



PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
ÁLLAM- ÉS JOGTUDOMÁNYI KAR

**DUNICOP**  
**Deepening University Cooperation Osijek-Pécs**

**LAW – REGIONS – DEVELOPMENT**  
**International Conference**  
**14-15 June, 2013**

**SOME MEASURES OF GREENING THE ECONOMY IN THE  
EU AND THEIR REFLECTIONS IN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Zsuzsanna Horváth associate professor,  
Department of International and European Law, University of Pécs,  
Dr. Jelena Legčević, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Economic Sciences, J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek



Project is co-financed by European Union

# CONTENT

## **Green economy as a central concept of sustainable development**

- **concept of sustainable development**
- **concept of green economy**

## **The EU integrated Product Policy**

- **integration of environmental requirements into product policy**
- **life-cycle approach**
- **principles and tools of the IPP**

## **Economic incentives for environmental protection**

- **EMAS**
- **Eco-label**

## **Regional Dimensions of the EU Green Efforts**

- **Role of Cohesion Policy and Structural Funds in the EU green efforts**

# Green Economy as a central concept of the strategy for sustainable development

**Concept of sustainable  
development: „*development  
that meets the needs of the  
present without compromising  
the ability of future generations  
to meet their own needs*”**

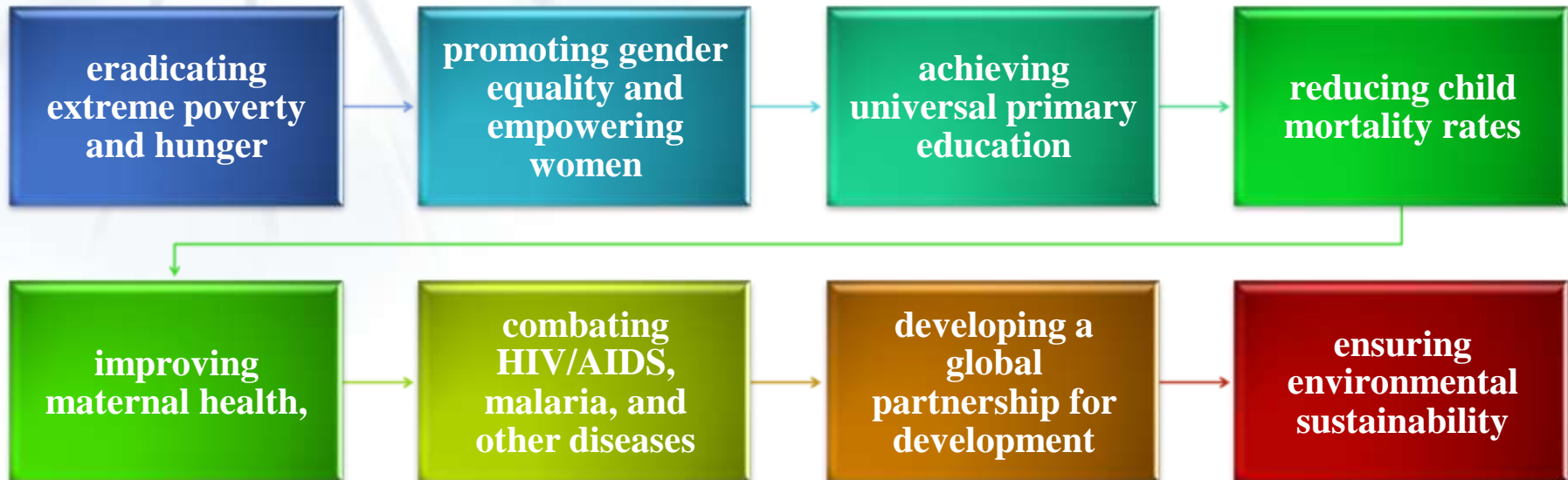
(1987 Bruntland Report, and  
1992 Rio Earth Summit,  
Declaration and Agenda 21)

**Three interlinked  
components (pillars):  
economic development,  
social development and  
environmental protection**

