

The logo for FEAD (European Waste Management Association) features the letters 'FEAD' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a circular graphic composed of three segments: an orange arc at the top, a green arc on the right, and a blue arc at the bottom that forms an arrow pointing to the left. The background is a solid dark blue with decorative orange and green curved lines in the corners.

FEAD

European Waste
Management Association

**The key role of waste management industry for a
sustainable circular economy.**

29th March 2023

FEAD

The voice of Europe's Private resource and waste management industry

- We represent 18 national associations from the EU, EFTA and the UK, steering Europe towards a circular economy for over 40 years today.
- Our members represent the entire waste management value chain, which allows us to offer a holistic overview on the industry that provides a second life to waste and resource.



What our industry does for Europe

- Local, innovative, sustainable jobs: up to 400 000 jobs in the waste management sector (European Commission)
- **5 Bn EUR/year** investments in collection and waste management facilities
- Secondary raw materials provided to the manufacturing sector, energy recovered from residual waste to produce heat and electricity
- A key role in climate protection through prevention of GHG emissions



18

National Waste
Management federations



3.000

Private waste
management companies



320.000

Employees
In total



2.400

Recycling and
Sorting centres



900

Controlled
landfills



1.100

Composting
sites



260

Waste-to-energy
Plants



5 billion

Euros in Investments
per year

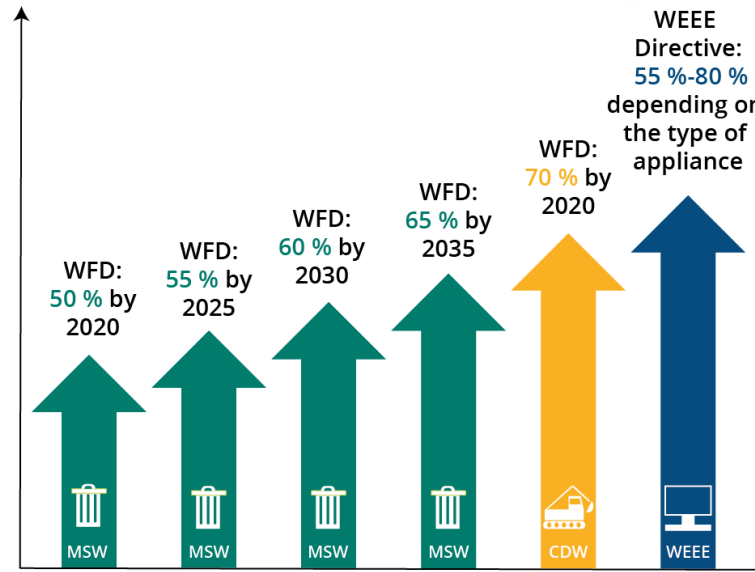
Circular economy is our goal

The waste management industry has welcomed the Circular Economy Action Plan and sees itself as an important and competent partner of politics in meeting this environmental and socio-political challenge.

- Keep resources in the EU economy
- Climate protection by saving CO₂ emissions



Recycling Targets



An aerial, top-down view of a vast, dense landfill or waste dump. The ground is completely covered with a chaotic mix of discarded items. Visible are numerous plastic bags in various colors (red, blue, white, black), crumpled paper, fragments of wood, and other unrecognizable debris. The overall scene conveys a sense of overwhelming scale and environmental neglect.

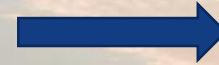
What is waste?

THE END

Long journey of awareness, transformation and evolution

Waste management industry has moved from being a niche industry to being critical to the transition towards a more climate neutral and circular economy.

**Sanitary service
Depollution**



**Energy savings
Raw materials savings
CO₂ emissions savings**



Waste is a resource:

- Sustainable Secondary Raw Material

Today **12%** of raw materials used by the European industry come from recycling

- Energy and Heating

In 2017 Waste-to-Energy Plants in Europe could supply **18 million inhabitants with electricity and 15.2 M with heat** (based on 90 million tons of residual waste)

A potential production of **2 bcm of biomethane** is estimated for anaerobic digestion of biowaste in 2030 for EU-27

