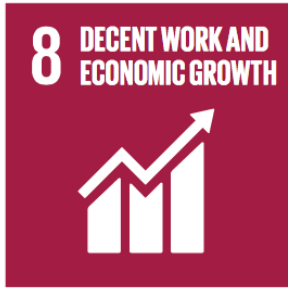


# Closing the loop: ASEM's transition towards achieving a circular economy

Implementation experience in ASEM member countries with the Sustainable Development Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production

Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) Annual Conference  
Yokohoma, Tokyo  
29 July 2019

# Introduction to the research



## TARGETS

## INDICATORS

<b>12.1</b> Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	<b>12.1.1</b> Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies
<b>12.2</b> By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	<b>12.2.1</b> Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP
	<b>12.2.2</b> Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP
<b>12.3</b> By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	<b>12.3.1</b> Global food loss index

<p><b>12.4</b> By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment</p>	<p><b>12.4.1</b> Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement</p> <p><b>12.4.2</b> Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment</p>
<p><b>12.5</b> By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	<p><b>12.5.1</b> National recycling rate, tons of material recycled</p>
<p><b>12.6</b> Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle</p>	<p><b>12.6.1</b> Number of companies publishing sustainability reports</p>
<p><b>12.7</b> Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>	<p><b>12.7.1</b> Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans</p>
<p><b>12.8</b> By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature</p>	<p><b>12.8.1</b> Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment</p>



# Research Aim



Map policy frameworks and implementation approaches to SCP in ASEM partner countries

# Research approach

## Methodology:

- Desk research

## Scope:

- Natural resources use, waste management, and circular or zero waste policies

## Data collection:

- 51 ASEM partner countries
- Voluntary National Reviews, national strategy documents, and relevant implementation reviews or research papers
- Limited to available documents in English, published before July 2018

