

# The positive changes created by CIRCNETS

- CIRCNETS has raised awareness of EPR, collection of EOL fishing gear as well as the need for their proper treatment
- CIRCNETS has acted as a neutral party to whom different stakeholders have been able to tell their thoughts and feelings
  - ⇒ creates understanding how stakeholders see the EPR system, collection, sorting & recycling of FG
- CIRCNETS has brought together voices from different stakeholders
  - ⇒ enables building connections and networks between the actors in the field
- CIRCNETS has promoted circular economy by analyzing the recyclability of FG and what are the opportunities and current obstacles with it

# CIRCNETS key takeaways



# Key takeaway 1: Stakeholder collaboration

*Strengthening cooperation between stakeholders is essential to achieve a functioning recovery system for EOL fishing gear.*

- **CIRCNETS has been engaging with stakeholders and organizing events in the NPA region**
  - It has assessed current situations in NPA countries and identified their opportunities and challenges
  - Based on discussions, the sector seems fragmented and many feel excluded from decision-making. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding SUP implementation, but also suspicion and a sense of injustice among stakeholders
- **How to improve the situation in the future?**
  - *Information sharing and transparency:* information sharing should be improved between stakeholders, all stakeholders should be heard and given a chance to take part in decision-making
  - *Open discussion and working together:* National cooperation should be increased, setting common goals and milestones in cooperation
  - *Cross-border cooperation:* Exchange of information and cooperation in the NPA region, also across national borders



# Key takeaway 2: Value chain for recovery

*No comprehensive national recovery value chain for EOL fishing gear exists in any CIRCNETS partner country – each country has its own specificities and needs, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution*

- **CIRCNETS has mapped EOL fishing gear collection and processing networks, material flows and utilization potentials in each NPA partner countries**
  - The situation is different in each country, and each they have their own strengths and weaknesses in the value chain
- **How to complete national value chains?**
  - Changing existing structures/practices is more difficult than designing and implementing completely new solutions from scratch
    - ⇒ Country-specific planning and implementation stages should be done well-planned and carefully, listening to stakeholders and making the process as open and fair as possible
  - Cross-border cooperation between the Nordic countries is an option worth exploring

# Key takeaway 3: Reviewing legislation

*Legislation does not sufficiently recognize the diversity of fishing sector, leading to the implementation of partly inappropriate requirements and measures in the EU member states.*

- **Based on discussions with stakeholders**
  - There are fears that the legislation will distort competition and make it more difficult for the European fishing industry to operate compared to non-European operators
  - In national implementations, stakeholders have experienced the preparation as a strongly top-down process in which they have not had sufficient opportunities to influence
  - Successful adoption requires proactive collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and also guidance from authorities
- **According the SUP Directive, it should be evaluated by July 2027, at the latest**
  - The report should include the study of the feasibility of establishing binding collection rates for fishing gear, but it also allows for a legislative proposal, if needed.
    - ⇒ Submitting the legislative proposal is recommended to improve the effectiveness of the legislation and ensure its functionality