Eco-design

Collection

Sorting

Market

RECYCLING

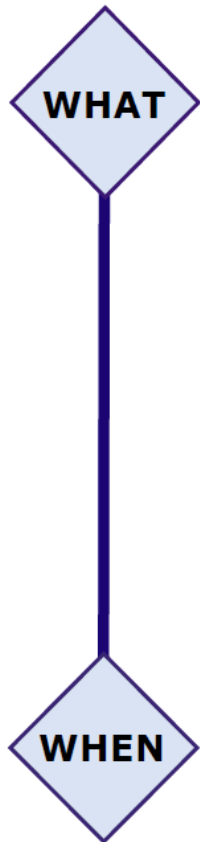


Eco-design

A holistic approach to sustainability through **mandatory ecodesign** and **strong requirements** is essential as it allows to integrate environmental sustainability criteria in the whole value chain of a product, promoting closed circular life cycles.

- Design for recycling criteria
- Phasing out of hazardous substances
- Mandatory recycled content
- Information requirements

Separate collection

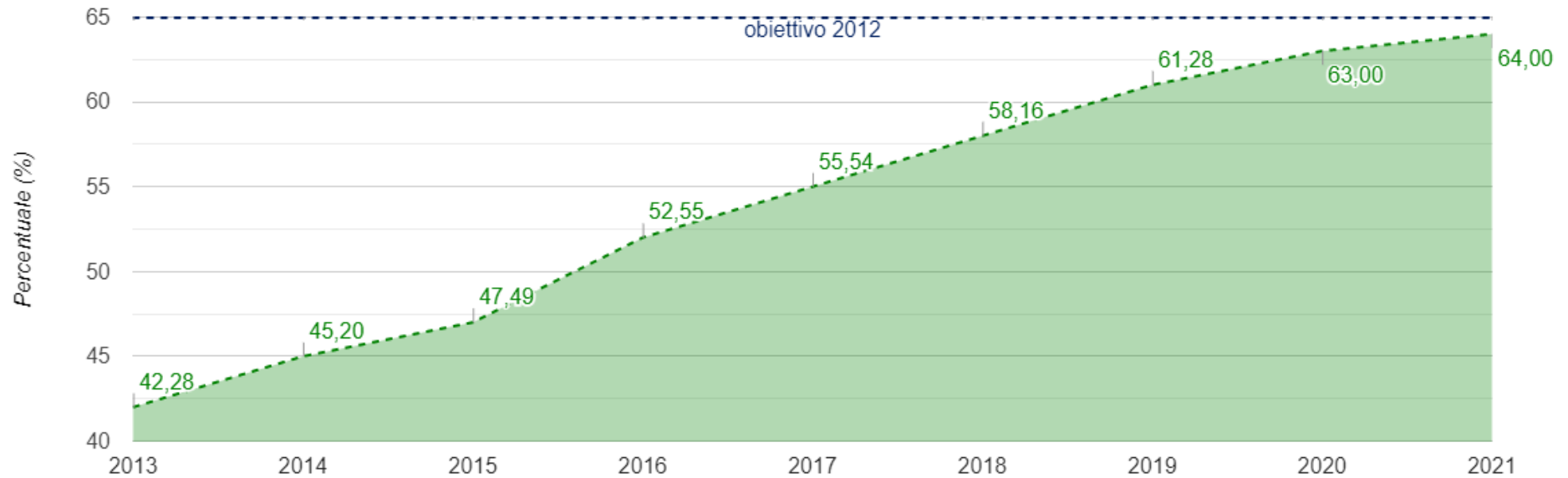


- Article 10 (2): Waste shall be subject to separate collection and shall not be mixed with other waste or other materials with different properties.
- Article 10(3): Derogations for the separate collection obligations can apply.
- Article 11(1): Member States are obliged to collect separately at least paper, metal, plastic and glass.
- Article 11(1): Member States shall also set up separate collection for textiles.
- Article 20: Member States shall set up separate collection for hazardous waste fractions produced by households.
- Article 22(1): Member States shall ensure that bio-waste is either separated and recycled at source, or is collected separately.

