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VALDEM PROJECT: FROM LCA OF DEMOLITION WASTE TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF BUILDINGS

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Context:

- ❑ Building and construction sector:
 - more than 1/3 of global resource consumption
 - generation of solid waste: 40% of the total waste volume
 - EU: CDW = largest waste stream (1/3 of all EU waste)
- ❑ CDW (Construction & Demolition Waste): mostly not recycled
- ❑ Causes:
 - heterogeneity
 - dispersion
 - economic viability
 - (policy / inconsistencies, discrepancies)

VALDEM project: objectives

VALDEM aims to improve demolition waste treatment to reach a circular economy in North of France and Wallonia (BE):

Identify waste flow and create new recycling sector

- optimize building EoL management: new deconstruction, sorting and recycling processes
- increase recycling
- generate high quality secondary materials (up-cycling)

Validate the approach by using Life Cycle Assessment

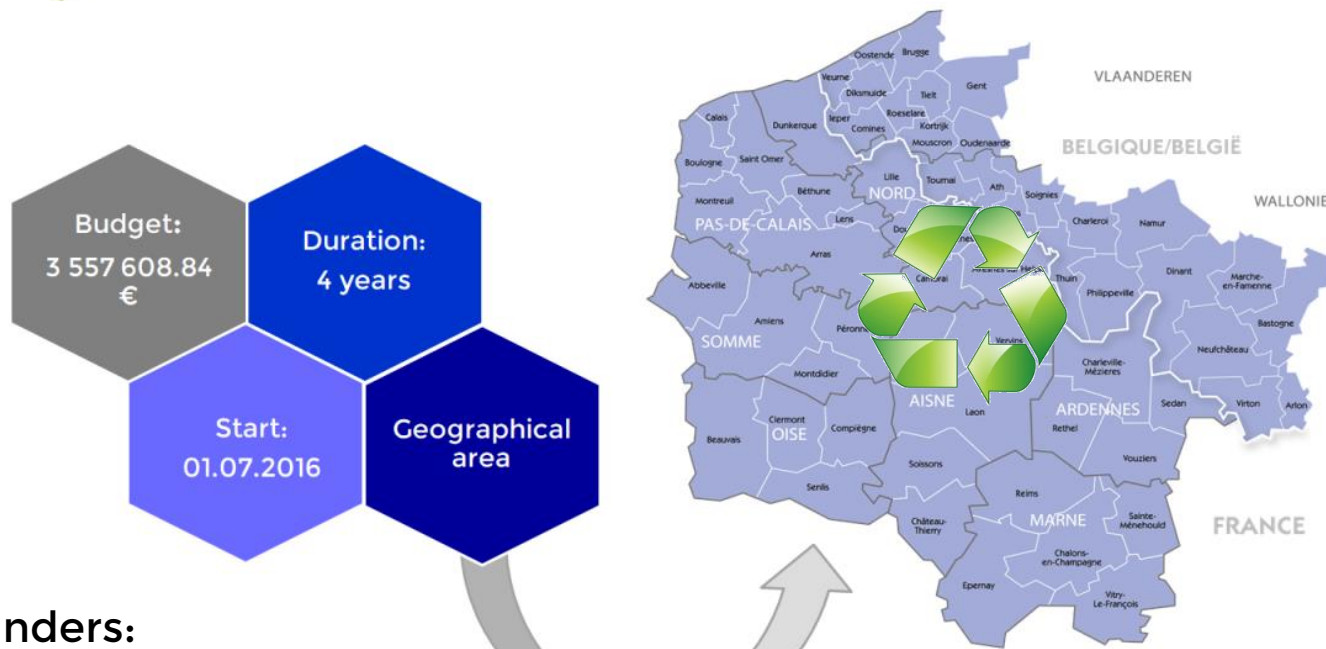
Demonstrate the transferability of the results to industries

Conduct a monitoring of regulations and highlight opportunities

VALDEM project: scope

General information:

<http://www.valdem-interreg.eu/>



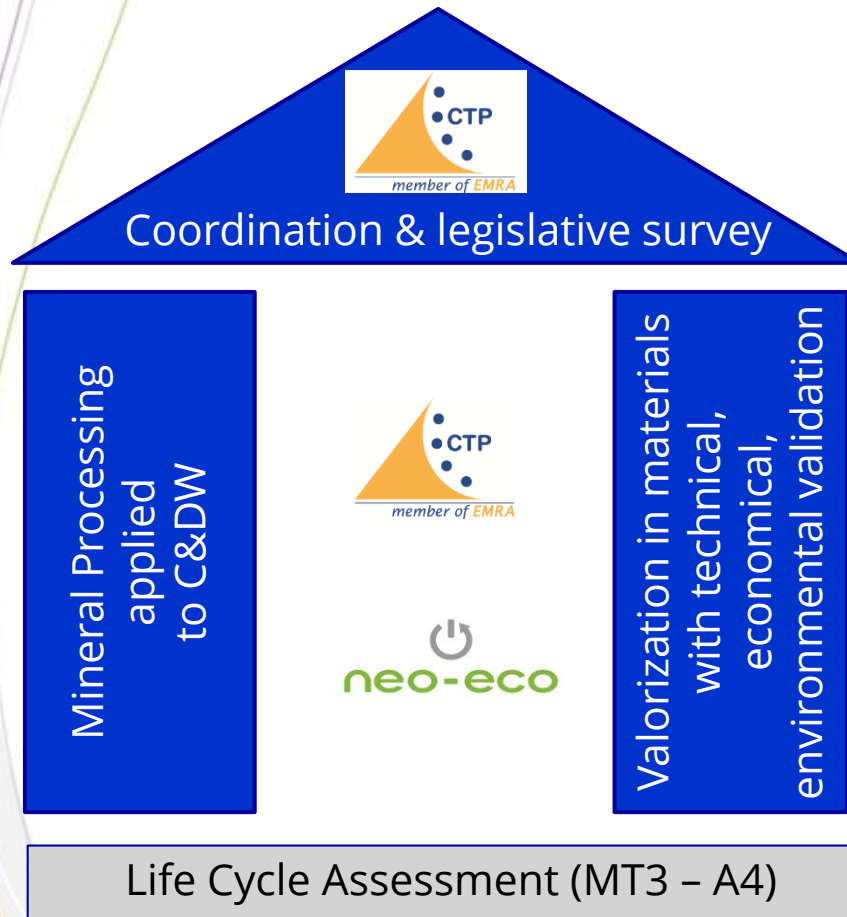
Co-founders:



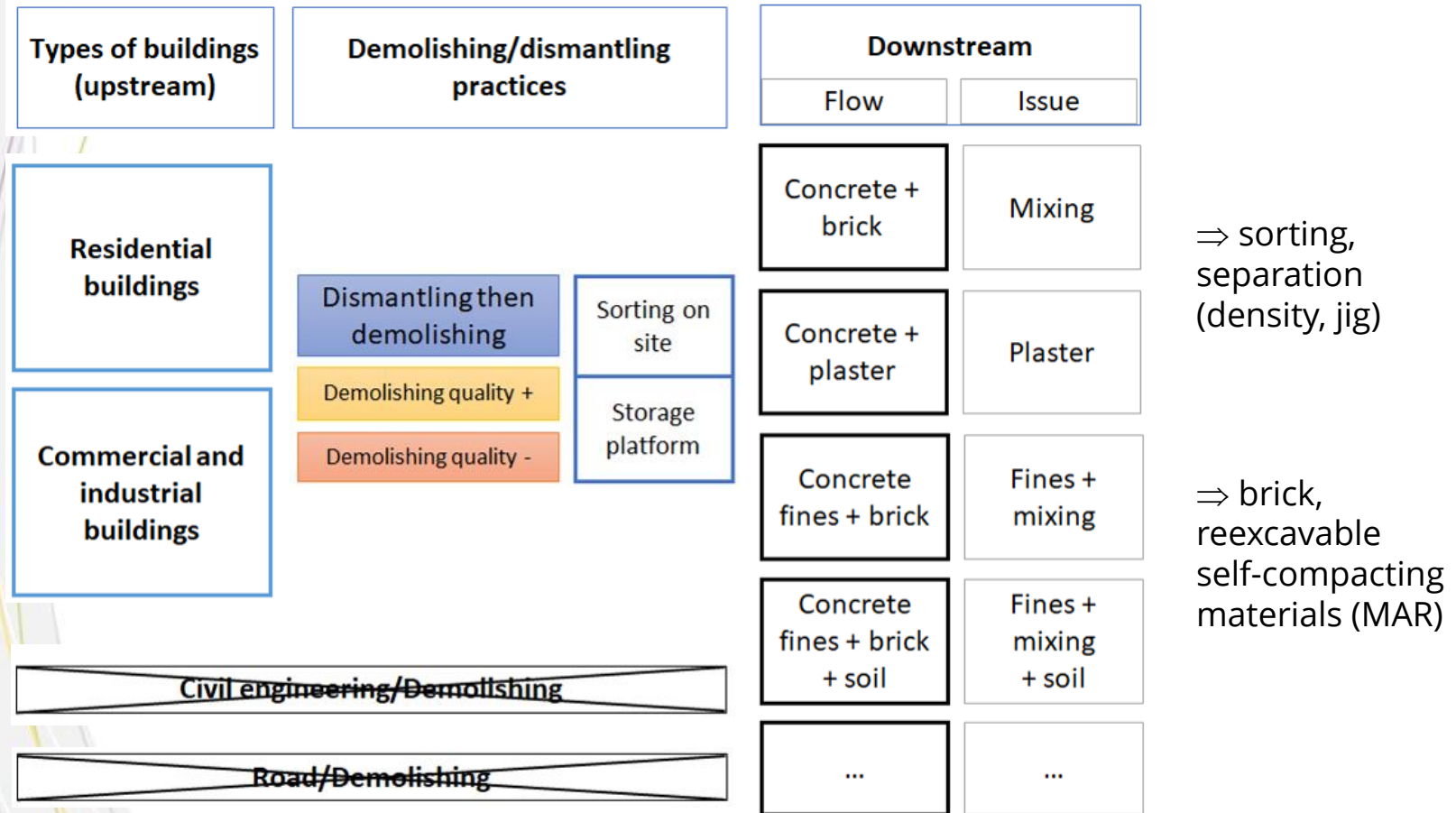
62.000 km²
 10.800.000 habitants/inwoners