(2002 Johannesburg World  
Summit, Declaration and  
Action Plan)

# Millennium Development Goals (UN 2000)

The **Millennium Declaration** was adopted by the UN Summit (New York, 2000). MDGs are to be achieved by 2015. It was signed by all UN Members and several international organisations:



# Unsustainable trends still exists:

**Worldwide economic and financial crisis – recession**

**Environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources, biodiversity loss couldn't be halted**

**Global greenhouse gas emissions are rising**

**Impact of climate change is growing**

**Depletion and pollution of water resources/ozone layer**

**Extreme poverty in developing world**

**Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**

**‘The Future we want’  
outcome document of Rio+20**

**Rio+20 Conference  
(2012):  
main theme:  
how to build a ‘green  
economy’**

**Development of a 10 year framework  
programme for fundamental changes in  
unsustainable consumption and production  
patterns**

**UN definition of ‘*Green economy*’: “it should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as to sustained economic growth (*‘green growth’*), enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth’s ecosystems.” It doesn’t replace sustainable development, but a part of it!**

# Green economy in the EU SDS Strategy

EU SDS Strategy: 2001, revised in 2006 and in 2009

Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth (adopted in 2010)

Development of a low carbon, resource efficient, knowledge based, socially inclusive society

Sustainable growth – green growth: will not slow down growth, but rather promotes the *right kind* of growth

It secures growth and development; improves human well being, provides decent jobs, reduces inequalities, tackles poverty, preserves the natural capital upon which we all depend

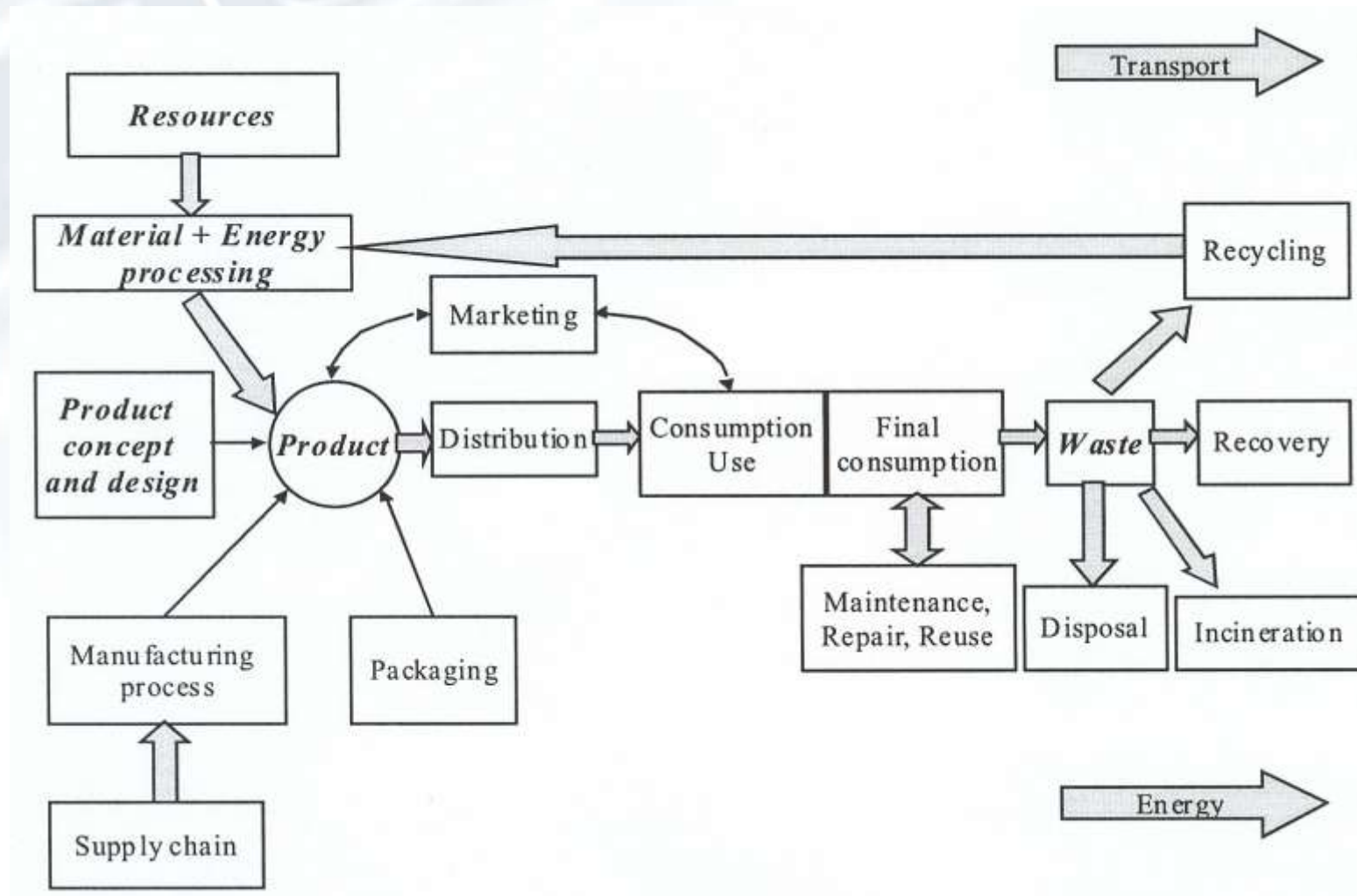
Green economy will be built upon existing policies, e.g. on climate, change, biodiversity, research and innovation and sustainable consumption and production