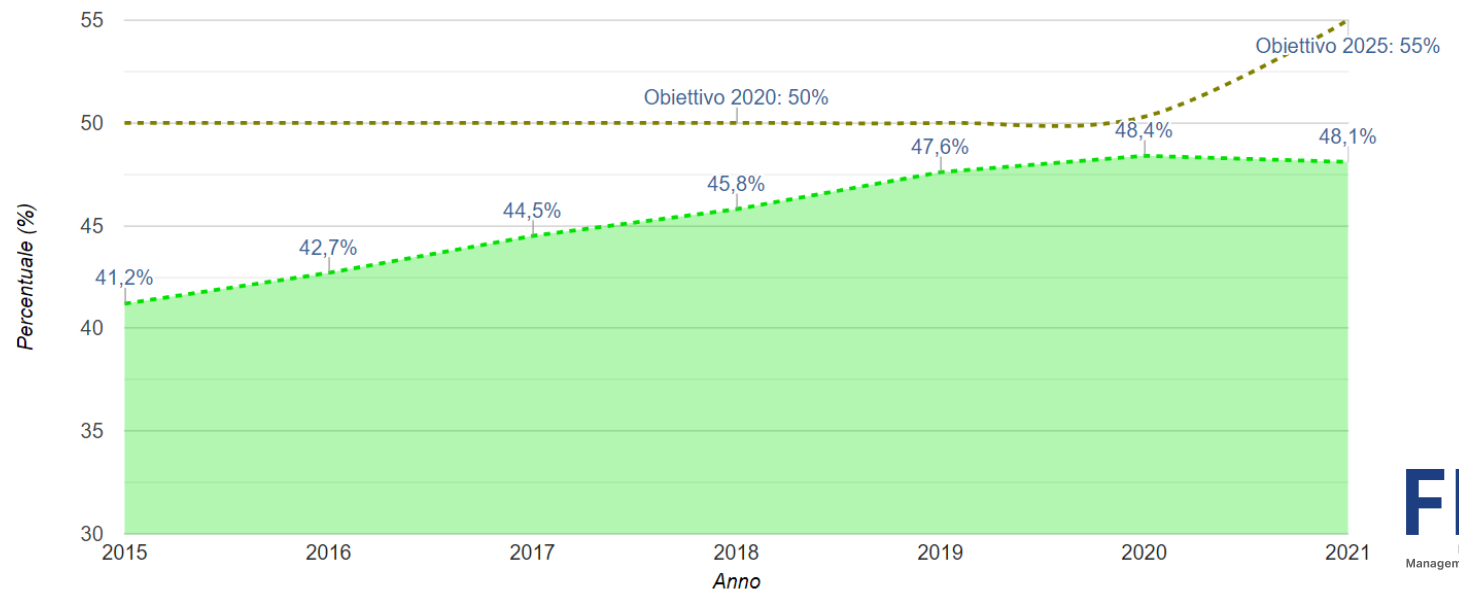
- Separate collection is obligatory as of 2015 for paper, metal, plastic and glass, by 31 December 2023 for bio-waste and by 1 January 2025 for textile and hazardous household waste.
- By 31 December 2021, Member States shall submit a report to the Commission on the implementation of this Article as regards municipal waste and bio-waste, including on the material and territorial coverage of separate collection and any derogations under paragraph 3.



Rate of separate collection in Italy



Rate of recycling



Derogations from separate collection

Article 10(3). Member States may allow derogations from paragraph 2 provided that at least one of the following conditions is met:

- a) **collecting certain types of waste together does not affect their potential to undergo preparing for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations** in accordance with Article 4 and results in output from those operations which is of comparable quality to that achieved through separate collection;
- b) **separate collection does not deliver the best environmental outcome** when considering the overall environmental impacts of the management of the relevant waste streams;
- c) **separate collection is not technically feasible** taking into consideration good practices in waste collection;
- d) **separate collection would entail disproportionate economic costs** taking into account the costs of adverse environmental and health impacts of mixed waste collection and treatment, the potential for efficiency improvements in waste collection and treatment, revenues from sales of secondary raw materials as well as the application of the polluter-pays principle and extended producer responsibility.

Member States shall regularly review derogations under this paragraph taking into account good practices in separate collection of waste and other developments in waste management.

Harmonisation

The **EU's Circular Economy Action Plan** commits the Commission to investigate the rationale for harmonising separate waste collection systems. To this purpose, the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**, the European Commission's in-house science and technology service, conducted a study on the separate collection of municipal waste.