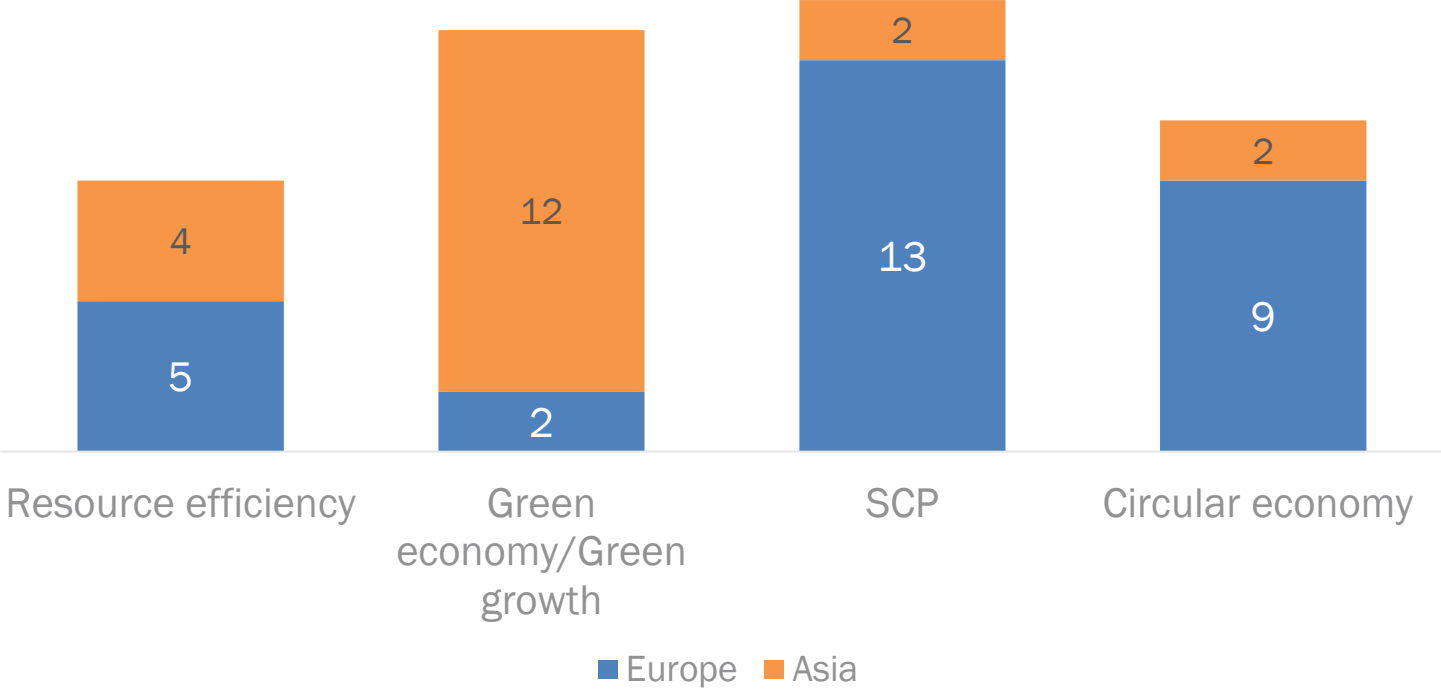
# Findings from the review



# Almost all ASEM countries formulated SCP objectives in high-level policy documents

	European ASEM partners	Asian ASEM partners
<b>Sustainable Development Strategy/ Long-term national development visions</b>	Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland	Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Viet Nam
<b>National Development Strategies/Plans</b>	Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, the United Kingdom	Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam
<b>SDG Strategy</b>	Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden	Japan

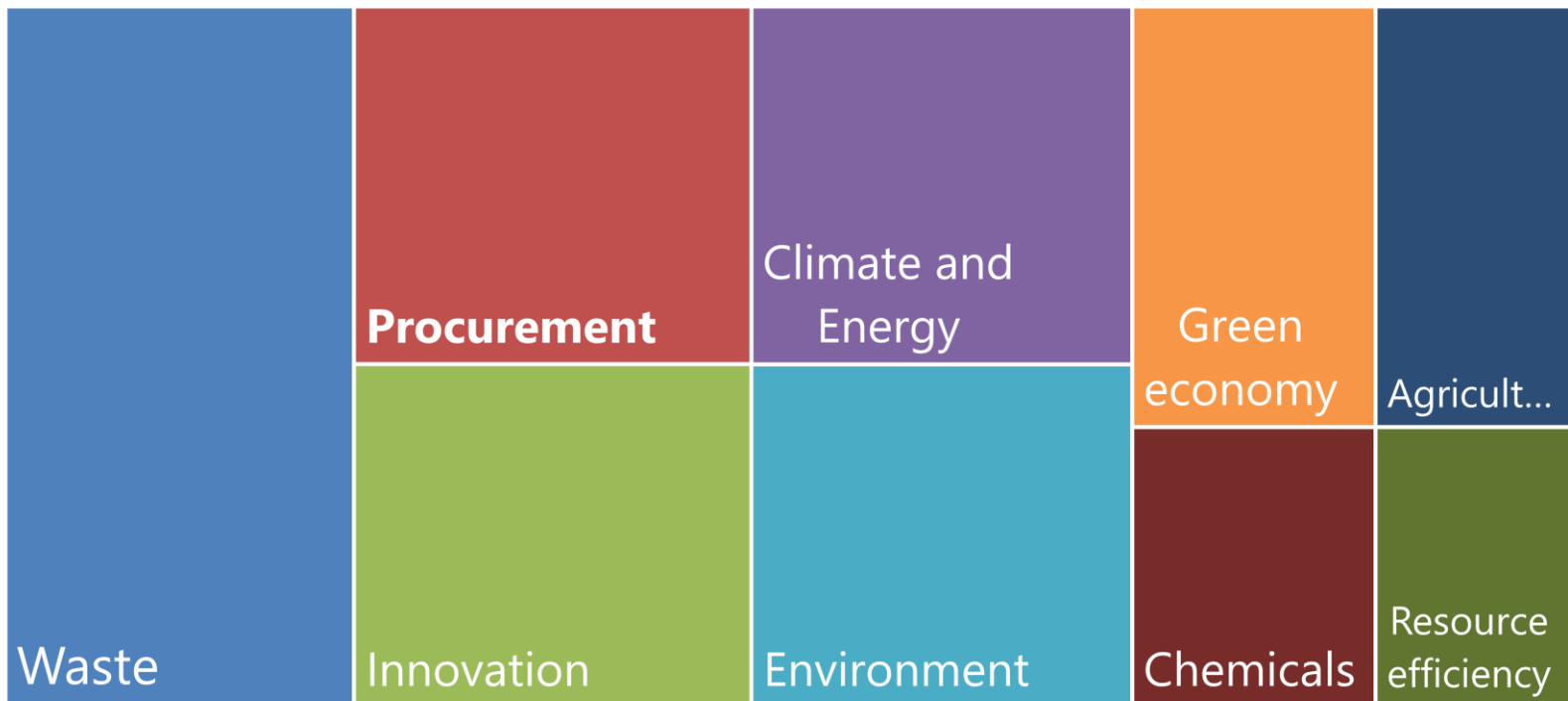
# SCP themes in national development strategies and plans