# The EU Integrated Product Policy (IPP)

- Implementation of the *principle of integration* of environmental requirements into other policies (international origins: Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 (1992))
- Green Paper (2001), Communication: ‘Building on environmental life cycle thinking’ (2003); sustainable production and consumption and sustainable industrial policy action plan – SCP/SIP (2008)
- **Life-cycle approach:** ‘from cradle to grave’ - the reduction and elimination of negative effects of goods and services that their production and consumption, and the disposal of goods at the end of their use impose on the environment. It covers all stages from the pre-production phase: choice of energy sources and materials, mining of raw materials, product design, to the production processes, packaging, distribution, than the use phase and the final use, in which stage maintenance, repair and re-use of products have a role to play, to the end of the useful life-time, the management of waste

# Schematic life-cycle of products



# Constituent elements of the IPP

**The addressees of the IPP are producers and consumers, which is reflected in the choice of instruments**

**A variety of policy instruments is required, voluntary measures and mandatory regulations**

**I. Tools for creating the right economic and legal framework**

**II. Promoting the application of life-cycle thinking**

**III. Giving the consumer the information for their green choice**

# I. Tools for Creating the Right Economic and Legal Framework

- **Getting the prices right** (to include the costs of all environmental impacts, polluter pays principle)
- **Environmental taxes and subsidies** (e.g. energy related taxes)
- **Voluntary environmental agreements** (between public authorities and the industry)
- **Standardisation** (environmental standards)
- **Public procurement** (greening the tendering procedure)
- **Other product legislation** (restriction/prohibition of the use/marketing of certain dangerous substances)

## II. Promoting the Application of the „Life-cycle Thinking”:

- *Environmental Management and Audit System (EMAS)*: a management tool for companies to improve their environmental performance
- *Product design (ecological design)*: a strategy for the systematic integration of environmental considerations into the design process across the product life-cycle

## III. Giving Consumers Information for their Green Choice

- *Green Public Procurement*: ‘in a green tendering procedure’ public authorities set environmental requirements, e.g. use of eco-label, eco-design, EMAS)
- *Environmental Labelling*: giving consumers credible information about environmental qualities of products

