



**TransWaste**

Formalisation of informal sector activities in collection and transboundary shipment of wastes in and to CEE

# 6.3.10. Report Formalisation alternative

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> period of the project TransWaste  
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# 1 Introduction

Out of possible formalisation activities promising alternatives will be chosen and the possibilities, chances and constraints for real implementation will be checked. At least one alternative will be determined for further implementation

## 2 Germany

### 2.1 Derived formalization strategy for further implementation

Next to problems that arise through the implementation of formalization strategies as presented above, the reuse corner was focused in regard to support informal sector activities.

In cooperation with the Lebenshilfe Dresden e.V. a reuse corner is planned. The Lebenshilfe Dresden e.V. is an association that presents the interests of handicapped persons and their families. It is a parent association, vertical union and institutional organization. It consists of different departments such as children, living, integration and working. Within the last department the Lebenshilfe Dresden e.V. operates a WEEE dismantling station. Items such as TV's, radios, recorders, PC's, monitors, scanner, printers or measurement and test appliances are delivered to the operating site and are dismantled according to the state of the art in to different fractions.

According to interviews with the responsible person in charge, old electric and electronic devices are received that still are in a good shape. The bases for still working electric and electronic devices are e.g. technology progress and household releases. As a dismantling station the Lebenshilfe e.V. is certificated as waste management company according to § 52 KrW-/AbfG (German waste act), whereas the last reformation of certification took place in February 2012.

Based on the last discussions regarding a reuse corner in the operating facility it could be concluded that enough space is available. The general process is displayed in figure 5.



Figure 1: Process of reuse corner at Lebenshilfe e.V.

Based on first discussions, the next steps will be to evaluate detailed juridical requirements to arrange a control of still working appliances. Therefore an authorized person in charge is needed that can certificate the end of waste respectively the reusability of items. Hence, a detailed concept of economic feasibility and process ways will be developed.

The aim is to sell still working electric and electronic appliances at small prices. The items are available for everyone including informal collectors. Through the investment of small price, collectors are ensured that items are still working and certificated. Hence a littering would be minimized and higher sale prices at destination flea markets are foreseeable. In future collaboration with Polish trading companies is discussed.

## 3 Austria

### 3.1 Derived formalization strategy for further implementation

#### 3.1.1 ReUse Corner

As a strategy to transform informal collection activities in a formalized scenario the “ReUse Corner” idea was drafted. At waste collection centres a space shall be reserved, where people can bring still functioning used items. There nearby living people interested in re-use and informal collectors can search for and purchase desired used items at low prices (or get them for free). Customers of the ReUse Corner will get an invoice, so that they can proof the legal purchase of their item(s).

During the implementation phase used electric and electronic equipment shall not be sold or given away to avoid unclear regulations concerning liability and product safety. As next steps the legal framework shall be sketched, so that a ReUse Corner can be soon implemented at a waste collection centre in Burgenland or Lower Austria.

#### 3.1.2 WISE

(,WISEs’ = Work Integration Social Enterprises)

Establishment of re-use and repair centres and networks in cooperation with the informal sector – using the concept of socio-economic enterprises

The formalisation scenario 1 of the project TransWaste, called “Establishment of re-use and repair centres and networks in cooperation with the informal sector – using the concept of socio-economic enterprises”, is based on the necessity/suggestion to develop re-use and repair centres and networks in Europe to fulfil the new Waste Framework Directive of the European Union (2008).

In the framework of the project TransWaste it was observed that there are re-use goods available in Austria and Germany for which no market exists or which are too expensive to be repaired in the country of their origin. Due to the lower staff costs on location these items could be repaired and sold in Hungary, Slovakia or Poland.

The basic idea is to establish a work integration social enterprise (WISE) in Hungary/Slovakia/Poland which works and trades with these items.

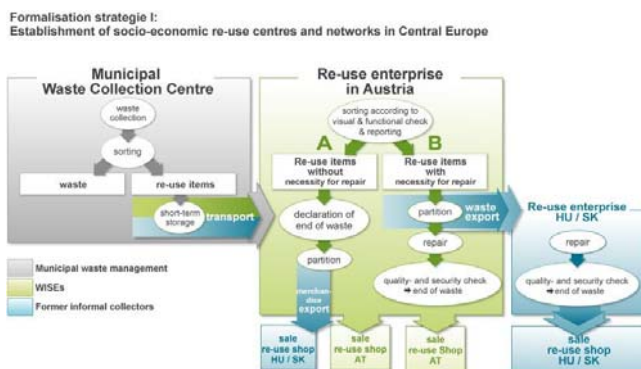


Former informal waste collectors get employed at these re-use companies for a limited period of time and participate in vocational trainings in several working areas e.g. in waste management, in repair services for electrical appliances or in joinery proficiency.