FEAD believes that **the focus or goal should not be the forced harmonisation but the improvement of the separate collection systems**, where needed, considering that local factors are essential in this context, and a cost-benefit approach should be taken into account.

- obligation of results but not for an obligation of means
- avoid confusing the population by changing systems constantly
- availability of qualitative and comparative data is essential
- the separation of dry and wet fractions is crucial, which means that biowaste should always be collected separately



- **Policy interventions**, depending on their categorisation, **predominantly affect a specific type of behavioural factor**.
- **A combination of interventions is likely needed** to get more citizens to sort their waste correctly.

Examples of separate collections

BELGIUM



IRELAND



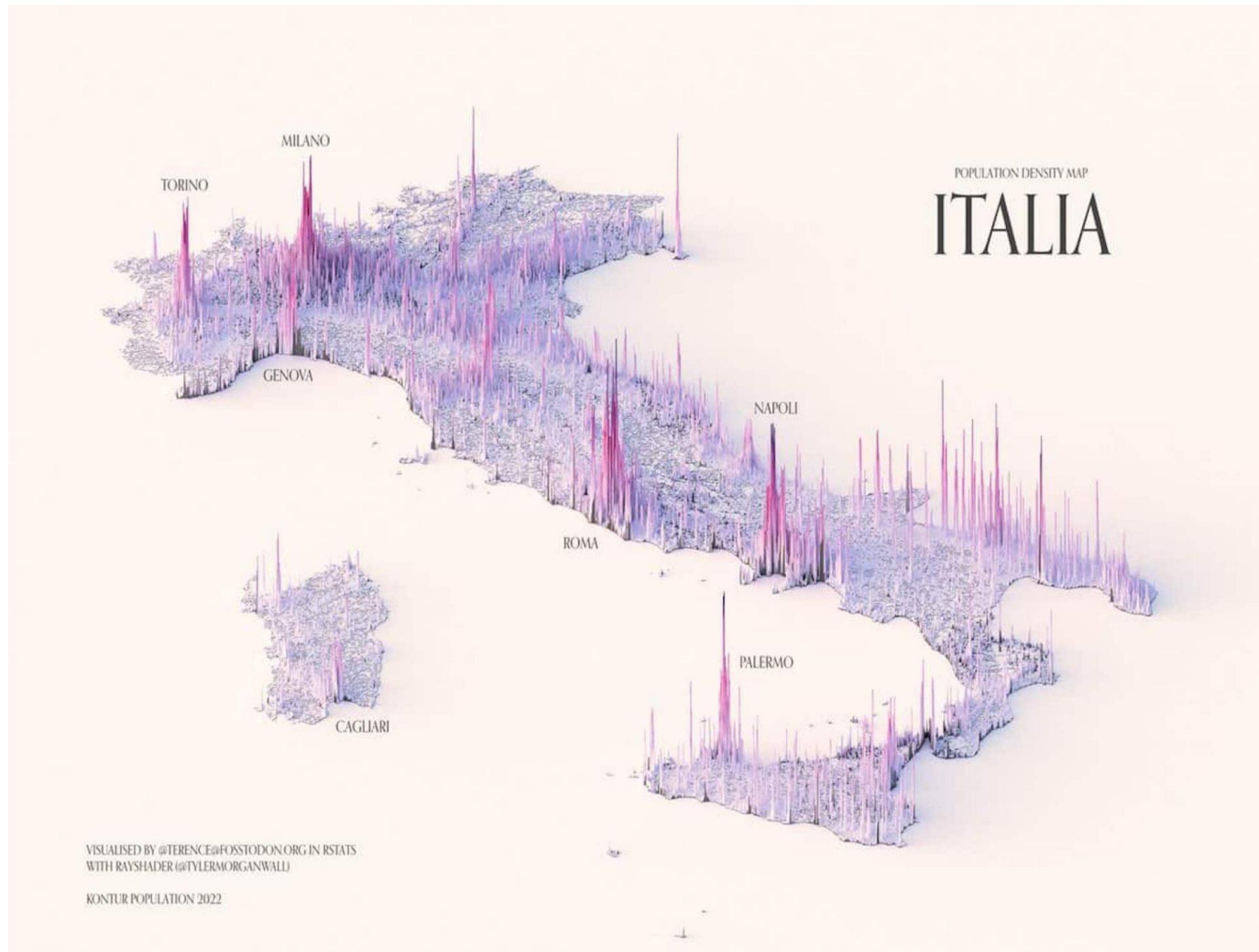
NORWAY



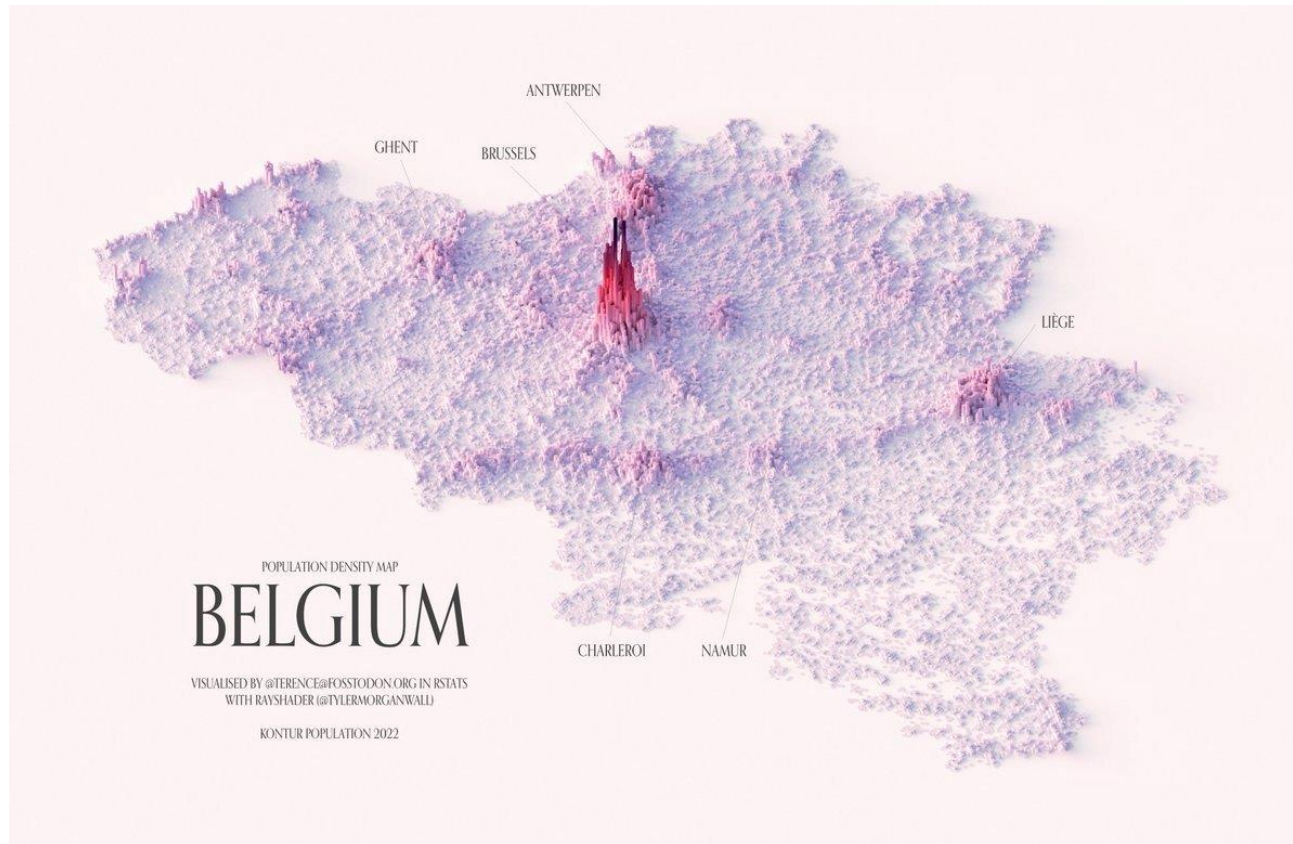
Clarifications

- Separate collection is the rule, but derogations, according to article 10(3), have to be justified and they must be interpreted strictly.
- Earlier legal cases have highlighted that MS and local authorities can only deviate from the rule (in this case separate collection) after careful analysis which means that each of the derogations shall be properly assessed on a merits, concrete basis.
- The draft decree for implementation of the revised WFD in the Netherlands, highlights that MS can decide to allow local authorities to invoke derogations for some waste streams (such as commingled collection of packaging plastics and metals) while forbidding to invoke derogations for other waste streams (such as paper & cardboard, textiles and hazardous waste). In order to be compliant with the revised WFD, the local authorities that invoke a derogation still need to justify the derogation based on local circumstances and analysis of the alternatives.

