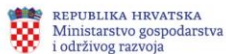




CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
APPROACHES IN  
SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT



Project co-financed by the European Union from the Cohesion Fund

# PREPARING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY IN AUSTRIA

BRIGITTE KARIGL, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA, 6. MAY 2022

# Agenda

Roadmap and organizational set-up for preparing the Austrian Circular Economy Strategy

Assessing the Status Quo of Circular Economy in Austria

Identifying the Priority Areas to be addressed by the CE strategy

Defining the strategic goals and measurable targets

Public Consultation of the draft CE strategy

Implementation – “Shaping the Transition to a CE”

Next Steps

# Roadmap for preparing the Austrian Circular Economy Strategy

- Programme of the Austrian Government 2020 – 2025 (2020)
- Order of the Minister for Climate Protection to prepare a Circular Economy Strategy (2020)
- Stakeholder Consultation – expert working groups (2020 – 2021)
- Ministerial and public consultation of the draft CE-strategy (2021, 2022)
- Preparing a decision of the Council of Ministers (2022)
- Implementation and monitoring programme (as of 2022)

# Programme of the Austrian Government for the 2020 - 2024

## Chapter Industry and Commerce

Comprehensive, cross-sector climate and circular economy strategy with a priority on the particularly energy- and emission-intensive sectors of steel production, chemicals and cement as well as waste management.

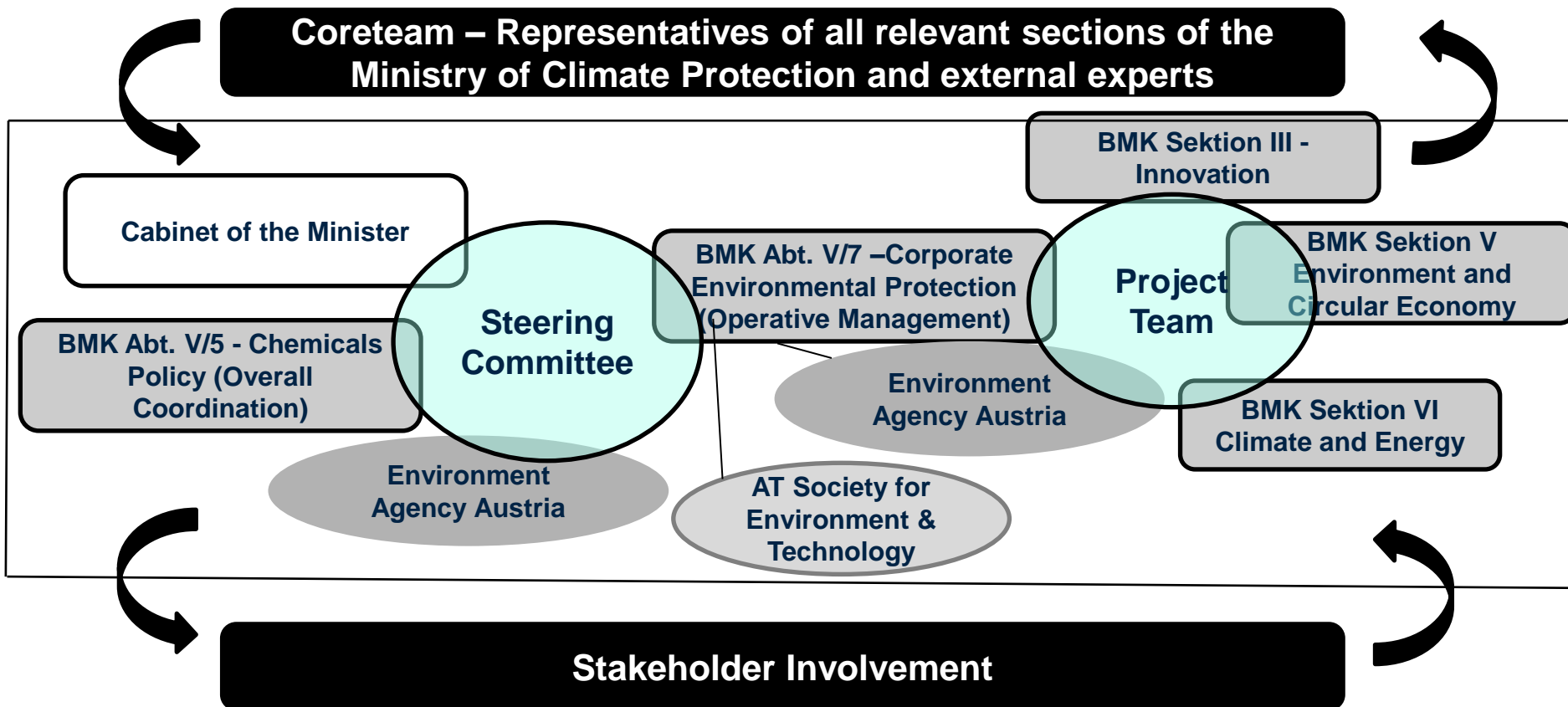
Promotion of the development of a regional circular economy and circular economy projects

