



European Construction Sector Observatory

Policy fact sheet

Luxembourg

Environmental Waste Management Quality Label

Thematic objectives 3 & 4

October 2021

In a nutshell

Implementing body	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, supported by the Environment Agency, the Chamber of Skilled Trades and Crafts and the Chamber of Commerce ¹ .
Key features & objectives	“SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber” is a recognised quality label granted to businesses that have adopted an environmentally-friendly waste management plan.
Implementation date	1992 – present
Targeted beneficiaries	All businesses whose main activity is not waste management.
Targeted sub-sectors	All sectors.
Budget (EUR)	Not published.
Good practice	★★★★★
Transferability	★★★★★

SuperDrecksKëscht (SDK) was first launched in 1992, as part of the government’s sustainable waste management policy initiative. SDK is a programme that supports the management of household waste and the implementation of waste management in the business sector, based on the principles of waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery. These principles are very well-aligned with those of a modern circular economy.

The SDK programme was placed on a legal footing in March 2005 (operational action) and March 2012 (waste management) and it plays an important role

in Luxembourg’s sustainable development strategy by:

- Supporting and advising organisations in public and private sectors to help them implement ecological waste management;
- Promoting ecological waste management through advertising and awareness-raising.

The SDK for Business (SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber®) Quality Label is an environmental waste management certification scheme and is a core part of the SDK campaign.

The SDK for Business label is certified according to the ISO 14024: 2000 international standard. It is awarded to businesses that implement environmentally-sound waste management practices and gives businesses a competitive and brand advantage.

The SDK for Business scheme offers free assistance and guidance to businesses to help them develop an environmental waste management plan focused on, in order of priority: waste prevention; reuse; recycling; recovery; and disposal².

The SDK for Business (SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber®) Environmental Quality Label is a successful measure that has attracted the participation of more than 5,100 businesses, resulting in the award of approximately 3,130 SDK for Business Labels³.

In 2010, the SuperDrecksKëscht® programme was awarded the "Best Practice" label by the European Commission⁴.

In a recent communication from the European Commission, in November 2020, the SDK for Citizens (SDK fir Bierger) certification and labelling scheme was also named specifically as a European example of best practice⁵.

1.

General description

The 'SuperDrecksKëscht® fir Betriber' (SDK for Business) Environmental Waste Management Quality Label is granted to businesses that have adopted an environmentally-friendly waste management plan.

SDK for Business is a recognised scheme that helps businesses in Luxembourg to set-up an eco-friendly waste management system that prioritises prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery. Eco-friendly disposal is the last resort and must be done by approved companies.

The end goal is to encourage and enable economic and social responsibility to use natural resources sustainably and efficiently, and protect the environment⁶.

SuperDrecksKëscht began life in 1985 as a national campaign that sought to handle the collection of problematic waste products from households. By 1990, the campaign had built a partnership with municipalities, organisations and associations, which enabled the provision of five stationary collection points and the introduction of special collection services.

Following the positive response to 'SDK for Citizens' (SDK fir Bierger) services, the Chamber of Skilled Trades and Crafts was brought on board as an SDK partner. 'SDK for Business' (SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber®) was subsequently launched in 1992 to advise companies on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and the environmentally-friendly disposal and processing of waste products.

SDK advice on waste prevention was initially focused on achieving a quantitative reduction in waste and on promoting the use of ecological low-pollutant products. In 2007, however, prevention advice was given a new framework following the launch of the 'Clever akafen' campaign. This campaign provided consumers and businesses with

practical advice on environmentally-friendly and sustainable consumption. Table 1 summarises the SDK programme's main priorities.

Table 1: SuperDrecksKëscht campaign priorities

Priority	Objective
SDK for Citizens (SuperDrecksKëscht® fir Bierger)	
Problematic waste products in the household - avoid and recycle!	Live and consume healthily and sustainably in the household - today and in the future.
SDK for Businesses (SuperDrecksKëscht® fir Betriber)	
Ecological waste management in facilities / companies.	Practical circular economy by avoiding and recycling waste products.
The SDK Academy	
Motivation / information / advanced training for all ages.	Promote environmental awareness and support sustainable behaviour / sustainable consumption.
Advancing the economy	
Working with companies, associations and institutions.	Further development towards a green and circular economy.
Developing society	
Working with municipalities, NGOs and the social economy.	Prosperity and health for all people, today and in the future.
Innovation	
New logistics, waste management and recycling solutions.	Protect resources and the climate - preserve livelihoods - close cycles.