	European ASEM members	Asian ASEM members
Sustainable Development Strategy/Long-term national development visions	Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland	Republic of Korea, Myanmar
National Development Strategies/Plans	Greece	Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam
SDG Strategy	Czech Republic, Denmark	Japan

**..but not all ASEM partner countries have linked these objectives directly to SDG 12**

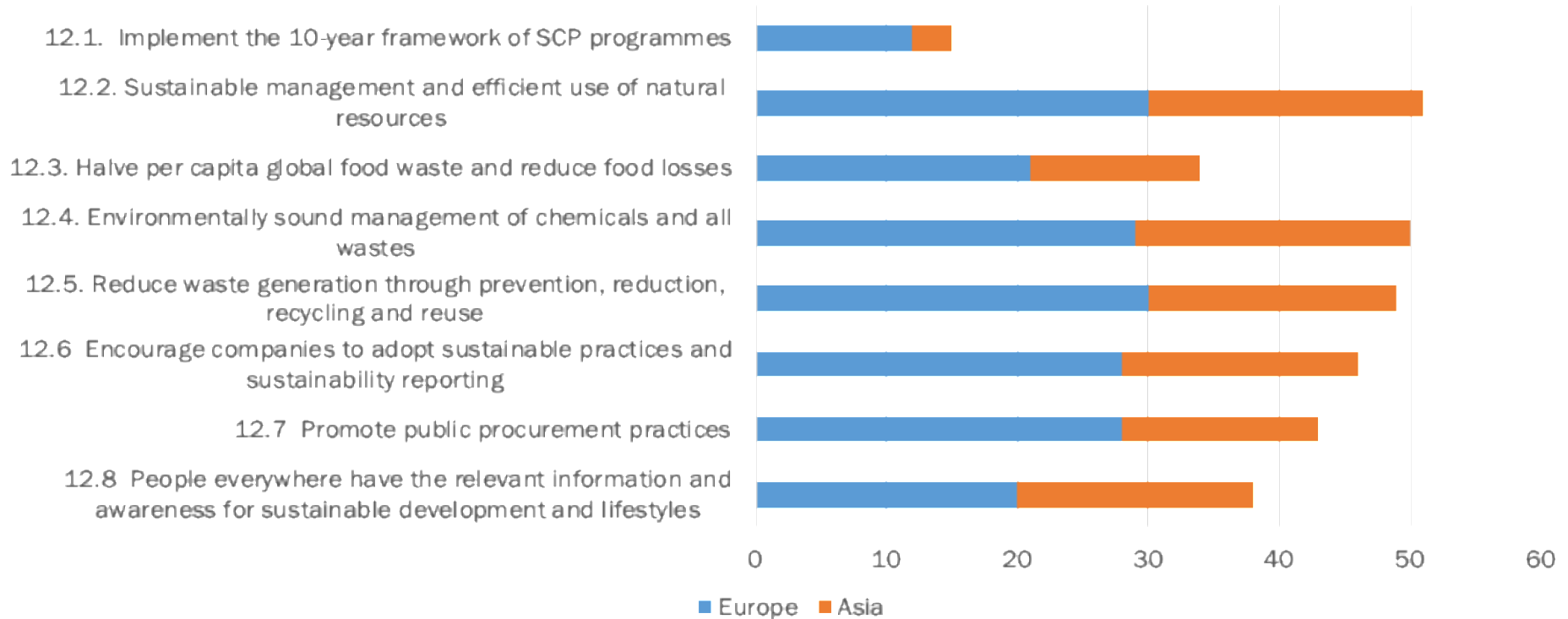
# Sectoral strategies with linkages to SDG 12 were identified



# SCP strategies and plans

- In 18 European and 7 Asian ASEM member countries
- Developed or updated in recent years (after 2015)
- Offered a comprehensive development approach
  
- In five of the ASEM member countries SCP-focused programmes were (also) identified