Based on the fact that especially the formal waste management sector in Hungary/Slovakia/Poland is growing, former informal waste collectors could have the possibility to find employment in this sector after completing their vocational training at the WISE.

Due to the fact that the transboundary shipment of unrepaired re-use items (= waste) is difficult to implement because of the European waste directives, the idea arose that an existing Austrian /German socio economic re-use company establishes a second branch in Hungary/Slovakia/Poland. In this case the constrictions concerning transboundary shipment of "waste" can be resolved much easier because the re-use items with repair necessity are transported between two branches of the same company. This generally is a common procedure of customer services of a lot of existing manufacturers of e.g. electrical appliances.

First idea:



Developed idea:

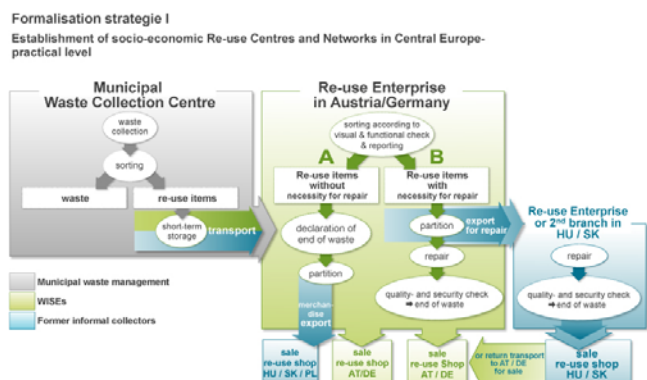


Figure 2.:First and developed ideas

### Process steps second branch in HU/SK/PL (shortened):

- 1) Collection of used goods in Austria/Germany by the Austrian/German WISE as usual (cooperation with waste collection centres, clearing out services, delivery by households...)
- 2) Partitioning of the re-use goods between the two branches in AT/HU or DE/PL or AT/SK: goods which are needed in Austria/Germany stay there, goods which have a better market in HU/SK/PL will be transported to the second branch, especially goods which cannot be repaired in an economical way in AT/DE.
- 3) Re-Use goods will be refurbished and repaired at the HU/SK/PL WISE with the support of temporarily employed former informal waste collectors.
- 4) Repaired goods will be sold in the re-use market of the WISE in HU/SK/PL with the support of temporarily employed former informal waste collectors.
- 5) At the same time temporarily employed former informal waste collectors receive vocational trainings and support by searching an employment at the first labour market.

## 4 Hungary

### 4.1 Derived formalization strategy for further implementation

#### ISHS – International Second Hand Service

Because of the strict waste management regulations of the European Union, the individuals or the families cannot pursue the current lomi activities. In Austria the bulky waste collectors (lomi) are strictly under control and also can be punished who work without delivery permission. Because of this, the main aim of the organization (ISHS) is to join the individuals and companies who deal with used items together towards the economic and environmental eligibility of their activities. The members of the organization can be individual entrepreneurs with valid certificates, so there can be smaller (1-2 people) and bigger (more than 100 people) companies as well. Those bulky waste collectors who cannot fulfil these strict criteria's can join the companies who are members of the organization as employee or trustee. The place of the organizations' members' activities can be in Hungary, and also in the countries of Western-Europe. The members can deal with collection, transport and commercial activities after fulfilling the obligatory education to eliminate the lack of their environmental and economic knowledge. Following the used item testing and repair activities the waste arising from the process would be selected, stored and transported due to the regulations written in the 2000. XLIII. Waste management law. So this organization and its activities would be an environmental conscious solution towards the disused items (junk).

