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# Women Leading R&D&i for a Circular Furniture Sector

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# OFFICE FOR INNOVATION AND FUNDED PROJECTS

**FederlegnoArredo** participates in numerous European projects aimed at addressing key issues of great relevance to the entire wood-furniture supply chain.

**Objectives**:

- Driving innovation
- Promoting more sustainable business practices among Italian companies
- Enhancing the competitiveness and resilience of the **Italian furniture sector**

**Main activities:**

- Identifying and securing public and private funding for project implementation
- Maintaining and expanding the network of Italian and European partners
- Identifying new emerging (“hot”) topics relevant to the sector



# 8 ONGOING PROJECTS

BE WOODEN

CirCLER

Fitt·Ness
Fostering Innovation & the Twin Transition for iNclusive EnvironmentS and Smart homes

FurnSERVICE

FRANCESCA
Circular Solutions for Furniture
A Horizon Europe Initiative

REVOLVE

FURN5.0

EcoReFibre

# FURNCIRCLE

The European project FurnCIRCLE which aimed to develop a set of practical tools to support European companies in their circular and sustainable transition began **2023** and ended in **2025**.

The project, led by FederlegnoArredo, has among its partners **EFIC** – European Association of Furniture Industries and **AMBIT** – the Catalan cluster of furniture companies and is co-financed by the European Commission as part of the program for the promotion of **Social Dialogue**.

We carried out a Survey in **2024** among **European companies** to outline the state of the art of the circular and sustainable transition of the furniture sector, with the aim of involving companies from different countries.

We have developed a Guide **to the Circular and Sustainable Transition** enriched with examples, good practices and solutions already in place among European companies, to inspire changes and evolutions in the sector.

https://www.furncircle.eu/downloads

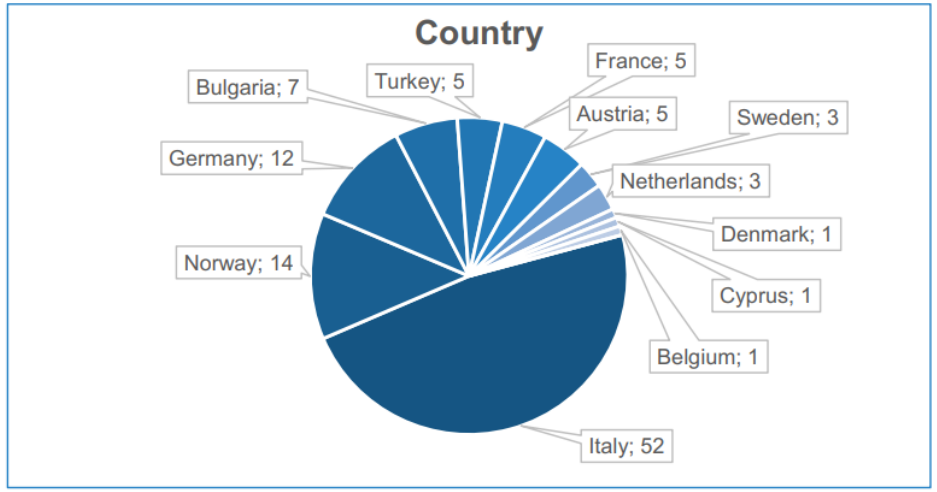
## Let's talk about the SURVEY ...

