



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

## **6.2.6. Report**

# **Implementation strategy**

**5<sup>th</sup> period of the project TransWaste**  
**Funded by CENTRAL EUROPE**

**2012**



**TransWaste**

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

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## **1 Introduction**

Relevant stakeholders and authorities of favourable regions will be identified, involved in further considerations and invited to workshops and conferences. A report of implementation possibilities will be worked out. In the following a summary of the different workshops is given.

## **2 Germany**

### **2.1 National Workshops: Formalization strategies of informal activities**

#### **1. National workshop**

**Place:** Budapest

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

The first workshop with the title “Eastern European Waste Picker – What is the problem and how do we deal with it?” implies the status quo of the informal sector in Germany and its impact on the waste management. Different waste management organizations took part and discussed about the waste picking activities and its current consequences. All participants reported about their experiences with informal waste collection and the measurements they already accomplished. One of these examples was the conversion of the bulky waste collection scheme from street collection to collection via call. But nevertheless the waste picker issue still occurs, wherefore the outcome of the workshop was an agreement that concerning the informal collection activities any need for action is necessary.

#### **2. National workshop**

**Place:** Budapest

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010.

The second Workshop (“Formalization strategies to structure the informal collection activities in the waste management”) dealt with the formalization ideas concerning the integration of the informal sector in the waste management. Three formalization ideas were presented of which the idea “establishment of reuse and repair centres and networks in cooperation with

the informal sector – using the concept of socio-economic enterprises” was the most favoured one. Especially as both other ideas were characterized through exclusion criteria. Formalisation idea 1, the establishment of a used product corner in waste recycling centres, would only be available for German citizens, as they pay the costs of such a flea market though the waste fees (cross-financing). The formalization idea 3 would be difficult to implement as Eastern European traders would collect items still in waste – status, as they repair them only after the border. Therefore complicated notification procedures according to the directive 1013/2006/EG have to be considered in case of choosing this formalization idea. Table will give an overview of participants and corresponding institutions. (M = Ministry, WA = waste authority, WMC = Waste management company, U = University, WAS = Waste association

## Participants:

Table 1: Participants of workshops

1. National Workshop		2. National Workshop	
<b>Bonk</b>	Zweckverband Abfallwirtschaft Oberes Elbtal (WAS Kommunales Wirtschaftsunternehmen Entsorgung (WMC)	<b>Bilitewski, Prof. Dr.</b>	Institut für Abfallwirtschaft und Altlasten/ TU Dresden (U)
<b>Beuchel</b>		<b>Bodden</b>	Regierungspräsidium Kassel Abt.III Bad Hersfeld (M)
<b>Prätor-Grimm</b>	TU Dresden (U)	<b>Brandt</b>	Abfallwirtschaftlicher Eigenbetrieb des Landkreises Görlitz (WA)
<b>Gräßner</b>	ZASO Pößneck (WAS)	<b>Bukowska</b>	SAPOS gGmbH (WMC)
<b>Göring</b>	ZASO Pößneck (WAS)	<b>Dietrich</b>	TU Berlin (U)
<b>Zenner</b>	Stadtverwaltung Jena (M)	<b>Fuchs</b>	SAPOS gGmbH (WMC)
<b>Winkelmann</b>	Ministry of Dresden / Department for Waste Management (M)	<b>Fiedler</b>	Landeshauptstadt Dresden (M)
<b>Lange</b>	TU Dresden (U)	<b>Grundmann</b>	Institut für Abfallwirtschaft und Altlasten/ TU Dresden (U)
<b>Zentner</b>	TU Dresden (U)	<b>Kast</b>	UP Umweltanalytische Produkte GmbH (WMC)
		<b>Kreuter</b>	Institut für Abfallwirtschaft und Altlasten/ TU Dresden (U)
		<b>Kranick</b>	SAPOS gGmbH (WMC)
		<b>Lange</b>	Institut für Abfallwirtschaft und Altlasten/ TU Dresden (U)
		<b>Prätor- Grimm</b>	Institut für Abfallwirtschaft und Altlasten/ TU Dresden (U)
		<b>Schwärzel</b>	Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt (WMC)
		<b>Smeddinck</b>	Umweltbundesamt (M)
		<b>Wabbels</b>	ReUse - Computer e.V (WMC).



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## 3 Austria

### 3.1 National Workshops: Formalization strategies of informal activities

#### 1. National workshop

**Place:** Vienna

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Agenda / key points:

Introduction to the Transwaste Project

What is the problem and how to deal with it?

Actual situation and former strategies

Discussion & Stakeholder opinions

Discussed issues:

- WCC&WMA are not happy with the term "informal"
- Waste problems in source and target countries due to throwing away after collection - Correct recycling after use in target country
- Problems in Austria -> problems vary with distance to eastern border
- Fear of possible theft
- Regular house collection in Austria is very expensive
- Local solutions due to (illegal) arrangements with pickers
- Limited space at WCCs

#### 2. National workshop

**Place:** Vienna

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Agenda / key points:

Informal waste collection in Central Europe



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Opportunity or burden?

Introduction of TransWaste and the participants of the Workshop

Situation of informal waste collection in old European member states

Situation of informal waste collection in new European member states

The waste collectors' point of view

Round table discussion on, social, ecological & economic effects of informal waste collection

Discussed issues:

- Stakeholder feedback on collected data, historical data development, Loss of "valuable" waste
- EEE: Possible increase of collection rates could cause problems in the future
- Metals: reduce of returned metals (not only due to informal also private person sell them directly to scrap metal dealers)
- discussion on "grey" areas of the legal opinion paper with stakeholders
- legal waste collectors want the same rules for all (no special rules for informals)

### **3 specific Working Group Workshops**

Place: Vienna

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010      Topic: Legal Issues

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010      Topic: Economy

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010      Data and Environment

### **3. National workshop**

Place: Vienna

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

Discussed issues:

- Detailed presentation of the formalisation ideas
- Next steps & consequences of the formalisation scenarios

### **4. National workshop**

Place: Vienna

Date: 13rd July 2011.