**DUNICOP**

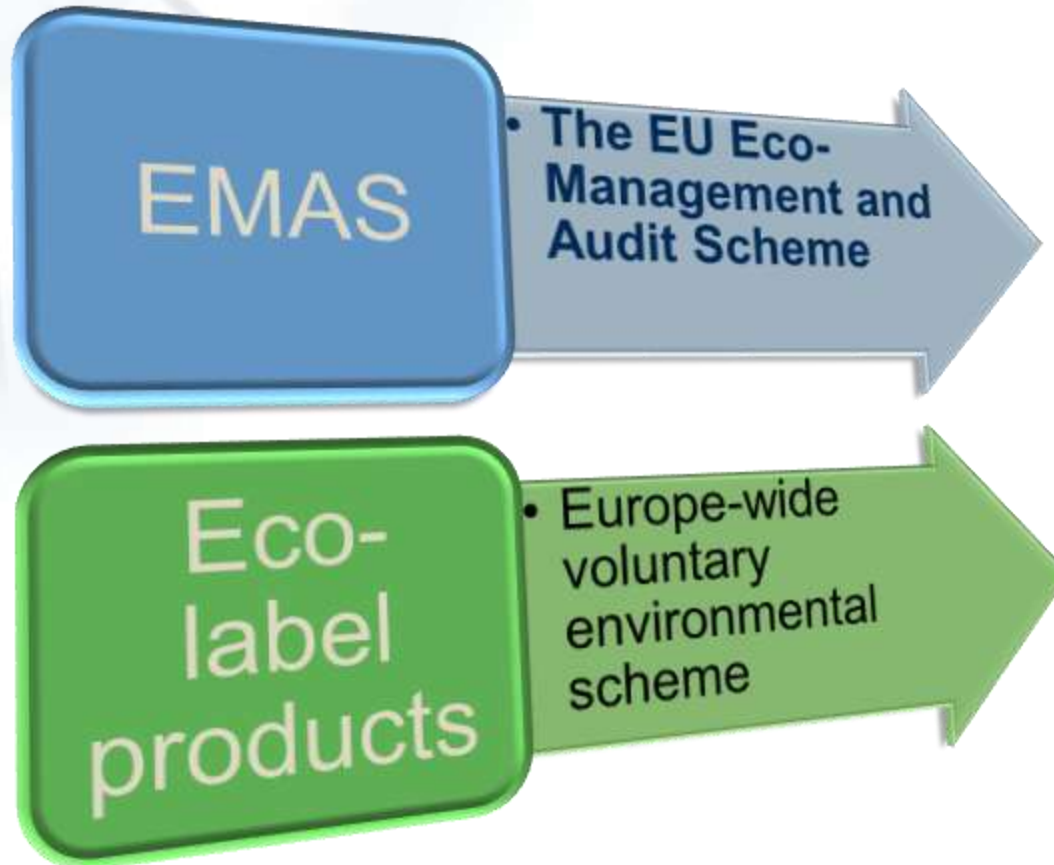


PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
ÁLLAM- ÉS JOGTUDOMÁNYI KAR

## **Economic Incentives for Environmental Protection**

Environmental Protection

**DUNICOP**



**DUNICOP**



- **EMAS is a voluntary scheme which is designed to recognise and reward proactive organisations that go beyond what environmental laws expect of them and that constantly improve the way they interact with the environment.**
- **Once an organisation has proved that it is improving its environmental performance according to set objectives as verified by an independent body then it can begin using the EMAS logo.**



**DUNICOP**



## **Aim**

Continual improvements in the environmental performance of companies and other organisations

## **Means**

Tools allowing organisations to measure, evaluate, report and improve environmental performance

## **Outcomes**

Better management of environmental issues and credible information on these issues

DUNICOP



## What are the Core Elements of EMAS?



### EMAS

Premium benchmark for environmental management

#### **Performance**

Carrying out annual updates of environmental policy targets and actions to implement and evaluate these targets

#### **Credibility**

Third party verification by independent auditors guarantees the value of both actions taken and disclosed information

#### **Transparency**

Environmental statements provide public information about the environmental performance of the organisation

## Who can participate?



I

Organisations operating in **all economic sectors**. Participation in EMAS is open to all private and public sector organisations – large or small - which are dedicated to improving their overall environmental performance.