Source: SDK Nachhaltigkeitsbericht, Jahresbericht 2020⁷

SDK for Business provides waste management advice to businesses in all sectors. The advice includes:

- Connection of ecology and economy;
- Prevention is the priority;
- Separate and clean collection and storage;
- Transparent and sustainable handling and transportation;
- Resource-efficient recycling.

The SDK for Business (SuperDrecksKëscht® fir Betriber) Environmental Waste Management Quality Label, shown in Figure 1 is **ISO 14024 certified**.

Figure 1: SDK for Business Label



Source: Elysis / SuperDrecksKëscht⁸

To be awarded the SDK for Business label, businesses must demonstrate that they have implemented a waste management plan that complies with environmental regulations.

For businesses, the SDK label is not just a statement of corporate responsibility. It also reduces business costs (resource efficiency), improves safety (better handling and storage of waste), and provides a competitive and brand advantage (marketing, sales and customer loyalty).

For the consumer, the SDK label does more than demonstrate that the holder practices sustainable and resource efficient waste management. The SDK label is a reliable indicator of a company's values and working practices. It is a consumer brand that empowers consumer choice.

All businesses whose main activity is not waste management and that wish to improve their waste management practices may contact the SDK programme by email or phone⁹ and request to participate in the SDK for Business scheme.

The criteria for obtaining the SDK for Business quality label are¹⁰:

- Stakeholder commitment;
- Implementation of waste prevention measures;
- Creation of a clearly visible collection station accessible to all employees;
- Reliable and environmentally-friendly storage;
- Selective waste collection;
- A transparent and high-quality recycling and waste disposal policy;
- Environmentally-friendly management.

Following a request to participate, an SDK for Business Advisor will visit the business to:

- Draw up a status report and analyse their waste management procedures;
- Design a waste management plan that includes measures such as:
 - Setting up a selective waste collection site that is clearly visible and accessible to all employees;
 - Ensuring the safe and environmentally-friendly storage of waste;
 - Implementation of waste prevention measures;
 - Transparent and efficient recovery and elimination of waste;
 - Waste management training sessions for employees.

Subsequently, the business must sign a framework agreement with SDK, giving a commitment to:

- Record and report the quantities and types of waste that can be recovered and that cannot be recovered;
- Prevent and process waste in an environmentally-friendly manner;

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- Have waste disposed of by accredited companies in Luxembourg.

An SDK for Business Quality Label is awarded no earlier than six months after the framework agreement is signed.

Compliance with ecological waste management procedures is checked annually during the first five years. Following the five-year period, checks are carried out every two years.

The SDK label can be removed if non-compliance with the procedures is detected¹¹.

Environmental Waste Management Quality Label

SDK for Business programme activities include waste product processing, and advice and support:

- SDK's waste product processing tasks include the collection and disposal of small quantities and special products safely and under fair conditions;
- Advice and support activities include consultations by phone or email, training courses, advisory visits, status assessments and the development of waste management plans.

2.

Achieved or expected results

The “SuperDrecksKëscht® fir Betriber” (SDK for Business) Environmental Waste Management Quality Label is a successful measure. In operation for nearly three decades, it demonstrates Luxembourg’s early commitment to sustainability. Business participation in the scheme has grown year on year, rising more significantly since 2005. In 2010, the wider SDK programme was highlighted by the European Commission as a ‘best practice’ initiative.

By the end of December 2020, a total of 5,435 businesses were participating in the SDK for Business scheme, up by 1.6% (+86) on the previous year (5,349).

Table 2 provides some key figures on the results achieved in 2020.

