



The circular economy and the European green jobs agenda

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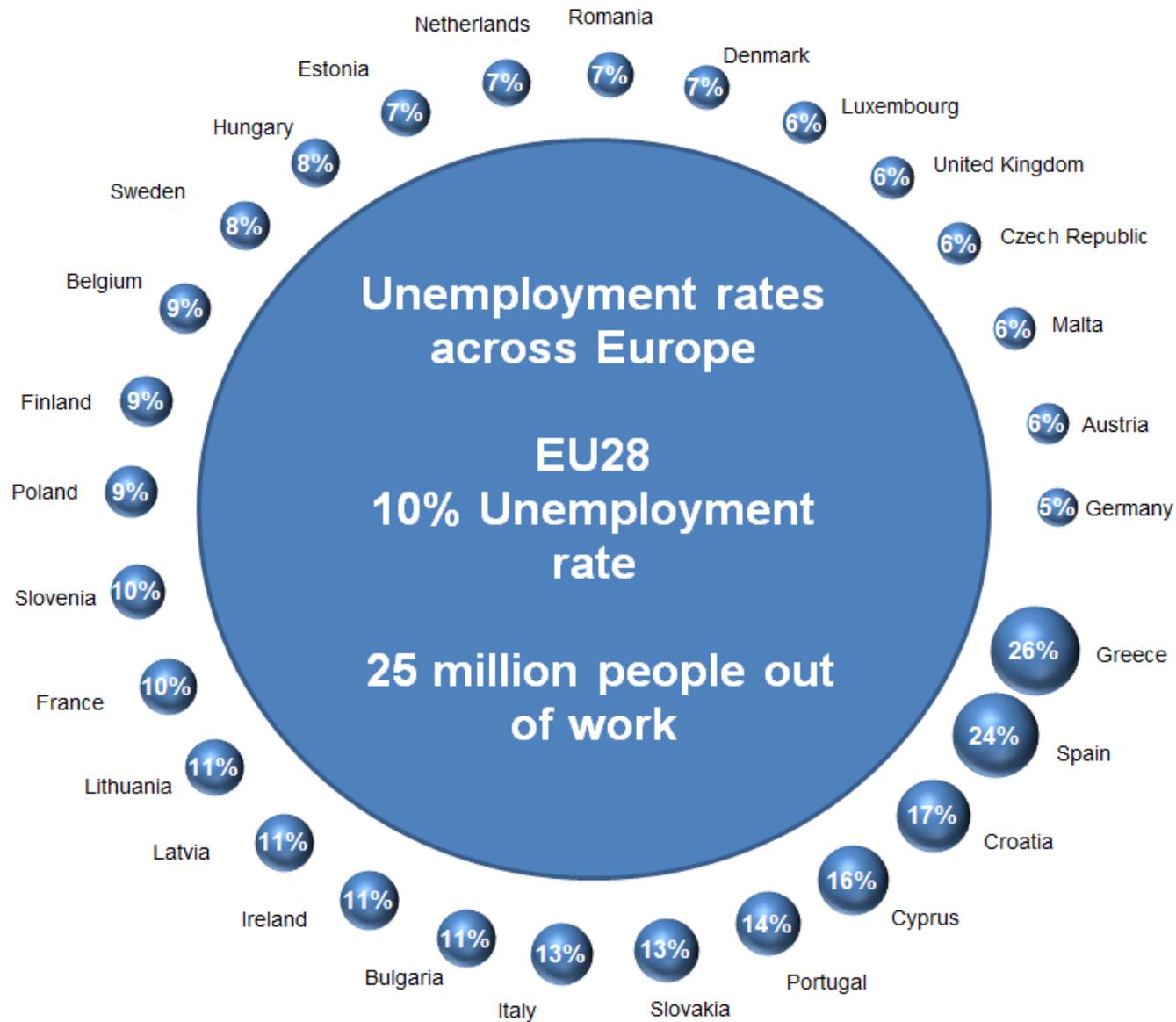
**Keith James
WRAP**

