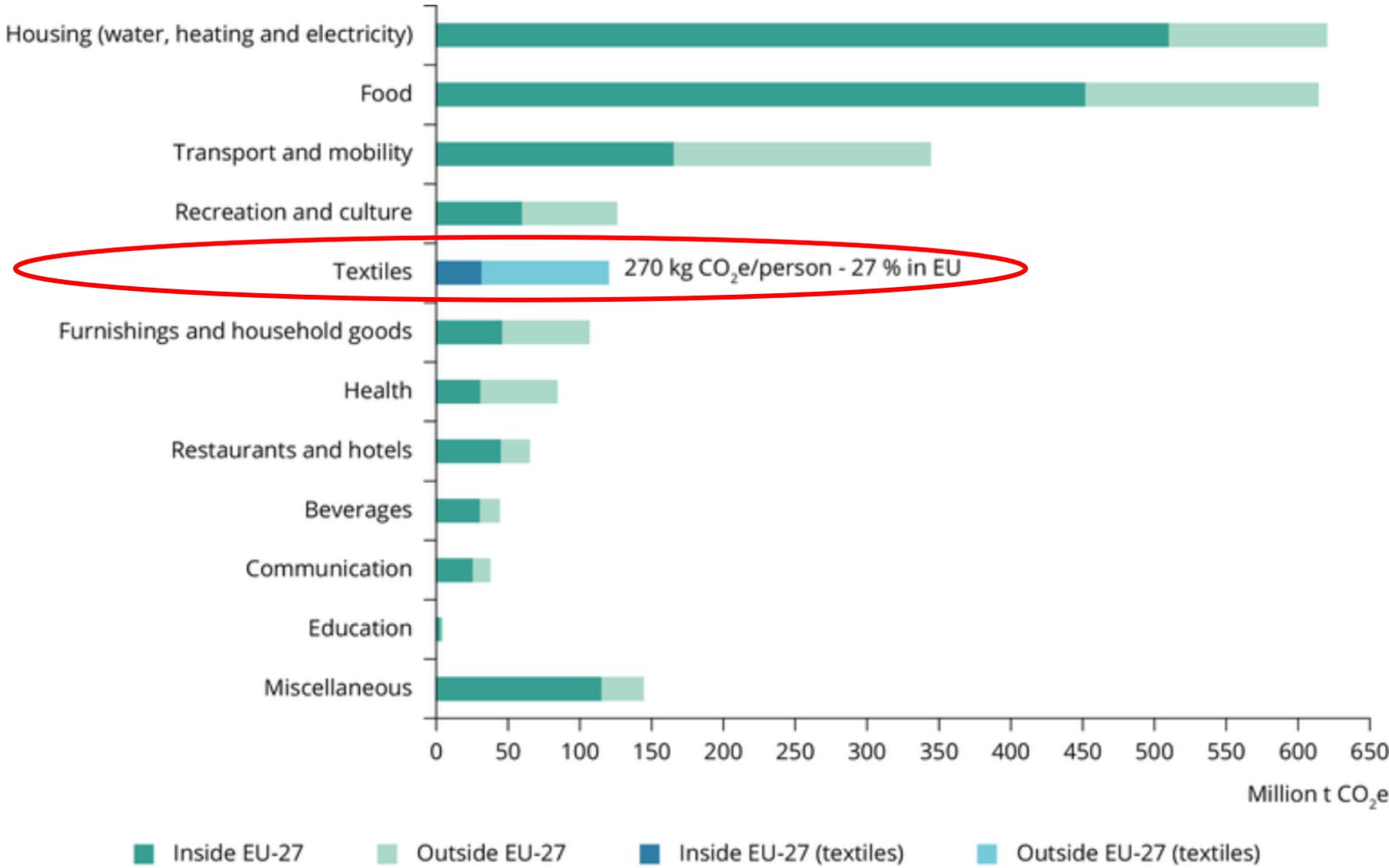
Source: EEA 2025, Circularity of the EU textiles value chain in numbers