Table 2: Key SDK for Business results in 2020

SDK visits and activities in 2020	Number
SDK assessments completed and waste management plans created	1,368
SDK label tests conducted	2,150
New businesses visited	256
Other advisory visits carried out	1,988
Total visits completed	5,762
Initial consultations completed	244
Training courses provided	34

Source: SDK¹²

A total of 113,950 advisory visits have been carried out since the start of the scheme¹³.

The number of consultations by phone and email is similar to the previous year. A total of 26,769 calls and emails were received, of which 14,581 were related to SDK for Business.

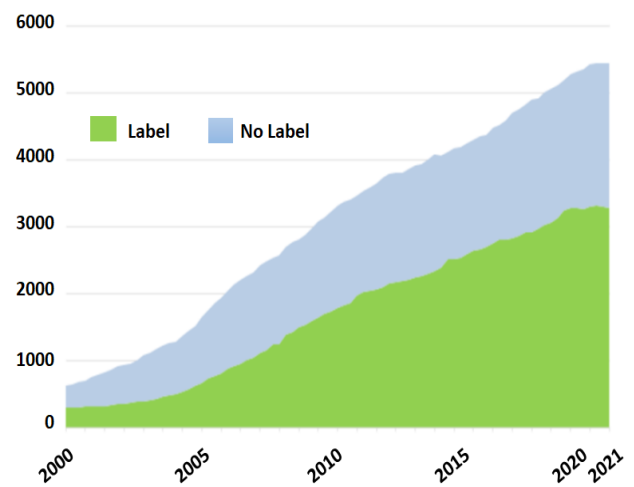
Figure 2 shows the evolution of the SDK for Business scheme since 2000, in term of the growth in the number of affiliated businesses. A distinction is made, at each yearly interval, between those that have been awarded the quality label and those that are not yet labelled.

By the end of 2020, the total number of SDK labelled businesses had reached 3,280, an increase of 0.3% on the previous year. The goal to achieve an annual increase in the number of labelled businesses has therefore been met¹⁴.

The status and popularity of the SDK for Business label remained high in 2020, supported by an advertising campaign and accompanying measures. The share of labelled businesses (60.3%) in 2020, compared to businesses that are not yet labelled, was similar to the share recorded in the previous year (61.1%).

By the end of 2020, there were 267,991 people working in SDK-affiliated businesses, which corresponds to around 60% of the active population (including cross-border commuters)¹⁵.

Figure 2: SDK for Business: number of labelled and affiliated businesses (not yet labelled), 2000-2021

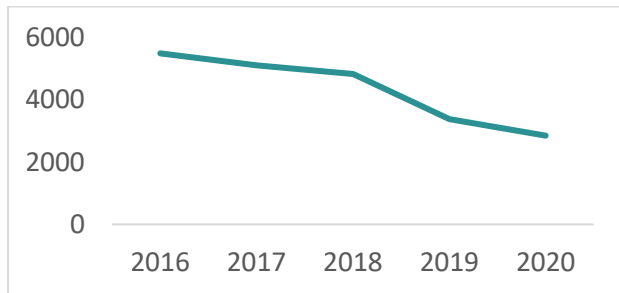


Source: SDK Nachhaltigkeitsbericht, Jahresbericht 2020¹⁶

The impact of SDK for Business actions is measured using Environmental Performance Indicators, which are defined in line with the EMAS III regulation. The results are presented in Figures 3 to 7.

Figure 3 shows the consumption of paper per employee between 2016 and 2020. The application of the SDK waste prevention approach has helped to reduce paper consumption by 48% since 2016.

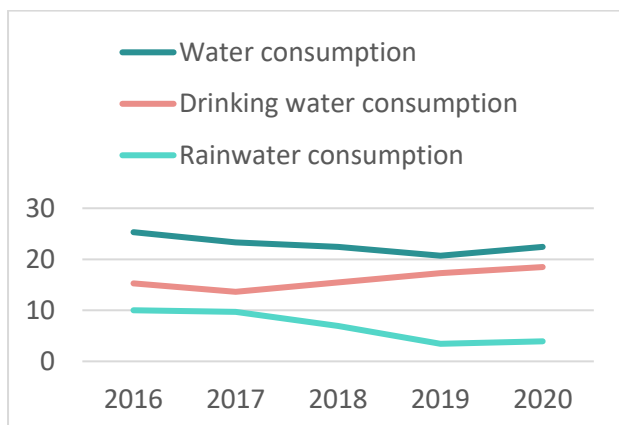
Figure 3: Paper consumption per employee (sheets)