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Agenda / key points:

"Round table" meeting: Collection situation in AT-HU

Discussed issues:

- Hungarian parliament supports the project
- Nickelsdorf is ready to be a partner municipality for the pilot project - other municipalities shall be found
- WMA: differentiation between "waste" and "product" is essential
- WMA: TransWaste shall not be in competition with national waste projects
- WMA: education of collectors again demanded
- WMA: economic ministry need to be invited in future meetings
- WMA: Traceability of transported items is required
- AUT ministry: waste controls are essential to execute EU law. List of approved items for collections is not possible, needs to be decided from case to case
- AUT ministry: Telephone number and address of collectors should also be given
- Police is responsible for execution of waste management law. If controls are paused than order from the ministry or change of laws is required



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## **4 Western Trans-Danubian in Hungary**

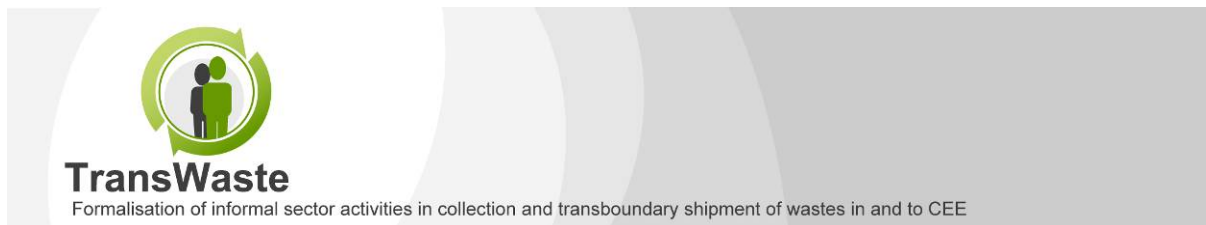
### **4.1 National Workshops: Formalization strategies of informal activities**

In Hungary 4 national workshops took place.

The first national workshop – where the affected people met – was organized for the first time and we can say that it was successful, because many interested institutions were present and all participants took part in the arguments. Many of them received new and useful information and experienced the situation from a new angle. The active participation assures us that the future events will be also successful and their professional work can contribute to the success of our project because it is not only our aim, but also it is the aim of Hungary.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> national workshop – where the stakeholders had a chance to meet – was very successful. Many new stakeholders joined the meeting together with old stakeholders. There were many interesting conversations between the different interest groups and they started to look at the situation from a different angle. The participants' active participations assured us that they will give their professional knowledge to the future cooperation, because it is not only good for the project but is good for the country as well.

The differences between the ideas show that the work is not done just yet, and there are still many things to do. At the same time, the participants want to test their idea in practice to see if it could work or not. For the sake of the cause the Bay-Logi working together with the MAHÉSZ plans to launch a pilot project. The point of this is to choose a town where a lot of bulky waste collectors live and work. They will be registered and they will get training on the relevant laws in Hungary and in Austria. Finishing this course and after harmonizing issues between the Austrian and Hungarian authorities they will get a badge or a visible vest which will symbolize that they are part of the chamber and this way they can also be controlled and the program can be checked. Hopefully the result of their work and also their working conditions will change. One of the possible places of the project implementation could be Devcser which is the biggest and the best known used item market in Hungary, but we can



only decide on it later due to the red sludge tragedy, because the community has a huge damage and at the moment it is hard to see whether they can continue their lifestyle or not.

Hopefully the model of the chamber will be developed by the spring of 2011 and after a half year testing mode it can be presented to the government. After the finalization it could be tested for real as a pilot project and the necessary changes for the perfect action could be made.

All participants were asked to write some thoughts, ideas and recommendation about what could be built into the model of the lomi chamber and also other alternatives and possible formalization ideas based on their experiences.

The organized 3<sup>rd</sup> national workshop – where the stakeholders had a chance to meet – was very successful, where everybody took part in the conversations. There were many interesting conversation between the different interest groups and they saw the situation from a different angle. The participants' active participations assured us that they will give their professional knowledge to the future cooperation, because it is not only good for the project but is good for the country as well.

### **1. National workshop**

**Place:** Budapest

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

**Participants:**

Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard, Tax Department

BAY-LOGI

Association of Hungarian Roma Magyarországi Cigányok Független Érdekvédelmi Szövetség

APEH

University of Pannonia Georgikon Faculty of Agriculture, Hungary, Keszthely

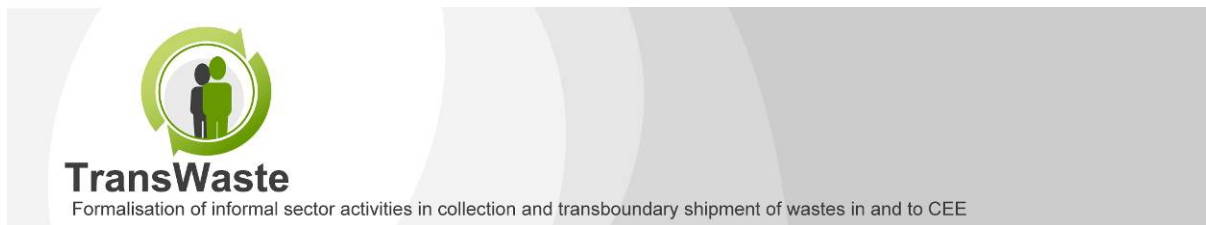
Ministry of Environment and Water

ALCUFER

Országos Környezet Egészségügyi Intézet

Nemzeti Fogyasztóvédelmi Hatóság

Ministry for National Development and Economy



The National Association of Recyclers of Hungary

Fővárosi Közterület Fenntartó Vállalat Zrt.

