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# ▶ To cite this version:

Raul Oliveira Neto, Pascal Gastineau, Bogdan Cazacliu, Laurédan Le Guen, Régis Sebben Paranhos, et al.. An economic analysis of the processing technologies in CDW recycling platforms. Waste Management, 2017, 60, pp.277-289. 10.1016/j.wasman.2016.08.011 . hal-01511597

# HAL Id: hal-01511597 https://hal.science/hal-01511597

Submitted on 21 Apr 2017  $\,$ 

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# An economic analysis of the processing technologies in CDW recycling platforms

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18 This paper proposes an economic analysis of three different types of processing in CDW (construction and 19 demolition waste) recycling platforms, according to the sophistication of the processing technologies (current 20 advanced, advanced and advanced sorting). The methodology that is adopted is in the economic evaluation 21 concept of projects and is classified with a scoping study phase. In these contexts, three levels of CDW 22 processing capabilities for recycling platforms are analyzed (100, 300 and 600 thousand tons per year). This 23 article considers databases obtained from similar projects that have been published in the specialized literature; 24 the data sources are primarily from the European continent.

The paper shows that current advanced process has better economic performance, in terms of IRR, related to the other two processes. The IRR associated with advanced and advanced sorting processes could be raised by, (i) higher price of secondary primary material, and/or (ii) higher capacity of platforms, and/or (iii) higher sharing of secondary primary material in the total production. The first two points depend on the market conditions (prices and total quantity of CDW available) and (potential) fiscal or incentive policies. The last one depends on technological progress.

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#### 34 1. Introduction

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The theme of construction and demolition waste recycling has been the subject of studies and research since the 1970s, and the main reasons for these studies are the growing awareness of the importance of waste recycling from all sources in the context of "Sustainable Development" (Pacheco-Torgal et al., 2013). Governments inserted in this context began to conduct surveys to estimate the level of waste generation from construction and demolition; the numbers are truly alarming. In the European Union (EU), construction and demolition waste (C&DW) is one of the heaviest and most voluminous waste streams generated, and it is a priority sector for investments.<sup>1</sup>

The construction industry generated more than 850 million tons per year of waste throughout the EU in 2008, and this waste stream was approximately 33% of all waste produced (Staunton et al, 2015). Among the countries whose amounts of C&DW generation are known, France has an average of 359 million tons per year (ADEME, 2011) and the United Kingdom (UK) has an average of 90 million tons per year (Williams & Turner,

47 2011); these two countries account for approximately 70% of the estimated waste generation in Europe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/construction\_demolition.htm (07/20/2016)

48 The legislation has an important role in C&DW recycling, and in this sense, through the revised Waste 49 Framework Directive 2008/98/EC (WFD), the member states set an ambitious goal of achieving a 70% level 50 for the recovery of waste generated at building and public works construction sites by the year 2020. These 51 regulations forced even further financial investment in research projects to develop C&DW sorting technologies 52 that are increasingly efficient to generate recycled products with uses in the manufacturing of construction 53 materials. However, EU statistics from 2011 showed that the level of recycling and recovery of materials CDW 54 varies greatly between less than 10% and over 40% across the Union. For example, in 2012, the valorization 55 rate of CDW reached 95.5% in Germany and the main goal of the involved parties is to keep this rate in the 56 future. In Denmark, the overall goal is to obtain a better quality of recycled C&DW and at the same time 57 maintain a high recycling rate. At the opposite, in France, C&DW management is an emerging issue, very 58 dynamic in terms of technical innovation, but which suffers from the lack of political will and customers' 59 interest in general and which also depends heavily on logistics, cost conditions and tax policy.

To confirm this fact, the French General Council of the Environmental and Sustainable Development
(CGEDD, 2015) observes that there is a lack of investment in order to respect the WFD objectives. The same
observations are published in the academic research studies (Paula & Leroy, 2014). Studies in 2014 indicated
that France recycled 50% of the total amount of generated C&DW.

64 This context has given the framework for some research programs, which have the objectives to define the 65 technological tools to respect the WFD goals. Then, several research programs are carried out. For example, 66 the subject of the C2CA European program (C2CA, 2016) is the advanced technologies for the production of 67 cement and clean aggregates from construction and demolition waste.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the technological aspects of sorting process, the economic impact of sustainable concrete was included in the scope of research work. In 68 69 the continuity, the HISER European project (HISER, 2016) begins in 2015.<sup>3</sup> The academic and industrial 70 partnership wants to optimize the sorting process for construction materials. This recycling optimization could 71 treat more C&D waste.

In parallel, many academic studies are performed such as these of de Brito (de Brito & Silva, 2016). In the
 more recent one, he proposes several orientations to bring added value to C&D waste on the base of the state
 of art about recycled concrete aggregates.

75 This general context shows the necessity to take overall measures to reduce environmental and cost impacts of 76 this huge amount of waste that can still be recycled. Developed countries struggle hard to meet the general 77 target of C&DW recycling. We generally distinguish three ways to improve the recycling rate: standards 78 (regulation), economic instruments or technological progress. Most of countries use basic platform or landfill. 79 We here focus on the financial analysis (scoping study) of three innovative processes that produce high-grade 80 recycled aggregates.

81 Economic evaluation has fundamental importance in the context of these projects and efforts to improve 82 construction and demolition waste sorting by applying advanced techniques to obtain an improvement in the 83 separation performance of the different C&DW components. Many studies addressed economic analysis of 84 C&DW management recycling (Nunes et al., 2007; Duran et al., 2006; Zhao et al., 2010, Huang et al., 2002; 85 Coelho & de Brito, 2013). These studies involved such different assumptions and contexts (Brazil, Ireland, 86 China, Taiwan, Portugal) that it would be invalid to compare their results directly. The assumptions of these 87 analyses differ in a number of ways: discount rate, period length, technology, scale of the recycling centre, etc. 88 Garbarino and Blengini G.A. (2013) provided a good overview of the literature on the economics of 89 construction and demolition waste (C&DW) management facilities. The authors identified drivers and contraints for the development of recycling sector: taxation on natural aggregates, landfill taxation, quality of 90 91 recycled/seconday aggregates from C&DW, etc. They also provided some estimates of the investment and 92 operting costs associated with mobile and stationary plants for C&DW recycling.