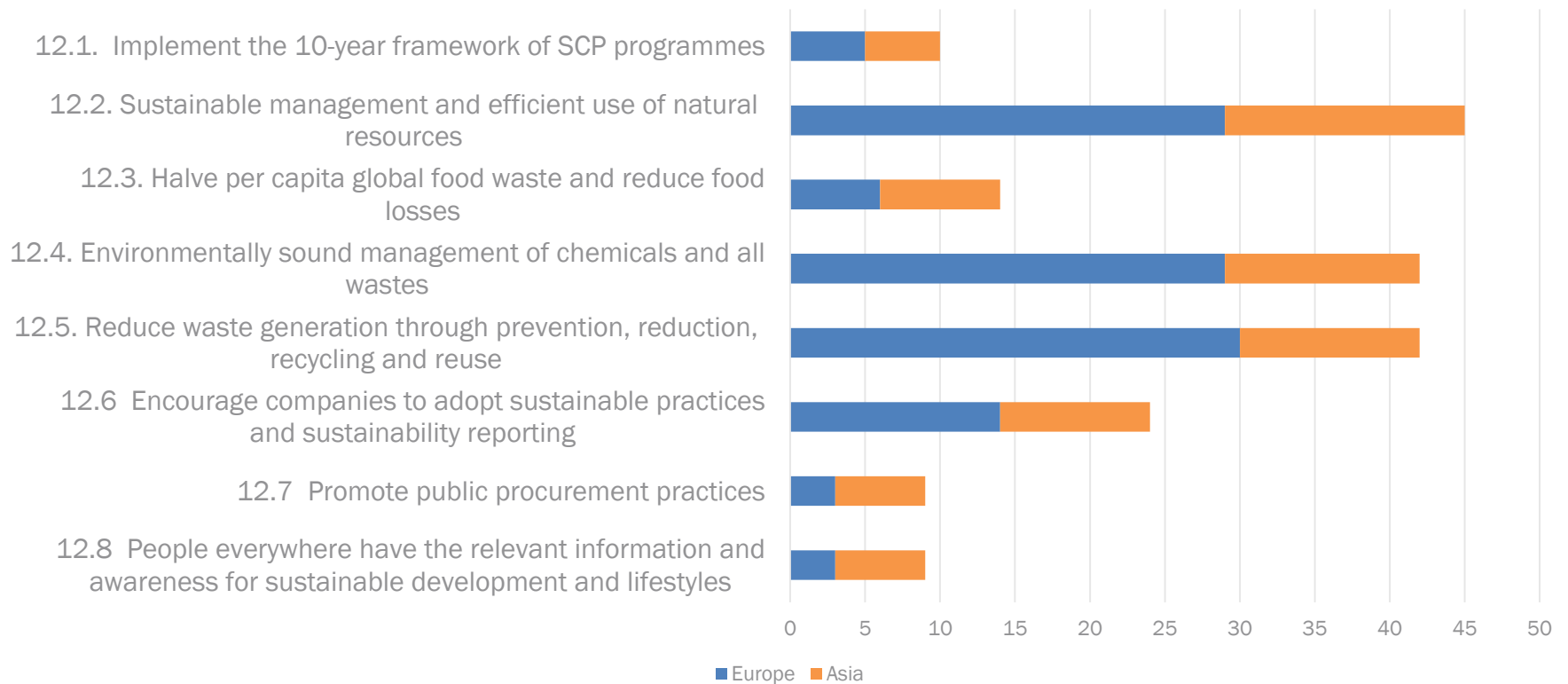
# Number of SDG 12-relevant targets in policy documents of ASEM countries



# Quantified and time-bound targets in ASEM partner countries

	SDG 12.3: HALVE PER CAPITA FOOD WASTE AND REDUCE FOOD LOSSES
Belgium	15%-30% farm-to-fork waste reduction
Luxembourg	100% organic agricultural production by 2050
Norway, Austria	50% food waste reduction by 2030
China	Increase irrigation efficiency to 0.53 Increase fertilizer use efficiency by 1%
Myanmar	Food waste recycling: 15% by 2020, with 35% by 2025 and with 60% by 2030
Thailand	Reduce food production losses by 5% each year from 2020 to 2036

