

Extended Producer Responsibility

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European Recycling Platform



European
Recycling
Platform



- **Waste collected:**
 - over 2,250,000 tons WEEE
 - over 27,000 tons Batteries
- **Members:** over 3,000 membership agreements with producers and importers
- **Team:** 100 employees in 2013
- **Compliance services:** across the EU
- **Geographical presence:** 15 countries
- **Waste:** WEEE, batteries, packaging, PV panels

in Israel: a partner in **Ecommunity** in association with Ecology, with a permit to operate WEEE and battery compliance since 2014



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Extended Producer Responsibility

An environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle

An EPR policy is characterized by:

- (1) the shifting of responsibility (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream toward the producer and away from municipalities; and
- (2) the provision of incentives to producers to take into account environmental considerations when designing their products.

(OECD)

Expected benefits

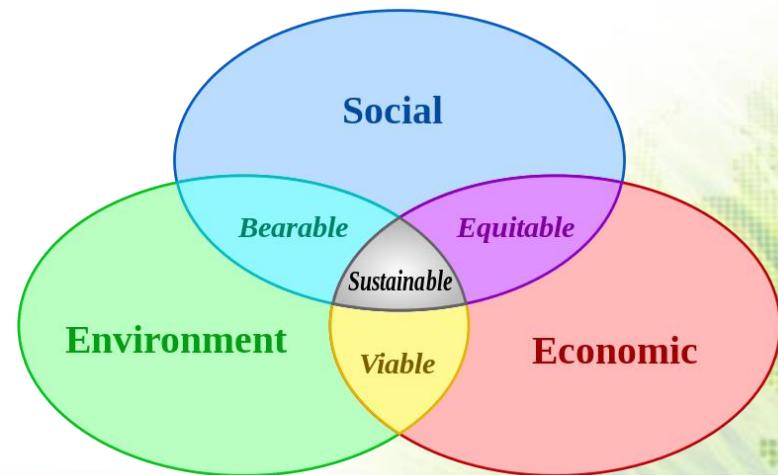
Maximize resource efficiency by:

- Minimizing the impact of products on the environment
- Using resources in a sustainable way

Key objectives:

- Increase collection and recycling rates of materials targeted
- Incentivize Design for Environment by shifting financial responsibility from municipalities to producers

EPR is an active contributor to sustainable development by combining its focus on resource efficiency, elimination of hazardous substances and its ability to play a social role



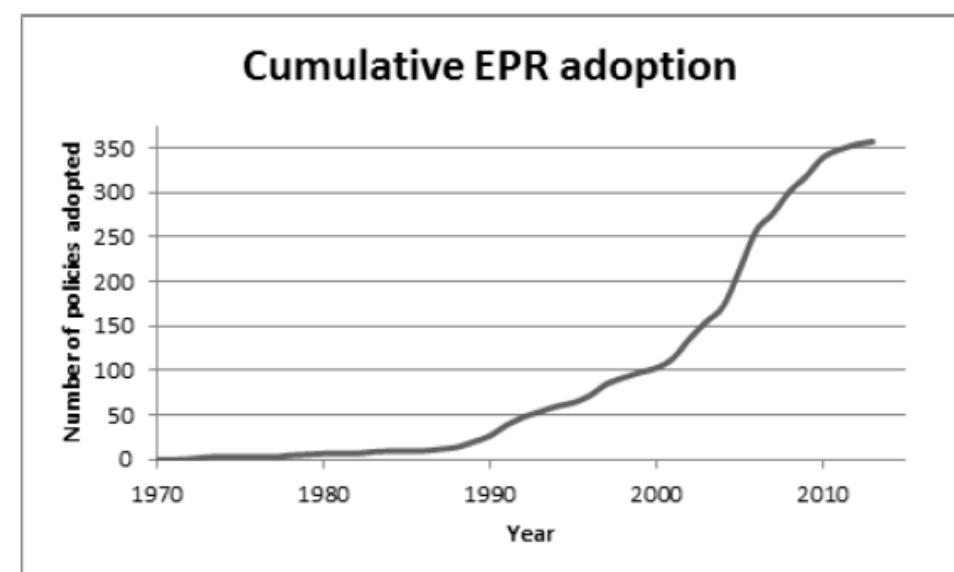
EPR development

At EU level, Extended Producer Responsibility applies through EU directives to

- Electronic Waste (WEEE)
- Waste Batteries (WBA)
- End of Live Vehicles (ELV)
- Packaging