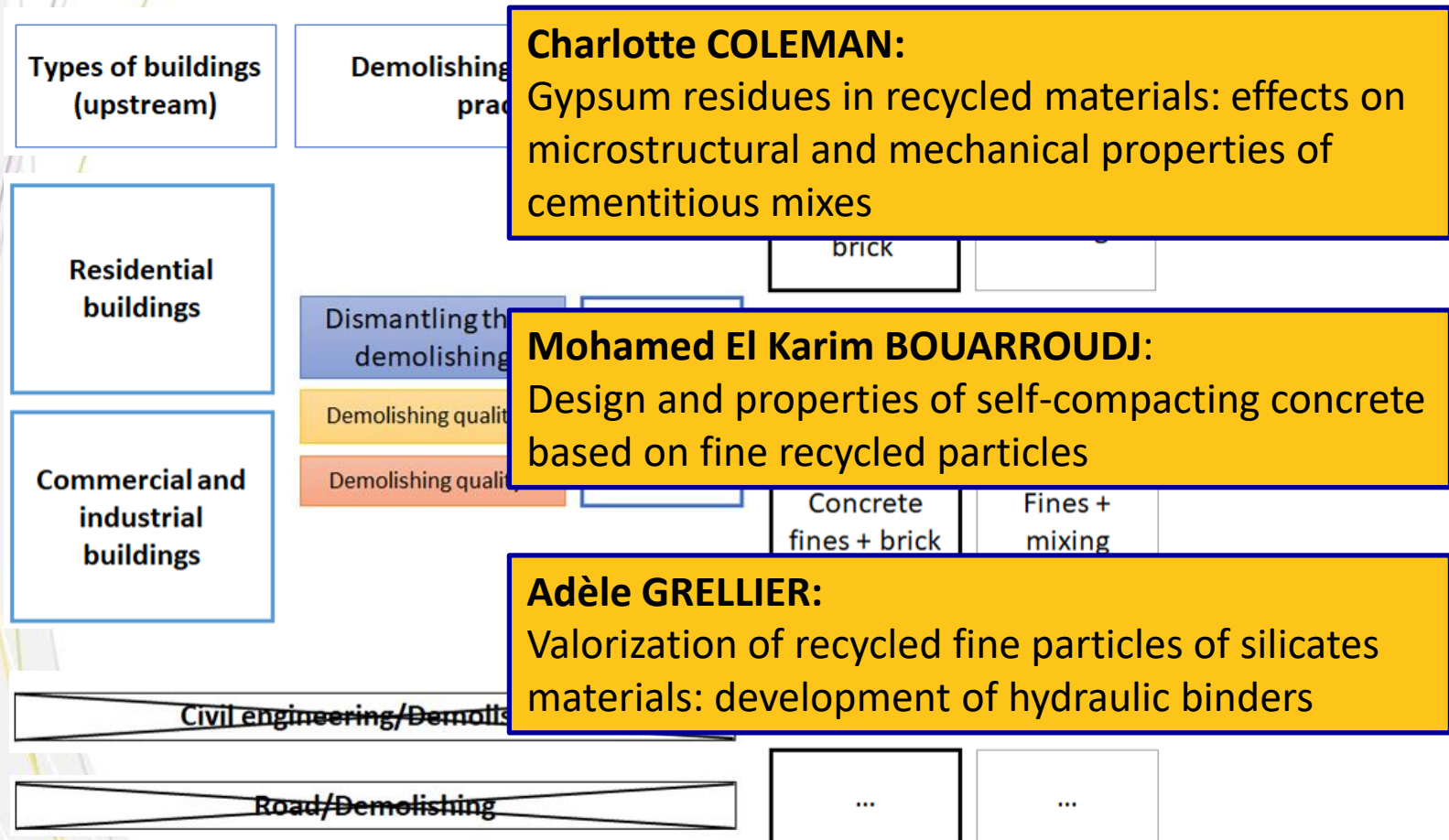
VALDEM project: partnership



Life Cycle Management: detailed scope



Life Cycle Management: co-supervised thesis (ULiège - IMT)



Life Cycle Management: concrete actions

Identify hot spots and key aspects → meta-analysis

- waste inventory (recycling parks)
- potential waste flows (regional data)

Comparative LCA:

- technical information from consortium partners
- evaluation of benefits and impacts of proposed solutions
- limit impact transfer to generate the maximum value for the stakeholders

Transfer of results to the main actors (recycling operators, building contractors, product manufacturers, policy ...) in the 3 regions

Life Cycle Management: outputs

Bring scientific and concrete elements (based on data from the ground and at macro-level)
on how recycling of CDW can improve environmental impact of buildings along their life (current and future)
and move forward to a circular economy in construction sector

Recycling of production waste of concrete blocks

CONREPAD – BEWARE fellowships



- Pr Luc Courard, Dr Ir Zengfeng Zhao (ULiège – GeMMe)
- PREFER company (Flémalle/Engis, BE)
- Production of concrete blocks with recycled concrete aggregates (RCA) from production waste
- Block BD14292: 29 x 14 x 19 cm, with 2 holes
- 30% RCA: properties ok → feasibility validated
- Comparative LCA: concrete blocks without and with RCA

Goal and Scope

Goal:

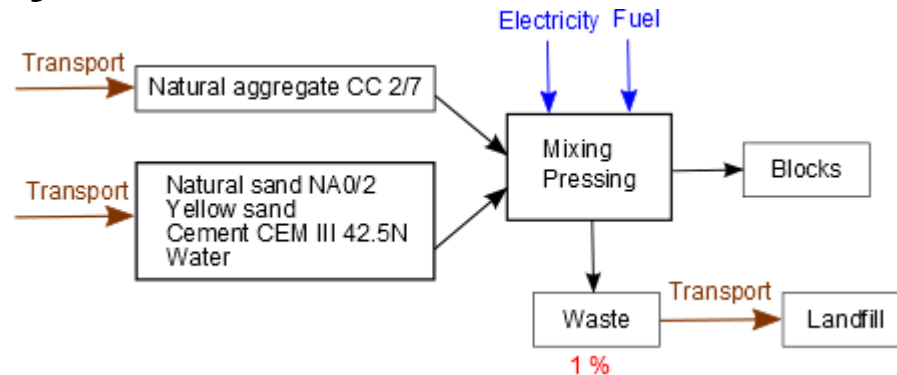
- To study the influence of the recycling of production waste in substitution of natural aggregates in the production of concrete blocks

Scope:

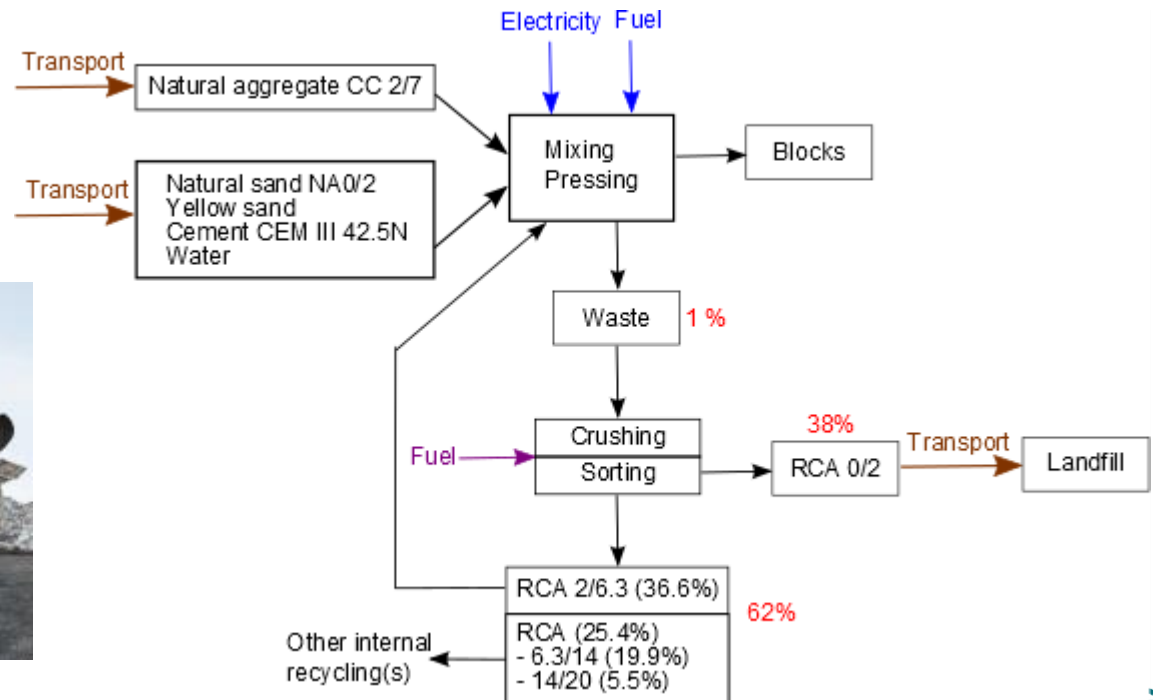
- Cradle-to-gate (comparative) LCA
- Substitution of 30% of natural aggregates with recycled concrete aggregates (RCA) from production waste
- FU: 1 m³ of concrete blocks, on the basis of a 1 year production

System boundaries

1. Natural aggregate only (B_RCA0)



2. 30% RCA (B_RCA30)



Inventory

1. Composition of blocks (kg for 1 m³)

	B_RCA0 (0%)	B_RCA30 (30%)
Natural aggregate CC 2/7	1010	707
Recycled concrete aggregate 2/7	0	282
Natural river sand NA 0/2	822	822
Yellow sand	63	63
Cement CEM III/A	175	175
Water	41.3	55