Image: Inside the Hive by Day with Worker 1, courtesy of UKTI © Crown Copyright

WRAP's **vision** is a world in which resources are used sustainably

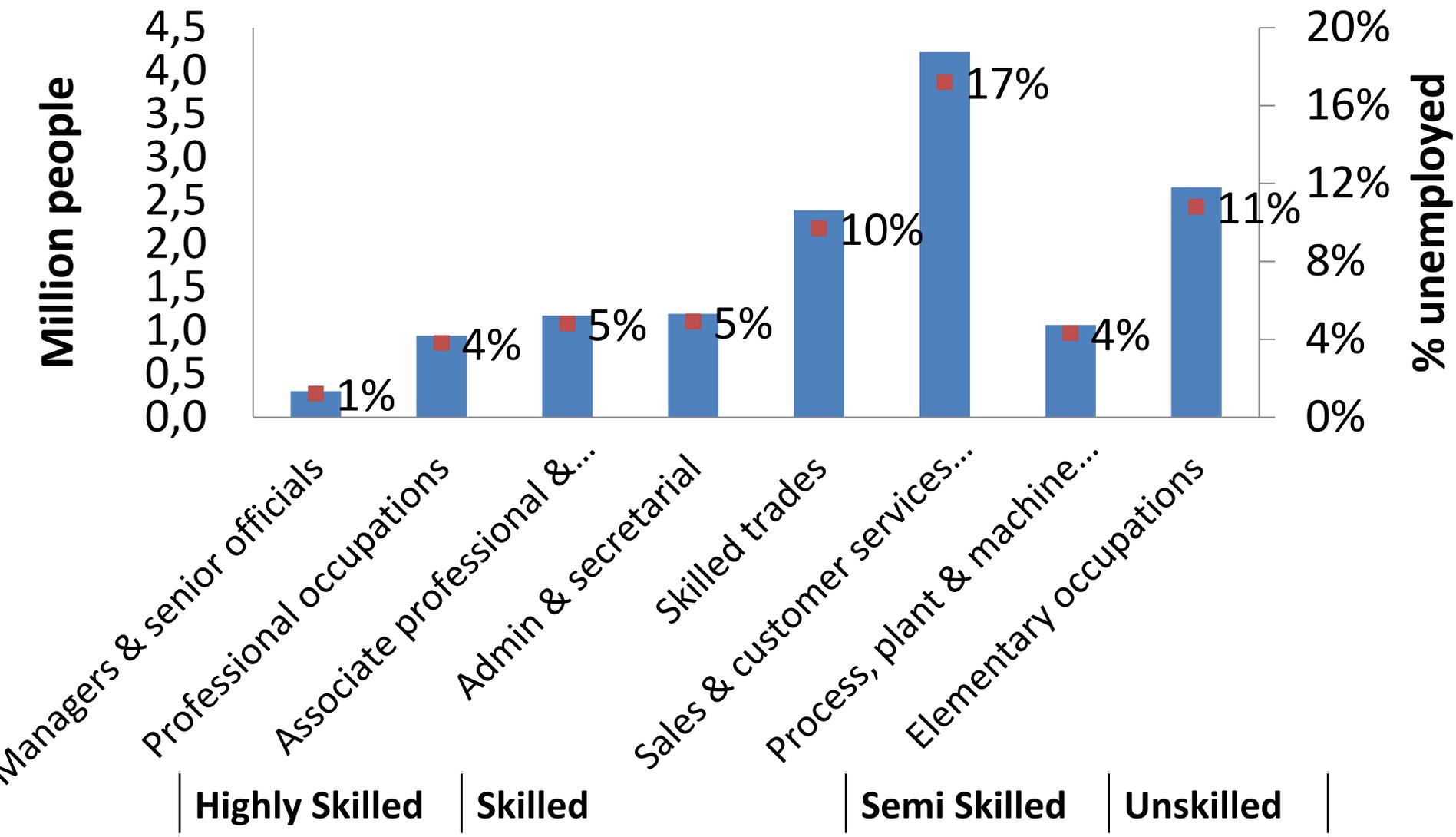
WRAP's **mission** is to accelerate the move to a sustainable, resource-efficient economy through:

- re-inventing** how we design, produce and sell products.
- re-thinking** how we use and consume products.
- re-defining** what is possible through re-use and recycling.