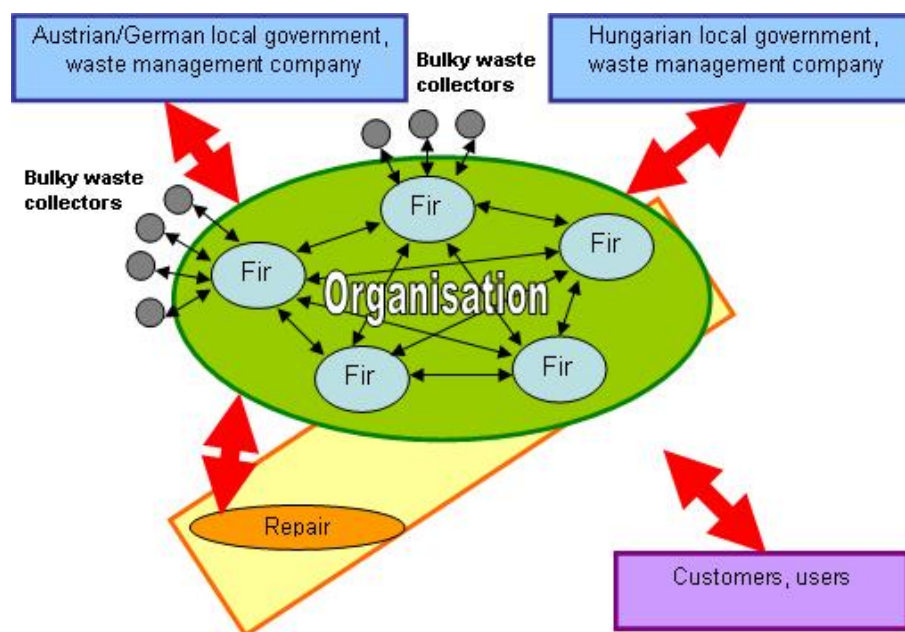


Figure 3.: Formalization idea

### General aims of the ISHS:

- Expert (lomis) interest protection – representation on government level
- Environmental protection
- Waste management activities
- Social and Cultural aims – training (e.g.: language skills)
- Economic aims
- Rural development

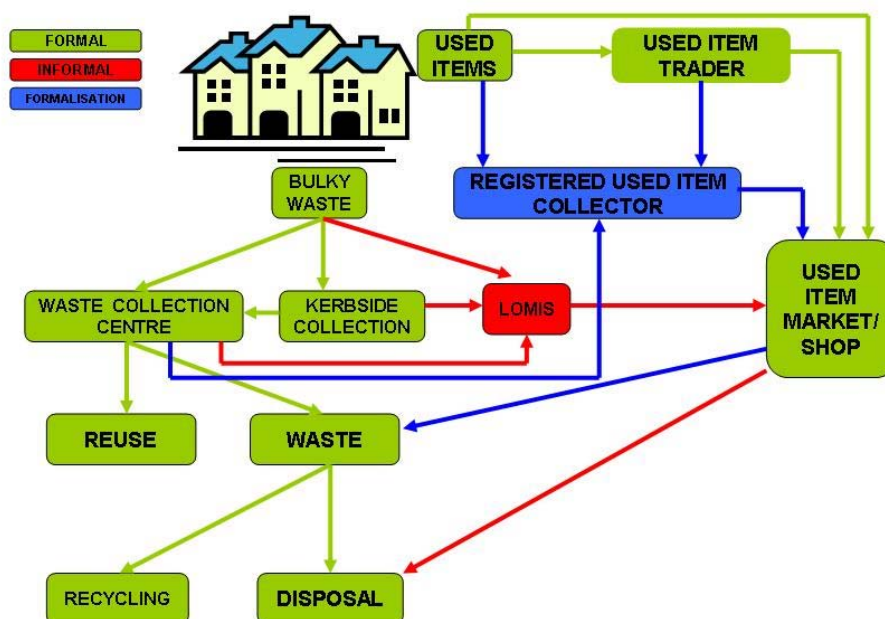


Figure 4.:Flow chart of the formalization idea

### Used item collector and retailer company (e.g.: Aranyfregatt Ltd.)

#### Short term goal:

Bulky waste collection is not only common in Austria, but also in Hungary many people are engaged with these activities. The problem is similar, people collect waste without permission, and they give part of it to metal collectors, while the usable furniture and technician equipment are sold at used item markets. Currently the local kerb side collection is under the control of local governmental services. The waste put out in front of the houses are mostly taken apart by the bulky waste collectors not a proper way and the metal part of these items cause environmental pollution, so the system needs to be changed. For the local kerb side collections a new business should be developed which would solve this problem. This way the lomis (bulky waste collector) companies as

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subcontractors with the waste management companies could fulfil the kerbside collection activities with permission, as a service. Another option is, if someone orders the kerbside collection as a service and this way the bulky waste collection as an illegal activity would disappear.

