



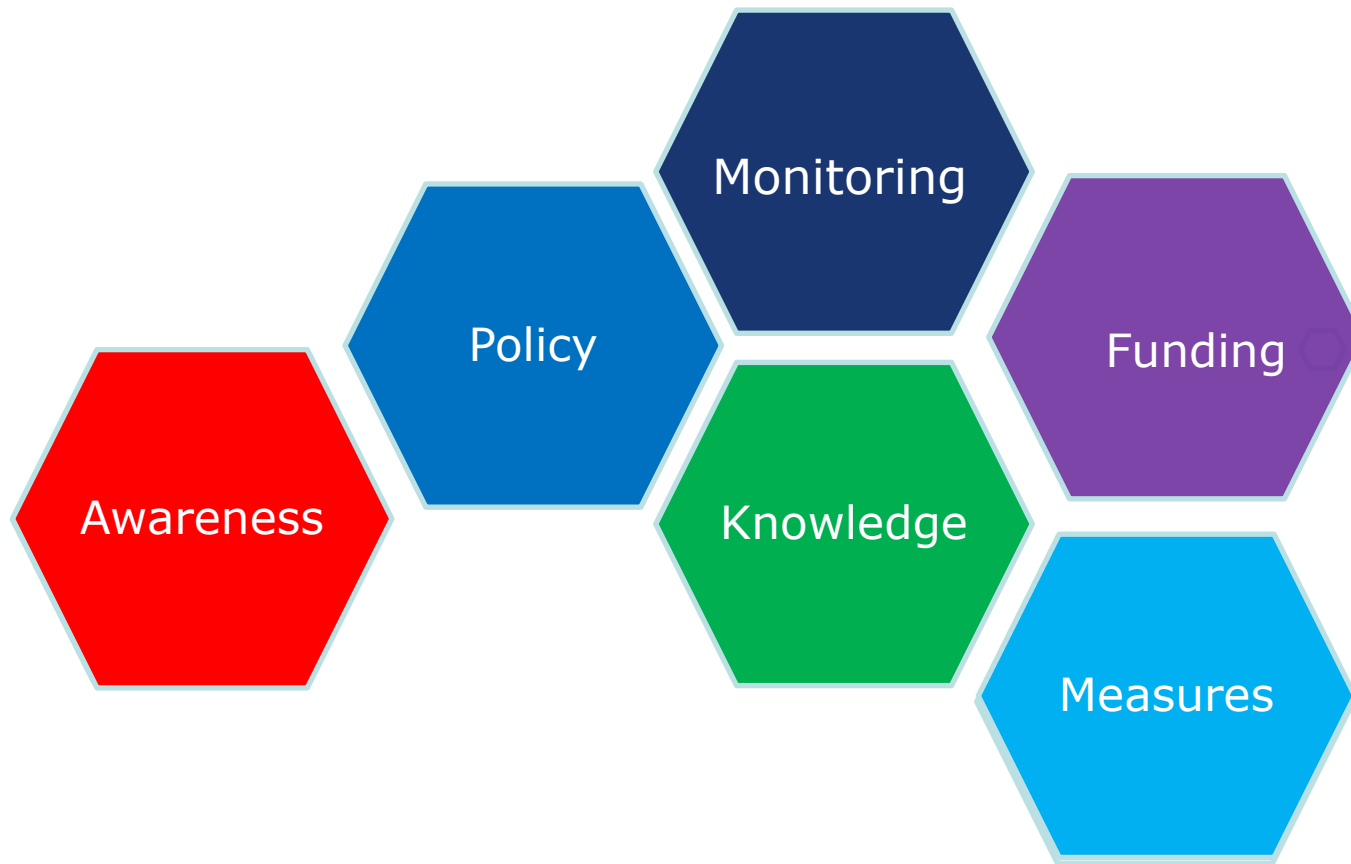
EU policies and initiatives to combat marine litter

Leo de Vrees
European Commission
DG Environment
Marine Environment and Water
Industry Unit