Within some member states ERP applies to other waste categories

- Tires
- Used Oil
- Furniture
- Textile
- Graphic Paper
- Medical waste
- Chemicals
- Agricultural waste
- ...



¹ Based on a sample of 384 EPR policies across industries and regions. Daniel Kaffine and Patrick O'Reilly, What Have We Learned About Extended Producer Responsibility in the Past Decade? A Survey of the recent EPR Economic Literature, May 2013.

Organization forms



Individual compliance

Each “producer” remains individually liable to fulfill his EPR obligations → WEEE in Germany

While economically justified in certain cases, costs of compliance for individual producers can exceed those offered by collective solutions

Collective Systems

- Monopolistic

Supporters of monopolies argue that single schemes deliver economies of scale and equitable treatment of obligated companies. May be justified for niche waste streams.

- Competition

Supporters of competition argue that competition is needed to fulfill EPR as it fosters innovation and offers incentives to producers while reducing the overall cost to society



Role of municipalities

Involvement of municipalities depends on various factors and ultimately on regulations

Mainly it is influenced by the preexisting infrastructure at the inception of an EPR system

In WEEE, for instance

- Most of the WEEE is coming from private waste operators in Poland
- Most of the WEEE is coming from retailers in Portugal
- Most of the WEEE is coming from municipalities in France

... reflecting the development status of the public waste collection infrastructure

Beside their role in supplying waste collection points or kerbside collection, municipalities tend to have a positive role as local communication channels
→ waste separation guidelines

Operational models



Financial

- Typically packaging in many countries where the role of PROs is to subsidize collection and treatment activity which remain under the operational responsibility of municipalities for most or all of the volume

Organizational

- Typically WEEE and batteries where the PROs are actually tendering collection and treatment services, taking over the responsibility from municipalities