There is a demand for such kind of organization to protect of bulky waste collectors who collect waste in the neighbour countries – mainly in Austria. The members of the organization can achieve reputation in the Austrian provinces, in news, in local magazines, in radio, in local televisions and on the internet, etc. by important marketing activities. On these forums the company can advertise in advertisements and can create a specious and information full web portal and the company could become popular in Austria.

The Austrian residents who own obsolete product can order the removal of the junk by telephone or by internet where the Hungarian entrepreneur would buy-up the used articles on previously published prices. The call-centre office with a depot in Hungary would operate as a full centre, working continuously, supplied with necessary infrastructure, where foreign language – in German – speaking colleagues would answer the calls. The distribution of the orders arriving to the call-center between individual collectors is a logistic process done by someone who is an expert in logistic processes.

The lomis (bulky waste collector) arrives to the customer's address with a contract. The print details the certain merchandises in German. The residents have to detail punctually the quantity and the price of the given merchandise type. The origin of the products is justified by the Austrian-German resident's data and signature. In Hungary it should also stand for a delivery note if the police stop them and also for voucher when they want to resell it in Hungary. The merchandises would exchange a host for a symbolical sum in the majority of the cases. By the shopping with the contract and with the order form the thefts can be controlled. At the same time the form would serve as a voucher, and by the taxation the measure of the income would turn into traceable.

## ÜBERGABELISTE

Ich ..... (Vor- und Zuname des Verkäufers/Geschenkgebers)  
 wohnhaft in .....; Telefonnummer .....;  
 bestätige mit meiner Unterschrift  die Schenkung /  den Verkauf  
 und die Übergabe nachstehender Gegenstände (Produkte)  
 an ..... (Vor- und Zuname des Käufers/Geschenknemers)  
 Tel.Nr.....:



### Haus- und Gartenmöbel:

.... Stk Sofa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Stühle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Tische	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Regale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Elektrogeräte:

.... Stk Rasenmäher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Waschmaschine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Computer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk. Elektroherd	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk. Fernseher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Sonstiges:

.... Stk Fahrräder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk/Schachtel Kleidung	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Spielzeug	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Kinderwagen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk/Schachtel Hausrat (Pfannen, Töpfe, Vasen, )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.... Stk Werkzeug (Säge, Hammer, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Die oben genannten Gegenstände sind für die Wiederverwendung im Sinne der Abfallrahmenrichtlinie   
 (2008/98/EG) bestimmt.

Ort, Datum

Unterschrift des Verkäufers /  
Geschenkgebers

Unterschrift Käufers / Ge-  
schenknemers

Figure 5: Transfer list

**Long term goal:**

The long term goals of the used item collector organizations can be the clarification of the legal and environmental correspondence of the lomi activity and all the other activities which belongs to this:

- Establishment of refurbishing centres: with this activity, parts of the bought used items arriving to Hungary can be made over with small reparation. Refurbishing centres directly next to used item markets would repair the broken items with the help of professional people.
- Establishment of tester units (technical tester): its task would be controlling the electric and electronics items whether they are harmful for health or not.
- Waste handling around markets: the unmarketable items have to be delivered to a central waste yard – which can be next to the market – and these items (already waste) will be selected again. The rest – the real waste – have to be carried away by the regulation of the waste management. The assigned people have to have waste handling qualification.
- Education (environmental, waste handling, marketing, German, etc.): the people doing these activities – mentioned above – has to have certain knowledge and degree. The organization provides professional training to the certain groups.

**Future goals:**

Negotiating with the Austrian side, the organization set up would adapt to the changes. By this, only the public utility (waste management) organization contracted with the local governments could fulfil these activities exclusively in Austria. The gathered junks would get into a waste yard where it would be selected, and right next to it a refurbishing centres would operate. The Hungarian lomists (bulky waste collectors) could buy these items exclusively from these places as used items. The existing print will be suitable for purchase, and the value limit of the merchandises constant could be the same. By the favour of the refurbishing firm the bought products (especially the electric and electronics equipments) will be operable which would be guaranteed and they would not constitute any problem transferring the border.

