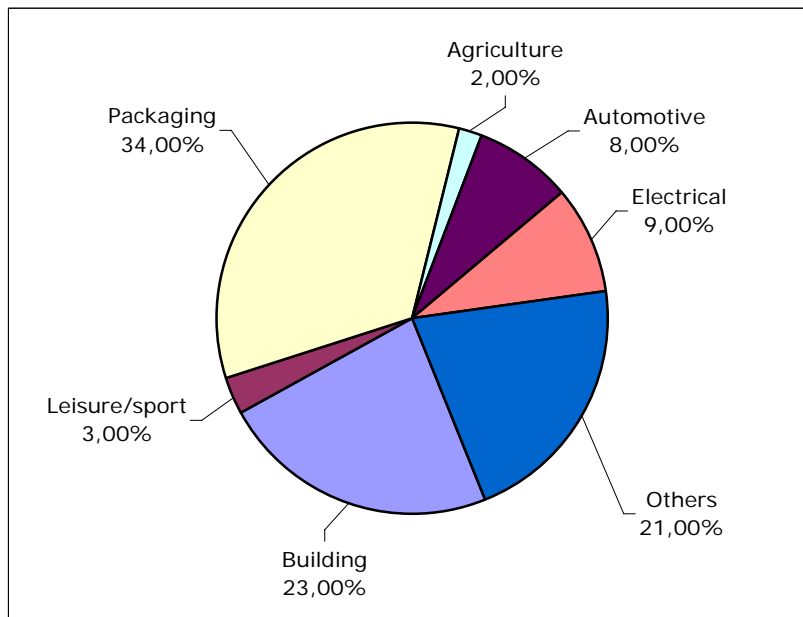


# Sustainable professionalisation

## The plastics processing industry

### Plastic Processing in Europe

Plastics are present every days in our life. The principal sectors of plastics processing industry are :



There are approximately 27,400 companies in the European Union that specialise in processing plastics. They employ about one million people, and have sales of around Euro 95 billion. This figure does not represent all the plastics processing activity. A large number of enterprises (with employees and sales) are integrated into other industries, such as automotive, electrical/electronic, building and toys and games, and are classified as part of these industries. Compared with the USA and Japan, Western Europe appears the first producer of plastics with a larger number of smaller companies involved in plastics processing.

### Europe - United States - Japan

	No. of companies	Employees	Sales (mio €)
European Union (15 countries)	27,440	936,510	92,727
Total Europe	29,256	1,000,706	97,908
United States	13,068	610,900	63,332
Japan	19,694	447,000	86,648

## The Key Figures of the European Plastics Industry

	Raw materials (APME)	Processing (EuPC)	Machinery (EUROMAP)
Workforce Employees	> 66,000	> 1,000,000	55,000
Turnover in mio €	>29,000	>100,000	>6,700
Investment in mio €	3,000	6,600	140
R & D in mio €	700	1,400	280

### European Plastic Converters - EuPC

European Plastic Converters - EuPC is the professional representative body of plastics converters within Europe whose activity embraces all sectors of the plastics converting industry. Its membership now totals more than 40 plastics processing associations within Europe and this figure is increasing as European legislation and policy assume a greater importance and the industry comes to recognise the importance of belonging to a European association which can voice its opinions.

EuPC represents over 30,000 predominantly medium-sized plastics processing operations within Europe employing over 1 million persons. The combined processing capacity of EuPC's members amounts to more than 30 million tons of plastics per year, representing a turnover of approximately € 100 billion.

EuPC regroups the principal national plastics Processing associations : NORWAY The Norwegian Plastics Industry Federation, SWEDEN Plast-och Kemibranschern - the Plastics and Chemicals Federation, FINLAND FIPIF, the Finnish Plastics Industries Federation, GERMANY GKV - Gesamtverband kunststoff - verarbeitende Industrie e.V., DENMARK The Danish Plastics Federation, The NETHERLANDS Federatie NRK, BELGIUM Agoria – Multisector federation for the technology industry, UNITED KINGDOM BPF - The British Plastics Federation, PORTUGAL APIP - the Portuguese Plastic Industry Association, SPAIN ANAIP - Confederación Española de Empresarios de Plásticos, FRANCE Fédération de la Plasturgie French Federation of Plastics Converters, ITALY Unionplast -Unione Nazionale Industrie Trasformatrici Materie Plastiche, AUSTRIA FCIO - Fachverband der Chemischen Industrie Österreich, SWITZERLAND Kunststoff Verband Schweiz - The Swiss Plastics Association, HUNGARY AHPI - The Association of the Hungarian Plastics Industry. EuPC regroups also some observers and associated members : Association of Plastics Industries of Czech Republic, CPPA The Cyprus Plastics Processors Association Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Association of Hellenic Plastics Industries, IBEC Irish Business and Employers Confederation, Plastics Industries Association Confederation House, ASPAPLAST The Plastic Processor Employers Association.

### Education and training in the plastics processing industry

The first European conference on education and training in the plastics processing industry was organised by EuPC during the French " Assises de la Plasturgie " on 15-16<sup>th</sup> October 2002 in Paris. Harmonised education and training programmes for the plastics converters industry in Europe were discussed. A recent survey shows that European certification is an important preoccupation. All plastics industries meet difficulties in recruitment and they appreciate the constitution of European breeding-ground of

qualifications. The principal European needs for operational graduates in plastics converting industry concern the superior technician or supervisor (bachelor + 2 or 3 years studies).

This preliminary work is an excellent reference and the first basis reflection for the identification of vocational competences of the training courses related to the professional sector of plastics converter industry.

## **Sustainable professionalisation in the plastics processing industry**

In the continuation of the Sustainable Professionalisation project, the joint Greek – Italian team with the cooperation of the European Commission, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and the Social Partners, undertook the task to suggest the further development of the project. According to the resolutions of the team, three new diplomas are suggested to be elaborated : commerce (giving emphasis to the exploitation of the new possibilities arising through the use of IT technology), tourism and especially the valorization of local products (where Italy will be the leader of the group) and plastics processing industry (plastourgie)

The elaboration process of the new diploma in plastics processing industry is managed by France. Jean-Claude DUFRESNE, general inspector of the French ministry of education is in charge of the amplification of the project. Already, four countries – Greece, Italy, Spain, Belgium - have expressed their interest to attend the working group ; others countries – Finland, Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, Cyprus – have declared to take part like observer.

The working group will have to define the job and the skills expanded by a “ superior technician ” in plastics processing industry. The reflection will allow to identify the specific plastics processing industry skills, and the transverse skills in the execution of the profession with the aim of extending these works to the others processing industries. After this period of reflection and from the common work, every country develops and installs its suitable diploma according to its education system. The diplomas, authenticated by every country, remain national diplomas, but benefit from a immediate recognition between the different European countries. This device allows to develop the exchange between the students in different formation schools, and confirm the mobility of graduates in the European plastic enterprises.

All the works take place in Paris about ten sessions of two days. The group will appeal to experts : EuPC members, social partners of plastics industry, industrial managers, researchers in education sciences, teachers...

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