**.... cross-sectoral coupling of climate and circular economy strategies ....**

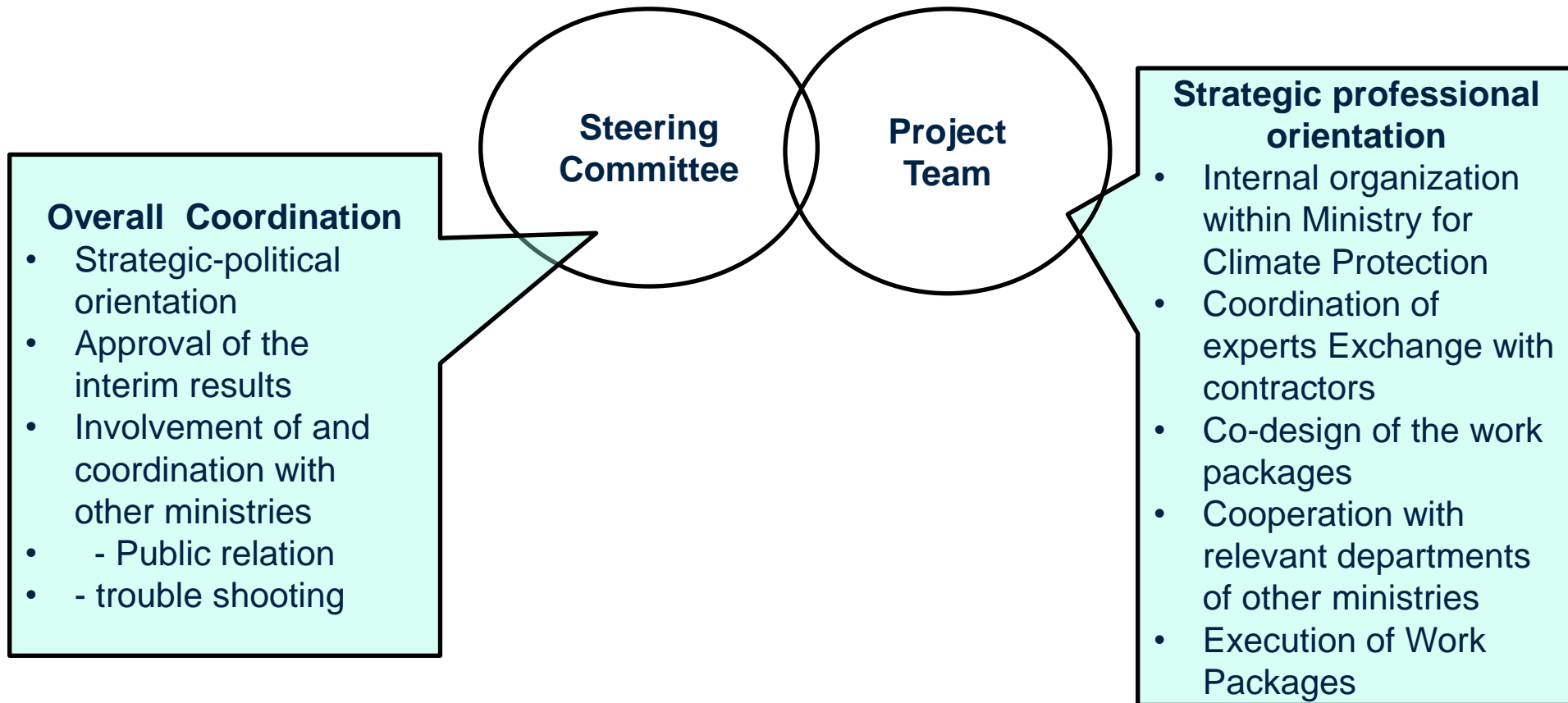
# Order of the Minister for Climate Protection to prepare a Circular Economy Strategy