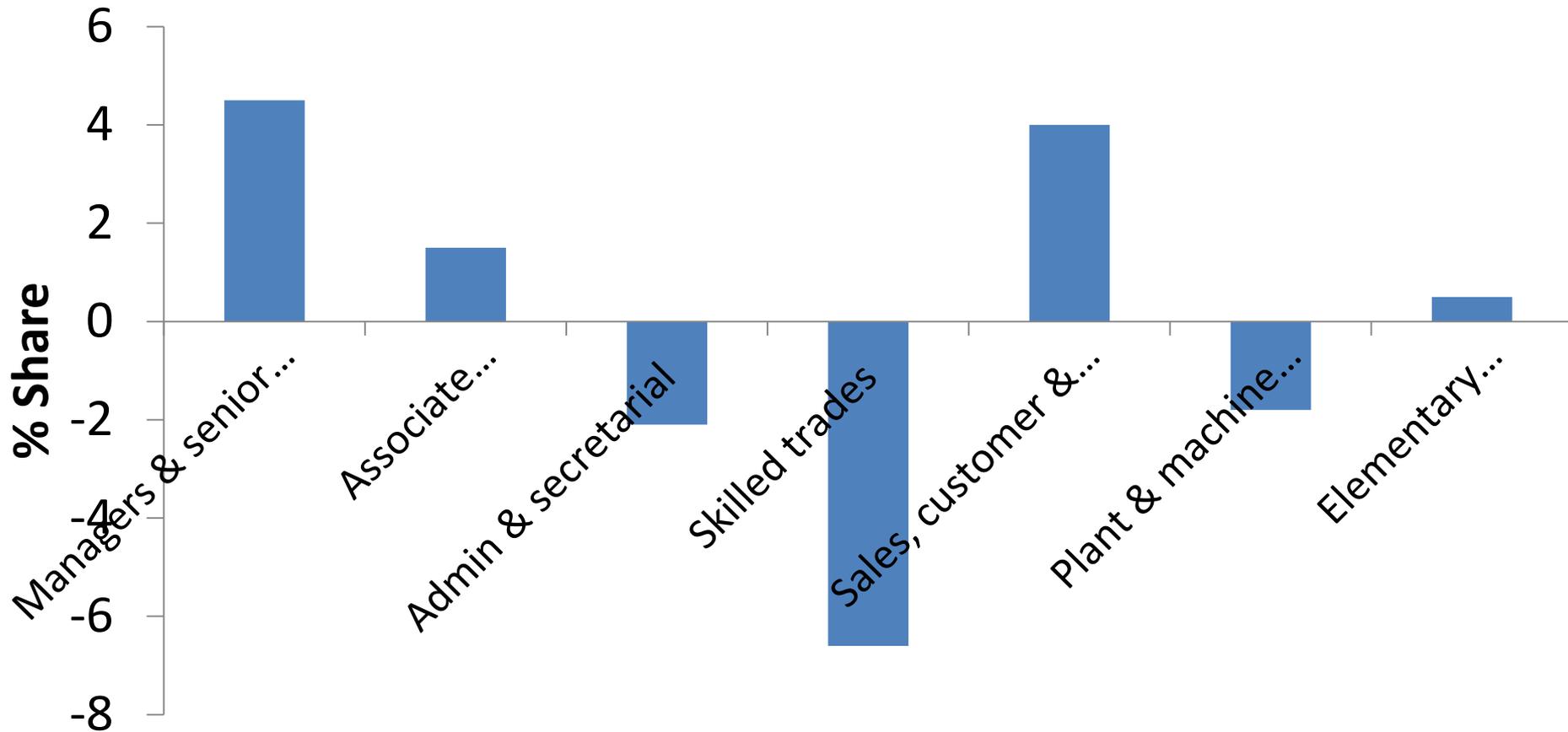


Source: Eurostat, WRAP calculations

Unemployment levels in Europe remain high



Unemployment by previous occupation in Europe



Employment by Occupation

Highly Skilled

Skilled

Semi Skilled

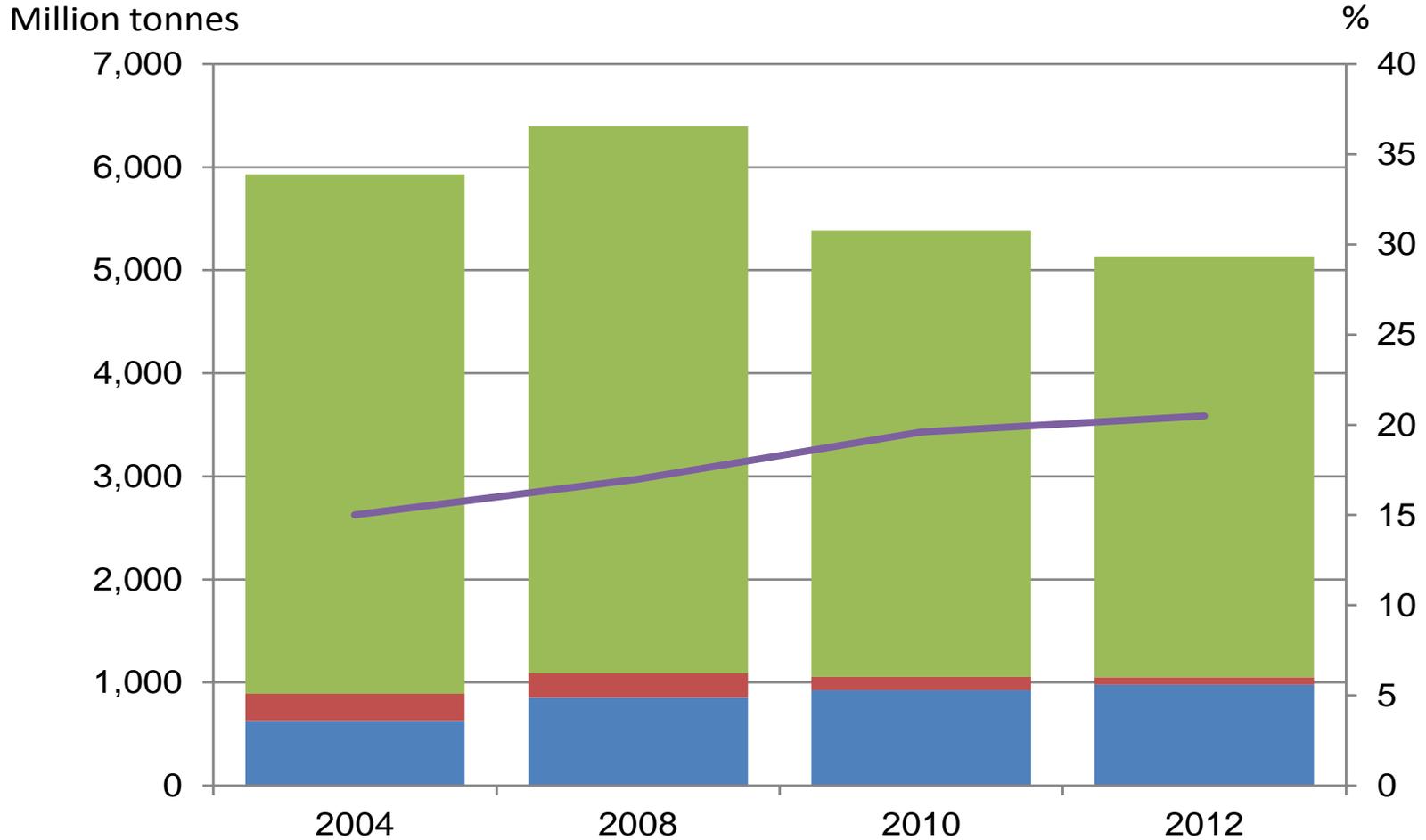
Unskilled

Change in Employment Share (2010-14)



- A circular economy creates economic value by using more labour and fewer resources