- Refurbishing centres
- Establishment of tester units (technical tester)
- Education (environment protection, waste handling, commercialism, German language, etc.)
- Directing waste handling around (used item) markets

## 5 Poland

### 5.1 Used item corner

Creating of ReUse Corners is an idea by which informal import of used goods can be reduced. Currently, state law in Poland is being changed (renewal of the Act on keeping order and tidiness in municipalities) and municipalities become owners of waste. Each municipality is obliged to open “points for the selective collection of municipal waste” (PSZOK) where residents can provide bulky waste, tires, construction waste and others - all free of charge.

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Until now, there were only a few such points, inter alia in Poznan and Krakow. It is proposed that the ReUse Corners shall be opened along with PSZOKs. Citizens will be able to bring there used items while collectors or just people interested in reuse, will have opportunity to purchase desired goods. This solution has been adopted in Poznan where, as a pilot case, first ReUse Corner was opened next to the functioning for several years now - problematic waste collection point called "Gratowisko". Legal changes were associated with necessity of developing new regional waste management plans. The idea of ReUse Corner containing general principles of its functioning was included into Lower Silesia's plan. Information on how to create such a corner is being widely propagated, therefore number of points should gradually increase, as the practice meets the needs of both - informal collectors and locals.

#### Current situation:

- Informal collectors are demanding used items directly at households.

Problems:

Nuisance of inhabitants

Illegal collection of waste

- Still usable items are becoming waste, if they are thrown away at WCCs.

Problem: unnecessary amounts of waste

Idea: Implementation of ReUse Corners directly at WCCs or at other institutions. Informal collectors and other people interested in reuse get access to still usable items (either to buy or for free).

#### Needs:

- Enough space in a building or and space in a container
- Additional staff (one should be enough) to look after the ReUse Corner
- Accounting and documentation
- Pricing (in case of selling) and invoices

#### Advantages:

- Controlled give away of reused items
- Better access for collectors and other people to used items
- Additional revenues/less costs for WCC
- Lower waste fees possible
- Better image

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- Legally purchased/retrieved items for collectors
- No waste will be taken anymore

#### Problems/critical points:

- Goods enter as waste, when delivered to WCC because people want to get rid of items and dispose them (discussable, because when I know that there is a ReUse Corner at a WCC I can also go there **only** with the intention to donate my items) → possible solution: separate entrance for wastes and used items (difficult to implement, but can be also simply first a ReUse area, followed by the Waste area)
- or authorised staff is needed for preparation for reuse
- Liability: who is liable for damages from purchased used goods?

#### Western scenarios:

GER: Lebenshilfe e. V., a social enterprise, recycle and dismantle WEEE. Additionally they will collect old electric and electronic devices and resell at low prices.

AUT: ReUse Corner at a WCC in the federal state of Burgenland or Lower Austria, starting in June or July. In the beginning without used electric and electronic items to avoid problems with liability. Also repairing of items will be implemented in a further step. As “take it or leave it” or “sales corner”.

#### Eastern scenarios:

POL: Idea shall be included in the new regional Polish waste management plan.

Starting in May: ReUse Corner at the WCC of Poznan as “sales corner” (free bringing, paid taking). In the beginning with “non-liability” products, with simple pricing categories. To avoid the problem of waste being generated by the ReUse corner itself (and not anymore by the citizens), a simple declaration will be signed, stating that the donator of a used item remains owner of it until it is sold. If it is not sold the item enters the waste flow.



## 6 Slovakia

### 6.1 Derived formalization strategy for further implementation

“RETOURETTE” - purchasing used electric and electronical devices incomplete state from inhabitants

Involving existing partners already accredited and working in field of waste management by inviting to cooperation on a Slovak partner meeting with cooperating organizations Enviwork, s.r.o. as a general partner and Ekocentrum as a partner of pilot case was set up plan for implementing scenario with full described conditions and has exist real expectation for sustainability for longer time after project finish. Enviwork, s.ro. is waste management company focused for collecting WEEE by door to door collections (target region is Bratislava and west and south region belongs cca 120km to Bratislava ) or collections from inhabitants, private and state organizations in dedicated places in Rohožník and Bratislava and also work as WEEE processing company using mostly manual disassembling of WEEE. Mainly employes people from lower social group and also from local Roma community in Rohožník.