Source: SDK environmental statement 2021¹⁷

Figure 4 shows the consumption of water per employee between 2016 and 2020. Total water consumption fell by 18%, drinking water consumption rose by 12.8%, and rainwater consumption fell by 65.6%. According to the SDK Environmental Declaration 2021¹⁸, concrete reasons for the fall in rainwater consumption could not be identified. Rainwater is collected and stored in rainwater tanks, and is used to clean containers and vehicles and to irrigate green areas. Waste water from cleaning activities is controlled and filtered (e.g.: to remove oils and fat) before entering the sewage system. There is no direct introduction of rainwater or surface water into natural water systems (rivers, streams or oceans).

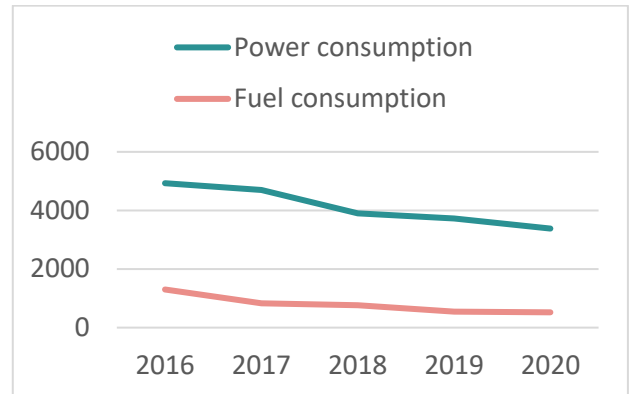
Figure 4: Water consumption per employee (m³)



Source: SDK environmental statement 2021¹⁹

Figure 5 shows the consumption of energy per employee between 2016 and 2020. The indicators used were energy consumption (considered as electricity consumption) and fuel. Power consumption has gradually decreased year on year, resulting in a 31.4% reduction by 2020. In contrast, fuel consumption fell by 10% in the same period.

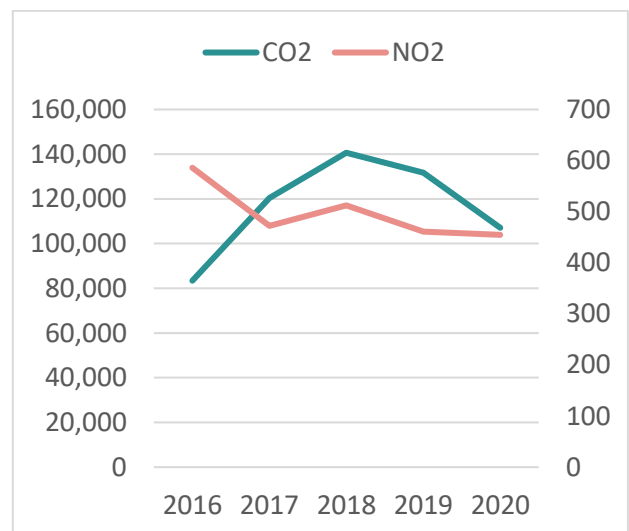
Figure 5: Energy consumption per employee (kWh)



Source: SDK environmental statement 2021²⁰

Figure 6 shows the quantity of CO₂ and NO₂ emissions per employee between 2016 and 2020. SDK for Business achieved an 8% reduction in CO₂ emissions and a 44.4% reduction in NO₂ emissions.

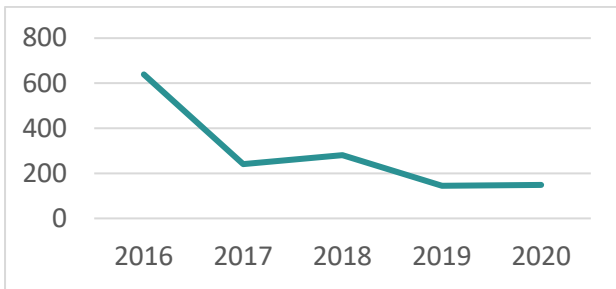
Figure 6: Emissions per employee (kg)



Source: SDK environmental statement 2021²¹

Figure 7 shows the quantity of waste generated per employee between 2016 and 2020. Indicators show that the SDK for Business scheme has helped the business community to reduce the amount of waste generated by over three quarters (76.6%) in the last 5 years.

