

**PRESS RELEASE**

## Construction recovery and metal replacement drive hot and cold water plastic pipes demand in Europe

AMI Consulting, Bristol, 12/09/2022 - European market for hot and cold water pipes showed strong growth in 2016-2019, which was followed by a significant contraction in 2020 when COVID-19 began to take effect in the region. In this extremely atypical year, the European economy saw a 6.3% decline in GDP in 2020. Construction activity was impacted initially but recovered in the second half of 2020 albeit suffered from supply-chain disruptions some of which continue into 2022.

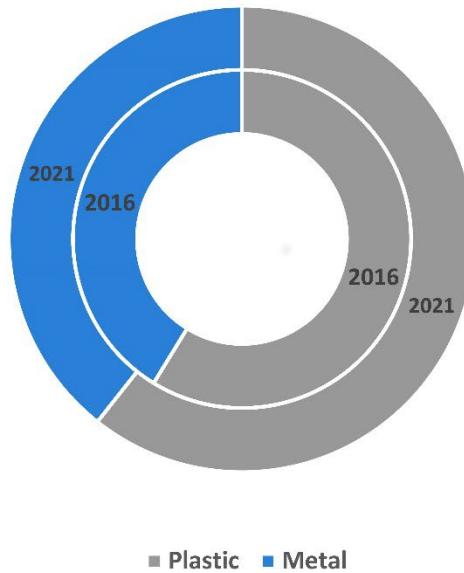
The new edition of AMI Consulting's detailed study, "[Plastic hot and cold water pipe systems in Europe 2022](#)", reports that the installation of plastic hot and cold water pipes is expected to top 1.1 million kilometres by the end of 2026. Since 2021 the market has been recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to maintain momentum over the next 5 years.

The market for water pipes is reputed for its conservatism. At AMI Consulting, we disagree with such characterisation. Admittedly, the market moves cautiously and gradually. But over the years we have seen tremendous changes, which – despite the cautious, gradual adoption rates – can only be described as revolutionary.

While thermoplastics now command a high proportion of the hot and cold water pipes market, 40% of installations are still metal-based and indeed copper piping remains the largest single material used in European plumbing. Hence, there is still ample scope for growth through the substitution of traditional pipe systems. Growth opportunities also exist in the development and commercialisation of new plastic-based systems, designed to provide better solutions (in terms of cost/performance) for modern-day needs.

A variety of plastic systems are used in this sector and AMI's research has found that multilayer composite pipes which incorporate a layer of aluminium, are the most popular choice, having overtaken the demand for cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) systems. Strongest growth though has been in the use of raised temperature polyethylene pipe (PE-RT) thanks to the growing popularity of underfloor heating systems, albeit this only accounts for around 6% of total demand.

Figure 1: Shares of plastic vs. metal pipe for 2016 and 2021 (in terms of installed volume)



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Market report: **Plastic Hot and Cold Water Pipes Europe 2022**

Multilayer-M and PErt pipes are forecast to continue to gain market share from PEX and are forecast to experience the fastest growth rates. However, PEX will remain a predominant thermoplastic used for hot and cold water pipes.

There are differences in growth in hot and cold water pipe demand between the various European countries and regions. Growth is focused on central and eastern Europe, where Poland is expected to grow at the fastest rate during the forecast period.

The updated edition of the [Plastic Hot and Cold Water Pipes in Europe 2022](#) report analyses the market trends in-depth and presents them in an easily digestible format. The report thus constitutes an invaluable tool, aimed at helping companies make informed decisions. The report forms part of a comprehensive series, which further includes the [Plastic Pressure Pipes in Europe 2022](#) and the [Plastic Gravity Pipes in Europe 2022](#).

For more information on please contact: Santiago Castro, Senior Research Analyst

E / [Santiago.Castro@ami.international](mailto:Santiago.Castro@ami.international)

T / +44 117 924 9442