II

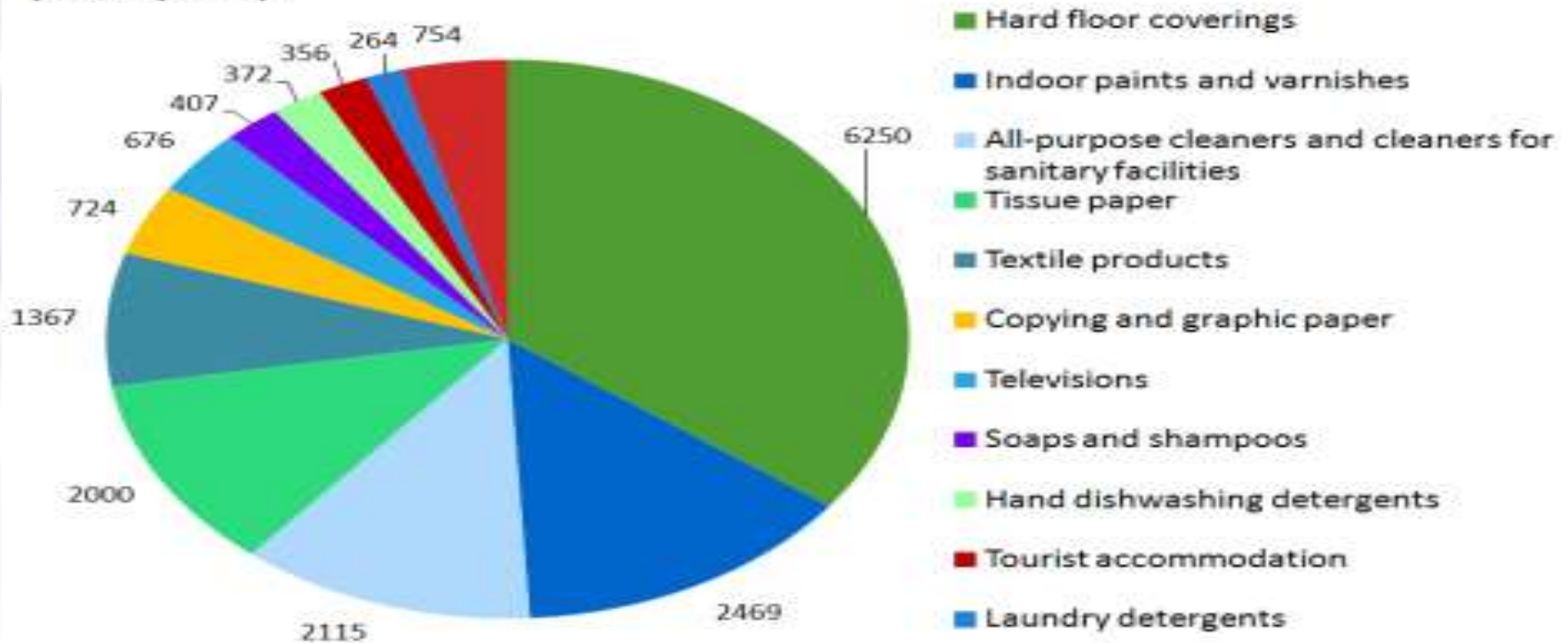
Organisations located **inside or outside EU, EEA and Accession countries (EMAS Global)\***

\* It is in the realm of EU Member States to allow registration of organisations located outside EU, EEA and Accession Countries. Before introducing EMAS Global a number of practical and legal issues need to be clarified.



