Expected RESULTS

Benefits for Europe

- Contribution to European policies:
  - Circular economy.
  - Plastics strategy.
  - Recycling regulation in food contact.
- Replicability of the EPS SURE methodology in Italy, the UK and Greece.

Environmental benefits

- Reduction of the 70% of landfilled EPS fish boxes in Spain and 50% in Italy, the UK and Greece, in the next 3 – 5 years of the project.
- Reduction of the 80% of landfilled EPS boxes in Europe in the 5 – 10 years of implementing the project in other countries.
- Saving in the consumption of raw materials such as polystyrene.
- Saving in water and energy consumption.
- Reduction of CO_2 emissions and mitigation of climate change.
- Litter reduction.

Economic and social benefits

- Creation of new jobs.
- Promotion of innovative plastic recycling processes.
- Commitment in the whole value chain.

EPS-SURE

LIFE16-ENV/ES/00258

Project Partners

anape – asociación nacional de poliestireno expandido

cicloplast

COEXPAN

El Corte Inglés

TOTAL

For more information

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www.life-eps-sure.com

INNOVATION in plastic recycling

Circular life cycle of plastic

EPS-SURE

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Recycled EPS fish boxes into PS food contact packaging

Project funded by European Commission through the LIFE progamme
LIFE16-ENV/ES/00258

The RECYCLING of EPS fish boxes

EPS Expanded Polystyrene

SU Sustainable

RE Recycled

Optimum packaging

EPS boxes (also referred to as airpop®) are used for the storage and collection of fresh products like fish, thanks to its excellent insulation properties, protection and food safety.

100% recyclable

EPS fish boxes are 100% recyclable. Nevertheless, a large number of them still end up in landfills all over Europe (45-50% in Europe, 55 -60% in Spain).

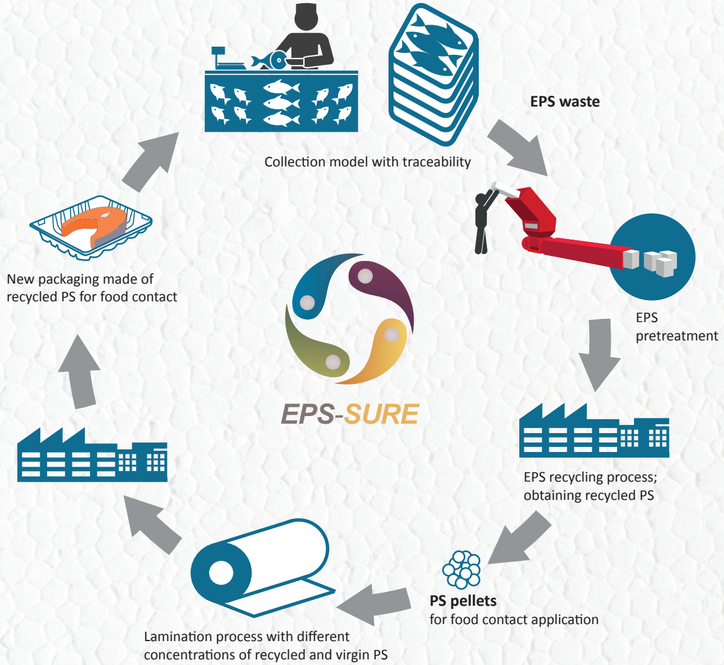
Barriers to recycling

- Bulky material (98% air and only 2% plastic) which makes storage difficult.
- Broad spread at the time of generation.
- Material with organic waste due to transported fish, which impedes recycling and production of new food contact packaging.

Project OBJECTIVES

- **Offer** a technical, environmental and affordable solution that allows the recycling of EPS fish boxes in order to be converted into new PS food contact packaging, thus closing the loop.
- **Provide** a complete solution throughout the value chain to successfully manage one of the most complicated packaging flows in Europe.
- **Assist in** fulfilling the new requirements established in the European Waste Framework Directive and the Circular Economy Package.
- **Turn** waste **into** valuable resources, so landfill and littering could be avoided.

Main ACTIONS

1. Defining a sustainable model to collect, transport and recycle EPS fish boxes, so they can be converted into PS pellets for the manufacture of food contact packaging.
2. Implementing procedures and good practices for EPS fish boxes waste management: collection logistics, storage, pre-treatment (briquetting, washing) and recycling.
3. Set-up of a demonstrative pilot plant in order to produce PS pellets for food contact application from recycled EPS fish boxes waste.
4. Development of a pilot plant in order to produce PS sheets with different concentrations of recycled and virgin PS, to produce food contact packaging as its final aim.

Innovative project SOLUTION