Electro-coord Hungary Non-profit Ltd.

BME

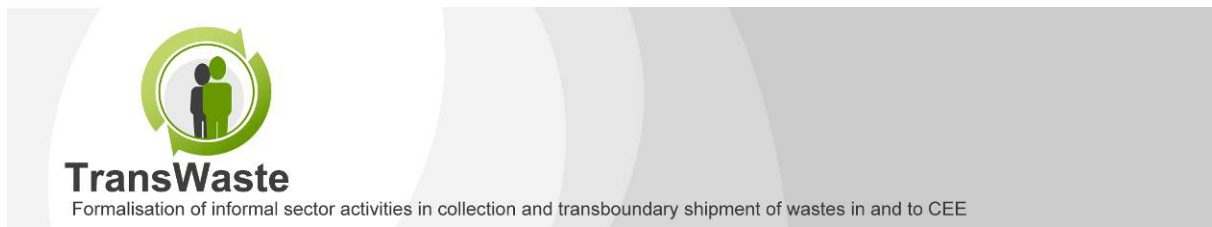
Zsolt István welcomed the guests and gave a short introduction of the agenda. Barbara Négyesi introduced the participants about the aims of the TransWaste international project and Renáta Bodnárné Sándor talked about the already reached results. The presentations were sent to the participants in an electronic version.

During the round table conversation many problems have arose which were discussed by the participants:

1. waste or used item?
2. environment protection regulations
3. circumstances of kerb side collection
4. Austrian legal background and practices,
5. law of commerce (used items), law of metal commerce
6. affected, missing institutions/authorities – (ORFK, Ministry of Municipalities and Regional Development, National Organization of Local Settlements)
7. refurbishing firm
8. used item markets
9. entrepreneurial permit, tax paying
10. integration of the bulky waste collectors – change of approach, education

In the course of introducing the situation in Devecser many important issues have arose according to the mixing of the kerbside collection and the activities of the bulky waste collectors, and we also have to make a distinction between waste and used items, namely there is a legal background for treating waste and there is also law for waste which crosses the border. The law for the metal commerce will control the national and foreign situation as well, and also the kerb side collections will be regulated. Man can collect metal without any permission but man can't sell it without permission. This problem will belong to the VPOP (Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard) from 2010. The modification of the waste's governing principal needs to be filed in each government's rules of law by 2010. December 12.

By closing the borders and the lack of control, it can't be check what comes in to the country. If the border control – as a task – was in the governmental order, it would be taken care of.



The collection and the carry away of the things which are put out by kerb side collection were mentioned. At these collections the things belong to the owner – the fee of the kerb side collection is in the fee of the waste carrying – until it is taken away by the authority, so if it is taken away by a bulky waste collector, it is illegal and they can be impeached.

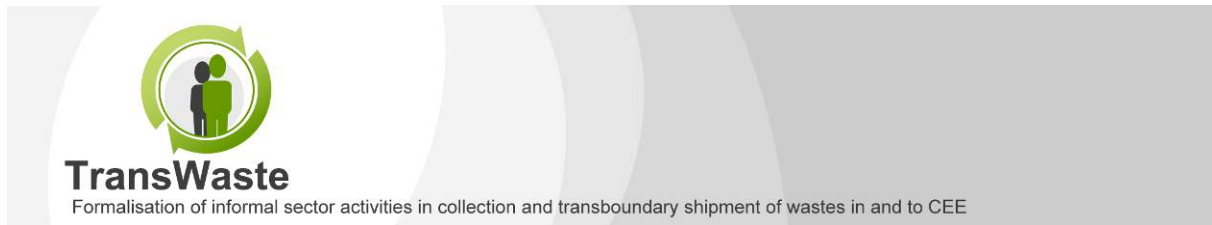
These activities become a new industry and the people who do it for a living want to become tax-payer citizens. From the roma people there are only a few who have some kind of degree. To change this, it is necessary to have roma intellectuals, but it will take about 20-25 year (1-2 generations). In the countryside the level of the unemployment is very high, which derives from the illiteration, but the society has to reach that everybody learns how to read and write. From the children of the upper-class roma people the future roma intellectual can be educated.

It was emphasized many times that it is not a roma issue; it is an issue of the bulky waste collectors.

By the control and the verifiability it was declared that there is a law for the APEH (Tax Office) to go and check the functioning of a market. Since the bulky waste collectors have regular income (even if they sell their items at the market only once a week), they have to pay taxes. They have benefit, so they have to write out a bill. If they are not entrepreneurs, every individual have to create a receipt and they have to represent their income in the individual tax report. Who works at markets, those rent places, so they have a constant contract which stands for economic activities. Those ones cause trouble, which sell at houses and don't pay taxes. At the used item market everything can be controlled because the waste which arose can be taken to the right places. There are some who have entrepreneurial permits, but there are some who doesn't. We need to find solution for those who don't have any legal permits to work legally. At the moment the notary of the towns takes care of these activities.

In the latter time police from Austria and Germany control bulky waste collectors. Many of these times the police take their cash, phones, GPSs away, but in Austria the police have the rights to do so in certain cases.

