

## GENERATION OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

## INDUS 4

In the absence of organised reporting for all businesses, the amount of industrial waste generated and collected are estimated using annual surveys. In general, industries generate a variety of waste related to production processes and associated activities. The potential impacts on the environment and the treatment methods to be applied are often specific.

The data come from the results of the Integrated Environmental Survey<sup>1</sup> covering a sample of 411 establishments from the extractive, manufacturing, and energy generation industries in Wallonia, which are then extrapolated to all three industrial sectors. Certain establishments in the tertiary sector are also surveyed due to the industrial nature of their activities (e.g., laundries).

### The amount of waste dominated by three sub-sectors

According to the survey, the amount of industrial waste generated in Wallonia in 2013 was estimated at around 4,800 kt. Almost 80% of the amount came from the sub-sectors of food (vegetal waste), wood processing (chippings and sawdust) and metallurgy (residues from heat treatment processes and ferrous metal waste). The proportion of industrial waste classified as hazardous (waste that represents a specific hazard for humans or the environment, according to the list of the Walloon Government Decree of 10/07/1997) was estimated at 418 kt, or 9% of the total amount.

### Towards a slight decoupling

Between 2000 and 2013, the quantities generated fell overall (all sub-sectors combined) while gross value added increased steadily (except after 2008). This decoupling

can be accounted for in particular by changes made to processes, the reclassification of certain waste products into by-products (as in the chemical sector between 2006 and 2007) or the closure of certain industries. The reduction in the indicators in 2009 was primarily due to the economic crisis, which had a significant impact on the steel sector. Between 2010 and 2011, the amount of waste rose again due to the recovery of the global economy. In 2012, a fall was once again observed (-12%), following the sovereign debt crisis of 2011 and 2012<sup>2</sup>, which led to a sudden and prolonged fall in economic activity.

### From waste status to resource status

The forthcoming Walloon Waste-Resources Plan (*Plan wallon des déchets-ressources*)<sup>3</sup> takes the view that the production of waste is avoidable. In order to achieve a reduction in waste generation, the reintroduction of waste into production chains needs to be encouraged. The plan therefore envisages the creation of a legal framework to give product status to waste that can be used as resources/raw materials in industry.

[1] ICEDD, 2016a | [2] UWE, 2014 | [3] PWD-R: enacted by the Walloon Government on 16/06/2016

Fig. INDUS 4-1 Generation of industrial waste in Wallonia\*

