



# Output 1

## National report on the Spanish survey

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## National report on the Spanish survey

The Spanish questionnaire focuses on SMEs and stakeholders in the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, located in the west of Spain. The region is made up of the provinces of Cáceres and Badajoz, which are home to just over one million people.

There are 65,743 registered companies in Extremadura, of which only 24 have more than 250 workers, so 65,719 are SMEs. SMEs are of great importance in all aspects, not only at a business level, since they represent almost all the companies in each country (99.9% in Spain), but they also represent the most important and growing part of employment and GDP. In Extremadura the result is the same: almost all the companies in the region are SMEs (99.9%). To give more relevance to these data, it should be noted that 8/10 companies have less than two employees in the province of Cáceres and that 6/10 of them do not have any employees.

Regarding official statistics on employment in SMEs as a % of total employment in Extremadura, there are no exact data, but it can be estimated that: If 20% are civil servants and about another 20% corresponds to employment referred to large companies; this means that about 60% of total employment in Extremadura is provided by SMEs. In other words, SMEs generate more than twice as much employment as large corporations, both nationally and in Extremadura, the latter being one of the communities with the highest number of SMEs due to its fragile economic structure.

In Extremadura, SMEs can be included in the same classification by sector, with the following percentages:

- The service sector covers around 70%, which means that it is below the national data by 3.25%.
- The construction sector covers around 13%, 1.67% above the national average.
- The agricultural sector is 0.57% above the national data, covering around 10%.
- Industry covers around 7%, which is 1.01% above the national average.

The translated survey was disseminated by e-mail to the target groups. The target groups were identified based on the circularity models or practices adopted by the companies, activities, alternative solutions applied, etc., pertaining to circular processes, circular economy. The collected SMEs and their information came from free Internet sources. The SME representatives and experts on circularity reacted mostly positively to the request, with a total sample of 26 participants responding the survey.

These 26 respondents belong to both the direct and indirect target group. We found that 26.9% of the respondents answer that they belong to a company. In addition, 50% of the respondents' businesses have been operating for more than 10 years.

We can appreciate that in Extremadura there is a strong economy related to the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector; since 26.9% of the respondents say they work in this sector.

The organizations that currently carry out circular activities mainly indicated the following

- Recycling and reuse of materials (57.7%)





- Use of renewable energies (42.3%)
- Cooperation with organizations that promote natural production technologies and Agricultural production with natural technologies (both 26.9%).

On the other hand, 7.7% of the organizations do not apply any circular activity. In general, SMEs are interested in new opportunities and interested in reading about circular processes. The main way of learning preferred by the respondents are Practical Examples and Case Studies as well as Guides and Manuals.