Someone mentioned, that the aim of the whole project might conserve the current situation.



### Suggestions:

1. Considering the lack of the legal background, there was a suggestion that there should be an expert to help the VPOP to define what hazardous waste is and what is not – but it would still be hard to trace the way of the waste brought in to the country.
2. There was a suggestion for those bulky waste collectors who bring things from abroad to Hungary that they should make the person who they bring the items from to fill out a print to assure the origin of the items. A legal background is needed for the bulky waste collectors. We shouldn't force them to be illegal.
3. We should stop to help to make illegal income from legal income.
4. We need to declare, that we don't talk about waste but used item commerce.
5. Changes are needed on cultural level. Education is needed.
6. The current regulation needs to be modified and a special activity code (TEÁOR) is needed for this kind of work, but it is hard to imagine this as a separate sector.
7. There should be an authority which would check the sales happening at houses, because the notary of the towns can't do everything.
8. A guide should be prepared for the bulky waste collectors about the current regulations written on their level.
9. There should be an appealing, regulated opportunity for the bulky waste collectors whereby they would give up these activities, and the current situation would have to be eliminated, or side by side on one hand legalize and on the other hand to roll back. Everything needs to be done such a ways that the bulky waste collectors it shouldn't be scary and they should feel that they are safe.
10. For those people who can not get the entrepreneurial permit can maybe work for others in a legal way and can use their experiences.
11. Because the manual selection is functioning well, it can provide job opportunities for unqualified people.

### Conclusion:

The first national workshop – where the affected people met – was organized for the first time and we can say that it was successful, because many interested institution were present and all participants took part in the arguments. Many of them received new and useful information and experienced the situation from a new angle. The active participation assures us that the future events will be also successful and their professional work can contribute to the success of our project because it is not only our aim, but also it is the aim of Hungary.



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## **2. National Workshop**

**Place:** Budapest, Hungary

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010. 10:00 am

### **Participants:**

Bodnárné Sándor Renáta	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Gubovits-Ujsághy Zsófia	BME-KSK Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Transportation Engineering (KSK), Department of Automobile
Kozák János	Association of Hungarian Roma Independent Lobby – Civil organization
István Zsolt	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Kriszticsné Tápai Mónika	Szákomp Ltd. – Waste Management Company
Kosztá Béláné	Waste commando Social Scout Service (Hulladékkommandó) – Civil organization
Mikóczki Mariann	AVE Miskolc Ltd. – Waste Management Company
Négyesi Barbara	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Németh I. Gergely	Hulladéksors – expert magazine on waste management
Sándor Gáborné	Ministry of National Development
Siklóssy Mihály	Metropolitan Public Domain Maintenance Private Company Limited by Shares
Vigh Zsolt	Waste commando Social Scout Service (Hulladékkommandó) – Civil organization
Vincze Anikó	AVE Miskolc Ltd. – Waste Management Company
Zakuczki Sándor	Miskolc City Non-profit Ltd. Zsarnai Market – Market



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Zsolt István welcomed the guests and gave a short introduction of the agenda and introduced the 5 formalization ideas of the TransWaste international project.

### **1. Idea**

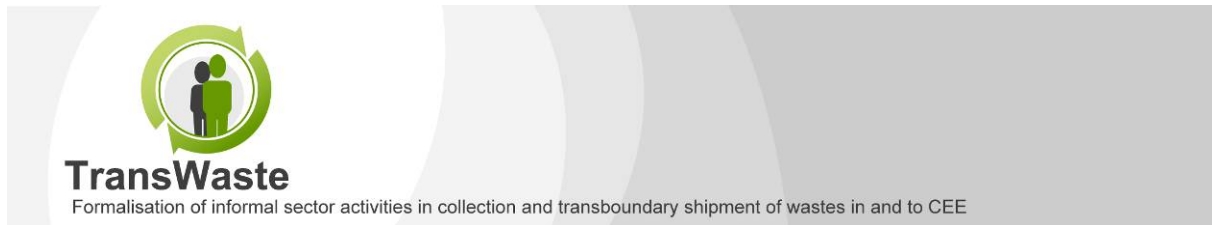
#### **Pick up service for second hand products**

The participants mentioned that the individual and industrial offers have to be separated. If the bulky waste collectors had to pay, that would be the best solution, because that would be a clear situation and it would be accepted as well. This pick up service could really be a service, but to look at the reality, still many Hungarian people do not have internet access. It could be operated as a web based service if an organization took the responsibility of it and this organization informed the public and the bulky waste collectors as well.

### **2. Idea**

#### **Implementation of a used product corner in waste collection centres**

Beside financial and human capacity, this idea is not solvable in Hungary because of the lack of place. At the planned closed frame bulky waste collection the population can take their bulky waste to the waste yards and they receive a voucher. It is also urged to let anyone in to look around and even to take what they could still use. The waste management companies



have to gain the trust of the management and population as well to get support. The problem with this idea is, if someone can not take his/her items to the waste yard. The waste management companies still have to assure everyone taking the bulky wastes away, so a bigger budget would be necessary.

### **3. Idea**

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

In Hungary in the frame of the KEOP program there are calls for proposal for refurbishing centres, but it is not known yet whether there are successful projects or not.

### **4. Idea**

#### **Registered cooperation with waste associations**

There were no remarks on this idea.