2. Production

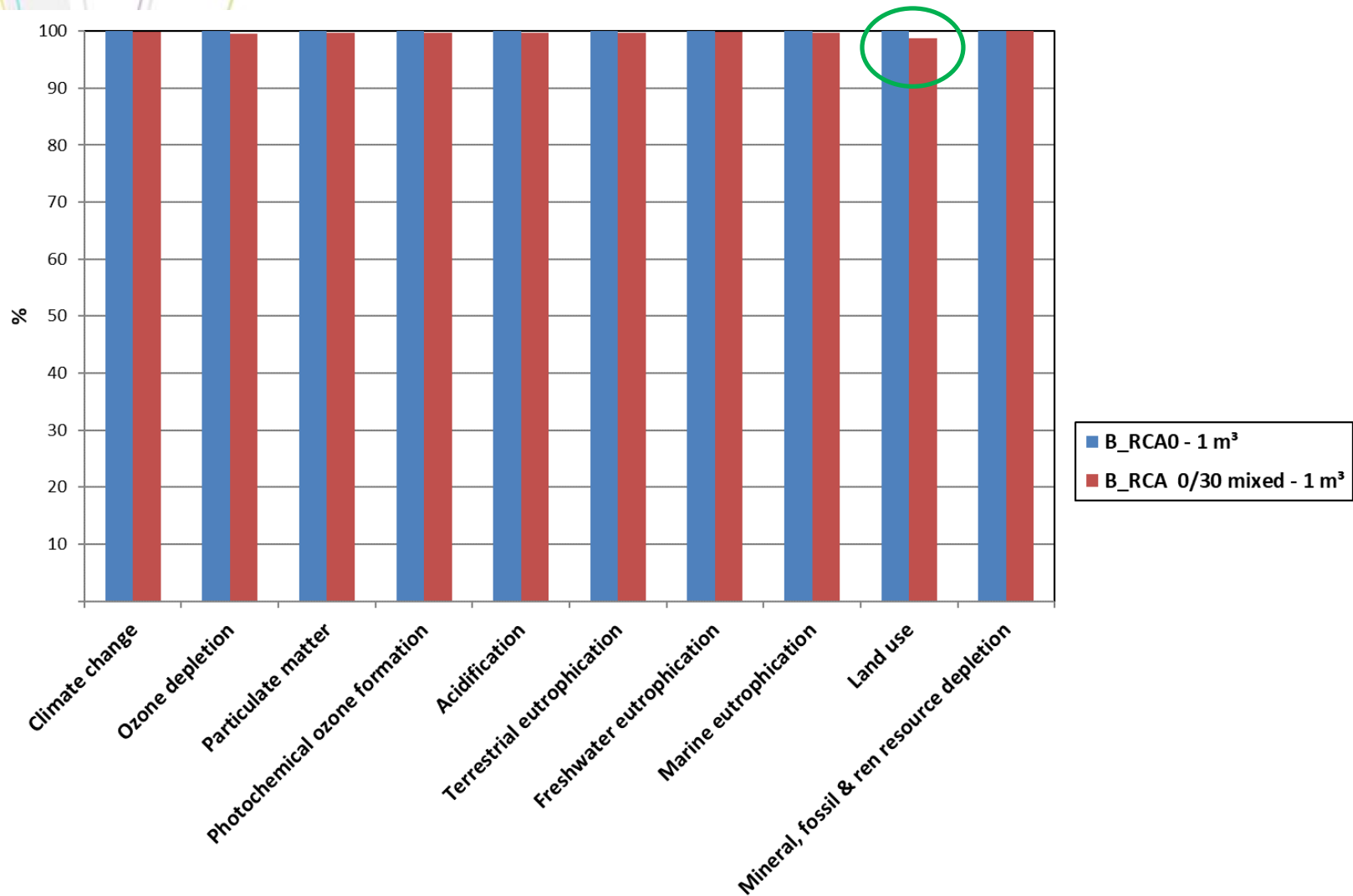
- 1 m³ \cong 2,170 kg
- 101,500 m³/year (total for the 2 production sites – 65.5% and 34.5%)
- Waste: 1% \rightarrow 1,015 m³/year (2,202,550 kg) \rightarrow on-site storage
Mobile crusher Metso LT12113 (250 t/h - 115 m³/h) : 1x /year