- Growth in circular economy can lower structural unemployment occurring either through regional mismatch/occupational mismatch
- Leading to creation of net jobs

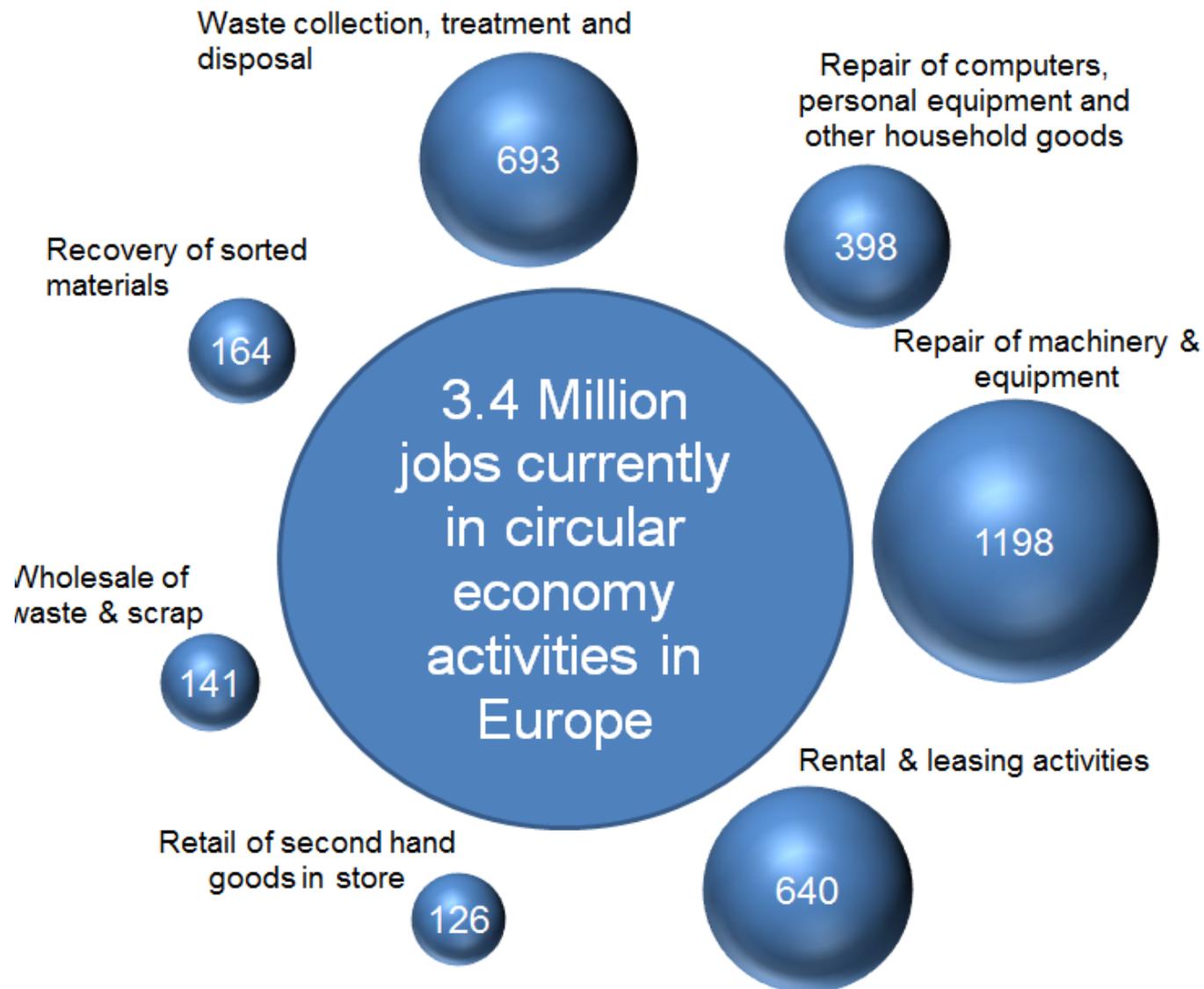
■ Domestic material consumption (l.h.s) ■ Of which net imports of materials (l.h.s)
■ Of which materials recovered (l.h.s) — Circularity (r.h.s)