Known obstacles to success

Free riding

Lack of regulatory enforcement

Lack of clear minimum technical standards

Lack of incentive for producers

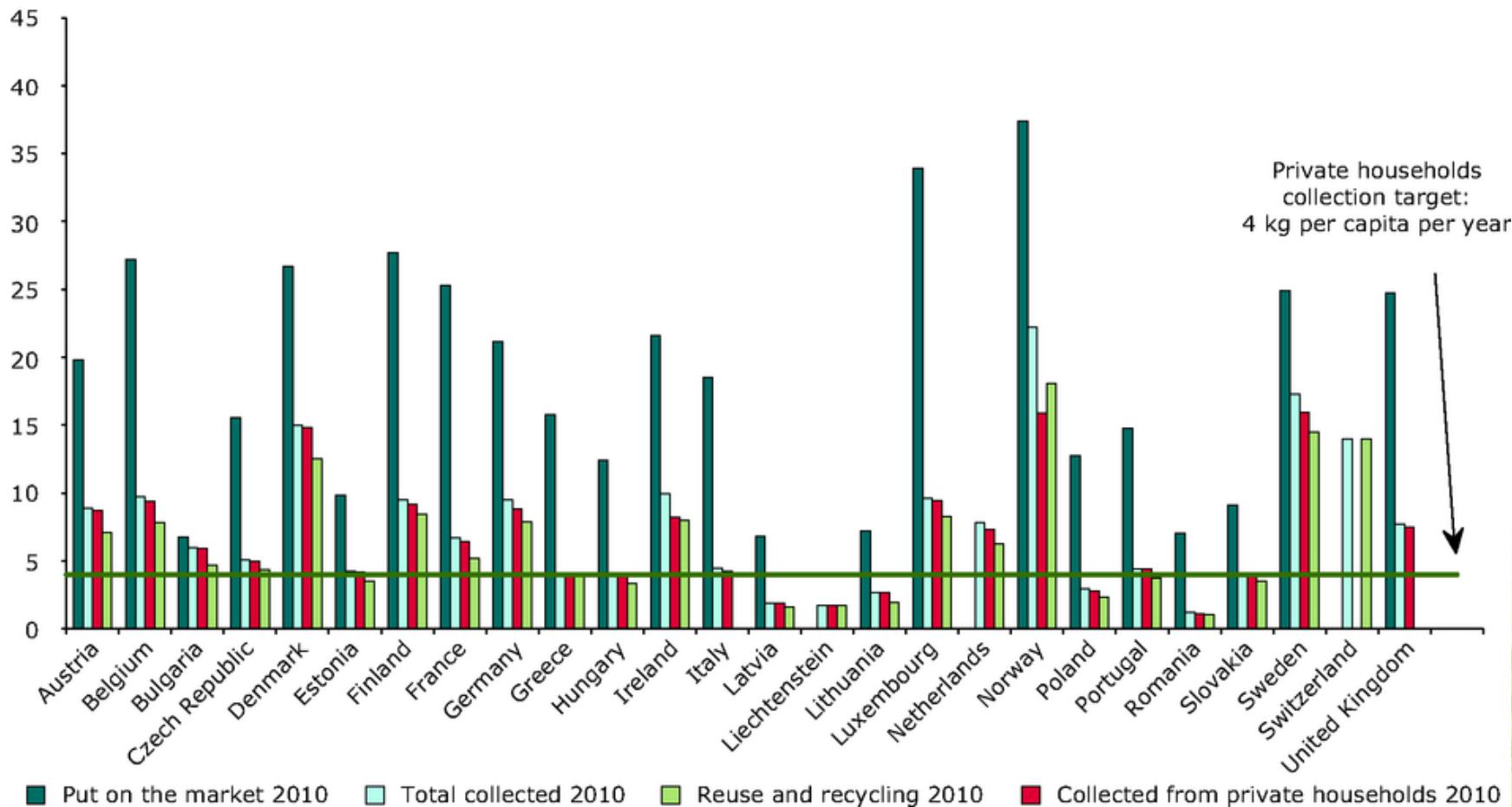
Unclear roles and responsibilities of the actors, in particular public actors

Informal waste management

Lack of transparency on targets achievement

Discrepancies in performance – WEEE

Kg per capita in 2010





Coordination & clearing

Coordination and clearing mechanisms are needed when several systems are active in any EPR category

Key objectives of clearing / balancing are

- Equitable, non-speculative access to waste sources
- Avoid cherry-picking, and allowing “universal” service to waste holders
- Reduce partial or full free-riding caused by inequitable access to waste
- Allocation of waste obligation and access to waste in proportion of market share
- Clear reporting on achievements vs. obligations



The coordination may be delivered through balancing arrangements directly agreed between participants or via a legal entity (“clearing house”).

Balancing may be preventive, post-mortem or both.

Clearing may involve physical transfer of waste, of collection points or be financial



Recommendations for effective EPR enforcement

As producer responsibility is at the core of EPR, producers should have the freedom to organize themselves to achieve targets, i.e. multiple compliance solutions

Targets should be explicit, ambitious but achievable

Clear recycling standards should be set, against which efficiencies should be sought

Incentives and simplicity for producers

Clarify role of stakeholders: consumers, distributors, municipalities, waste operators...

Regulations should take into account the evolutionary nature of technology...

Balancing / clearing mechanisms should be implemented

Regulators have a clear enforcement responsibility vis a vis producers, stakeholders and systems



Danke Thank you Dziękuję Takk
Takk Grazie Tak Čakujem Kiitos Tack
Gracias תודה Obrigado Grazie Tak Merci
Grazie Merci Dank u Gracias Danke
Thank you Tack Dziękuję Merci תודה
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