Inventory

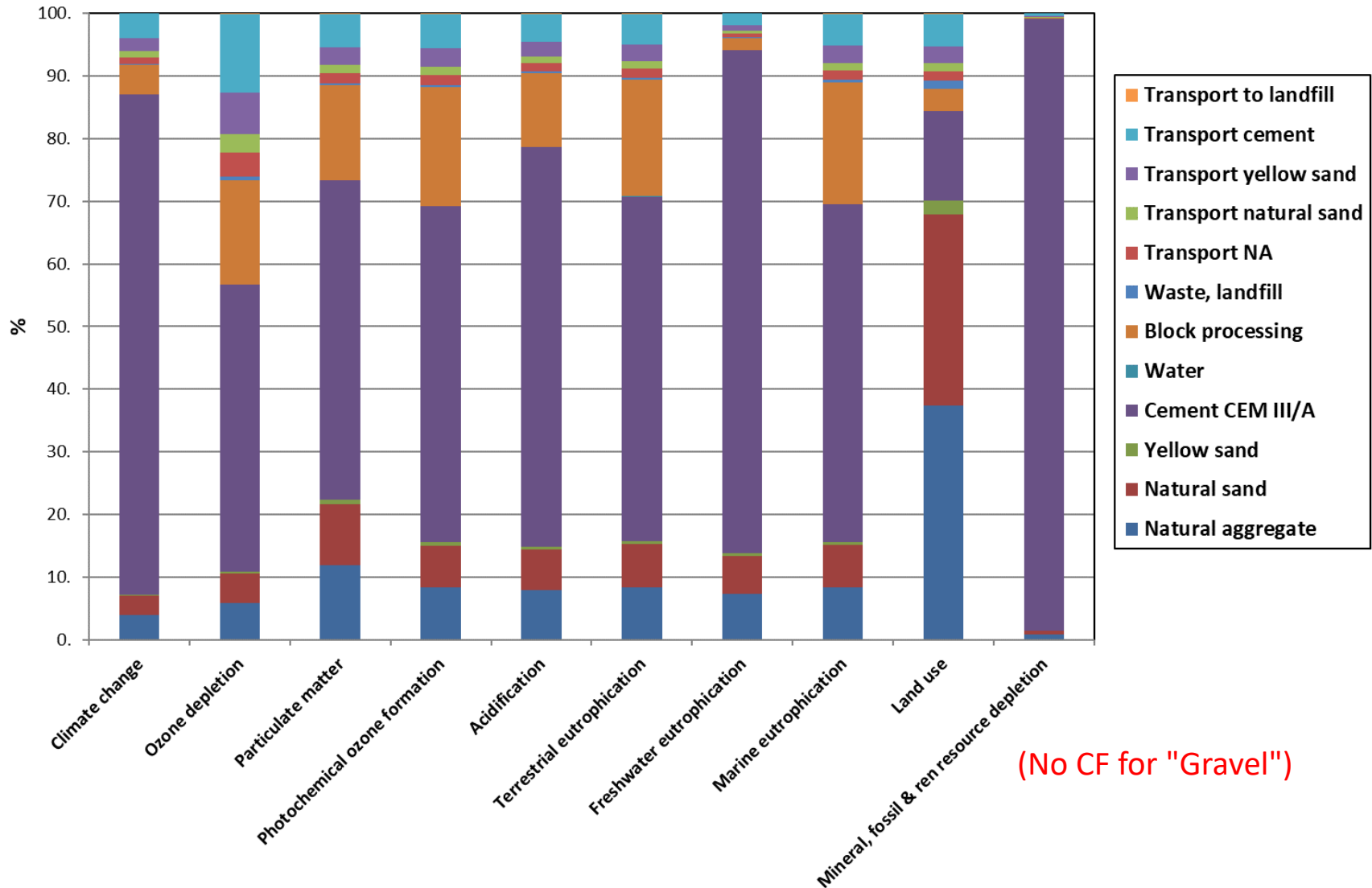
- Recycling: after crushing and sorting:
 - RCA 0/2: 38% → landfill
 - **RCA 2/6.3: 36.6%** → **concrete blocks**
 - RCA 6.3/14 + 14/20: 25.4% → other internal recycling (avoided burden)
- RCA 2/6.3 availability: 805,015 kg/year
 ⇒ 2,855 m³ of B_RCA30
 ~ 3 % of the annual production of blocks
- ⇒ To be completed with B_RCA0 (98,645 m³)
- "Mixed" production of RCA0 and RCA30
- Inventory for 1 year: B_RCA0 vs mixed production of B_RCA0 and B_RCA30 (incl. mobile crusher etc.)
- Normalized by annual production to have **1 m³ (FU)**

LCA Results - B_RCA0 vs Mixed prod.