Second partner Ekocentrum is waste collecting company focused for WEEE and bulky waste providing waste collecting services for public. It is located in Záhorská Bystrica, west of Bratislava and provide waste collection services locally and also for surrounding smaller municipalities. Both partners has a proper licences and registrations according valid legislative of Slovak republic. Main goal of prepared scenario is purchasing electric and electronical devices in complete state directly from inhabitants - internal working name of this scenario is RETOURETTE.

Scenario: Main idea is very simple for first glance.

Used electroequipment can inhabitant bring directly to existing collection points, defined and advertised by partners . There must be fulfilled following conditions :

- Equipment must be brought in complete state. No missing parts accepted.
- In case that brought devices is not complete, will be consider as WEEE without any fee

Status quo:

- informal activities affects environment – unusable parts become black hazardous waste sites. / Municipalities has a experience with financing and removing of this. /,
- economic effectiveness of waste processing companies, when valuable parts missing.

Waste collecting and processing companies affected. / In general, it is possible to say that all waste management system./,

- health hazard, if devices are unprofessionally dismantled by collectors,
- legislative violations - Act about Waste no. 223/2001.



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SWOT analyse of proposed scenario:

Strenghts:

- increasing ammount legally collected WEEE. According EU legislative is planned increasing ammount of collected WEEE, but sales ammoutns of EEE in SK market decreasing by influence of economical situation, it is very important to increasing of effectiveness waste collections. Impact of this scenario is not very big in one small company, but in wider range can help improve the situation.
- Reducing costs for WEEE collecting - balancing fees paid for devices purchased from customer in this scenario. Moreover - with good quality on input of waste processing flow, it is possible to reach maximum economical effectivity of waste processing.

Weaknesses:

- relatively small amount of money paid for collected goods / when electro devices is dismantled by collectors they can reach bigger economical effect in short term. But there is still about 36-40% unusable material as rest of such kind of "recyclation". Moreover, this activity may cause violation of the law.

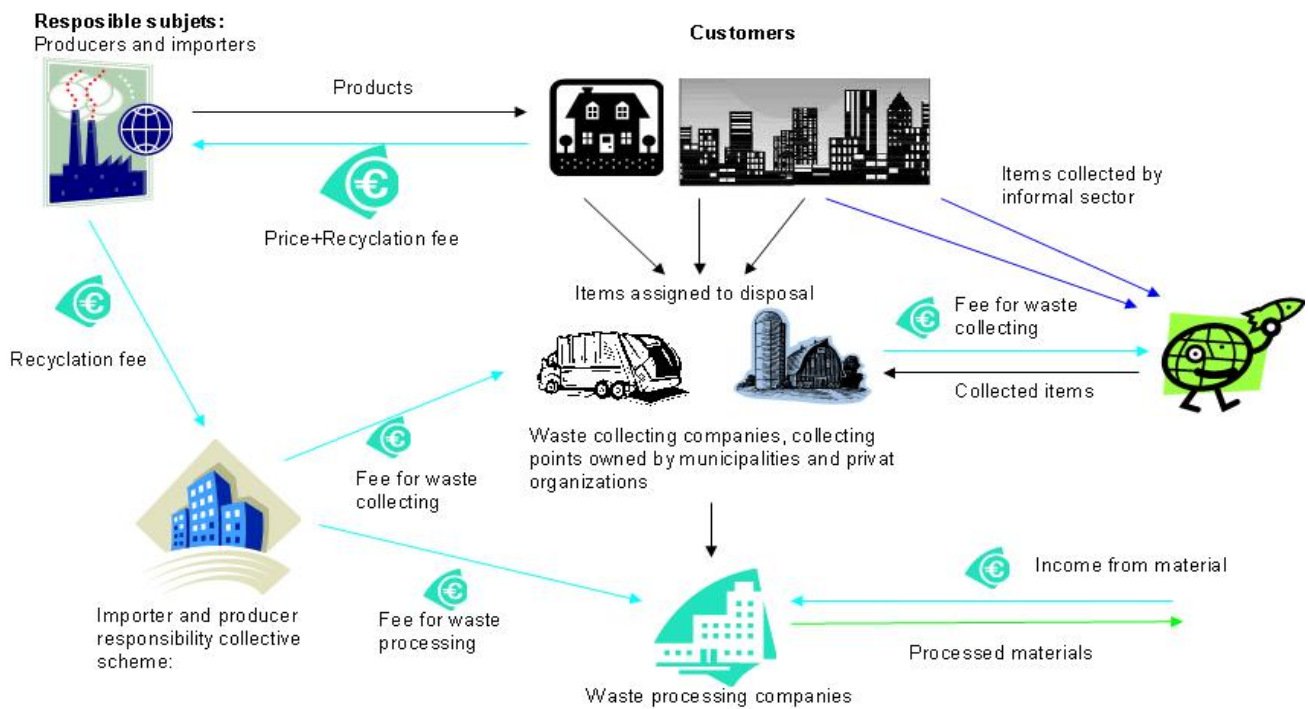
Opportunities:

- It helps sustain existing employees in WM companies and also gives possibilities to create some additional, also in combination with existing supporting mechanism for example - Labour Office.
- as described scenario is related to public in general, small collectors still has a chance to get some money for everyday life, from small collecting activities.
- Bigger group of collectors are motivating to start providing activities by legal way – to become more effective form economical side.

Threads:

- low interest from inhabitants due to small amounts of goods – problematic in longer distances. This point is possible improve by creating new partnerships and realizing on places as much places as possible and be closer to inhabitants.





In beginning 2011 was started preparation implementation divided to next steps and also described in implementation strategy:

- providing information to public – using paid advertising in media focused for public services in printed and internet form – Infoma magazin (infomation internet server in combination with printed form “informáčik”, every year prolongation needed) , published on the partners internet websites (if available) and registering to public media servers.
- start of providing purchasing services from inhabitants “RETOURETTE”. Starting price was set in between 7 to 10 cents per/kg, Places dedicated for scenario by partners re located in Bratislava, Rohožník, Záhorská bystrica.
- Inhabitants has to call to numbers provided by partners before they come to dedicated place to provide information about quantity and condition and get actual information about price.

Possibilities for connection for other partners scenarios:

- WISE – SK/AT - cooperation related to repairing and re-use

Re-use as term is not defined in Slovak legislative.to topic for There were identified several problems in the collection and control of WEEE, what would be suitable for re-use. Problems may include the following:

- Of the WEEE processors. They actually came to the source of their income - treatment of WEEE and they presumably will not agree.

- Problems in applications for the export of hazardous waste - WEEE is generally dangerous, even if such /PC, printers.../ are declared as non hazardous waste. According to the definition of waste under the Waste Act and the Framework Directive 2008/98/EC is everything, which the holder getting rid of, consider as a waste and holder can not simply say "I declare that this is not a waste, and I want it to be re-used". The problem I see with respect to the previous reason.

- as one of possibility in the re-use of EEE, can be considered, for example, goods returned by customers within the 10 - day guarantee as damaged or unwanted EEE, who returned to the store. There is possibility to deal with that as the WEEE or send it somewhere for repair. There is a possibility that the equipment has been returned to the store will be separately collected from take-back and then reported to the Re-use center for repair and must also follow the conditions that was mentioned previous points.

Regarding Business plan, is certainly to be defined primarily in technical equipment needed to detect errors and to correct them, and of course personal. Staff should definitely have experience in electronics service and it would be totally cool links to manufacturers - mainly for testing software and any replacement parts.

HU/SK – ISHS scenario implementation - limited by legislative possibilities and stands of controlling authorities to this kind of integration of public collectors as was described in previous points.

Still open doors for cooperation or implementing similar scenario in Slovakia, but only in accordance with valid legislative. Regarding information from controlling institution there are noted first attempts to met legislative criteria and bring subjects which tends working in this field by legal and organized way. Main issue in integration process is identified as low education about valid legislative in SK and lack of information about processes which has to be applied in official waste management systems – reporting, licencing, permits, contracts...



## 7 Sources

ABENSA, waste treatment plant catalogue of Saxony: <http://www.abensa.de/> , Date: 15.05.2012, time: 12:21 o'clock

Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie, Freistaat Sachsen: Siedlungsabfallbilanz 2010. Dresden, Deutschland 2010

Official webpages of the state Saxony: <http://www.umwelt.sachsen.de/umwelt/wertstoffe/index.html> , Date: 15.05.2012, Time: 13:32 o'clock

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