Figure 7: Waste per employee (kg)



Source: SDK environmental statement 2021²²

3.

Perspectives and lessons learned

Ensuring a multi-stakeholder participation is the key to the success of the SDK for Business scheme.

SDK for Business has brought together all relevant stakeholders to confront the waste generation and management challenge from every angle. The scheme ran stakeholder consultations even where the expected environmental impact was low, when compared to large industrial and commercial operations. SDK for Business is tackling the waste generation and management challenge using a holistic approach that includes the whole of society.

These actions have led to the creation of a sustainable waste management culture in the Luxembourg business community and society, based on the principles promoted by the SDK Programme. SDK principles and objectives are increasingly impacting every area of business and society, evidenced by the high and growing levels of participation.

SDK for Business is a win-win solution. It encourages corporate social responsibility and makes good business sense.

SDK for Business provides expert know-how on sustainable and resource efficient waste management plans, processes and benefits – knowledge that most businesses do not possess in-house. Through awareness-raising, promotional and training activities, SDK is getting the message out. Reducing a company's environmental impact is the responsible thing to do, but it can also be profitable.

Businesses benefit from greater resource and cost efficiencies, better and safer working conditions, and improved brand image and increased competitiveness. Consumers also benefit from being able to choose to give their custom to businesses that represent their values and that offer

an assurance of consistent quality with a low footprint.

SDK for Business provides waste management solutions for all types of construction sites.

From small (e.g. single-family) construction projects to large residential and commercial construction projects, the amount of waste generated and the space available for waste management can vary greatly. For large projects and sites, SDK can provide a fleet of six to seven containers according to the needs of the project. In contrast, small projects and sites can be more problematic, because of the lack of space. SDK has therefore developed a fully modular container (a LECO-Box) measuring 2100 × 1140 × 2320 mm. It occupies the equivalent of a single parking space. Up to 20 types of waste (such as plastic films, polystyrene, glass wool, paints, aerosol cans, etc.) can be stored in this LECO-Box, before recovery by an approved company²³.

An adviser at SDK explains the rationale for the solution for construction sites: *"We have tested the LECO-Box in different contexts, particularly on a site in Walferdange, and have optimised its operation. We really wanted to achieve a fully modular system, taking up as little space as possible and at an affordable cost"*²⁴.

To encourage the take-up of LECO-Box solutions on construction sites, SDK offers a range of options to construction companies in Luxembourg: rental for the duration of a specific site; purchase for mobile use; or even the provision of free plans, upon signing a license, for companies that want to create it themselves. Whichever the chosen option, the end goal for SDK remains the same. *"For us, the main thing is to find solutions and help companies to limit the dumping of waste that can be recycled or reused"* explains an SDK adviser²⁵.

4.

Conclusion and recommendations

The SuperDrecksKëscht® (SDK) Programme is a successful measure that has had a strong influence over the past three decades on Luxembourg's national waste management strategy and planning.

The SDK for Business scheme continues to spread the message about the importance and benefits of sustainable waste management and how to make it happen. The scheme also continues to increase participation in the scheme, year on year.

Indicators show that since 2016, the SDK for Business scheme has helped the business community to:

- Reduce paper consumption by 48%;
- Reduce total water consumption by 18% and rainwater consumption by 65.6%, while increasing drinking water consumption by 12.8%;
- Reduce power consumption (mainly electricity) by 31.4% and fuel consumption by 10%;
- Reduce CO₂ emissions by 8% and NO₂ emissions by 44.4%;
- Reduce the amount of waste generated by over three quarters (76.6%) in the last 5 years.