European
Commission

Framework Marine Litter

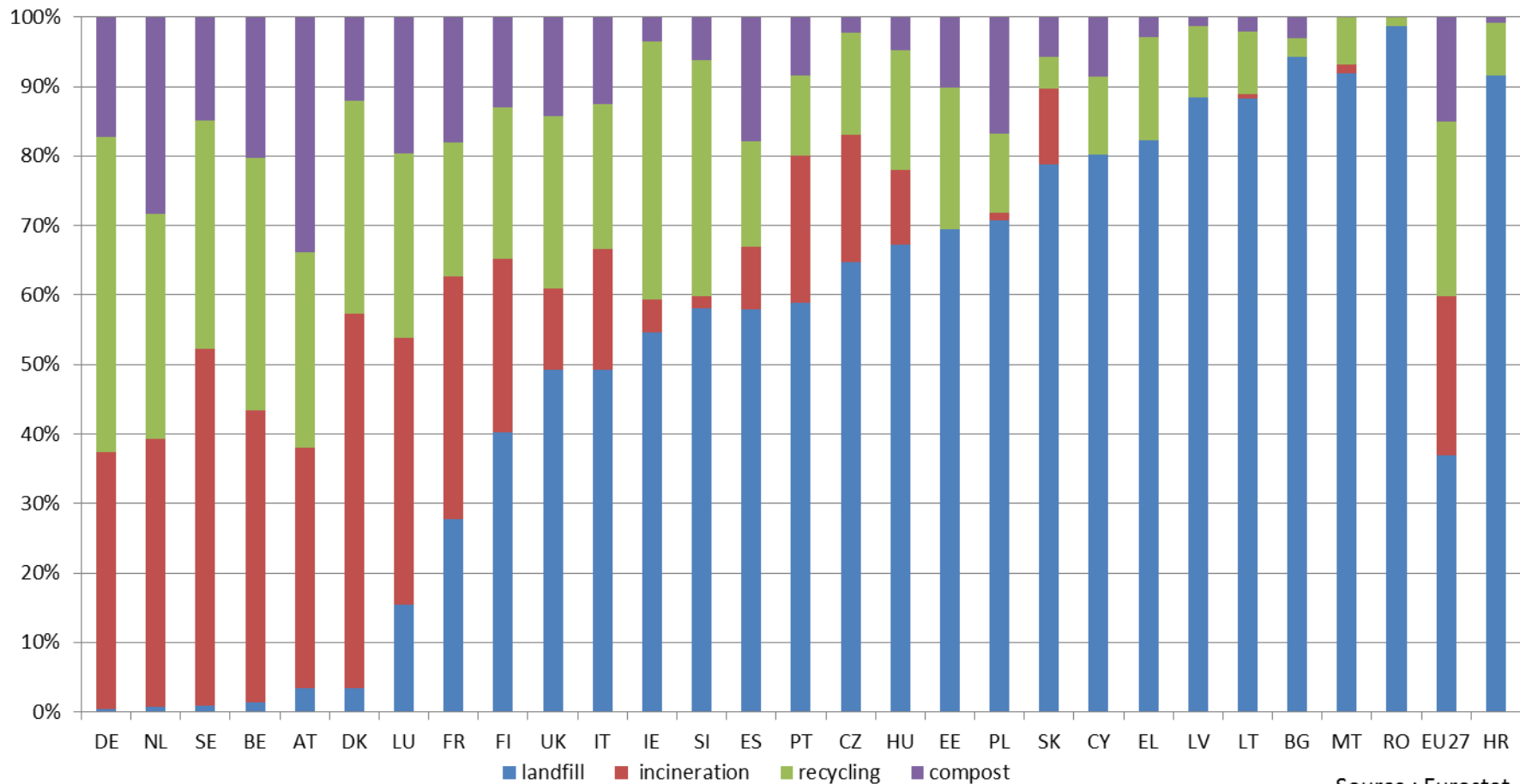


Policy context: Legislation and policies addressing sources

- *Resource efficiency and waste prevention: a Resource Efficient Europe (2012)*
- *Waste Management*
 - **Waste Framework Directive**
 - **Packaging Directive**
 - **Landfill Directive**
- *Urban wastewater treatment*
- *Pollution from ships*
 - **(MARPOL (Annex V))** reviewed 2012
 - **Port Reception Facilities Directive** review 2013