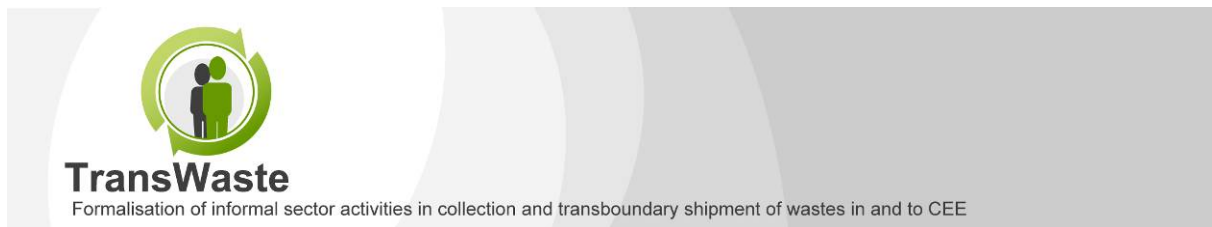
### **5. Idea**

#### **Used item collector and Retailer Company**

If the used items go from Austria to Hungary through Hungarian bulky waste collectors by a controlled way, the cooperation is possible. But, if the bulky waste collectors do not work properly, the ID will be taken away.

In Devecser 90% of the waste have disappeared since the market opened, because since that time the manager of the market has to take care of the waste. By this model, more markets should be opened all over in Hungary.

The categories have to be defined: waste, used item. Organized, legalized system is necessary, because even the authorities do not exactly know this issue. If the bulky waste collection was part of the environmental law, the population would have demand for handling bulky waste by the proper way. The populations have to be educated where to take harmful wastes, and the harmful waste acceptance has to be possible.



According to the Metropolitan Public Domain Maintenance Private Company Limited by Shares (FKF), the idea working together with bulky waste collectors depends on politics, because there will be a different system in Budapest from 2011. The public services will join into a Holding. It needs at least 1 year to see if that system works at all or not.

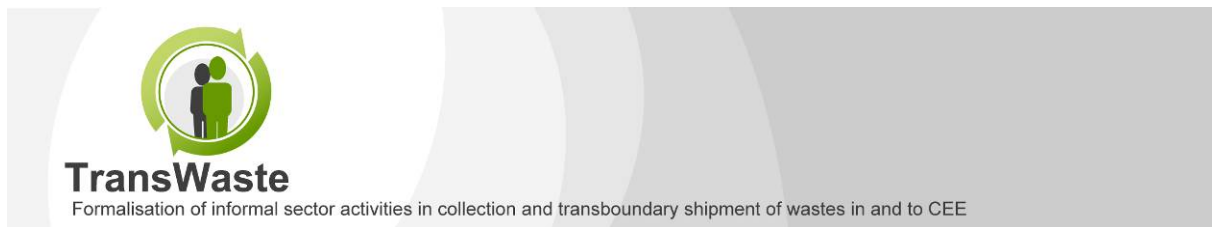
The 5<sup>th</sup> idea assumes a serious lobby interest advocacy (chamber). It needs the support of the Ministry of Rural Development who deals with environment protection and it also needs governmental support, because organized cooperation, registered bulky waste pickers and partnership are needed.

Temporary built landfills could be directly next to the already existing landfills where the bulky wastes could be taken to, and where bulky waste collectors could go in. Communal workers could work there, but for the landfills there are more and more legislations, and above all this, landfills will have to pay taxes.

By the public services the interest of the bulky waste collectors and the interests of the public services have to be defined. The aim of the public services is to have less bulky wastes around. There are organizations that are let in to landfills to pick the bulky waste over, because the waste management companies do not have money to do it. It is important to mention that the public services do not want bulky waste collectors around if they leave a mess behind them, but they need them to have less bulky wastes on the streets, because the amount of the bulky waste has to be decreased.

Besides the authorities the civil organizations have an important role as well. In Százhalombatta there is a Social Scout Service and they call themselves Waste commando (Hulladékkommandó). 19 of them were watching the bulky waste collectors for 2 weeks and they had positive experiences with them, because they could cooperate with them and they listened to the social service when they asked them not to leave a mess behind them. They – as it was mentioned many times – build upon trust. Hereby the public services were satisfied because they could carry away the waste much easier. It is important not to prohibit, but to control:

- If they leave a mess, they should get a fine
- If they select, they could do that



What the Waste commando does:

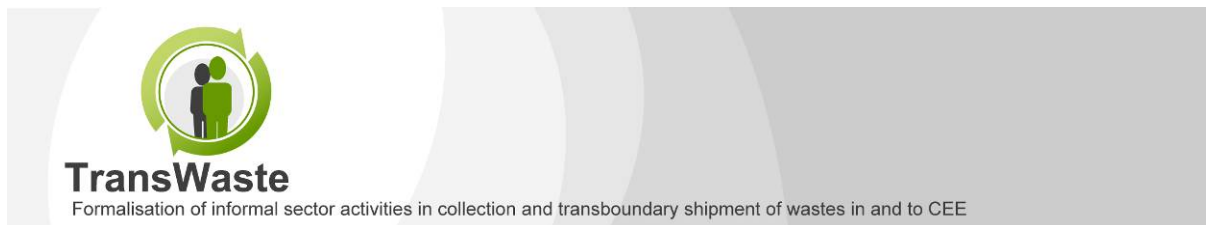
- They are not authority, they do not discipline
- They try to hunt up the offender
- Hidden watch
- Education – competition for children
- 35 volunteers work there (teachers, engineer, mother, etc.)

### **Conclusion**

The organized 2<sup>nd</sup> national workshop – where the stakeholders had a chance to meet – was very successful. Many new stakeholders joined the meeting together with old stakeholders. There were many interesting conversation between the different interest groups and they started to look at the situation from a different angel. The participants' active participations assured us that they will give their professional knowledge to the future cooperation, because it is not only good for the project but is good for the country as well.

