



**UNEP Project "Promoting the environmentally sound management of
E-waste in the Republic of Moldova"**

**REPORT
on study visit**

**Sharing the experience on establishment and operation of the extended
producer responsibility system**



Members of the delegation:

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AGENDA

Monday - 7 August

- 9.00 – meeting in the lobby of the hotel and transfer to Fost Plus
- 11.00 - meeting with Fost Plus
- 11.15 - Delegation of the RM: presentation of the current situation in the country: legal and regulatory framework, as well as the challenges
- 11.45 - Fost Plus: household packaging waste management in the context of EPR
- 12.30 - Questions and answers

Tuesday 8 August:

- 9.30 – meeting in the lobby of the hotel and transfer to OVAM
- 10:00 - presentation OVAM Flemish policy WEEE / EPR + questions/discussion
- 10:40 - presentation Recupel: WEEE management operations in an EPR context + questions/discussion
- 11:20 - Presentation EPPO: WEEE policy in Moldova: challenges and opportunities
- 12:00 - Lunch (OVAM)
- 13:30 - Transport to Apparec (WEEE treatment) - Willebroek
- 14:00-16:00 - Apparec
- 17:00 - Return to OVAM

Wednesday 9 August:

- 9:00 - meeting in the lobby of the hotel and transfer to Ivarem II
- 10:00-12:00- Visit Ivarem II (collection site) – Mechelen
- 12:00 - Return to OVAM: lunch
- 14:00-16:00 - Visit Tevelil (reuse center) – Vilvoorde
- 17:00 - Return to OVAM



Summary:

Context, goals and objectives

In last 3 years, Eppo within the Ministry of Environment has implemented several WEEE related projects with support of BCRC Slovakia, that have resulted of drafting of the WEEE regulation, software for registry of WEEE producers reporting and inter-ministerial mechanism strengthening. Moldova, being in the process of harmonization of waste legislation to EU framework directives (new law on waste has been approved and will enter into force at the end of 2017 year, draft WEEE regulation has been developed), the EPR was expected to support improved collection, recycling and treatment of waste, not limited to financial obligations for producers, but also included information, logistics, waste management and even product design responsibilities.

The purpose of a study visit was to generate an exchange of experience and good practice from Belgium in implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility as regards the waste electric and electronic equipment, in particular the following issues: stakeholders and responsibilities; compliance mechanisms; role of local authorities; financing mechanisms; benefits and limitations.

Expected Outcome: Business representatives, business association and project team made full use of the experience and knowledge provided by main stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility Principle in Belgium.

Expected Outputs: Information exchange undertaken and capacity building and knowledge generation for EPR for WEEE provided.

Geographical scoping and profile of visited companies

Based on preliminary consultations between Eppo and BRS Secretariat, the Public Waste Agency of Flanders from Belgium, which is responsible for waste management and soil remediation in Flanders was identified. Eppo approached the Agency and it expressed their availability to organize a study for the Republic of Moldova.

The study visit agenda was done in a such a way, to provide context and information for all groups of stakeholders involved in the EPR chain: central and local authorities on one side and business, represented by producers, importers, retailers, recyclers, collectors, on another side.

So during the visit it was proposed to visit the following stakeholders:

- Public Waste Agency of Flanders – central authority;
- FostPlus - non-profit association responsible for collection and recycling of household packaging waste;
- Recupel - non-profit association that is responsible for organizing the collection and processing of discarded electronic appliances and light bulbs;
- Coolrec – company for recycling of electrical and electronic equipment into high-quality recovered plastics, metals and other secondary raw material;
- Ivarem – collection center for several waste flows, including WEEE
- Televil – reuse center for several waste flows, including WEEE

Report

Day 1

In the first day, on 7 August, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova visited the non-profit association FostPlus, which is responsible for collection and recycling of household packaging waste in Belgium and represents a collective scheme set in order to comply with the EPR principle. Every year, it recycles some 680,000 tonnes of packaging, or almost 90% of all packaging that finds its way onto the Belgian market. Fost Plus has three core activities: raising awareness, coordination and funding.

It finances and coordinates the following collections: door-to-door collection of PMD (plastic bottles and flasks, m packaging, drink carton) by means of the blue bag; collection of glass via the glass recycling bins or by door-to-door collection; door-to-door collection of paper-cardboard. Additionally, Fost Plus also finances the collection of these and other packaging materials at recycling centres, including hard plastics, plastic film, styrofoam and small hazardous waste.