Green paper
review 2014

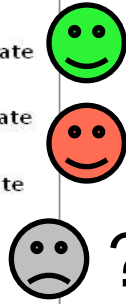
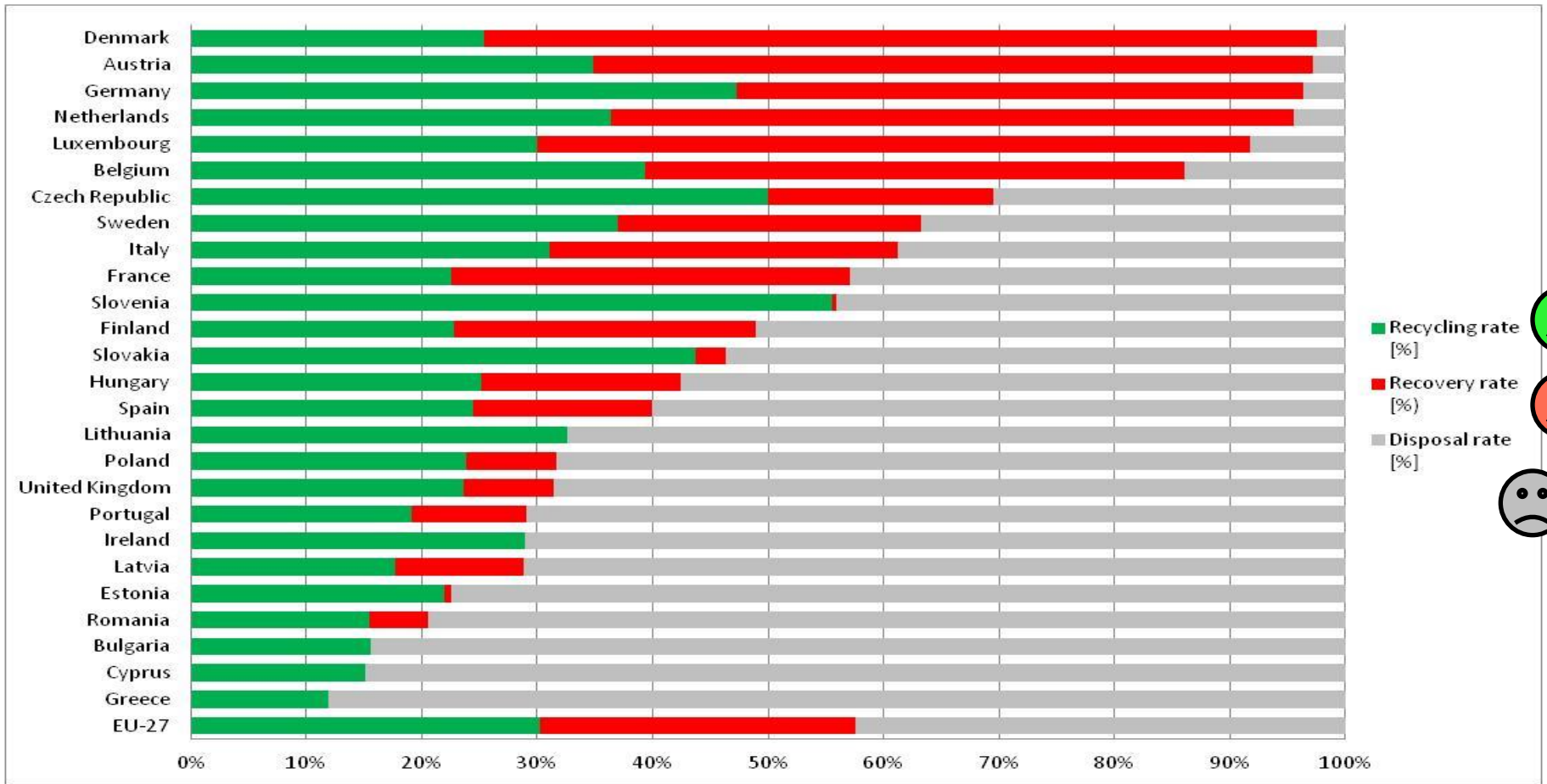
Municipal Waste Treatment (2011)