Source: Eurostat, WRAP calculations

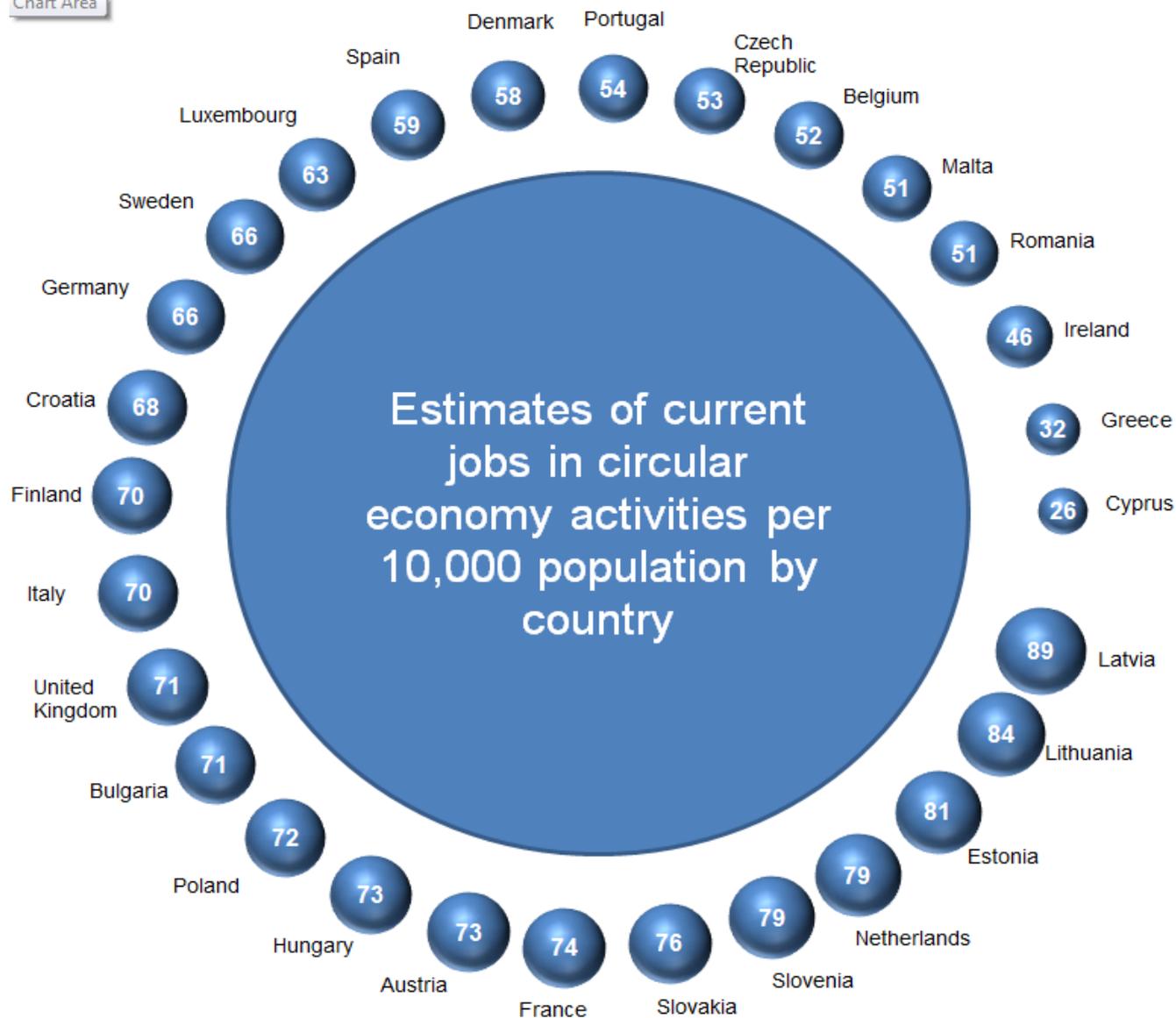
Trend in resource efficiency in Europe





Source: Eurostat, WRAP calculations
(Jobs estimates are in thousands)