93 To our best knowledge, there is no study that has already assessed the economic profitability of the three 94 considered processes (especially the two most efficient processes). Our preliminary assessment of the economic 95 feasibility of these C&DW sorting uses on the classical "discounted cash flow" method. We have a special

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> www.c2ca.eu/ (07/20/2016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> www.hiserproject.eu/ (07/20/2016)

96 focus on the investment decision indicators such as net present value, payback period and internal rate of return. 97 Our analysis relies on assumptions concerning operating parameters of recycling facility, initial and operating 98 costs. Here, we focus merely on the financial (economic) analysis and do not calculate the environmental costs 99 and benefits causes by the three processes life cycle. As shown by the literature review provided by Bovea & 100 Powell (2016), the environmental impacts associated with construction and demolition waste crucially depend 101 on the context (i.e. transport distance is recognized as a critical process). As this preliminary analysis is 102 undertaken prior to a more site-specific study, we were not able to offer a proper assessment of environmental 103 impacts due to lack of data. Nevertheless it should be noted that it is commonly accepted that the environmental 104 impacts of a material produced from virgin materials are higher than the ones of its equivalent produced using 105 recycled C&DW (Bovea & Powell, 2016).

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107 The main objectives of our analysis are:

- i. search and estimate the basic economic data in the construction sector for recycling materials in the European continent;
- ii. analyze the differences, from the economic point of view, between three types of technological sorting methods into three scales of C&DW recycling platforms, regarded as small, medium and large sizes;
- 113 114
- iii. check the economic feasibility for each case using the method of discounted cash flow.

115 The article is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the considered C&DW sorting. Section 3 presents 116 the data and the approach used to assess the economic profitability of the three platforms. Section 4 reports and 117 discusses the results. Finally, Section 5 presents some concluding remarks.

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### 119 2. Description of the Considered C&DW sorting

- 120 The C&DW sorting processes actually used in the recycling plant vary greatly amongst countries and 121 amongst regions of the same country. For example, the inventory given by the French agency of energy 122 (ADEME, 2011) shows a large variability in terms of technology and process used for the recycling platform. 123 However, one can have a listing of the sorting process types. An overview about the C&DW management 124 (Pacheco-Torgal et al., 2013) gives this inventory. According to this reference, three technical levels for C&DW 125 management plants are identified:
- 126 Level 1: mobile crusher and sieving plant;
- 127 Level 2: same as level 1, plus metal collector and more complex sorting/sieving;
- Level 3: same as level 2, plus hand-sorting, washing plant and appliances for waste streams, other than
   aggregates such as wood.
- However, this problematic of C&DW management demands to propose new processes more sophisticated and more efficient applied to the C&DW sorting so as to respect the European objectives. But the level of technology must be suitable with the economic and regulation context. Thus, we considered three types of sorting in C&DW recycling platforms, called:
- Current advanced process (CA);
- Advanced process (Ad);
- Advanced Sorting process (AdS).
- Figure 1 explains how these different processes are implemented. For further details, the following sectionsdescribe the steps composing each sorting process.
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Figure 1 – Flow chart diagram of the CDW's sorting platforms.

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143 1.1. Current advanced process - "CA"

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145 "Current advanced process" is an improved current process, or an alternative based on the most common 146 current recycling processes, including the most basic equipment, such as crushers and screens with magnetic 147 separators, but including additional equipment that enable better sorting efficiency and generate material with 148 the final quality of the recycled aggregate. According to Paranhos et al. (2016), this material is currently used 149 in France on roads and terracing; it is rarely used on concrete structures because this type of aggregate is 150 generally obtained from pre-screened sources. This kind of recovery process is composed by four steps (see 151 Figure 2).



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Figure 2 – Flow chart diagram of the Current Advanced (CA) process constituting of four steps using the disposal machines in the optimal way.

The initial step is to stock up on the receiving of the C&DW transported from generating sites by trucks; at first, the sorting was carried out by operators performing visual sorting, with the help of front loaders or bulldozers that can spread material to facilitate the work. This material normally has an average size greater than 80 mm and consists of C&DW with ferrous and non-ferrous metals, paper and cardboard, and wood and plastics components. This stage can be called "preliminary visual inspection and sorting".

161 The second stage of this first sorting phase in receiving materials is called the "Mechanized sorting 162 process". The operation uses "Hydraulic hammers" installed in the arms of excavators. They have the function 163 of reducing the size of the largest pieces of C&DW, contributing to improved efficiency in subsequent sorting 164 equipment because they disintegrate C&DW components (crushed stone, brick, iron, concrete, etc.) and can 165 generate other visual separations by operators.

After this first step where there is a prior separation in the received C&DW materials, the second phase of continuous sorting is started with the transfer of material through conveyor belts. The first stage of this second step is the loading of the C&DW material directly on the first conveyor that transports to the "Scalper" (fixed grid separator), before passing through the metal detector or "Magnetic separator", whose function is to collect all types of ferrous components (magnetic properties). Thus, these materials are removed in the ongoing process for reusing or recycling purposes; removing these materials avoids the risk of damaging other mechanicalequipment, such as the Crusher, Trommel and Air Separator.

The main function of the Scalper is to remove particles smaller than 4 mm that must pass through the gaps
between the fixed grid beams forming a so-called "under-flow"; the Scalper increases the efficiency of the
Crusher and vibrating screen.