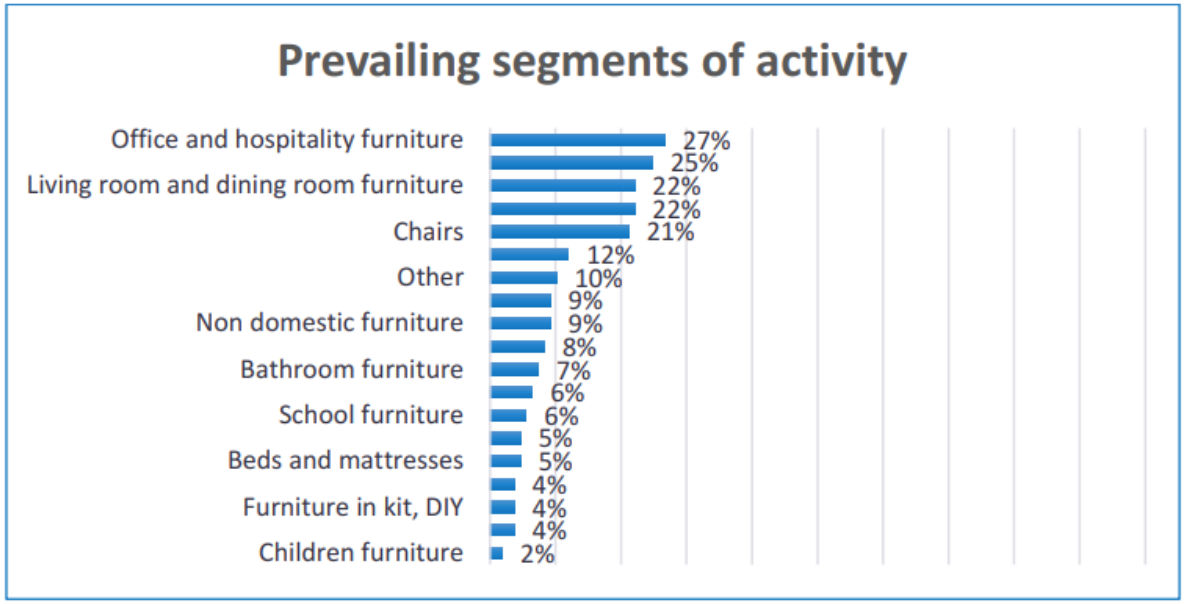
Objective is to measure the maturity levels of companies over time (2021-2024-2027) for collecting and analyzing data about the furniture industry's circular transition. The four core themes of the survey are:

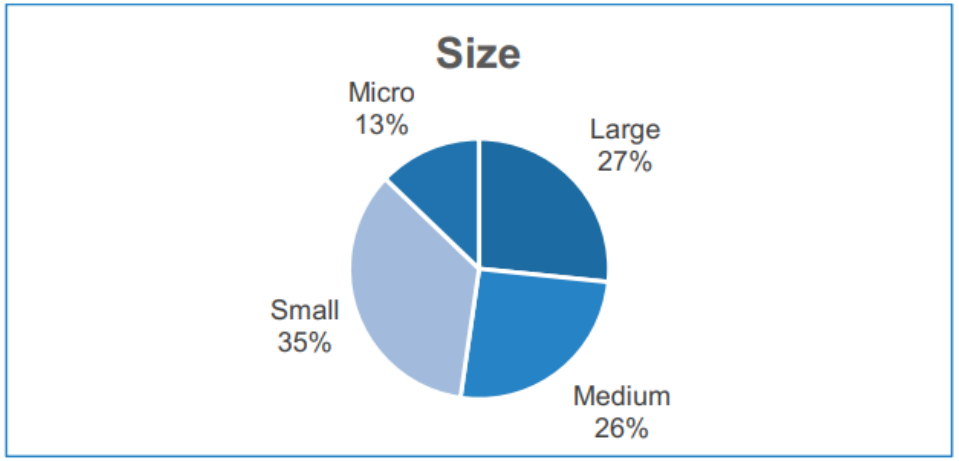
- Monitoring the development of a circular economy in the company
- Product information
- Sustainability management
- Sustainability legislation awareness

The questions were structured with five descriptions representing five different levels of maturity, ordered increasingly, regarding the application of the circular economy.