Jobs currently in circular economy activities in Europe



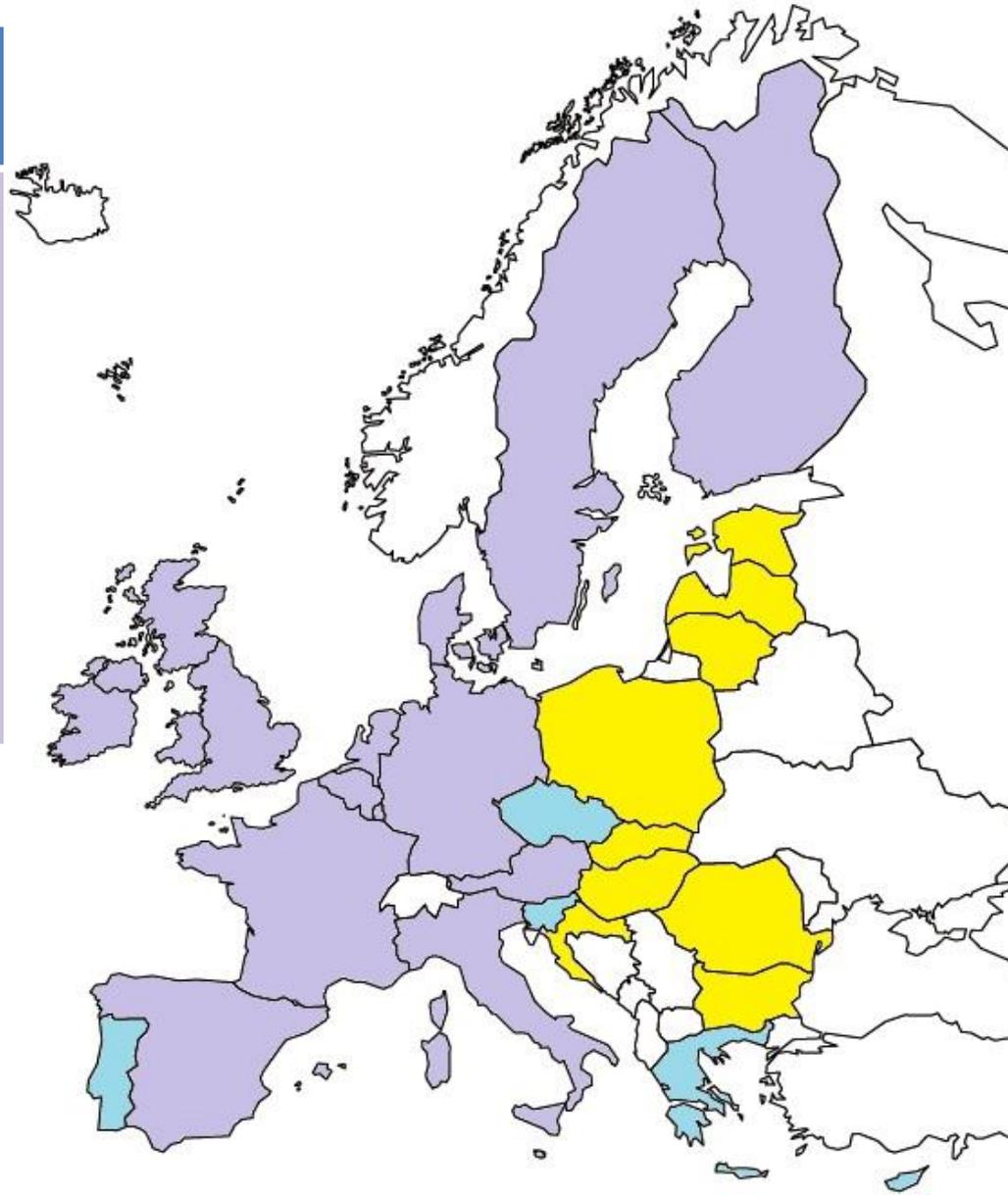
Source: Eurostat, WRAP calculations

Current jobs per 10,000 population in CE activities in Europe

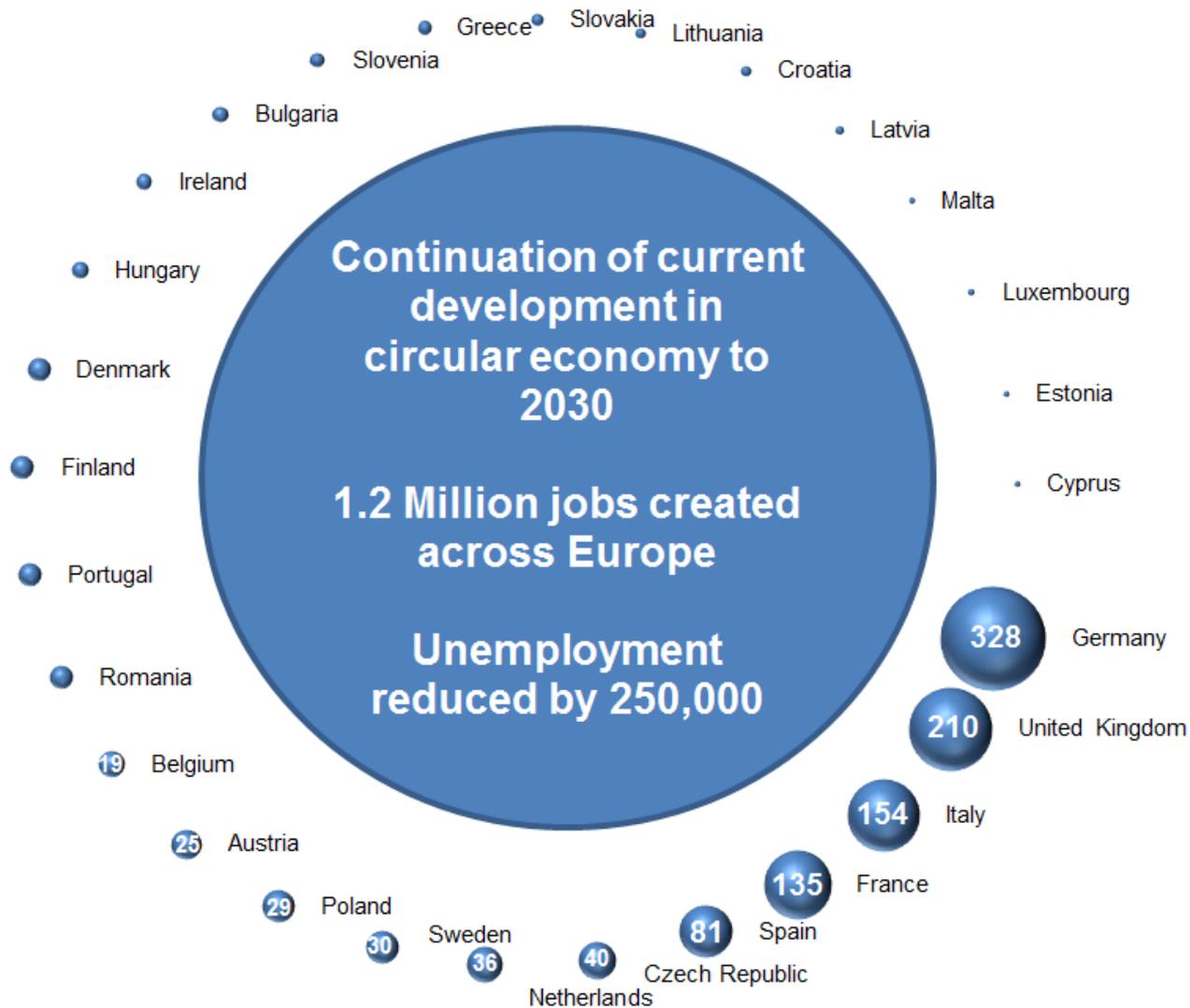
Three scenarios to indicate the potential for job creation from growth in circular economy in Europe

No New Initiatives	Current Development	Transformation
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Economic characteristics	Waste characteristics
Higher GDP per capita, predominantly moderate growth (up until the recent financial crisis)	Evolving towards decoupling for municipal waste, and usually with a developed waste treatment and some recycling heritage