The over-flow material from the Scalper goes to the Crusher Jaws and then through a vibrating screen whose function is to make the particle size of the crushed C&DW separate into two fractions: bigger than 40 mm and smaller than this size. The larger group is brought back to the crusher, forming a so-called "circulating charge". The particles smaller than 40 mm will be directed to the conveyor belt that proceeds to manual separation by trained operators in identifying different types of components (plastic, paper, cardboard, metals, and others) to be manually sorted and directed to containers after being screened for reuse or final recycling.

182 In the manual separation sequence on the conveyor, the material that was not screened by operators goes 183 directly to the Air Separator where the particles fall by gravity in a counter-current of blown air that removes 184 the lightweight material from the top of the equipment. This material mainly consists of paper, fine plastic and 185 wood. Some fraction of materials containing gypsum into fine powder will be able to be removed by the air 186 stream.

187 The next stage is to move the material to the Trommel, a revolving screen whose function is to separate 188 larger fractions and ones smaller than 4 mm in size and to promote a breakdown of the material larger than 4 189 mm in size. This Trommel step is normally the last step that is employed in C&DW sorting platforms with a 190 more basic level of technology; in this study, this type of platform is called the "Current advanced process -CA".

It is observed that this current level of C&DW processing that generates products after the Trommel step
 consists in recycled coarse aggregates and sand.

1.2. Advanced process - "Ad"

The second type of sorting process considered in this work is called "Advanced – Ad" because it has equipment that provides a higher quality of products. This type of improved process does not currently exist and is being proposed in this study. It is considered to be a new sorting method for recycled aggregates (Paranhos et al., 2015). This process uses the output of the precedent process such as its input flow. Figure 3 describes the synopsis of such process.



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Figure 3 – Synopsis of the Advanced (Ad) process: its input flows are the output of the CA process.

The process to the Trommel follows the same treatment as for the current process. After this point, the
 processed material is directed into two separation density systems: "dry jigging" (Jig) and "spirals separation"
 (Spirals).

This equipment allows the generation of products for recycling as ceramic and gypsum aggregates. The Jig is under dry working conditions, without the presence of water as the fluid only in the presence of air. This equipment operates on the principle of particle separation by density difference when subjected to oscillating and pulsed movements in the fluid medium. According to several recent research works (Cazacliu et al., 2014; Sampaio et al., 2016), the dry jig shows a sorting efficiency relevant for C&DW sorting. Indeed, the laboratory experimental studies show the potential results at the industrial scale. The principle of the Spiral is also on particle segregation by density, but they require aqueous medium fluid. The material flows in density actionthrough spiral channels and separation occurs by action of the centrifugal force.

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1.3. Advanced sorting process - "AdS"

For the "Advanced Sorting – AdS" process, the difference is the inclusion of equipment called "Near
 Infrared Sorting". As mentioned for the "Ad" process, "AdS" should be considered as a new method for sorting
 recycled aggregates (Paranhos et al., 2015). Figure 4 presents an example of such process.

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Figure 4 – Example of the Advanced Sorting (AdS) process.

The base of this equipment is the detection of the physical characteristics of materials by emitting infrared beams. The equipment detects the different components and, through a separation system, the different types of materials are separated from the flow, forming final products with higher purity. Thereby, the C&DW platform can produce recycled aggregates with higher quality, enabling usage in the manufacture of construction materials, such as concrete, with greater purity and reliability. This type of sorting process has the principal objective of generating high quality particles that are more liberated. In the C&DW recycling process, the material could not be separated by conventional optical sorting because it has similarities.

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1.4. Capacities of recycling platforms

Three levels of C&DW sorting processing capabilities of recycling platforms were considered for this study,
 according to the following criteria:

i. research the input levels of recycling platforms currently in operation, mainly in Europe;

ii. estimate the average quantities that have been generated, considering the per capita annual generation
in European countries that are listed in the bibliography;

iii. from these rates of per capita generation, define three levels of platform inputs, considering small, medium and large capacities;

Analyzing the data and information obtained in the bibliography and considering the criteria mentioned, it was decided to adopt production levels of 100, 300 and 600kt/y (thousand ton per year). These amounts correspond to small, medium and large capacity levels and are representative of the current reality of C&DW recycling in the European market.

Production capacities on the level of 100kt/y are the most commonly found currently in recycling platforms in the European continent. Levels of 300kt/y, despite being more uncommon, are found in metropolitan areas with higher populations. It is important to highlight that production levels of 600kt/y has been considered in this study as an extreme situation considering the fact that the higher the level of production, the lower the production costs.

#### 255 2. Methodology

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According to the publication of the Minerals Institute entitled "Cost Estimation Handbook" (AusIMM, 2012), this evaluation study is classified with "Scoping study – Phase 1", and the expected accuracy range varies between 30% and 35%.

Two basic concepts in this methodology are very important. The first, "Assessed", means that costs are general benchmarks, and the specific quantities are not yet available. The second, "Factored", means that the general benchmarks are based on extrapolations between different production scale levels.

This work considers data obtained from similar projects, data published in specialized literature and publications of the research organizations and governmental institutions. The experience of the authors was important to provide adjustments through discussion and analysis of the research data.

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Figure 5 shows the flow or sequence of the activities adopted during this work.



Figure 5 - Flow of activities adopted in the methodology.

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The "discounted cash flow" (DCF) method was adopted for the economic order calculations and estimates.
The cash flow is the difference between cash inflows and outflows associated with a project for a certain period, and for economic evaluation. Therefore, the composition and calculation of the cash flow should be determined for each year throughout the life of the project according to the following expression (1):

275 Cash Flow = Cash Entrance Flow (inputs) - Cash Exit Flow (outputs)

Each cash flow period can have positive or negative results and usually the initial periods can be negative
because it is the investment and maturation phase. Once you begin sales, the flows are generally positive,
although there may be negative periods in cases of project expansion, modification, equipment replacement or
equipment installation for environmental control.