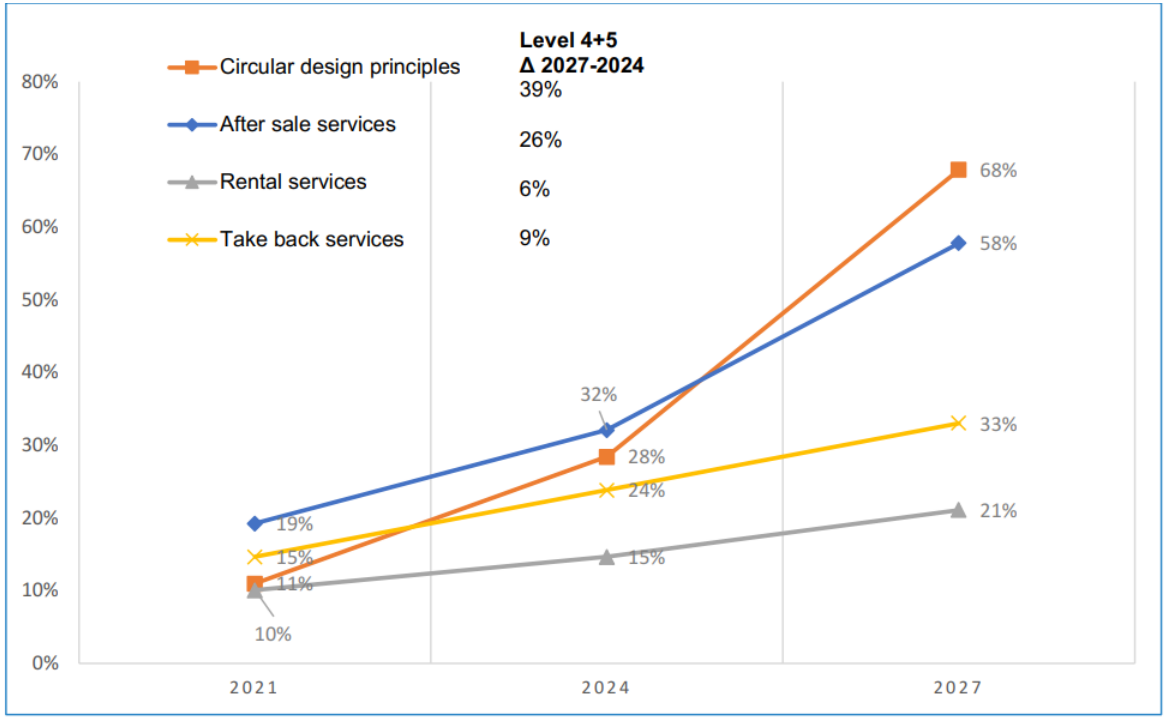
109 responses were collected



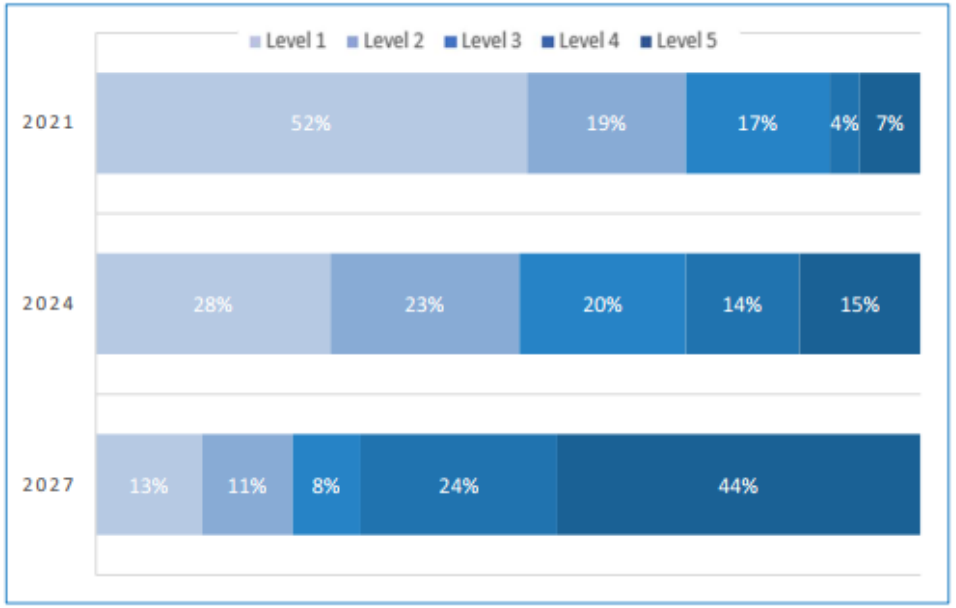



# Some results…




- **Question 1: Circular design principles**

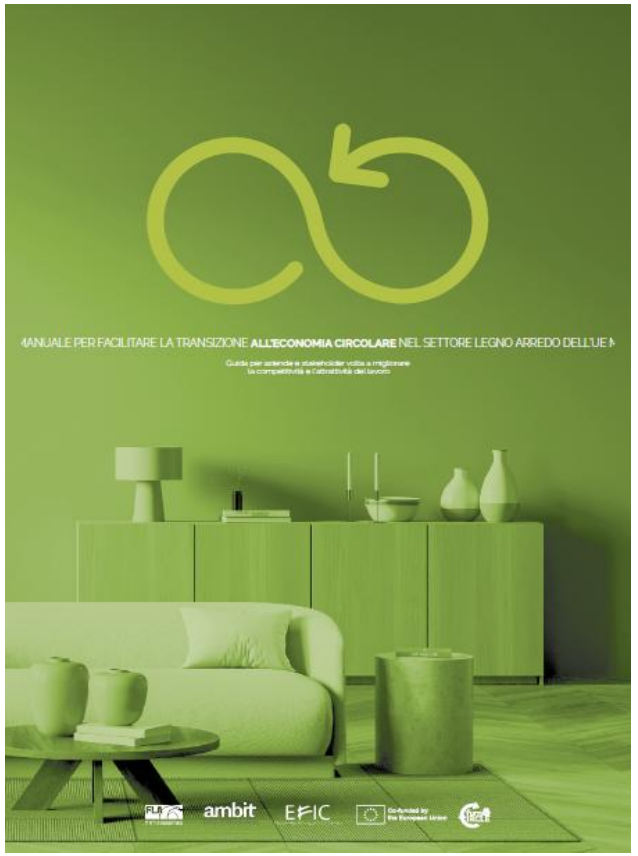



| *Level* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| *1* | The organisation does not have a written procedure to implement eco-design criteria. |
| *2* | The organisation applies some eco-design criteria to a limited range of products. |
| *3* | The organisation has integrated eco-design criteria into its production but does not communicate them. |
| *4* | The organisation implements policies and strategies to integrate eco-design principles and communicates this as a competitive advantage. |
| *5* | The organisation implements policies and strategies to integrate eco-design principles, evaluates the associated environmental benefits and communicates this as a competitive advantage. |

Practical guide to facilitate the transition to the circular economy in the furniture sector

**Handbook** for companies and stakeholders aimed at improving the competitiveness and attractiveness of work

**30** STRATEGIES, **300** PRACTICAL CASES



**Recycling**

| Value Generation (Operations) | Key resources | Benefits | Complex | Medium | Easy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

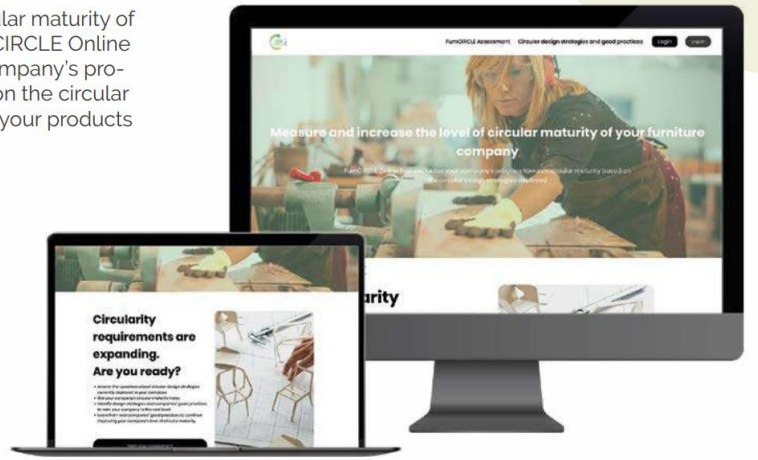
**Materials labelling**

| Value Delivery (Experiences) | Relationship spaces | Value proposal | Complex | Medium | Easy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Product take-back**

| Value Delivery (Experiences) | Relationship spaces | Value proposal | Complex | Medium | Easy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Measure and increase the level of circular maturity of your furniture company. With the FurnCIRCLE Online Tool, you will be able to assess your company's progress towards circular maturity based on the circular design strategies implemented across your products and processes.