Mr. Joeri Deswarte, Fostplus Account Manager Business, provided an insight of Fostplus, by presenting its mission, vision, main activities and the accomplishments achieved so far in fulfilling the collection, recycling and reuse of the packaging waste. In particular, he reflected on the issues of interest for the Republic of Moldova, such as: the legal framework related to EPR, establishment and operation of the collective scheme, financial responsibilities and financial flows, stakeholders involved and their roles and responsibilities.



Mrs. Tatiana Țugui, manager EPPO, made a presentation of the existing legal framework in the Republic of Moldova: Waste Law and draft WEEE and Packaging Regulation, by mentioning the challenges and barriers encountered by the local and public authorities and business environment.

The questions and answers round that took place after the presentation allowed the representatives of the delegation to clarify and understand several issues related to the implementation of the EPR scheme in relation to the packaging waste in Belgium, in particular:



- Permitting system and the provisions of the Fostplus environment permit;
- Provisions of the cooperation agreement between Fostplus and the central authority;
- Financial plan to be submitted by Fostplus to the central authority;
- Financial guarantees provided by the company to the Government;
- Statute, the membership and organizational structure of Fostplus;
- Financial and organizational responsibilities of Fostplus members;
- Financial flows of the company;
- Responsibilities of the producers/importers of packaging, including the financial one,
- Responsibilities of the local authorities (municipalities) in collecting waste;
- The role of population and the awareness rising and education campaigns;

Day 2

The Public Waste Agency of Flanders was host of the second day. The Agency is responsible for waste management and soil remediation in Flanders. It is a public Flemish Institution established after the decree of July 2nd, 1981 covering waste management and prevention.

OVAM is supporting a systematic approach to Flemish waste management policy with environmentally responsible household waste management; environmentally responsible materials use and waste management in the building industry; recycling and incineration of (animal) fats, market promotion of recycled materials, guidelines for sustainable waste management. As regards the EPR principle, OVAM requires acceptance of this obligation by the producers.

Mr. Yorg Aerts, from OVAM International Policy Unit, provided an overview of the Agency activity, area of interventions and the legal background.

Next, **Mr. Tom Van Troyen**, responsible for EPR on WEEE within OVAM, presented the responsibilities of the Agency related to the enforcement of the EPR principle for WEEE management.

Mrs. **Katrien Varfaillie**, communication manager of Recupel, provided a deep insight of activity of its company, which is a collective scheme established for household WEEE. She tackled issues of interest for the Republic of Moldova in relation to establishment of the collective scheme, such as:

- founding, in particular by whom it was founded and which were the financial implications;
- mission and objectives, which include logistic, financial responsibility, communication and information and reporting;
- types of WEEE covered by the scheme (large and small domestic appliances, audiovisual equipment, IT, electric tools, lighting equipment, medical devices);
- organizational structure, board of directors and other members and their financial and administrative responsibilities;
- financial flows, in particular the costs for management of each WEEE;

- the appliance list established yearly by Recupel, along with comprehensive solutions for all types of equipment;
- responsibilities of population for separate collection of WEEE;
- the opportunity to refurbish and reuse the appliance to be sold at a reduced price;
- disposal of appliances that cannot be reused;
- take back system;
- availability containers for small domestic appliances and lamps in big shops;
- benefits for being member of Recupel for the end user, for the collector, for the recycler.

Mrs. Tatiana Țugui continued with the presentation of the existing legal framework in the Republic of Moldova: Waste Law and draft WEEE Regulation, by mentioning the challenges and barriers encountered by the local and public authorities and business environment.

The presentations were followed by a round of questions and answers related to the establishment and operation of the collective scheme, in particular the financial responsibilities and obligations of each member.



In the second part of the day, **Coolrec** - a company for recycling of electrical and electronic equipment into high-quality recovered plastics, metals and other secondary raw material – hosted the delegation of the Republic of Moldova in its premises.

In the beginning, Mr. **Tom Covin**, made a presentation of the company Coolrec, which is a Renewi subsidiary. It mainly reprocesses discarded electronic and electrical equipment into valuable secondary raw materials. Coolrec recycles WEEE such as fridges, computer equipment and (small) domestic appliances. These items are recycled into materials such as high-value plastics, metals and other raw materials. Mr. Covin also noted that Coolrec isn't just a WEEE processor but also an important supplier of secondary raw materials to contribute to the Circular Economy and recovering the high-value materials also results directly in a CO₂ reduction, allowing to support the sustainability objectives as well. In addition, Coolrec is committed to social responsibility, and thus is creating employment opportunities, with particular attention and scope for people who have had problems accessing the employment market.