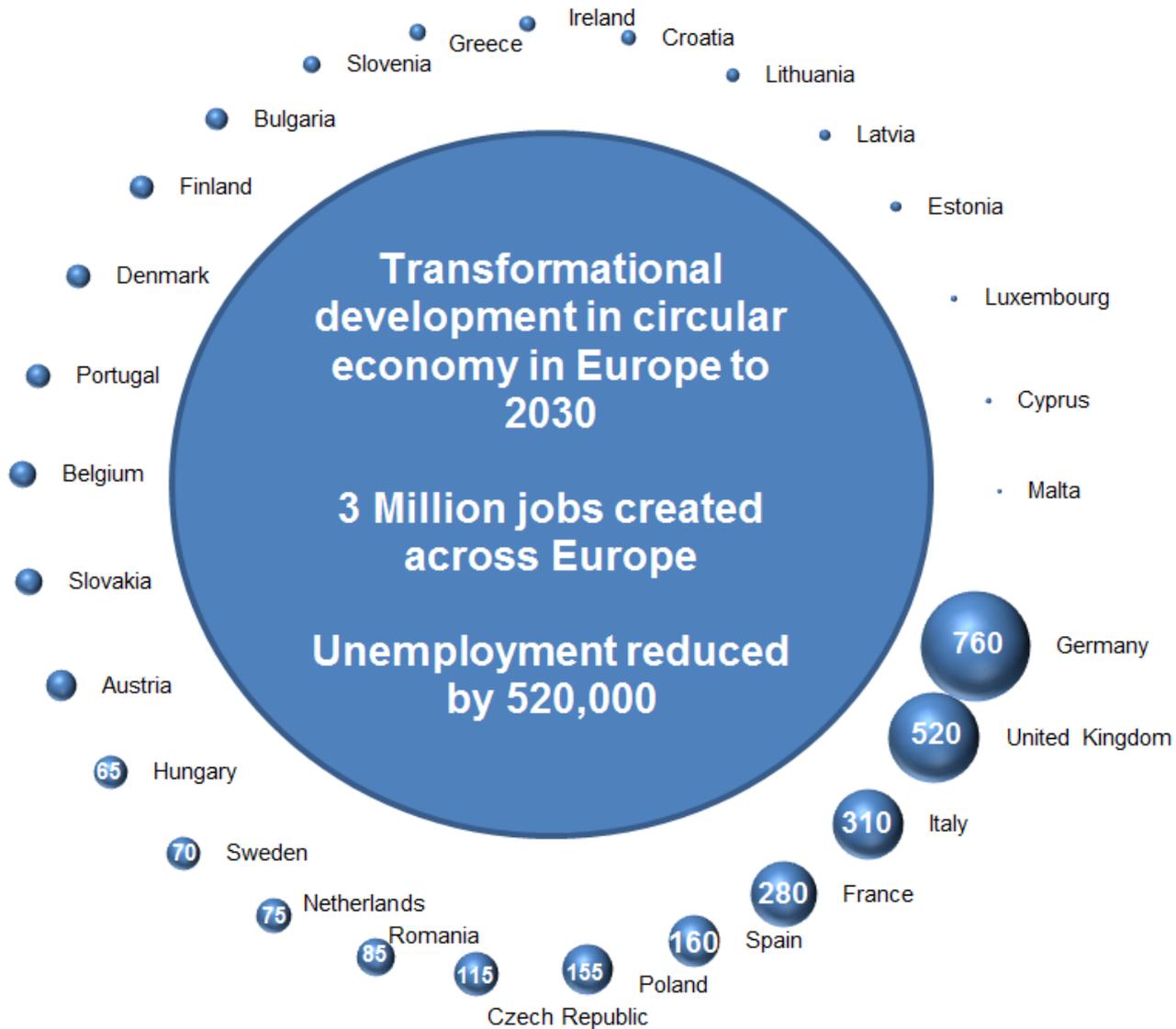


Country groups for scenario assumptions



Source: WRAP calculations
(gross jobs estimates by country are in thousands)

S2: Current development in CE in Europe continues to 2030



Source: WRAP calculations
(gross jobs estimates by country are in thousands)

- Resource efficiency has increased but Europe is not very circular
- A circular economy creates economic value through using more labour and fewer resources
- 3.4 million people currently employed in circular economy in Europe
- Current jobs in circular economy are distributed across Europe, broadly in line with the distribution of total employment
- A growing circular economy in Europe can potentially create (net) jobs by reducing regional mismatches in unemployment
- Potential for 1.2 to 3 million jobs created by 2030 with unemployment reductions of 250k to 520k

Conclusions