- 280 The inflows and outflows include the following:
- Cash Entrance Flow (inflows): revenues for receiving the C&DW at the plant; revenues from the sale
   of the end products generated by C&DW's sorting at the plant;
- Cash Exit Flow (outflows): investment or capital costs; working capital; taxes; fixed and variable
   operating costs; depreciation;

The economic valuation techniques are used to estimate data for a project by using economic indicators to evaluate its profitability and risk compared to other investment alternatives. To this end, it is necessary to initially assemble the cash flows based on calculations of important economic indicators for analysis and required decision making.

This method considers the Net Present Value (NPV) which corresponds to the sum of the present values ofall future cash flows (Zizlavsky, 2014). The calculation of NPV is performed by expression (2):

$$NPV = \sum_{0}^{N} \frac{NCF_t}{(1+i)^t}$$

292 with:

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293 NPV – Net Present Value

294  $NCF_t$  – Net cash flow at time t (i.e. cash inflow-cash outflow)

t- Time of the cash flow

i - Discount rate

(2)

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N- Number of periods (years)

The projected cash flow allows obtaining the NPV of financial results or the performance for a project in the adopted lifetime. The parameters that are used include the following:

- Discount rate = 4%
  - Number of time periods = 20
- Process recovery = 90% (the final recovery of the amount of waste that feeds the recycling plant, or i.e., it is considered that 10% of the material is rejected by the process and should be discarded into a regular deposit)

After performing the cash flow simulations, it is possible to make an evaluation or economic analysis of the
 results, using economic indicators such as "Internal Rate of Return (IRR)" (or "Recovery Period of Investment
 (RPI)").

310 The Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is the discount rate that equals the present value of positive cash flows to 311 the present value of negative cash flows in an investment alternative. In other words, IRR is the discount rate 312 at which Net Present Value equals to zero.

313 The Recovery Period of Investment (RPI), or the "Pay-Back", demonstrates the time or period in months or 314 years that is required to recover the value of the initial investment in the project; the lower this number is, better 315 or more profitable the evaluation of the project.

#### 317 3. Analysis of the data and cash flow simulations

The bibliography has thoroughly analyzed and compared the data disclosed in these studies; all data were compared and equalized for the same currency and is up to date for the year 2015, more specifically, the middle of the year, considering the inflation rates of the respective governments.

It was observed that the values have acceptable and appropriate differences to the phase or stage of this
 study, or "Scoping study – Phase 1", as defined in the previous section referring to the methodology, giving a
 good degree of reliability in these studies.

Table 1 shows a comparison between the data of these sources consulted in terms of the average variations,
 for more or less, according to the major classes of cost, capital and operation and general data such as prices,
 rates, types and equipment capacity.

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#### Table 1 – Comparison between the data sources.

Type of the data	Variations among the data sources (%)	References
Capital costs	7	Nunes 2004; Lima 2013; Tam 2008; Coelho & Brito 2013; Cortês
Operational costs	15	et al 2013; Cunha & Miceli 2013; Williams & Turner 2011; Muller
Others (prices, taxes,		et al 2013; ADEME & FFB 2011; ADEME 2011; FFB 2014; Duran
equipment capacity)	20	et al 2006;

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An important point that was considered in the analysis of this study is that practically 100% of the data sources are from Europe, indicating that the level of assessed costs is the European scenario.

Most of the data or almost the entire searched database refers to production capacities of recycling platforms that are approximately 50 t/h; the current situation shows that the majority of existing plants or platforms in Europe, with very few exceptions, show similar capacities. This is an important observation obtained during the study and is a result of poor market acceptance for the recycled products or recycled aggregates. This fact stems from the lack of consumer confidence about the quality of products used in construction and manufacturing with these recycled aggregates.

Thus, in accordance with the cost estimation methodology adopted in this preliminary study phase, an extrapolation or interpolation model was used to estimate values for the other production levels that were studied (AusIMM, 2012). The model is the estimation of investment and operation costs for the projects based on curve fitting to "cost-capacity" data, known as the estimation technique for "exponential adjustment"
considering the "scale effect". This proposed model, covered by the concept of "Quick Evaluations", as known
in economic projects evaluating fields, is used for research, analysis and decision-making in the preliminary
scope of the project (Oliveira Neto, 2008).

These types of models are regularly used in mining projects, the best known are the so-called "*O'Hara Model*" (Oliveira Neto et al., 2009) and "*the six-tenths rules described by Mular*" (AusIMM, 2012), widely known and used in the mining industry worldwide. The estimation technique by cost-capacity exponential adjustment takes the evolution of costs to capacity into consideration. In this case, the relationship between cost and capacity is performed by expression (3):

 $y = b k^a$ with: (3)

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b (constant parameter);

a <1 (constant parameter);

- y (cost);
- k (production);

357 Constants "a" and "b" are derived from historical raw equipment data collected by the estimator over time358 (AusIMM, 2012).

Another important factor considered in this type of cost estimation that is constantly adopted is the contingency factors. These expressed in terms of percentage added to the estimated total amounts to provide for other additional costs that may arise because of market factors or even economic conjuncture, both with the operational and capital costs. In this study, we adopted an increase of 5% as a contingency (AusIMM, 2012).

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3.1. Investments costs

The investment list is by type, from purchase of the land and installation of the infrastructure to the purchase
of each component of the envisaged equipment in the flowchart of each type of procedure that is provided. The
data related to investment costs or capital costs are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 shows the results of research and estimation for the three types of processing considering a specified
 annual capacity of C&DW sorting: 100, 300 and 600 kt/y (thousand ton per year).

For the investment categories, the basic parameters assumptions are (AusIMM, 2012):

- i. environmental permits: considering the costs of the environmental studies for the initial licenses;
- 374 ii. site: the purchase land site is estimated for an area requirement of 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> for all types of platforms
   375 that are considered;
- iii. infrastructure: includes the cost of construction access and haulage roads, land preparation, water
   facilities, construction of offices for administrators and scale facilities, purchase of software for
   operation and plant management;
- iv. plant: cost of construction includes engineering of the building and cost of the equipment installation;
   v. equipment: purchase prices.