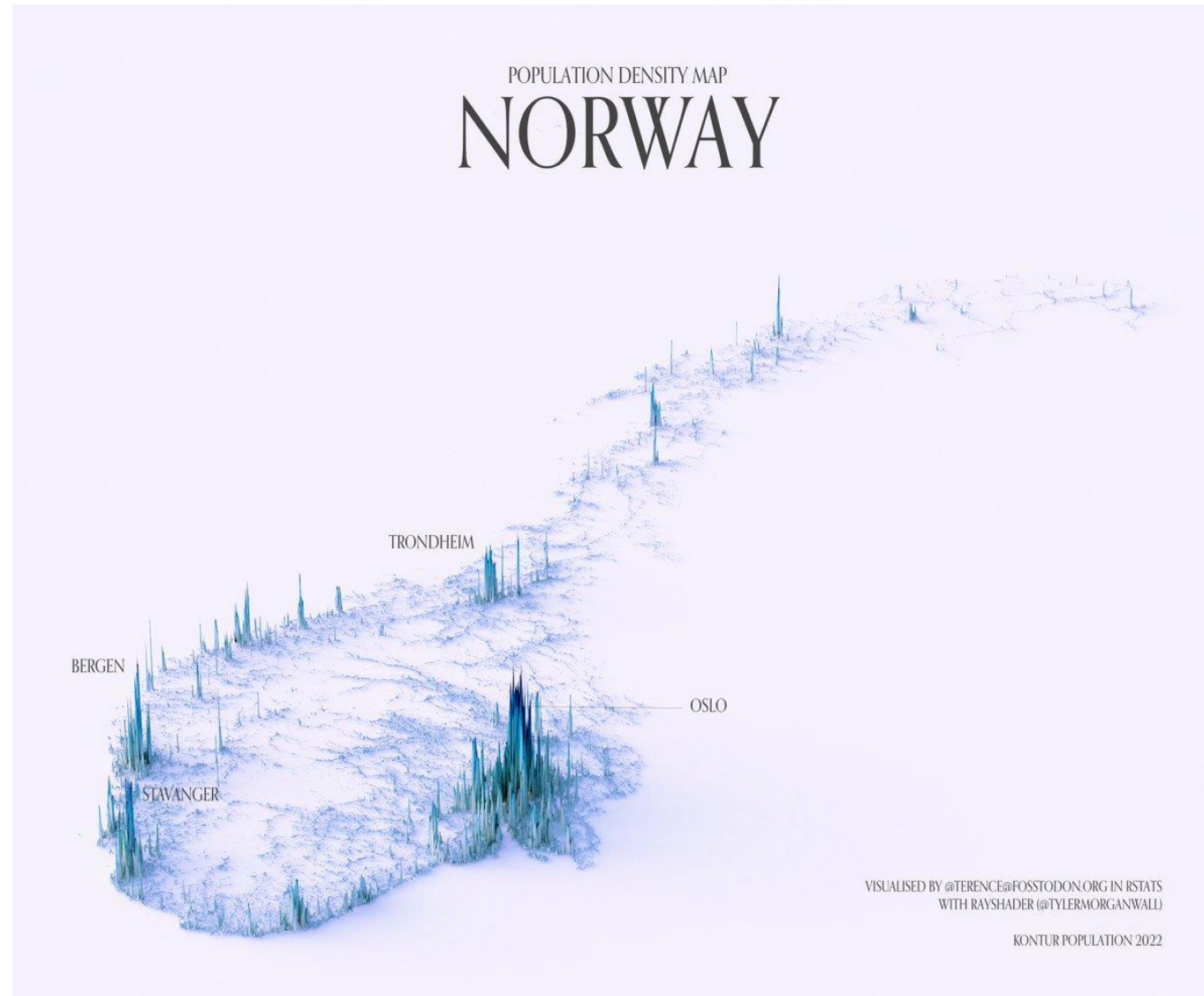
Local circumstances require customised solutions