# Number of countries with SCP-related progress monitoring indicators



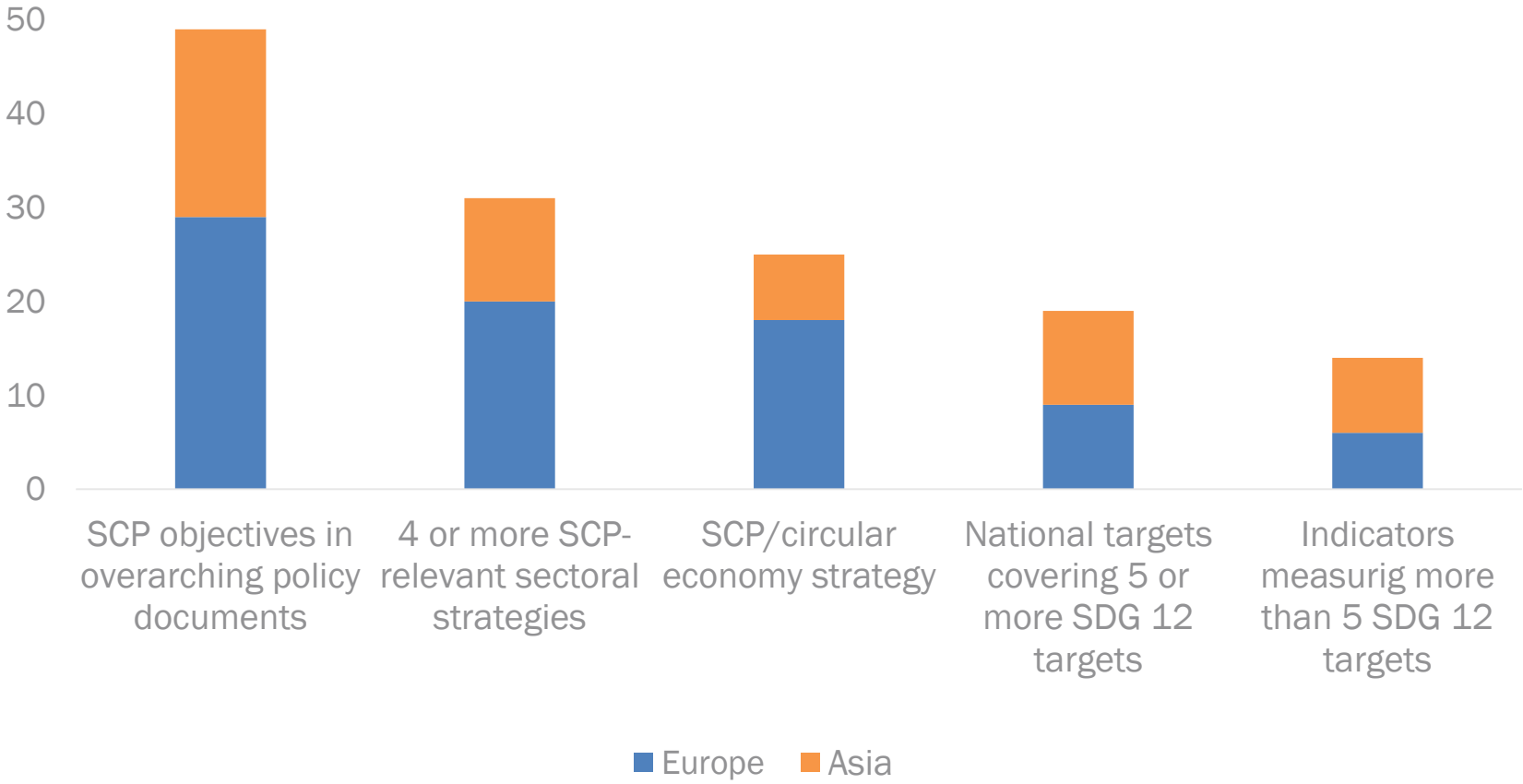


# Identified indicators

	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.8
France		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Ireland		✓		✓	✓			
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lao PDR		✓			✓		✓	
Philippines		✓		✓	✓			
Thailand		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Key messages emerging from the review

# SCP-related policies, targets and indicators in ASEM countries



# 1. Need for a strong policy and legislative framework

SCP objectives in long-term national development strategies or plans

SCP objectives in relevant sectoral strategies/plans and legislation

Circular economy strategy/action plan

## 2. Governments can support businesses in transition to more sustainable production patterns

- Establishing strategic cooperations
- Providing necessary funding or access to technologies
- Introducing financial incentives or taxes
- Requiring regular sustainability reporting from businesses
- Tracking the global footprint of international companies

# 3. Green public procurement practices

With green public procurement practices, governments can:

- Motivate suppliers to adopt more sustainable practices
- Set examples for private companies

Important to improve progress measurement towards green public procurement targets

# 4. SCP Education

- Our review identified several good practices:
  - formal education
  - environmental labelling practices
  - information campaigns
- SCP education activities should be:
  - well-planned to reach all segments of the society
  - thoroughly monitored to identify opportunities for revisions

# 5. Smart monitoring of SDG 12 implementation

- A national set of indicators for measuring progress towards SDG 12 is crucial
- The global indicators proposed by the IAEG-SDGs can serve as the starting point
- But they need to be tailored or modified to national monitoring needs
- Careful assessment needed when selecting indicators or developing new ones



Thank you for the attention!