Source : Eurostat

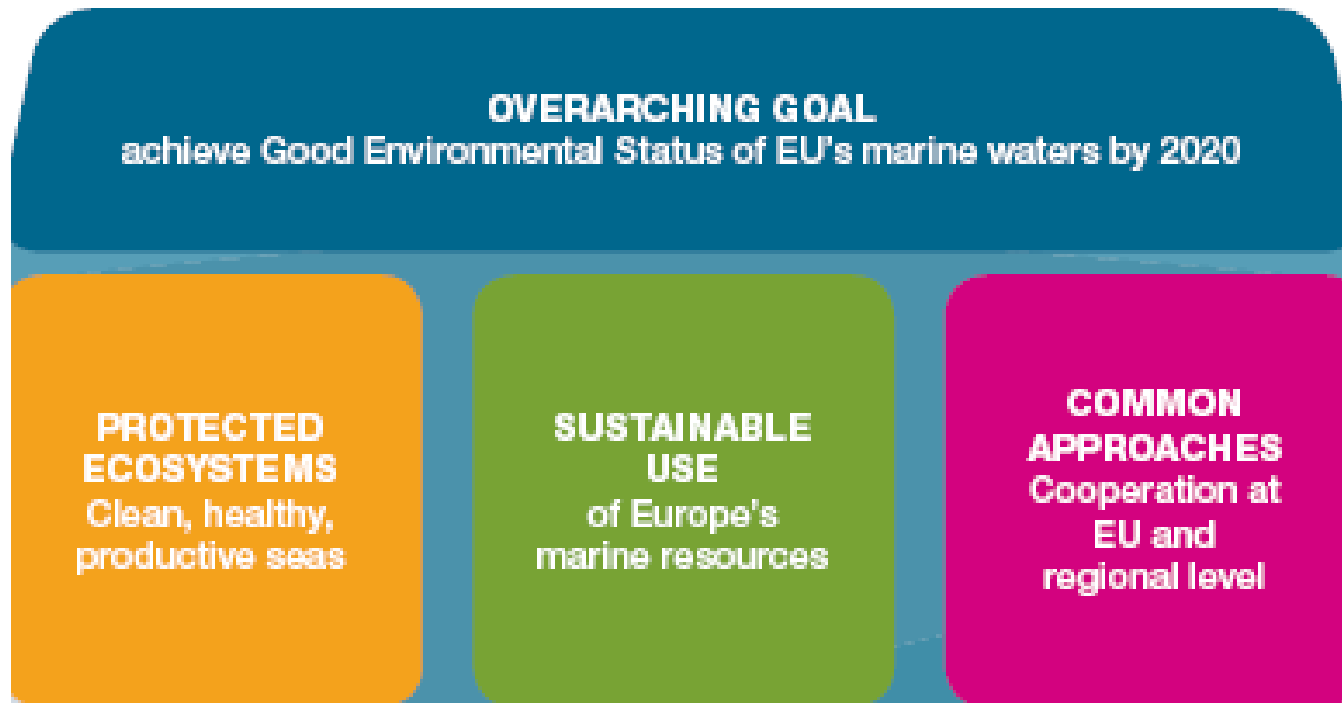
Analysis of plastic cycles

Share of different treatment methods for PPW per Member State in 2008



Policy: the Marine Directive

EU's legal instrument for the protection of our seas



Ecosystem-based, adaptive and integrated approach to the management of all human activities which have an impact on the marine environment.



