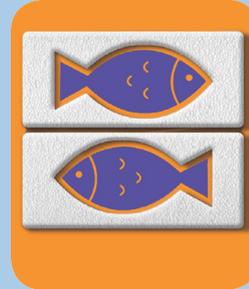


CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CASE STUDY RECYCLING#4

EPS SURE PROJECT: UPCYCLING FISHBOXES.

- Fish boxes represent 50% of EPS packaging in Spain, which is similar to other European countries with a large fishing industry.
- There are opportunities to improve collection, pre-treatment and recycling of EPS fishboxes to produce a high value end product suitable for food use.
- A cross-industry pilot project, with investment of 1.3 million, is running from 2017 -2019 to develop a solution to close the loop.



DESCRIPTION

Major players in the EPS industry and its supply chain wanted to improve recycling in Spain, in particular for fish boxes. A cross-industry initiative was launched in 2017, with the support of the European Union. Focus is on the following four areas of the value chain, to identify bottlenecks and solutions as part of a pilot project to be transferred to other markets.

1. **Organisation:** Fish boxes are distributed across a wide variety of wholesale and retail outlets. Current recovery options need to be analysed. The pilot project involves businesses in the retail sector to ensure that proposals are viable.
2. **Collection / Pre-treatment:** The pilot will identify the bottlenecks of the current system of collection and pre-treatment in each centre and look at ways to improve the process.
3. **Recycling:** The project is working with recycling partners to find innovative and efficient ways of upcycling used EPS fishboxes for reuse as food packaging.
4. **Final market:** Trials are being conducted with the relevant bodies according to EPSA protocols for food contact and safety. The market for high-value recycled material for food packaging has been identified and is financially viable.

CONTRIBUTION TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EPS-SURE is a significant industry initiative funded by cross-industry partners to turn waste into new resources and thus close the loop in terms of EPS recycling. The investment by the industry and the European Union over 30 months totals 1.3 million. It proves the commitment of the industry and its contribution to EU plastics packaging recycling targets and 0% plastic to landfill. In addition, it demonstrates partnership expertise in the EPS/PS value chain. Once the pilot is successfully launched, and the business case has been proven, it can be replicated in other European countries.

PARTNERS

ANAPE, Coexpan, Total, El Corte Ingles, Cicoplast

“We strongly believe it is possible to recycle more EPS, if we implement some changes in the collection, pre-treatment and recycling schemes.”

Alberto Caldeiro, Cicoplast