Local circumstances require customised solutions



Local circumstances require customised solutions

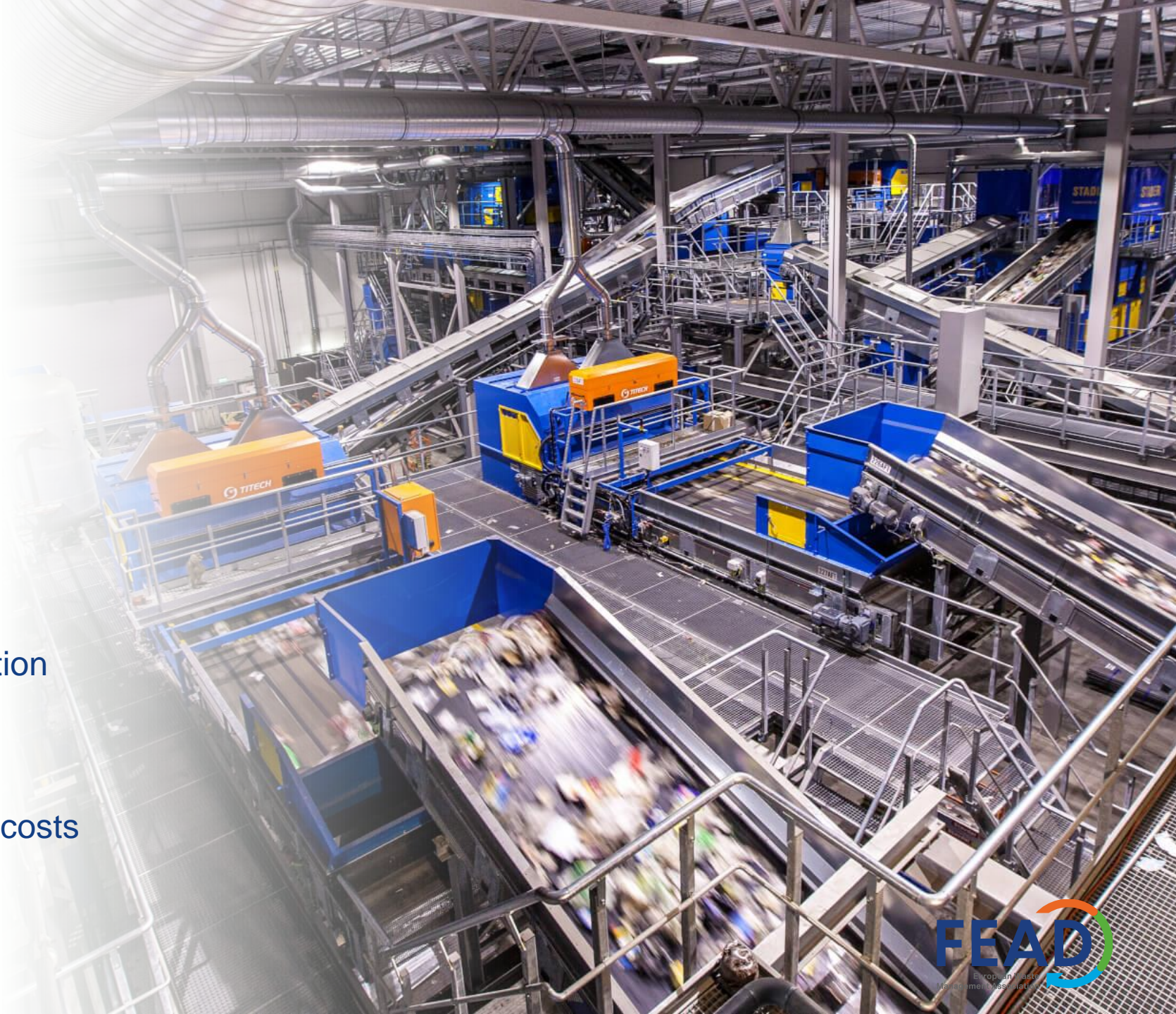


Sorting

- Bag opening
- Size and shape separation
- Sorting with optical systems
- Manual/robotic sorting
- Pressing into bales