The differences between the ideas show that the work is not done just yet, and there are still many things to do. At the same time, the participants want to test their idea in practise to see if it could work or not. For the sake of the cause the Bay-Logi working together with the MAHÉSZ plans to launch a pilot project. The point of this is to choose a town where a lot of bulky waste collectors live and work. They will be registered and they will get training on the relevant laws in Hungary and in Austria. Finishing this course and after harmonizing issues between the Austrian and Hungarian authorities they will get a badge or a visible vest which will symbolize that they are part of the chamber and this way they can also be controlled and the program can be checked. Hopefully the result of their work and also their working conditions will change. One of the possible place of the project implementation could be Devecser which is the biggest and the best known used item market in Hungary, but we can only decide on it later due to the red sludge tragedy, because the community has a huge damage and at the moment it is hard to see whether they can continue their lifestyle or not.

Hopefully the model of the chamber will be developed by the spring of 2011 and after a half year testing mode it can be presented to the government. After the finalization it could be tested for real as a pilot project and the necessary changes for the perfect action could be made.



All participants were asked to write some thoughts, ideas and recommendation about what could be built into the model of the lomi chamber and also other alternatives and possible formalization ideas based on their experiences.

### **3. National workshop**

**Place:** Budapest

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

#### **Participants:**

Bodnárné Sándor Renáta	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Bogdán Attila	Association of Hungarian Roma Independent Lobby – Civil organization
Gubovits-Ujsághy Zsófia	BME-KSK Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Transportation Engineering (KSK), Department of Automobile
Kozák János	Association of Hungarian Roma Independent Lobby – Civil organization
István Zsolt	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Ladányi Richárd	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Négyesi Barbara	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Németh I. Gergely	Hulladéksors – expert magazine on waste management
Siklóssy Mihály	Metropolitan Public Domain Maintenance Private Company Limited by Shares
Tóth Norbert	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Zakuczki Sándor	Miskolc City Non-profit Ltd. Zsarnai Market – Market

#### **Program:**

10:00: **Welcome**

**Zsolt István**, deputy manager – BAY-LOGI

10:10 **Comparison of the present situation and the imaginary collection system with LCA analyses**

**Renáta B. Sándor**, research fellow – BAY-LOGI



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10:30 ***Introduction of the Hungarian formalization idea***

**Zsolt István**, deputy manager – BAY-LOGI

10:45 ***Austrian opinion of the Hungarian formalization idea***

**Barbara Négyesi**, research fellow – BAY-LOGI

11:00 ***Roundtable conversation – moderator Zsolt István***

12:30 ***Lunch***



Zsolt István welcomed the guests and gave an introduction about the agenda.

Renáta B. Sándor presented the LCA analyses done so far. The analysed products are: bicycle and lawn mower. Based on this analyses the current informal collection has a lower environmental load than the official waste handling. The lower environmental load is mostly from reuse.

After Zsolt István presented the Hungarian formalization idea some suggestions were made, for example to highlight the economical aim and the workplace creation.

The Association is going to be an international Association which has Romanian and Ukrainian members as well. It is important, because Hungary is a transit country and plays a significant role in the transfer of used items.

Barbara Négyesi presented the results of the Austrian national workshop which was thought-provoking in many areas. The cooperation is perceptible but there is a strong resistance on the Austrian side.

The exact definitions of used item and waste were already the focus of the discussions many times, and this time was not different either. For building a new industry based on used items it is necessary to have an attitude change in the Hungarian society keeping the environmental regulations. The used items collectors would like to have a job with its own legal activity code.

It seems like that the Austrian and the Hungarian side is getting closer to each other despite of the strong resistance on the Austrian side. Although the waste management structure of Austria and Germany varies from the Hungarian one. It must be pursued to take maximal advantages of the directives, e.g.: on the field of recycling. The western countries do not even take advantages of the written regulations. Used items could be built into the process by defining the definition of waste by the waste separation process. In Austria creating refurbishing centres is a plan. Because the Hungarian regulations follow the EU standards, the current kerbside collection will soon cease to exist. In Vienna a service runs which man can order as clearance and the removal happens in 6 hours from the call. In Hungary the extra fees intimidate the citizens, although it has to be paid at present as well, which is included in the official waste collection fee and the price of the kerbside collection can not be seen separately.

Since it is necessary to have waste handling permission for reuse preparation, the idea to operate a reuse centre beside the market in Devecser has some obstacles. It can only be realized if this activity is done by a company who has the required permissions.



The technical equipments are made only for a short lifetime, so these products' life cycle is getting shorter and shorter, but they are still brought in to Hungary because there are people who can only buy these items. But, they have to know that this way they might have extra expenses on repair and the sellers need to know that there might be some products what they can not sell at all.

### Answers for the questions asked by Austrian stakeholder:

- ...is MaHÉSZ handling waste or products => permits according waste legislation or trade laws...?
- The members of the Association handle the collection of used items. They do not deal with waste.
- How "strong" will MaHÉSZ be? Meaning is the organisation just offering training and education for their members and being a contact point for e.g. Austrian stakeholder or has MaHÉSZ more power?
- The Association not "only" offers training, but will also keep contact with ministries.
- How are eventual permits of the organisation valid for the members? How is this secured and possible?
- It is possible after finishing the training. After paying the annual member fee the Association issues an official ID. The ID will have holograms and picture.
- AT stakeholder point out that there is a strong need for a control authority, meaning an independent body that monitors e.g. validity of identity cards, prevention of fake member IDs, penalties in case of non-compliances, offenses etc. Is this happening and how?
- The list of the registered used items collectors will be given to the Austrian and Hungarian authorities, this way everything will be controllable. Those registered used item collectors who break the law will lose their ID.
- On the one hand it is doubted that households would use a MaHÉSZ-service (by calling a Hungarian phone number) on the other hand stakeholders fear to lose their waste management "authority" (=power) at household level (undermining authority) => but they can imagine that e.g. WM-associations could be the (virtual) interface... **AT stakeholders do not want to have MaHÉSZ activities directly at household level!**
- The Association will not be related to the citizens, but the members of the Association. The registered members of the Association will be able to establish firms in Austria where activities can be coordinated.
- What would be consequence if a license/membership of a MaHÉSZ member is taken away? Will they come back as informal collectors?
- Of course the main interest of Hungary and Austria is not letting informal collection. The Association gives guarantee for its members. The aim of the Association is to have more formal used item collectors.