- Starting point: **Needs of society as a whole** (consumers, economy, community) and the **ecological limits of our planet**.
- These needs must be covered by services (housing, heat, light, mobility ....) and products with **optimized use of resources** (material, energetic, digital, monetary...).
- The CE-Strategy is **intended to show which instruments/approaches/methods** can be used to achieve this goal in the best possible way (high level of protection for people and the environment).
- **Reference should be made to existing processes** (international, European and national level) in each sector. (esp. GREEN DEAL, EU Circular Economy Action Plan, Global Alliance for CE).
- Particular attention is paid to **the interfaces to other strategies** (bio-economy strategy, climate and energy strategy, raw material strategy, etc.). Consistency and mutual support must be ensured.
- The strategy is decided by the **Council of Ministers**

# Organisational Set-Up for Preparing the CE Strategy



# Tasks and Responsibilities of Steering Committee and Project Team



## Stepwise approach for drafting the CE Strategy

- Assessing the Status Quo of Circular Economy in Austria
- Identifying the Priority Areas to be addressed by the CE Strategy
- Defining the objectives for the priority Areas
- Identifying the appropriate measures for achieving the objectives
- Defining the long-term and mediate-term targets for the transition to a CE
- Financial instruments



## Guiding Principles

# Transparency and Stakeholder Involvement

# Assessing the Status Quo of Circular Economy in Austria

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# EU Circular Economy Indicators

## Production and consumption

- Self-sufficiency of raw materials for production
- Green public procurement (as an indicator for financing aspects);
- Waste generation (as an indicator for consumption aspects);
- Food waste.

## Waste management

- Recycling rates (the share of waste which is recycled);
- Specific waste streams (packaging waste, biowaste, e-waste, etc.).

## Secondary raw materials

- Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand;
- Trade of recyclable raw materials between the EU Member States and with the rest of the world.

## Competitiveness and innovation

- Private investments, jobs and gross value added;
- Patents related to recycling and secondary raw materials as a proxy for innovation.

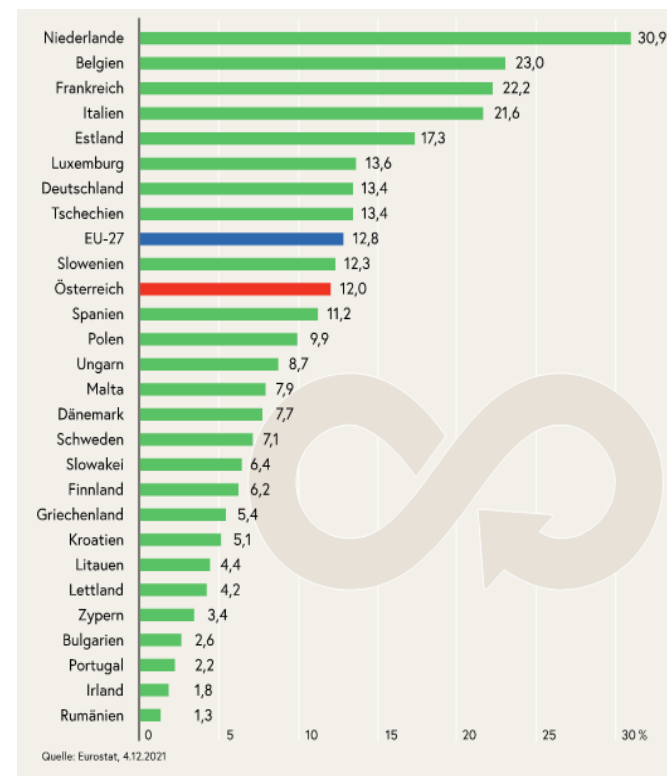
# Indicators used for assessing the Status Quo of Circular Economy in Austria