Looking forward, five recommendations are suggested to help improve the reach and impact of the SDK Quality Label:

- The provision of additional incentives may help to attract businesses that have yet to join the SDK for Business scheme;
- Consideration should be given to conducting and publishing an assessment of the barriers that may be preventing businesses from joining the scheme. It would be interesting to know what

the barriers and potential solutions might be, for example, by business size and/or sector;

- The use of indicators to assess progress and results at industry level (e.g. construction) would be useful, both to gain a more detailed insight into industry level take-up and performance, and to build a more transparent view of industry level challenges and solutions;
- Public awareness and training activities should be ramped up to ensure comprehensive reach across the territory and beyond;
- Cooperation between stakeholders (labelled and not labelled) and with other circular economy initiatives (nationally and internationally) should be encouraged and facilitated to stimulate knowledge sharing and to develop more joined-up circular solutions.

Overall, the SDK for Business Label is rated a '5-star good practice measure' on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high).

This score is based on a number of factors. The waste management approach adopted is inclusive, ISO compliant and has proven to be effective and efficient. The scheme has influenced the development of government strategy and legislation on waste management and has been named a European best practice. The scheme has strong stakeholder support and has achieved measurable and significant results.

The SDK For Business Label is rated a '5-star transferable measure' on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high).

As a long-running scheme that has helped to shape government strategy and planning, which is standards-based (ISO compliant) and has received European recognition as a best practice, the SDK Programme and its constituent parts are very transferable to other countries.

Endnotes

- 1 The label is granted by the Environment Agency (Administration de l'environnement), the Chamber of Skilled Trades and Crafts (Chambre des Métiers) and the Chamber of Commerce (Chambre de Commerce):
<https://guichet.public.lu/en/entreprises/commerce/labels/labels-ecologiques/sdk-fir-betriber.html>
- 2 Le gouvernement du grand-duché de Luxembourg, Quality label SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber, june, 2018:
<https://guichet.public.lu/en/entreprises/commerce/labels/labels-ecologiques/sdk-fir-betriber.html#bloub-4>
- 3 YDÉ, THE SUPERDRECKSKËSCHT FIR BETRIBER LABEL, 2020:
<https://www.yde.lu/labels-clubs/labels/le-label-superdreckskescht-fir-betriiber>
- 4 European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, SuperDrecksKëscht® for a sound treatment of available raw material and energy sources, 2021:
<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/good-practices/superdreckskeschtr-sound-treatment-available-raw-material-and-energy-sources>
- 5 SDK, Umwelterklärung 2021 für das Berichtsjahr 2020, 2020:
<https://sdk.lu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Umwelterklaerung-2021DE-2.pdf>
- 6 IMS Luxembourg, SDK, 2021:
<https://imslux.lu/eng/qui-sommes-nous/les-membres/94-superdreckskescht>
- 7 SDK, Nachhaltigkeitsbericht, 2020:
<https://sdk.lu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Nachhaltigkeitsbericht-2020-21-DE.pdf>
- 8 Elysis, Label SuperDrecksKëscht 2016:
<https://www.elysis.lu/fr/label-super-dreckskescht-2016/>
- 9 Businesses that wish to participate in the initiative 'SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber' can contact SDK by email (info@sdk.lu) or phone (+352 488 216 1).
- 10 Ydé, The SuperDrecksKëscht Fir Betriber Label, 2020:
<https://www.yde.lu/labels-clubs/labels/le-label-superdreckskescht-fir-betriiber>
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<https://sdk.lu/de/startseite/sdk-im-betrieb/das-label-superdreckskescht/>
- 12 SDK, Nachhaltigkeitsbericht, 2020:
<https://sdk.lu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Nachhaltigkeitsbericht-2020-21-DE.pdf>
- 13 Ibid
- 14 Ibid
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- 17 SDK, Umwelterklärung 2021 für das Berichtsjahr 2020, 2021:
<https://sdk.lu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Umwelterklaerung-2021DE-2.pdf>
- 18 Ibid
- 19 Ibid
- 20 Ibid
- 21 Ibid
- 22 Ibid
- 23 Info Green, Tri des déchets : une solution à portée des petits chantiers, March 2019:
<https://www.infogreen.lu/tri-des-dechets-une-solution-a-portee-des-petits-chantiers.html>
- 24 Ibid
- 25 Ibid