- At least one member of a collection team (e.g. one vehicle) has to have a licence; no “sub-contracting” is possible.
- It is solvable. The Association will develop the detailed regulations.
- Economic feasibility of the pick-up service?
- The Association will take member fee from the members and it will cover the fee of the training and the maintenance of the interest protection office.
- Quality of the items: how can it be secured that MaHÉSZ is also picking up items of not suitable quality (the point was that maybe it is difficult to assess for MaHÉSZ what quality the items have, especially in advance by phone...)
- Bringing unusable or unsolvable items into Hungary is not the interest of the used item collectors. If they bring invaluable items from more than 100 km, they will have surcharge.

- **Requirements**

- Materials: MaHÉSZ shall not collect materials where a market in Austria exists and where revenues exist for Austrian WMAs! That means **no metals, no paper, no WEEE, no accumulators, in the case of textiles indifferent opinions by AT stakeholders. No problem: furniture, mattresses, household goods / equipment (e.g. pots, plates etc.), toys.**
- The Austrian containment about the items what can be collected seems strict and the Hungarian stakeholders were surprised, but the positive approach can be seen. The registered used item collector does not deal with waste; they work by the regulations of the free market.
- If MaHÉSZ has the necessary legal permits they are considered as competitor within a free market (same requirements and possibilities for all market participants).
- Not the Association, but the members of the Association can get permission. The Association agrees with the suggestion.
- If MaHÉSZ has permit as “second-hand dealer” they could also be in contract with WMA... but then maybe competing with other (local) 2<sup>nd</sup> hand dealers.
- Yes, the members of the Association can cooperate with Austrian firms, and they also know that they will have competitors at the local used item markets.
- Executive authority (police): **more controls** and **strict modalities** (penalties) are demanded by WMAs. What does that mean for non- MaHÉSZ?
- The Hungarian registered used item collectors’ interest, together with the authorities is to displace the illegal collectors. If they do their activities officially they will not be bothered by the control.
- How to ensure an adequate and EU conform disposal of goods that are not sold in Hungary?
- The strict EU regulations need to be kept by Hungary as well. Those who do not handle the items which become waste properly will get serious penalties and they will also lose their registration.

## Conclusion

The organized 3<sup>rd</sup> national workshop – where the stakeholders had a chance to meet – was very successful, where everybody took part in the conversations. There were many interesting conversation between the different interest groups and they saw the situation from a different angel. The participants' active participations assured us that they will give their professional knowledge to the future cooperation, because it is not only good for the project but is good for the country as well.

### 4. National workshop

**Place:** Győr

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**Participants:**

Bodnárné Sándor Renáta	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Kozák János	Association of Hungarian Roma Independent Lobby – Civil organization
István Zsolt	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute
Négyesi Barbara	BAY-LOGI – Research Institute

Short discussion happened on the future realization of the pilot case.

- logo
- education material
- advertisement.



## 5 Lower Silesia in Poland

### 5.1 National Workshops: Formalization strategies of informal activities

#### 1. National Workshop

**Place:** Wrocław, Poland

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

**Participants:**

Representatives of:

- Customs Chamber Wrocław,
- City Office Zgorzelec,
- Town Office in Jelenia Góra,
- Provincial Inspectorate of Environmental Protection,
- Customs Office Legnica,
- Wrocław University of Technology,
- University of Wrocław,
- Municipality of Święta Katarzyna,
- Road Management and Urban Maintenance, City of Wrocław (ZDIUM),
- Polkowice Social Assistance Center,
- Centrozłom Wrocław SA
- LPGK Legnica (waste management association Legnica)
- Łużycki Department of Border Guard,
- Portal tuWrocław.com

The meeting was divided into 3 parts: the first illuminated the TransWaste project, described tasks to complete by Wameco as a project partner and provided legal considerations related to waste collection and transport in the project. The second part of the meeting was devoted to presenting the first results from Wrocław and Zgorzelec. A representative of the city of Zgorzelec told the community about the problems they have in their area. The last part of the meeting all participants discussed on the opportunities and needs to formalise the informal collectors in Poland.



**Conclusions:**

- Formalisation of the waste pickers is possible but difficult to implement due to social problems among collectors (addictions, homelessness, social exclusion).
- The scrap trading company sees no need to formalise, it is also not interested in employing informal waste pickers.
- Municipalities could benefit from the formalisation of the collectors but it is difficult to clearly define the advantages of this formalisation.
- Waste are imported into Polish because of a lack of control at the border.
- Sale of used goods is still a lucrative occupation.
- Problems of interpretation of legislation and the proving of the smuggling of waste cause long duration of criminal cases for such action.
- For a waste collection company the picking of waste from containers is theft and there is no reason for any formalisation.