Figure 6 shows the share of each investment category in the total initial cost. The importance can be
observed related to the percent of the equipment and the infrastructure in each type of platform recycling
process. These two investment costs participate in between 70 to 80% of the total investments.

The land purchase participates with an average of the 8% of total investments. The share of the equipmentinvestment increases with the platform capacity.

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Figure 6 - Share of investment category in total initial cost

#### 3.2. Operating costs

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Table 3 shows the data related to operating costs. This table shows the results of research and estimations for the three types of sorting process, considering a specified annual capacity for C&DW processing of 100, 300 and 600 kt/y (thousand tons per year). The operating costs include:

- energy costs: diesel and electricity;
  - labor costs : qualified workers, unqualified workers and engineers;
- maintenance costs: repairs, cleaning, etc.;
- water consumption;
  - waste disposal costs: materials rejected;
  - insurance costs.

The database search for estimating operating costs is the same as listed in Table 1. There was a data adjustment in accordance with the team experience because there are significant differences between the compositions of certain variable costs among European countries, such as labor costs that may contain large variations.<sup>4</sup>

407 The basis for parameter assumptions for the operating costs are shown in Table 3 and Table 4.

<sup>4</sup> In 2014, hourly labor costs in the whole economy (excluding agriculture and public administration) ranged from  $3.8 \notin$  to  $40.3 \notin$  across the EU Member States.

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6761066/3-30032015-AP-EN.pdf/7462a05e-7118-480e-a3f5-34e690c11545~(07/20/2016~)

Table 2 – Initial costs (in €)

Investments		cı	current process CA			advanced process Ad			advanced sorting AdS		
Туре	Description	100 kt/y	300 kt/y	600 kt/y	100 kt/y	300 kt/y	600 kt/y	100 kt/y	300 kt/y	600 kt/y	а
Environmental permits	studies and reports	4,500	9,800	15,900	5,300	11,500	18,630	5,600	12,150	19,680	
Site	land purchase	776,100	776,100	776,100	776,100	776,100	776,100	776,100	776,100	776,100	
	ground and ways	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	
Infrastructure	admin. Building	40,000	60,000	90,000	40,000	60,000	90,000	40,000	60,000	90,000	
	operating software	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
	scale	40,000	115,000	72,000	40,000	115,000	72,000	40,000	115,000	72,000	
Plant	operations building	750,000	1,000,000	1,600,000	750,000	1,000,000	1,600,000	750,000	1,000,000	1,600,000	
	equip. installation	240,000	432,000	690,000	300,000	540,000	860,000	300,000	540,000	860,000	
	skips	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
	trucks	160,000	320,000	480,000	320,000	480,000	600,000	320,000	480,000	600,000	
	wheel loaders	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	b
	mechanized sorting	150,000	360,000	360,000	150,000	360,000	360,000	150,000	360,000	360,000	
	grinder for wood	200,000	360,000	360,000	200,000	360,000	360,000	200,000	360,000	360,000	
Equipments	scalper	50,000	90,000	100,000	50,000	90,000	100,000	50,000	90,000	100,000	
	vibrating feeder	30,000	54,000	60,000	30,000	54,000	60,000	30,000	54,000	60,000	
	hand sorting	15,000	27,000	40,000	15,000	27,000	40,000	15,000	27,000	40,000	С
	trommel	200,000	270,000	300,000	200,000	270,000	300,000	200,000	270,000	300,000	
	magnetic separation	20,000	40,000	40,000	20,000	40,000	40,000	20,000	40,000	40,000	
	vibrating screens	50,000	100,000	160,000	100,000	200,000	320,000	100,000	200,000	320,000	d
	crusher	250,000	500,000	800,000	250,000	500,000	800,000	250,000	500,000	800,000	е
	conveyors belts	175,000	350,000	400,000	245,000	490,000	560,000	350,000	680,000	784,000	f
	pulverized sorting	-	0	0	150,000	300,000	300,000	150,000	300,000	300,000	
	jigs	0	0	0	596,500	1,200,000	1,200,000	596,500	1,200,000	1,200,000	g
	air separation	0	0	0	65,000	120,000	120,000	65,000	120,000	120,000	
	spirals	0	0	0	65,200	130,000	130,000	65,200	130,000	130,000	h
	infrared sorting	0	0	0	0,000	0,000	0,000	320,000	320,000	320,000	
	total	7,115,600	8,828,900	10,309,000	8,333,100	11,088,600	12,671,730	8,758,400	11,599,250	13,216,780	
	Eventual (5%)	355,780	440,955	514,655	416,655	553,855	632,655	437,920	579,355	659,855	
	Total investment	7,471,380	9,260,055	1,0807,755	8,749,755	11,630,955	13,285,755	9,196,320	12,166,455	13,856,955	

a) research date about recycling plant of construction material in Brazil (Ladeira, 2004; Lima, 2013), Europe (Coelho, 2013); b) loader; 2,5 m3, 0.073 €/ton; c) 10mx40"; d) 3 screens for advance process, 3 decks; e) primary jaw crusher; f) 5 conveyors for current process and 7 for advanced process, 8-10m, € 35,000/un; g) considered air jig; h) 4 units/spirals

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#### Table 3 - Operating costs (assumptions)

<b>Operating Costs</b>	Quantity	Amount	Sources
operating labor <sup>(1)</sup> administration -	7(100 kt/y) ; 15 (300 kt/y) ; 25 (600 kt/y)	€ 2,950/month	
maintenance labor <sup>(1)</sup>	2(100 kt/y) ; 3 (300 kt/y) ; 5 (600 kt/y)	€ 2,750/month	French labor cost (Eurostat)
engineer supervisor <sup>(1)</sup>	1(100 kt/y) ; 2 (300 kt/y) ; 3 (600 kt/y)	€ 7,725/month	
insurance <sup>(5)</sup>	-	1% of the invest	Lima (2013)
Energy <sup>(2)</sup>	150,000 kWh/month for CA	€ 0.1/kWh	
	200,000 kWh/month for Ad and AdS	€ 0.1/kWh	Tam (2008), Coelho & de Brito (2013) Coelho & Brito (2013), Nunes
Fuel <sup>(3)</sup>	wheel loader 2,5 m3	€ 0.073/ton	(2004)
Water <sup>(4)</sup>	-	€ 0.005/ton	Coelho & de Brito (2013)
Maintenance <sup>(5)</sup>	-	1.5% invest.	Lima (2013)
Waste <sup>(6)</sup>	10% of total capacity	€ 50/t	Duran et al. (2006)

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The analysis of the distribution of operating cost categories shows that the major component is the labor
costs that include operation, maintenance and administration labor. The share of labor costs in the total operating
costs is approximately 45% (see Figure 8).