Coolrec is dealing with the following types of equipment:

- Cooling equipment
- Large household equipment
- Televisions & monitors
- Small domestic appliances
- ICT equipment
- Solar panels
- Printed circuit boards
- Dismantling on site
- Confidential destruction
- Plastic recycling
- Plastic compounding
- Non-ferrous recovery

Coolrec produces a range of raw materials including:

- Ferrous metal
- Non-ferrous metals like copper and aluminium
- Alloys of copper with gold, silver and palladium
- Hard plastics such as PE, PP, PS and ABS

Besides this, Adherence to the normative requirements in the EN 50625 Series provides assurance that WEEE is collected, transported and treated in compliance with the Directive 2012/19/EU on WEEE.

Next in the presentation, Mr. Covin provided some examples of practical interpretation of the circular economy, such as Philips vacuum cleaner which was produced from old recycled cleaners; or counterweight which were recycled by Miele to produce new one.

After the presentation, the delegation was invited to see the plant and the operation applied to different types of WEEE, such as dismantling, separation of materials, shredding, etc.



Day 3

The last day of the study visit began with a site visit to IVAREM container park, which a collection and logistic center for several types of waste, including WEEE. IVAREM stands for Intermunicipal Association for Sustainable Waste Management Mechelen and was established in 2003. IVAREM is active in several areas:

- door-to-door collection of residual waste, paper & cardboard, mixed plastics and PMD
- The landfill of waste
- Winning heat and electricity from bulk gas
- Composting green waste into high quality compost
- Processing of residual waste and coarse waste in a Mechanical Biological Separation Plant
- Operating 11 recycling parks
- Own container service.

The representative of IVAREM made a short presentation of the center and made a tour through the whole territory of the center, which is also called container park, by describing its main activities and the infrastructure in order to provide waste collection services to the population. The collection is made door-to-door for some waste flows. As regards the other waste, such as WEEE, chemicals, asbestos, contaminated packaging, C&D waste, the population has the obligation to bring them to the center.



A special attention was given to the WEEE collection point, where the delegation of the RM could see different types of WEEE which were brought by population, such as fridges, TV, washing machines, small household equipment, mercury containing lamps.



The representative of IVAREM noted that high collection and processing rates of waste through the container park is possible by conducting awareness raising campaigns disseminating information brochures, organizing waste prevention and sorting workshops.



Tarieven op het containerpark	
	
Wat?	Tarief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> asbestcement kalk, gips en porselein grond sloophout steenpuin treinbiels vlak glas 	7,5 euro per begonnen m ³
	Kleine hoeveelheid* gratis via draaikruis met eID (1x per bezoek) <small>* niet maximaal draagbaar is door 1 persoon</small>
grofvuil	10 euro per begonnen 0,25 m ³
zetels en zitbanken	10 euro per zitplaats
groenafval	gratis
Aanvoerbepaling van 2 m ³ per dag per gezin	

In the second part of the day, the visit to **Televil** company was held. Televil is a company that collects and sells reusable items, including WEEE. As a result, they do not get into the waste bin. The representative of Televil, mentioned that WEEE are picked up for free at home or can be brought to the store. In the company, they are repaired and sold at a reduced price. The company offers a guarantee term of 2 years. The goods that cannot be repaired are brought to the recycling centers.



Findings and conclusions of the visit:

Over the years Belgium has successfully switched to more sustainable methods that are higher up in the waste hierarchy. The country has a leading position regarding the processing of the most waste streams.

In Belgium there is a WEEE take-back obligation. This means that every business which put an electrical or electronic appliance on the Belgian market is also responsible for the collection and the end-of-life management of scrapped appliances, regardless of whether these are sold by the business in question or not.