# DESIGN PHASE

# MATERIAL RESOURCES PHASE

# PRODUCTION PHASE

# DISTRIBUTION PHASE

# USE PHASE

# END-OF-LIFE PHASE





# CIRCULAR TRANSITION IN THE WOOD FURNITURE SECTOR

**Context**

- Environmental, economic and social challenges
- Need for a resilient and sustainable system
- Strategic role of the wood-furniture industry (€>100 billion in EU turnover)

**Objectives**

- Orienting the sector towards the circular transition
- Analyze the economic model and challenges
- Explore opportunities and available tools



# Circular design strategies and good practices

- Proactively plan actions
- Assessing impacts
- Adopt sustainability criteria
- LCA studies
- Alignment with European legislation
- Evaluate progressive improvement interventions



# REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE

- Ecodesign Regulation ESPR 2024/1781

- Zero Deforestation Products Regulation EUDR 2023/1115

- Waste Framework Directive WFD 2025/1892

- Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation PPWR 2025/40

- Directive on the empowerment of consumers for the green transition 2024/825

- Right to Repair Directive 2024/179

- CSRD and Taxonomy

# CHALLENGES

- Amount of waste generation
- Shortage of raw materials and increased prices
- Higher energy costs
- Consumer preferences
- Lack of skilled workers and attractiveness of the sector among young people
- Increased competition

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Cost savings
- Waste reduction
- Operational efficiency
- Increased resilience
- Improved product quality
- Easier access to demanding markets
- Improving public opinion