Another important component is the energy consumed that appears with the second major influencing factor
in the total operating cost (25%). This is because all of the mechanical sorting in waste plants consists of
equipment powered by electricity, and only one type of equipment is powered by diesel fuel; this equipment,
an excavator or loader, is used only in receiving operations and the initial preparation of the waste.

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3.3. Environmental measures

As shown in Table 2, this work considers the costs of environmental studies for the initial licenses and measures for mitigating and compensating for environmental impacts. The typical environmental impact for a sorting plant is considered, with the comminution, particle size separation and gravity separation unit operations. *"Environmental permits"* includes all the cost of the studies and reports of environmental impact required to obtain the installation and operation licenses (or permits). It also includes the fees paid to regulatory agencies. In Table 4, "Environmental measures" includes the costs of control of dust generation, mitigation of noise, system drainage and treatment of rainwater.

This cost category is evaluated using the database from Oliveira Neto (1999). It is modeled according to the "rules of thumb" (AusIMM, 2012). The data or values obtained from Oliveira Neto (1999) were properly maintained and were considered to refer to the ability of 100 ton/h, referred to as the "average plant capacity" and corresponding to the same environmental impacts and, as a consequence, the same mitigating and compensating measures. It is important to note that the average percentage of environmental measure costs is 2% of the total operating costs; it is lower than the maximum acceptable level of 5% in this type of installation.

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445 3.4. Cash flow simulations

The "discounted cash flow" simulations were carried out for capacities of 100, 300, and 600 kt/y for each
of the three types of technologies or recycling platforms. We consider three levels of final selling prices of the
recycled aggregates, i.e., 10 €/ton, 20 €/ton and 30 €/ton. A total of 27 cash flow simulations were performed.
Based on the assumption that a C&DW sorting facility is not feasible without charging a fee or entry price
(Pe), it was opted for the value of 10 €/ton (ADEME, 2011; Petter et al.,2015).

- 454 4. Results and discussion
  - 4.1. Internal Rate of Return

Figure 8 shows the results of all simulations. The tendency lines are the relationships between the IRR and the average sale price in the scope of each type of platform.



467 The graph demonstrates the high profitability of the three platform types for capacities, such as 600 kt/y
468 with an IRR above 25% for an average aggregate sale price of 10 €/ton; it is evident that the platforms are not viable under the simulated conditions for capacities of 100 kt/y.

The 15% limit for IRR indicates the cutoff points across the trend lines. This value of IRR is optimal
according to studies such as Wilburn and Goonan (1998) that analyze the economic profitability of C&DW
platforms with a minimum IRR of 12 %.

- For the intermediate capacity of 300 kt/y, the platforms begin to be viable from the selling price of 9  $\notin$ /ton. Table 5 summarizes the average sales prices for each platform type for a profitability IRR of 15%.

	Table 4 - Operating costs in CDW's sorting recycling plants per type and level of annual production (in $\epsilon$ ).								
	current process CA			a	dvanced process	Ad	advanced sorting AdS		
	100 kt/y	300 kt/y	600 kt/y	100 kt/y	300 kt/y	600 kt/y	100 kt/y	300 kt/y	600 kt/y
operat. Labor	247,800	531,000	885,000	247,800	531,000	885,000	247,800	531,000	885,000
adm. maint. labor	66,000	99,000	165,000	66,000	99,000	165,000	66,000	99,000	165,000
engin. supervisor	92,700	185,400	278,100	92,700	185,400	278,100	92,700	185,400	278,100
insurance	74,667	92,601	108,078	87,442	116,310	132,858	91,904	121,665	138,570
energy	180,000	396,000	665,000	240,000	528,000	887,000	240,000	535,000	899,000
fuel	7,300	16,000	26,800	7,300	16,000	26,800	7,300	16,000	26,800
water	612	2,270	3,000	612	2,270	3,000	612	2,270	3,000
maintenance	112,000	138,901	162,116	131,163	174,464	199,286	137,857	182,497	207,854
waste	50,000	150,000	300,000	50,000	150,000	300,000	50,000	150,000	300,000
environmental. measures	14,900	32,200	52,300	18,300	39,550	64,240	18,580	40,150	65,200
Total	845,978	1,643,371	2,645,394	941,317	1,841,994	2,941,284	952,753	1,862,981	2,968,524
eventual (5%)	42,299	82,169	132,270	47,066	92,100	147,064	47,638	93,149	148,426
Total	888,277	1,725,540	2,777,664	988,383	1,934,094	3,088,348	1,000,391	1,956,130	3,116,950

Table 4 - Operating costs in CDW's sorting recycling plants per type and level of annual production (in €).



Figure 7 - Operating cost categories (for AdS 100 kt/y)

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Table 5 – Average sales prices for each type of platforms for the profitability IRR of 15%.