Raw material in the EU-27 consumption supply chain



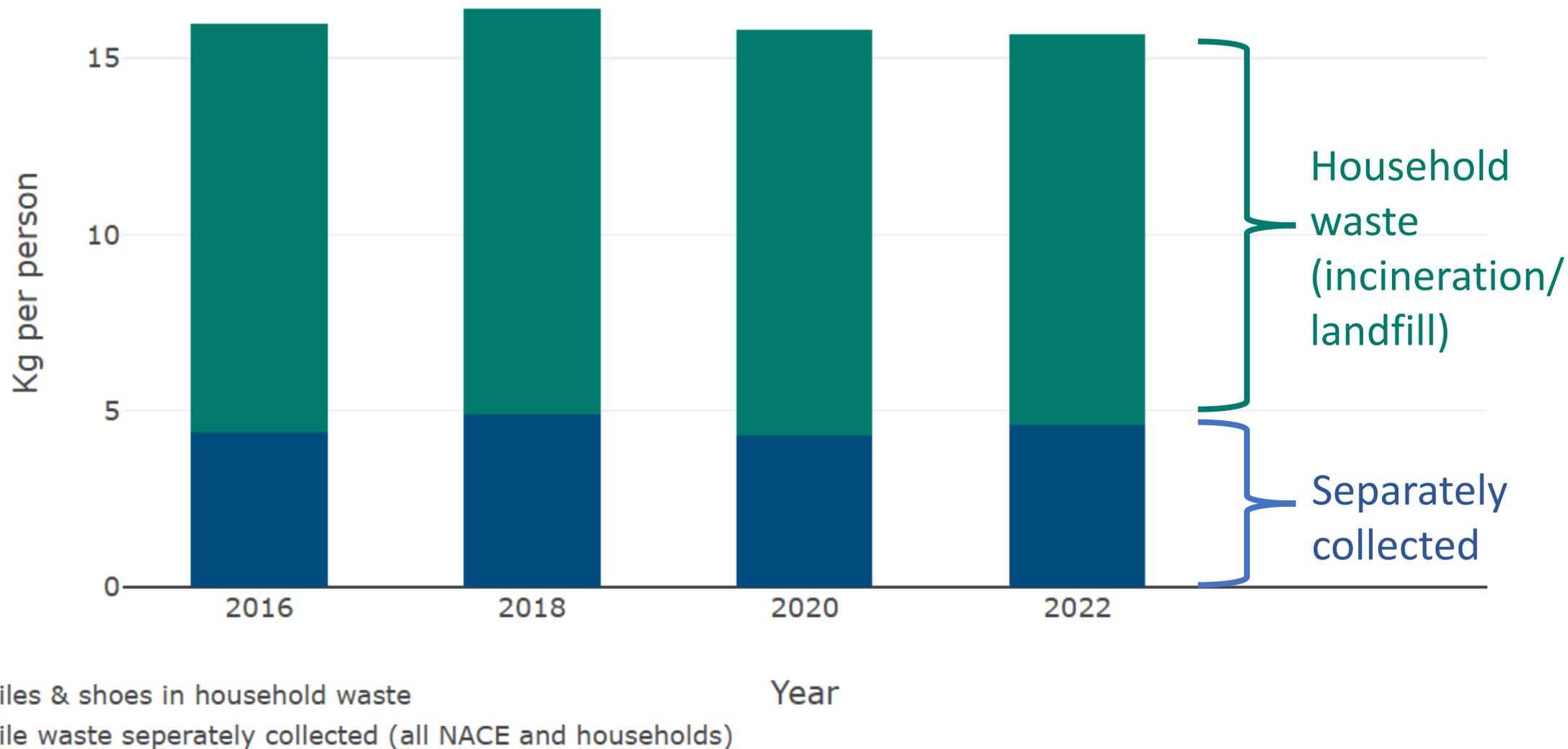
Source: EEA 2025, Circularity of the EU textiles value chain in numbers