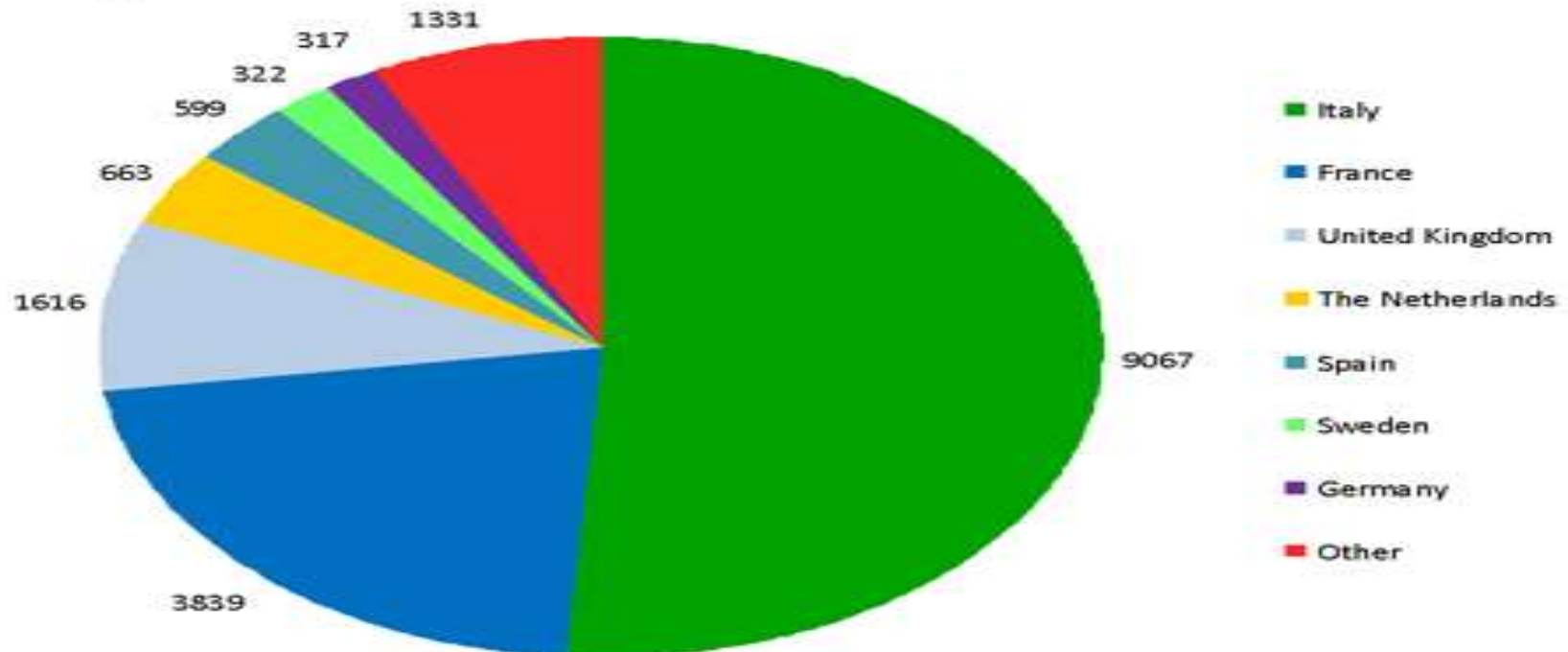
[www.europa.eu.int/ecolabel](http://www.europa.eu.int/ecolabel)

Number of EU Ecolabelled Products per Product Group Category  
(January 2012)



- The EU Ecolabel currently covers a huge range of products and services, all non-food and non-medical. Tissue paper and all-purpose cleaners each equate to around 10% of EU Ecolabel products, while indoor paints and varnishes make up nearly 14%. The largest product group is hard floor coverings, which total more than 33% of EU Ecolabel products. Meanwhile there are hundreds of TVs, soaps, and shampoos to be found.

### Number of EU Ecolabel products issued per country (January 2012)



- The EU Ecolabel has been awarded to the largest number of products in Italy, France and the UK. Italy has issued more than 50% of the total number of Ecolabel awards, while France and UK total 22% and 9% respectively. These are followed by the Netherlands and Spain. While these statistics refer to the awarding countries, EU Ecolabel products can be sold across the continent.

**DUNICOP**



**PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM**  
**ÁLLAM- ÉS JOGTUDOMÁNYI KAR**

**THANK YOU !!!**