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GES: Common principles, tailored indicators

GES Descriptors

Descriptor 10 – Marine litter does not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment

GES Criteria

- **Characteristics of litter in the marine and coastal environment**
- **Impacts of litter on marine life**

Indicators





- **Trends in amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines**
- **Trends in amount of litter in water column and deposited on sea-floor**
- **Trends in amount, distribution and where possible, composition of micro-particles**
- **Trends in amount and composition of litter ingested by marine animals**

Targets

Examples:

- **XX% of overall reduction in the volume/number of litter on coastlines from 2010 levels by 2020**
- **Less than 10% of northern fulmars having more than 0.1 g plastic particles in their stomach**

Policy context: Legislation and policies related to impacts (1)

- *Integrated Maritime Policy:*
 - **Surveillance; Knowledge; Fishing Litter/Lost Fishing Gear**
- *Marine Strategy Framework Directive*
 - **Determine GES**  **art 12 assessment**
 - **Setting targets**  **7th EAP, RIO+20**
 - **Monitoring**  **TSG Litter**
 - **Measures**  **Pilot studies**

Policy context: Legislation and policies related to impacts (2)

- *Water Management*
 - **Water Framework Directive: impact on water quality/biological impacts. Possible areas of work:**
 - Monitoring sources: waste water treatment plants, (illegal/non-managed) landfills, recreation zones, cities, drainage systems
 - Impacts: Physical and chemical
 - Awareness raising: water managers and inhabitants
 - Links with source control legislation
 - **Bathing Water Directive: visual inspection for pollution and if needed, adequate management measures must be taken**

Monitoring

ToR of TSG Marine litter

- *Develop common monitor protocols: beach litter; floating/column; sea floor; micro-plastics; ingested litter; standardization of categories*
- *Evaluate new monitoring tools*
- *Estimate the costs of monitoring*
- *Identification of sources incl. riverine input*
- *Assess harm*

Eye on Earth (EEA): pilot on marine litter for citizen science

Knowledge

- ***We do know:*** *main sources; composition; anecdotic proof of abundance and impacts (ingested, entangled)*
- ***There is a growing concern*** *on micro-plastics incl. fibres; chemicals; vector NIS*
- *Filling knowledge gaps through RTD projects:*
 - **ECsafeFood; BIOCLEAN;**
 - **CLEANSEA; HERMONIA; PERSEUS; STAGES; GESAMP**
- *Interreg cooperation:*
 - **MICRO (micro-plastics in the North Sea)**

Awareness

- **AWARENESS** is growing with policy makers at EU and MS level, industries (producers, retailers)
- Preparatory meetings with sectors since 2011

TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS:

- **MARLISCO: Marine litter in European Seas: Social Awareness and Co-responsibility.** Includes making available knowledge to policy makers
- Fishing for litter
- Green Public Procurement; Ecolabel scheme

Funding

- *Life+*
- *FP7 and Horizon 2020*
- *Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (environmentally-friendly packaging)*
- *Structural funds*
 - **Cohesion**
 - **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**
 - **Regional development (INTERREG IVC)**
 - **Pre-accession Assistance**

Measures

- *MS Programme of Measures for MSFD*
- *3 Pilot projects in 2012 with objectives*
 - **To identify loopholes in marine litter in 4 regional seas (Riga, Oostende, Barcelona, Konstanz)**
 - **To identify loopholes in plastic packaging waste in less performing countries in EU and 3 in MED (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco)**
 - **To prevent littering (human behaviour) and analyse (combination of) measures**
- *Pilot in 2013/2014 on litter removal: MARELITT*
 - **Assessment of best practices**
 - **Setting up projects (incl ghost nets)**
 - **Dissemination/toolkit**



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine>



Thank you for your attention!