## **2. National Workshop**

**Place:** Wrocław, Poland

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**Participants:**

- Adam Skoczylas – City Office Zgorzelec
- Joanna Klamczyńska – Customs Chamber, Wrocław
- Jolanta Dąbrowska – Customs Chamber, Legnica
- Paulina Łotocka – Furdykoń - Department of Environment, Lower Silesian Marshal Office
- Anna Regner – Mikluszka – Department of Environment, Lower Silesian Marshal Office
- Małgorzata Hönbrechts – Polkowice Social Assistance Center
- Małgorzata Kalus – Chiżyńska – Polkowice Community Office
- Magdalena Pormańczuk – Provincial Urban Bureau, Wrocław
- Frank Fuchs - SAPOS Görlitz
- Monika Bukowska – SAPOS Görlitz
- Sebastian Małachowski – Tax Chamber in Wrocław
- Grzegorz Skwarczewski – Enterprise Support Foundation, Zgorzelec
- Agata Domińska – Gazeta Wyborcza
- Martina Brandt - Abfallwirtschaft Eigenbetrieb des Landkreises Görlitz
- Jan Serwa - Municipal Services and Waste Management Limited Company of Lubin
- Adrian Olejnik - Remondis Electrorecykling Sp. z o.o.
- Paweł Palus – Remondis Electrorecykling Sp. z o.o.
- Krystyna Szpadt – SITA Polska Sp. z o.o.
- Marta Musioł - The Centre of Polymer and Carbon Materials, Polish Academy of Sciences, Zabrze
- Andrzej Jędrzak – University of Zielona Góra
- Emilia den Boer - Wrocław University of Technology
- Maria Pogrzebska – Wrocław University of Technology
- Jan den Boer – Wameco
- Wojciech Górnikowski – Wameco
- Waldemar Pietraszkiewicz – Wameco
- Ryszard Szpadt – Wameco
- Olga Wojtczuk – Wameco
- Joanna Wysocka – Wameco



The meeting was divided into two parts: during the first part members of Wameco briefly presented the aims, results and plans of the TransWaste project. Małgorzata Hönbrechts, Paweł Palus, Sebastian Małachowski and Frank Fuchs told about the problems and possible solutions of the informal waste collection. At the end five formalisation ideas from Bratislava were presented.

**Taxes:** Mr. Małachowski and Mr. Palus were discussing the problem of taxes in the waste collection centres – it was said, that now the centres pay only for business, although they're required to register the waste. Mr. Małachowski presented the idea of limiting sale of items, which were brought to the centres.

**Changing the view from “waste” to “material”:** Mr. Fuchs said that we must learn to think about the waste in a different way – as a material at 5 levels: local, economic (when the prices of raw materials rise, it pays to organize them), ecological, political and social. The presented formalisation ideas 2 and 3 have been successfully implemented locally at SAPOS for the last 10 years, said Mr. Fuchs. He added that the material and WEEE that flow are examined in terms of value in use. Many of them is repaired and sold again. Employees at the centre are long-term unemployed and socially excluded people.

**Implementation of the formalisation ideas from Bratislava:** The voting has shown, that all ideas except formalisation idea 4 (registered cooperation with waste associations) were found interesting and possible to implement in Poland.

### Conclusions:

- Local collectors are mostly inactive persons, not having a family, often dependent on alcohol, which causes their degradation, and creates a heavy burden on social assistance.
- The TransWaste project has to be drawn into legal framework, although it has a social tone. Professional collection has to be lead and the informal waste collection has to work parallel because informal collectors disorganize collection system.
- Waste collectors do not pay taxes, which gives hundreds of millions a year of loss for the state budget.
- At illegal collection the waste pickers choose what they think is valuable and leave the worthless parts. This procedure harms the environment.
- Waste collection centres must pay tax on scrap gathered.
- Formalization ideas 2 and 3 are already implemented locally at SAPOS.



### **3. National Workshop**

**Place:** Lubin, Poland

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**Participants:**

- Jan den Boer – Wameco
- Monika Žuraňská-Skalny – Wameco

The third national workshops were supposed to have the form of a meeting with informal collectors. To make it as convenient as possible the venue was located nearly in the heart of the largest second hand market in Lower Silesia. Aim of the meeting was to inform collectors about the project, (its progress & formalization ideas) and to encourage them to cooperate. Unfortunately, despite quite active promotion (invitations were handed out one week before at all of Lower Silesia's markets) no one showed up at the meeting.

## **6 Bratislavský kraj in Slovakia**

### **6.1 National Workshops: Formalization strategies of informal activities**

#### **1. National Workshop**

**Place:** Bratislava

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011

Agenda / key points

Informal waste collection in border regions of Slovakia

Discussed issues:

- Hungarian Wastepickers in south, southeast Slovakia mainly interested in car batteries
- Not only Roma collect used items, also Slovakian people with low income
- From concerned participants only Kolárovo has a separated waste collection, no other municipality has own resources to arrange waste management services
- All of mentioned municipalities have new contracts for collecting WEEE with waste collection company Enviwork
- This year start to realize project for arranging waste management services for waste from houses, separated waste collections and biological waste composting



- ZMOS (Association of cities and municipalities of Slovakia) prepare new kind of contracts with subjects responsible for any commodity of waste, which should support separated waste collecting in municipalities by co-financing

## **2. National Workshop**

**Place:** Bratislava

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Agenda / key points

Impact of illegal harvesting activities on the society and the environment

Discussed issues:

- Collection system Envidom was presented --> problems with implementing the system/effectiveness of collection method and theft of WEEE
- Control authorities may control illegal harvesting --> cooperation with police and border control possible
- Adjustments of the Waste Act are necessary