- Indicators für the Consumption of Ressources and Ressource Efficiency
- Indicators for economic activities related to environmental protection
- Waste (Indicators for consumption aspects)



# Status Quo of Circular Economy in Austria - Ressources

Indicator	Status	Comparison to EU average
<b>Circular Material Use Rate (CMU)</b>	☹️	EU average
<b>Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)</b>	☹️	above EU average
<b>Material Footprint (MF)</b>	☹️	above EU average
<b>Soil sealing and land consumption</b>	☹️	above EU average



# Quo of Circular Economy in Austria - economic activities related to environmental protection

Indicator	Status	Comparison to EU average
Eco Innovation Index	😊	5th place in ranking of EU MS
Environmental Goods and Services Sector(EGSS)	😊	Exports and number of employees increased
Companies with Austrian Eco Label	😊	Doubled between 2010-2018
Products and Services with Austrian Eco Label	😊	Tripled between 2010-2018
EMAS Registrations	😊	Doubled between 2010-2020



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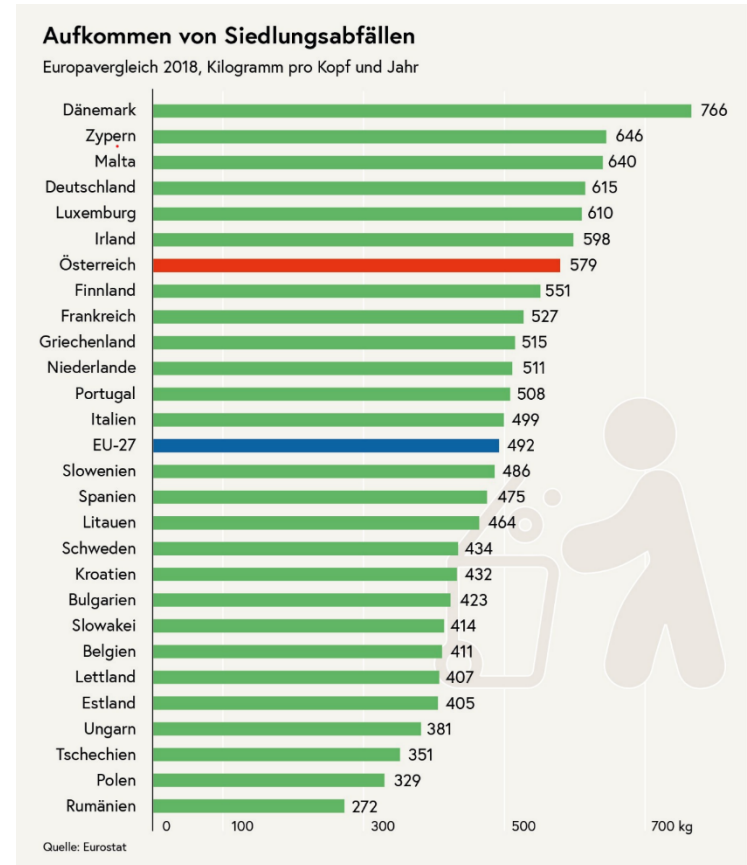


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# Status Quo of Circular Economy in Austria – Waste Indicators