		* *	-	<u> </u>
	Platform Capacity	P <sub>M</sub> CA €/ton	P <sub>M</sub> Ad €/ton	P <sub>M</sub> AdS €/ton
	100 kt/y	32	>35	>35
	300 kt/y	9.0	13.5	14.0
	600 kt/y	2.1	3.7	4.4
P <sub>M</sub> CA	- Average price for the C	urrent platform; P <sub>N</sub>	Ad – Average pric	e for the Advanced platform

P<sub>M</sub>AdS – Average price for the Advanced sorting platform;

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Analyzing the results in Table 5, it appears that the prices in the case of 100 kt/y capacity are out of the
 current market reality and cannot be competitive if compared with the prices of natural aggregate or primary
 mined material from rock quarries. Therefore, it is not possible to consider in this study the feasibility of
 the recycled aggregate process at a production level of 100 kt/y as previously concluded.

489 However, the prices for the 300 kt/y level of production, determined by the condition that IRR equals 490 15% in the chart, are suitable to market reality, which is closer to the price of 10  $\notin$ /ton related to the current 491 process (P<sub>M</sub>CA).

492 For the 600 kt/y production level, the prices are very low, logically indicating high profitability, but are493 also out of the market reality, which is much lower.

494 Considering the view of NPV, it is possible to find the average prices for the Advanced platform 495  $(P_MAd)''$  and Advanced Sorting platform  $(P_MAdS)''$  considering the same value as the NPV obtained for 496 the alternative Current with price 10  $\notin$ /ton, which is considered closest to the current reality. Table 6 shows 497 the prices for this case, and it is observed that the obtained values are more realistic and have greater 498 possibilities for competing with consumer market aggregates for use in construction.

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Table 6 – Average sales prices for each type of platforms for NPV CA = NPV Ad = NPV AdS.
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Platform Capacity	P <sub>M</sub> CA €/ton	P <sub>M</sub> Ad €/ton	P <sub>M</sub> AdS €/ton
300 kt/y	10.0	13.0	13.6
600 kt/y	10.0	11.7	12.0

P <sub>M</sub> CA - Average price for the Current platform; P <sub>M</sub> Ad - Average price for the Advanced platform
P <sub>M</sub> AdS – Average price for the Advanced sorting platform;

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## 4.2. Influence of product quality

Another view of the relationships between the quantities of products generated specifically by the type of process is the current process that produces only Recycled Material (RM). Advanced and advanced sorting processes produce both Recycled Material and Secondary Primary Material (named SPM for Advanced process and SPM+ for Advanced Sorting process). The quality (measured by the quantity of "high-grade" recycled concrete aggregate) of SPM is considered to be lower than that of SPM+. Figure 9 synthesizes the characteristics of three possibilities of generated products, according to the sophistication of the platform process.

Current process	•Recycled material quality Current process = RM •Price - $P_{RM} ( \in /t_{RM} )$ •share of recycled material in total production = X <sub>RM</sub>
Advanced process	<ul> <li>Recycled material quality Advanced process, or secondary primary material Ad = SPM</li> <li>Price - P<sub>SPM</sub> (€/t<sub>SPM</sub>)</li> <li>share of SPM in total Ad production = X<sub>SPM</sub></li> </ul>
Advanced Sorting process	<ul> <li>Recycled aggregated quality Advanced Sorting process or secondary primary material AdS = SPM+</li> <li>Price - P<sub>SPM+</sub> (€/t<sub>SPM+</sub>)</li> <li>share of SPM+ in total AdS production = X<sub>SPM+</sub></li> </ul>



according to the sophistication of the platform process (see Figure 1)

According to this view, it is possible to obtain a relation between the proportions of the quantities secondary primary material (SPM and SPM+) that is generated and the price of the products with more quality or the prices as a function of the proportion of quantities generated at the end of the process, using the following expression (4):

$P_i = (P_M i - (1 - X_i) * P_M CA) / X_i,$	(4)

- 526 with
- 527 P=price;
- 528 X= share of recovery in total production;
  529 i= SPM, SPM+.
- 529 i= \$ 530

Figure 10 demonstrates the relationships between  $X_i$  and  $P_i$  (with i=SPM, SPM+), considering  $P_{RM} = 10$ 532  $\notin$ /ton (Table 6).

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Figure 10 - Relationships between PSPM , PSPM+ and XSPM ,XSPM+, considering PMR= 10 €/ton, for NPV CA = NPV Ad = NPV AdS.

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The general interpretation of Figure 10 is that for higher generation of products with the best quality, the final sale price will be lower or more competitive. The graph provides the price levels according to the recovery of products with Ad and AdS processes. Thus, e.g., in order for the "Advanced" process that employs separation equipment of gravimetric type Jig to be competitive and feasible in economic and market terms, the process should achieve a recovery of more than 30%, and it is desirable for levels to be at least near 40%.

The graphic illustrates an interesting tendency and shows the possibility to work with the capacities of recycling platforms near 300 kt/y that are competitively very close to major capacities such as 600 kt/y when the recovery of materials with better quality achieves the highest values.

4.3. Payback period

The payback period (or time for return of investment) is the length of time required to recover the cost of the investment. This simple analysis method is useful from a risk analysis perspective, since it gives of how risky an investment is (i.e. the length of time that the initial investment will be at risk. Investors tend to choose the investment having the shortest payback period. Payback period analysis is particularly useful in sector where investments depreciate quickly, and where a full return of the initial investment is a serious concern.<sup>5</sup>

557 Payback period can be determined using the following equation:558

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The payback period must be lower than the lifetime of main equipment (Zhao et al., 2010).

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 $Payback \ period = (last \ year \ with \ a \ negative \ NCF) + \left(\frac{Absolute \ value \ of \ NCF \ in \ that \ year}{Total \ Cash \ Flow \ in \ the \ following \ year}\right)$ 

In our case, the payback period ranges, in the better case, from 5 years (platforms with capacity of 600 kt/y) to 8 years (platforms with capacity of 300 kt/y). These values fall in the higher range compared to the previous studies. Huang et al. (2002), Zhao et al. (2010), Coelho and de Brito (2013) evaluated a payback period of under 3 years. The main differences between the results are due to the underlying assumptions regarding technologies, discount rate, costs, market conditions, etc. Note that our assumptions are rather optimistic as we do not include credit cost (investment with no credit) and assume that the selling price of processed material ( $10 \notin //ton$ ) is competitive with the natural alternatives.