Simapro 8.5; Ecoinvent 3.4; ILCD 2011 Midpoint+ (1.10)



LCA Results - B_RCA0

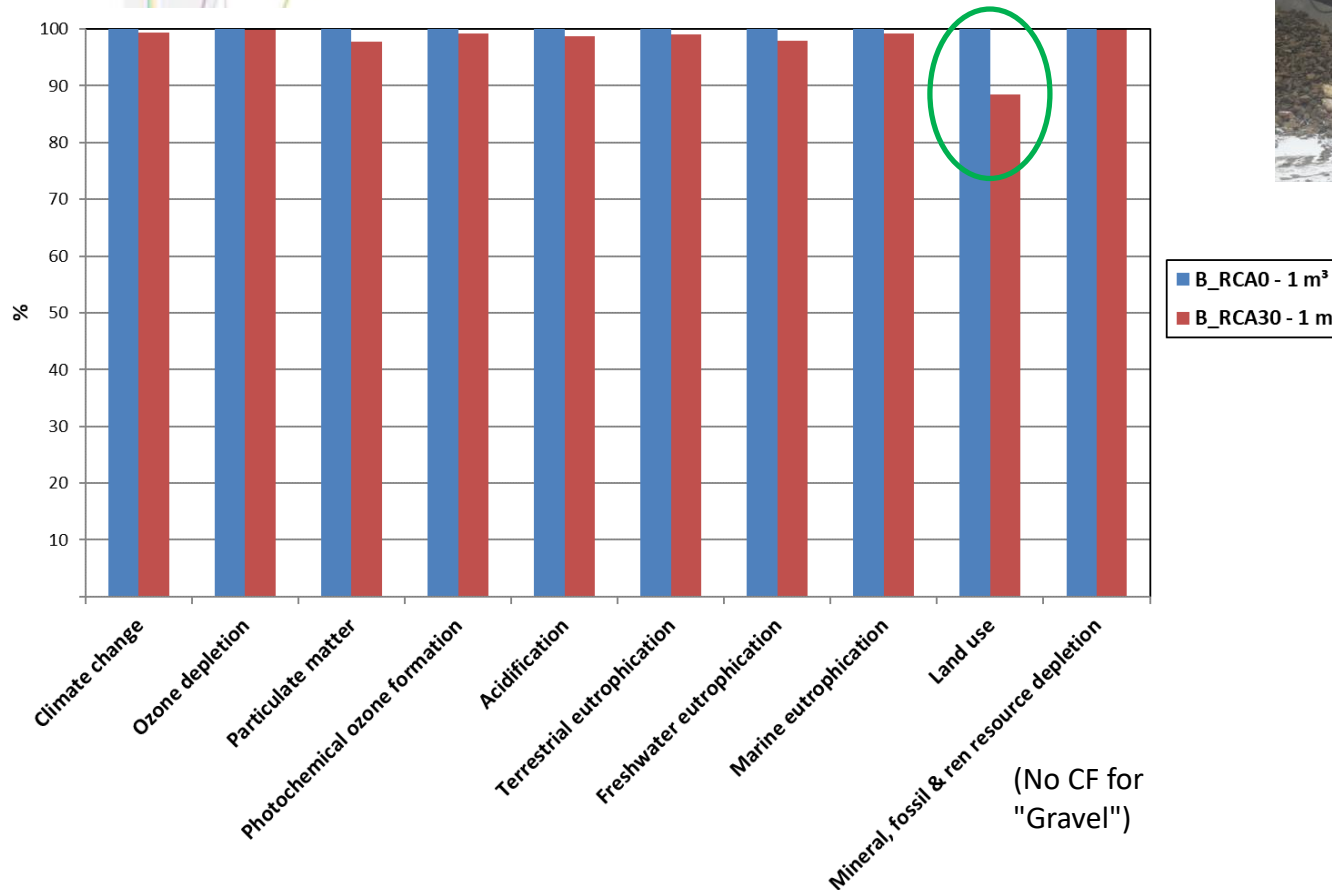


LCA Results - B_RCA0 vs B_RCA30

Valdem: valorization of CDW

Eloy Construction: CDW sorting site → RCA

⇒ Import of RCA 2/6.3 from Richopré quarry (Chanxhe, 25 km)



Conclusions

- Very little waste blocks (1%) \Rightarrow B_RCA30 can represent only 3% of the annual production of PREFER
- Impacts (in all categories) due mainly to cement, not to (natural) aggregates
- \Rightarrow Very limited benefits (not significant) from the internal recycling of waste blocks compared to the impacts of the whole process
- But higher benefits (land use) if import of RCA from CDW sorting site (external recycling) \rightarrow B_RCA30
- To confirm from a financial (and a technical) point of view

Take home message

- **Globally, and in a circular economy perspective, internal recycling of waste blocks at PREFER is a good idea!**
- **Especially if internal recycling is completed with RCA from a local external source of CDW**

Acknowledgment:

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