Municipal waste: Austria is among the EU MS with a high generation of municipal waste (578 kg/cap in 2018)

Recycling of municipal waste: 58%, above EU average of 48%



# Identifying the Priority Areas to be addressed by the CE Strategy

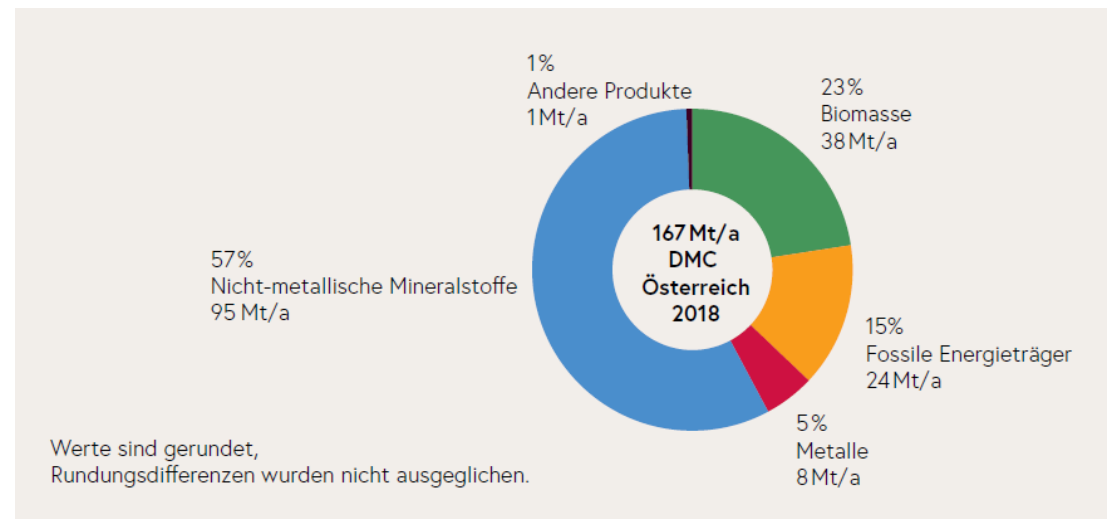
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# Identifying the Priority Areas to be addressed by the CE Strategy

Reference: Key topics in the EU CE Action Plan 2020

- Importance of the main topics for the Austrian economy (GDP contribution, number of employees)
- Environmental impact of the key topics
- In which stages of CE-circle can Austria take actions?
- Already existing initiatives/networks to strengthen the circular economy that can be built on?



Quelle: BMK 2020: Ressourcennutzung in Österreich 2020

# Identified starting points for the transformation to a circular economy

- Construction industry and built infrastructure
- Mobility (e-mobility and road infrastructure)
- Plastics and packaging
- Textiles (focus on commerce/trade – consumption – recycling)
- Electrical and electronic equipment (focus on commerce/trade – consumption – recycling)
- Biomass (=> food waste, bioeconomy)
- Waste management and secondary resources

# Identifying objectives and measures for the priority areas

- Fact sheets were prepared for each priority area, laying down objectives and targets; and identifying levers for transformation and key stakeholders.  
The objectives and targets are based on EU and national strategies, legislation and programmes
- Measures for starting the transition were identified by expert working groups.
- The results were summarized and published in a report



# Defining the strategic goals and measurable targets

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## Strategic goals

- Comprehensive reduction of resource consumption and resource use (resource conservation)
- Prevention of waste generation (zero waste)
- Prevention of environmental pollution by pollutants (zero pollution)
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (climate protection)

## Targets and indicators

### **Target 1: Reduction of the consumption of resources**

- Reduce the Material Footprint (MF) to 7 tonnes/cap and year until 2050
- Reduce the Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) to 15 tonnes/cap and year until 2030