GHG emissions in the EU-27 consumption supply chain

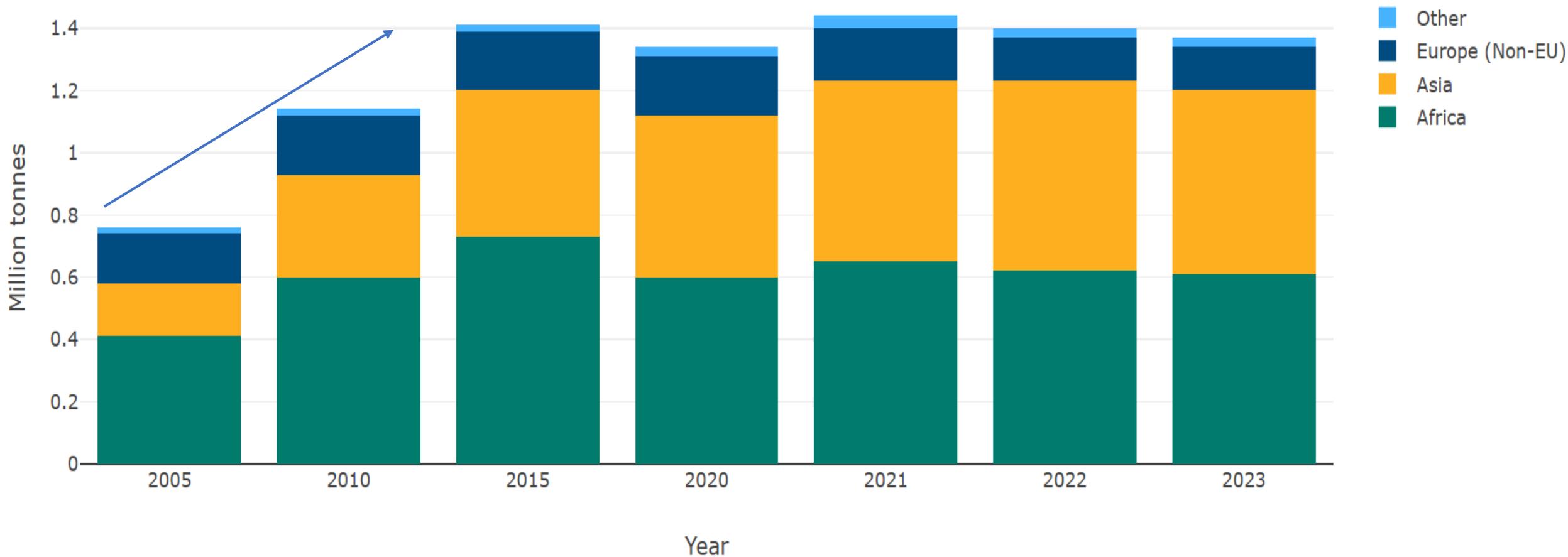


Source: EEA 2025, Circularity of the EU textiles value chain in numbers

EU textiles waste: 16 kg per person per years



EU exports of used textiles



Points



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EU Strategy on Circular and Sustainable Textiles (2022)



All textile products placed on the EU market are:

- durable, repairable and recyclable
- to a great extent made of recycled fibres
- free of hazardous substances
- produced respecting social rights



"Fast fashion is out of fashion" - consumers benefit longer from **high quality textiles**



Profitable **re-use and repair services** are widely available



In a **competitive, resilient and innovative textile sector** producers take responsibility for their products along the value chain



Circular rather than throw-away clothes have become the norm, with sufficient capacities for recycling and minimal incineration and landfilling



The EU textiles strategy: 4 years on

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)



- Jan 2026, 3rd milestone technical report on textiles (EU Joint Research Centre)
- Environmental and carbon footprint
- Repairability, durability, recyclability and recycled content targets
- Large companies **prohibited from destroying unsold textiles** from July 2026, **medium-sized firms from 2030** (EEA 2024: between 4% and 9% of unsold textiles across Europe are destroyed each year before being worn)

The EU textiles strategy: 4 years on

Waste Shipments Regulation

- Limits the exports of textiles waste (from May 2026)
- Prior notification requirements for exports of used textiles

Waste Framework Directive

- All Member States are required to establish their own EPR based on EU rules
- Producers will pay a fee for each product they place on the market
- All separately collected textiles will be considered as waste



Points

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EU policies : New priorities

Competitiveness Compass

-
January 2025

Clean Industrial Deal

-
February 2025

Reporting Omnibus Package

-
February 2025

Many other initiatives

-
2026-2029

Legislation that could impact the textile industry (in line with ESPR):

- Chemicals Industry Package
- EU Bioeconomy Strategy
- Advanced Materials Act
- Circular Economy Act
- Digital Fairness Act



2026 updates and review of Circular Metrics Lab on Textiles

Updates

- All 14 metrics expected to be updates numbers shown above)

Possible new metrics

- Exploring adding new metrics, for example on:
- Air emissions from the value chain
- Which countries receive EU exports of used textiles
- What happens to textiles waste when not exported

Timing

- Publication in March – May 2026

THANK YOU

Further information:

- [Circularity of the EU textiles value chain in numbers | European Environment Agency's home page](#)
- [Textiles | Circularity Metrics Lab](#)
- <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-report-2025-6-textiles-and-the-environment-2013-the-role-of-digital-technologies-in-europe2019s-circular-economy>
- <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-report-2025-7-measuring-europe2019s-textiles-circularity-2013-through-the-lenses-of-the-eea-circularity-metrics-lab>



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