Influencing factors:

- Population and waste generation
- Waste composition
- Goal
- Size of the plant and location
- Environmental and economic costs



There is no one-size-fits-all solution



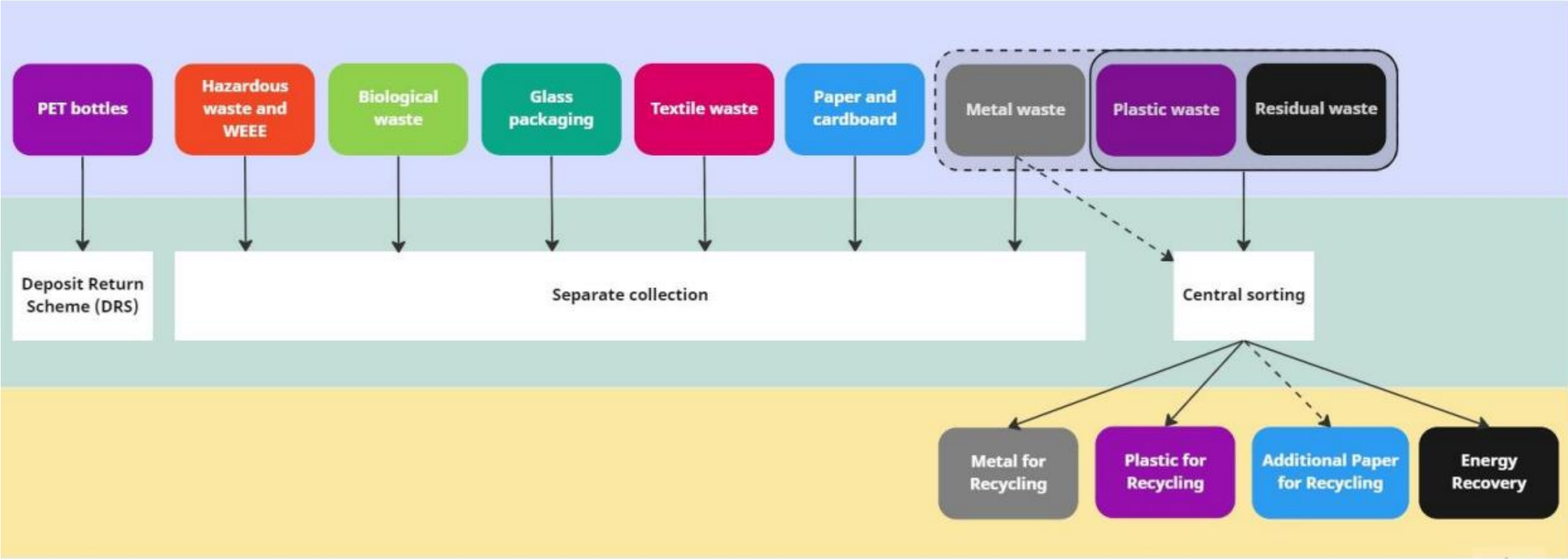
The installation of sorting systems for residual municipal waste in incineration plants should not be mandatory at European level because its efficiency depends on local conditions. The sorting of residual municipal waste must be decided on a case-by-case basis by individual authorities or waste management companies.

Specific systems require an **assessment of the social, environmental, and economic impacts** that are different in each case:

- Mandatory sorting of residual municipal waste, in addition to source separation, **would shift the focus from separation at source**
- Waste fractions that may be sorted out from residual municipal waste will, in most cases, be **less suitable for high quality recycling** because compared to source separation, the potential for contamination is higher
- Cost/benefit analysis of additional energy and resource consumption based on actual figures and not theoretical data and assumptions.

Example of the proposed system by NEA

For the Norwegian Environmental Agency, the separate collection is a fundamental precondition for central sorting.



Sustainability at the centre



**Local demographical, societal,
and operational aspects**

**Strong commitment from the
manufacturing industry**

**Creation of a **stable
and free market****

The entire waste management industry need a **legislative, economic, and social recognition.**

It will happen by putting sustainability at the centre.

Thank you for your attention.

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