### **Target 2: Increase the domestic resource productivity by 50 % until 2030**

### **Target 3: Increase the Circular Material Use Rate to 18 % until 2030**

### **Target 4: Reduce the consumption of materials by private households by 10 % until 2030**

- Indicator: MSW generation/cap and year

# Implementation – “Shaping the Transition to a CE”

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# Instruments

- Legal and regulatory framework
- Smart market incentives
- Financing and funding
- Research, technology development and innovation
- Digitalisation
- Information, Knowledge and Collaboration

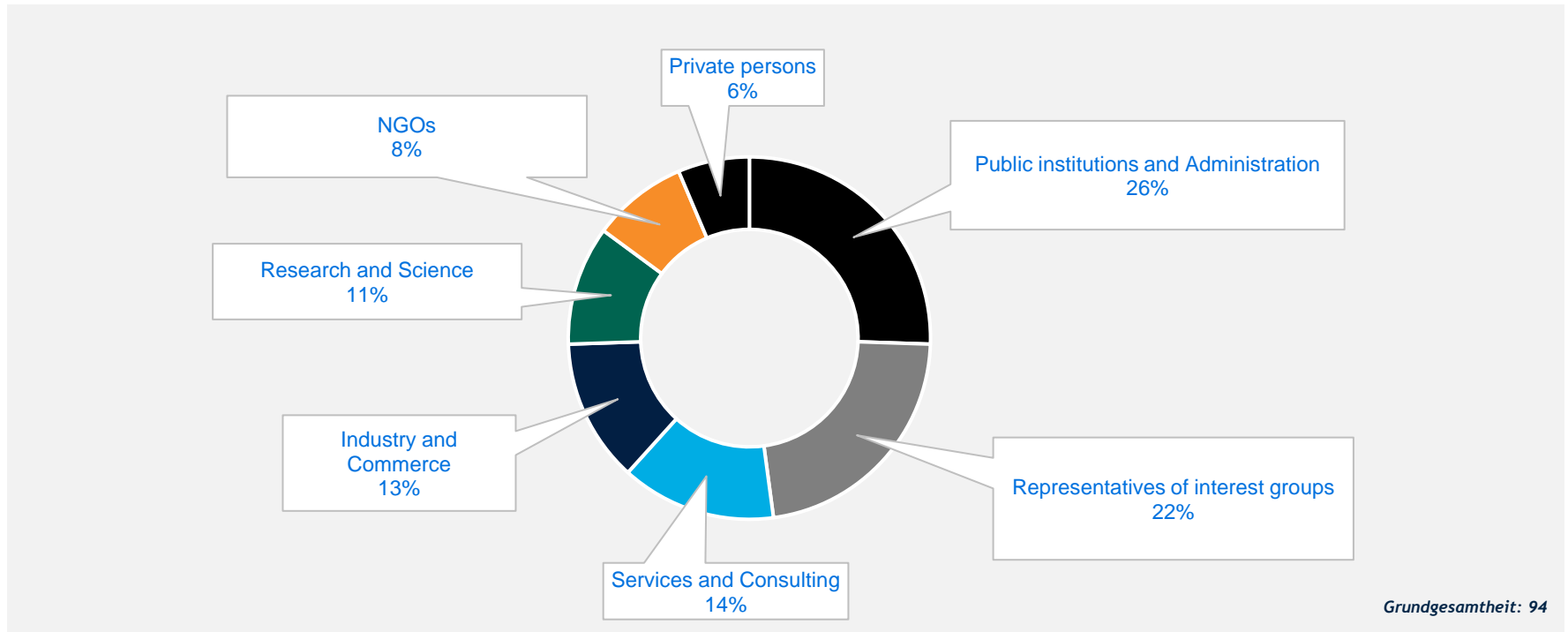


# Public Consultation of the draft CE strategy

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# Result of public consultation in December 2022 – January 2022

94 statements, addressing > 1.400 topics, the majority were favourable comments



# Next steps

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## Next steps

- Decision of the Council of Ministers expected for June
- Elaborate a Monitoring Concept and select indicators
- Start the implementation of the actions laid down in the strategy

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