4.4. Process recovery

The parameter or the level of the process recovery adopted for the cash flow analysis was equal to 90%. To ensure the relevance of this parameter, some simulations with recoveries equal to 80, 90 and 95% (corresponding respectively to CA, Ad and AdS processes) are carried out.

The results showed that there are no important influences of this parameter on the results of the cash flows that were analyzed because the IRR variations range between 1% and 2%; this is not significant for the conclusions in this study.

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4.5. Discussion

This study illustrates the trade-off between technological development and economic performance. Specifically, investing better and more C&DW sorting technologies for recycling is not necessarily the most profitable strategy. The best compromise is desired, according to the market conditions (prices, demand), quantities of C&DW generated and available technologies.

Figure 10 shows that the necessary prices of products with better quality (SPM and SPM+) ranges
between 15 €/ton and 18 €/ton if the share of these products in total production is 40%. This point of
discussion can be very important for setting a target for the necessary level of recovery of SPM+ (recycled
aggregated quality Advanced Sorting process or secondary primary material) in most advanced sorting
processes.

Another point that is highlighted in the study is the key role played by C&DW recycling platform capacities. It is clearly shown that the platforms are profitable when the capacity of the platforms is not less than 300kt/y. Thus, an investment in the implementation of the C&DW platform in a particular region or locality is only justified if an "orebody" or "C&DW deposit" exists that generates a sufficiently high quantity of C&DW waste. This condition is fundamental for the economic success of this type of enterprise. However, the capacity of the existing platforms is, most of the time, under 100 kt/y. This capacity has

590 However, the capacity of the existing platforms is, most of the time, indee 100 k/y. This capacity has 597 been chosen to be more economically profitable. These small units have a lower technology level than the 598 more simple technology considered in this study. They only have a crusher step that keeps the levels of 599 investment and operating costs lower. However, they generate a low quality recycling material. These units 600 have been spreading all over the region to diminish the transport costs and attract more users.

Another aspect that occurs in this discussion is related to the economic sustainability of the CDW
 platforms or "is governmental intervention necessary to stimulate the CDW market?"

603 Developing construction and demolition waste management is a combination of legal, financial,604 engineering and planning functions (Söderholm, 2011). Here, we identify some levers for change:

- *improvement of technologies and diffusion policies*: as highlighted by Li & Yan (2011), increasing
  the use of recycled aggregates depends on their ability to be competitive with natural materials in
  terms of cost and quality. On the one hand, enhancing sorting, separation and processing may
  increase costs, but on the other hand, using new technologies and improving process efficiency
  may decrease costs. R&D policies may impact the improvement of developed technologies.
  Because secondary raw materials (SPM) are still perceived to be inferior to virgin ones, policy
  intervention that spreads awareness and knowledge of these new materials may be desirable;
- *economic instruments*: increased recycling could be achieved by economically viable measures to
   improve global waste management. The competitiveness of recycled materials and secondary raw

- 614 materials could be increased by raising the relative price of primary raw materials. Countries with 615 high tax rates have higher recycling rates, but tax rates are not a "silver bullet" (Söderholm, 2011). 616 As previously stated, efficient raw material management policies require a combination of policy 617 instruments addressing both upstream and downstream constraints;
  - 618 planning: efficient planning and sustainable material logistics management may have a significant \_ 619 effect on the cost efficiency of recycling platforms. There is a need to address regional differences;
  - legal: implementation of national legal requirements for the reuse of waste materials (recycled 620 621 materials and/or secondary raw materials) may impact the diffusion of C&DW sorting processes. A more active diversion policy (i.e., a policy diverting C&D waste material from landfills) may 622 623 also have an impact; 624
  - infrastructure: Increase the net of C&DW deposit areas to reduce transport costs with the objective of accumulating stock to supply recycling platforms with capacities greater than 300kt/y. 626

#### 628 5. Conclusions

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630 The paper proposes an economic analysis of three different types of C&DW sorting recycling platforms, 631 named current, advanced and advanced sorting. The development of such recycling platforms could be a 632 way to achieve a sustainable management of construction and demolition waste. From our analysis, a 633 number of conclusions can be drawn. Given the available data, this "Scope study - Phase 1" shows that 634 current process has better economic performance (in terms of internal rate of return) than other two 635 processes. The explanation of this result lies in the fact that the difference of investment cost between these 636 technologies cannot be offset by the (too) low difference between recycled material price and secondary 637 primary material price. Given the current market conditions these "high-performing" processes seem to be 638 less profitable than more simple technologies in most of the European countries,

639 The IRR associated with Advanced and Advanced sorting processes could be raised by, (i) higher price 640 of secondary primary material, and/or (ii) higher capacity of platforms, and/or (iii) higher share of 641 secondary primary material in the total production. The first two points depend on the market conditions 642 (prices and total quantity of C&DW available) and (potential) fiscal or incentive policy. The later one 643 depends on technological progress. Recent studies in European Union seem to put more emphasis on the 644 resource efficiency in the C&DW sector and formulate some recommendations (mandatory percentages of 645 recycled aggregates in large civil engineering projects, deployment of financial incentives to use recycled 646 aggregates (e.g. reduction on VAT for recycled materials...)) that could influence change in practices.<sup>6</sup>

647 Finally, there is a clear need for additional research. More accurate economic and financial data would 648 enable us to tackle all the issues related to these C&DW sorting recycling platforms: assessment of the 649 external costs and benefits, more precise economic evaluation results,...

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## 6. Acknowledgements

The CAPES-COFECUB cooperation program between Brazil and France, Federal University of Pampa (UNIPAMPA), Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and The French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR) are acknowledged.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Resource Efficient Use of Mixed Waste" is a project of the European Commission that try to identify the good practices in terms of creating conditions for increasing C&DW recycling. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/mixed\_waste.htm (07/20/2016)

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