The study visit provided an opportunity to get familiar with the experience of Belgium in setting and operating the EPR principle. As a result of the study visit, the participants deduced several recommendations and conclusions for their subsequent work, structured as follows:

In the field of political and legislative framework development

- Promote the EPR principle as an efficient approach to manage WEEE, by transferring responsibilities to the business environment and encouraging producers and importers to accept this responsibility;

In the area of WEEE management

International practice shows that there are no universal waste collection systems. Therefore, solutions are needed to adapt to the conditions of the country. Account must also be taken of the different mentality of the population, which does not always accept the introduction of differentiated collection and which does not accept to give the used equipment. On the other hand, the business community needs to be trained to assume the responsibility for the products they place on market. Failure to adapt these systems will lead to the creation of obstacles in promoting the EPR principle. In this context it is proposed to:

- Promote for approval the WEEE Regulation;
- Informing LPA on the ways of creating separate collection points for WEEE, through restructuring of the existing waste disposal structure of the locality;
- Continue the dialogue with central public authorities with a view to allocating land for the creation of the Hazardous Waste Management Center, through which the priority hazardous waste streams will be collected, with subsequent recycling or disposal.
- Promote better communication and active participation in industry, public sector, NGO and citizen dialogue.



In the area of establishing the collective/individual schemes

- Continue the dialogue with the business community and find the best option for honoring the EPR principle: individually or collectively. The recommended option is the collective scheme which will be a non-profit organization, created by the EEE producers. Running an individual scheme is more resource consuming option;
- Identification of the best financial mechanisms for establishment and operation of a collective/individual scheme;
- Set clear roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and conduct training workshops.

Follow up:

The project activities have an important objectives and mainly:

- To enhance institutional capacities and knowledge of EEE producers / distributors with regards to establishment of the associations
- To increase the awareness among key stakeholders regarding risks association with unsound management of WEEE (including end-of-life computing equipment).

Once the support is provided by UNEP, for the visit it is expected to conduct the follow up component in order to disseminate the knowledge received and to help with EEE producers / distributors and other interested stakeholders understand this experience and their new understanding into opportunities and to reflect on all they have gained from this.

As the follow up activity for the study visit, it is envisaged to organize the set of trainings and working meetings with EEE producers / distributors and other interested stakeholders, The participants of the study visit and the lead Moldovan experts in the field of waste management shall be the speakers to this events.

It is proposed to use the following proposed approach:

TRAININGS

Title:	Increasing institutional capacities and knowledge of EEE producers/distributors regarding legal framework on EPR implementation in Moldova
Dates:	22-23 august 2017
Duration:	3 hour intensive training/group = 2 days
Groups of participants:	4-5 groups relevant to 10 WEEE categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group 1: Category 5 of WEEE (Lightning equipment and photo voltaic equipment) - Group 2: Category 8 of WEEE (medical devices) - Group 3: Category 1 of WEEE (frigorific equipment, air cooling) - Group 4: Category 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 of WEEE - Group 5: Category 3 of WEEE: IT equipment and communication



Invitees & speakers	<p>-New legal and regulatory framework on waste – Ministry of Environment</p> <p>-EPR implementation based on Law on Waste – EPPO</p> <p>- Experience of EU countries on creation of REP associations - EBA /AmCham</p> <p>-Big retailers experience on introduction of EPR – Metro Cash and Carry</p> <p>- Packaging and EPR – ABS SRL</p> <p>- Fridge and refrigeration recycling and collection experience in Moldova – Ozone Office / Association of Frigoristilor din Moldova</p> <p>- Risks associated with the unsound management of WEEE – examples of campaigns and risks for population – EPPO</p>
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WORKING MEETING WITH THE EXISTING EMPLOYER'S ASSOCIATIONS

Title:	To enhance institutional capacities and knowledge of EEE producers / distributors with regards to establishment of the associations
Dates:	17-18 august 2017
Duration:	4 -6 hour meeting
Topics of presentation & speakers	<p>New legal and regulatory framework on waste – Ministry of Environment</p> <p>-EPR implementation based on Law on Waste – EPPO</p> <p>- Experience of EU countries on creation of REP associations - EBA /AmCham</p> <p>- Work upon the legal form and draft statute of EPR association (all participants)</p>
Invitees& participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Confederation of the Employers - Moldovan chamber of commerce - AmCham - EBA - DisMed - Republican Club of business man – Timpul - Foreign Investors Association - Employers' Association of Public Services

Evaluation meeting with the national ministry stakeholders

Title:	Evaluation of the major project outputs
Date:	28 august 2017
Duration:	3 hour meeting
Topics of presentation & speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the project outputs & outcomes - Follow up actions to be taken in order to finalize the Regulation on WEEE - Database of the main EEE importers / producers present in Moldova - Role of IES in promoting of the WEEE sound management
Invitees& participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environment - Customs Office - Statistical office - State Ecological Inspection - Other participants



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