

# POLICY AND GOVERNANCE



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An aerial photograph of a vast landfill filled with plastic waste, including bags, bottles, and other debris. Several people are visible in the lower half of the image, scavenging through the trash. The scene is chaotic and highlights the scale of plastic pollution.

# THE COST OF MANAGING LITTER

How to make effective use of the Single Use Plastics Directive

Proposal of activities, Policy & Governance Thematic Area

Tugce Tugran & Anita Lombardo, ACR+ General Assembly – Marseille, June 2024





# Single Use Plastics Directive (SUPD)

Focus on Article 8

Producers of the selected product must cover the costs of clean-up (but also their transport and treatment) as part of EPR scheme(s) (existing or to be established).

AND:

cost for awareness raising and reporting of data (for some products).



ACR+





# Product Groups



Food containers



Packets and wrappers made from flexible material containing food



Beverage containers up to 3L



Beverage cups



Lightweight plastic carrier bags

Group 1,  
Covered by PPWR and WFD

Calculation should be:  
Appropriate, reflecting NECESSARY in a COST-EFFICIENT WAY  
Transparent  
Limited to the activities undertaken by public authorities

Possibility to do multi-annual arrangements to prevent administrative burden

Group 2,  
new EPR schemes?



Wet pipes



Balloons

Group 3,  
new EPR schemes?

Tobacco products



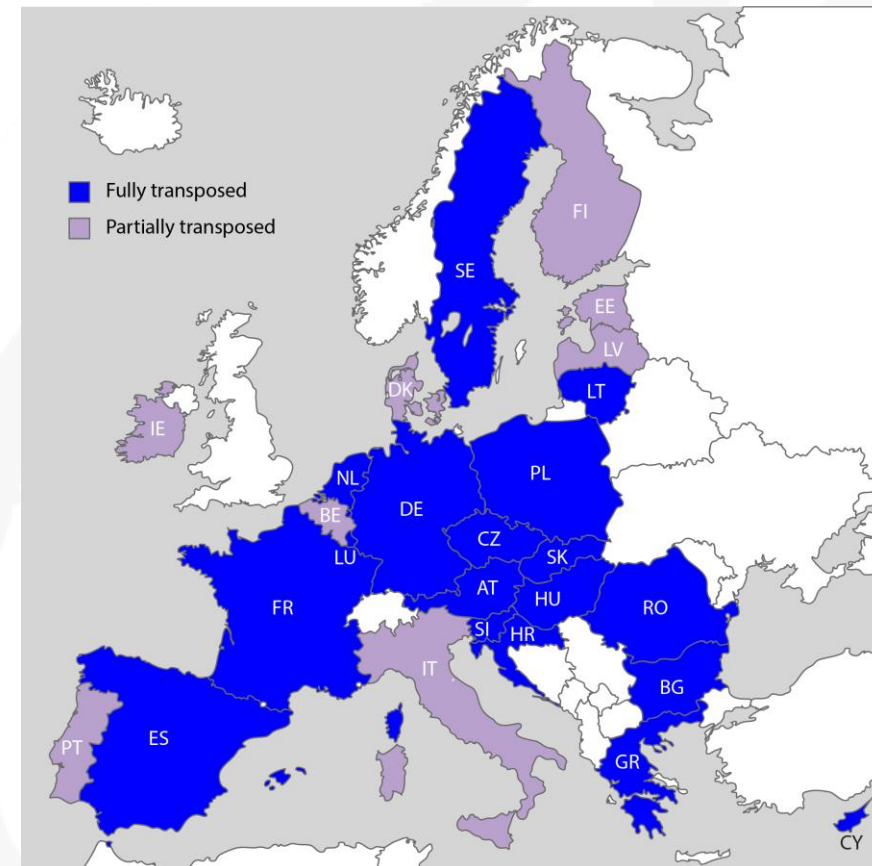
# Overview of transposition of Art 8 in the EU27



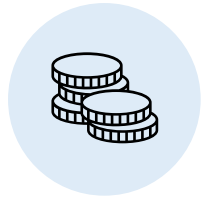
All Member states appear to have transposed the SUP.

However, Art 8 is in many cases only partially transposed:

- ❖ Not all plastics items included
- ❖ No specification on which costs to be covered by EPR schemes
- ❖ Implementation issues, even after the transposition (e.g. EPR schemes set-up deadlines)



# Implications for LRAs



## A burden for public authorities

Direct and indirect costs associated with the management, clean up and subsequent treatment.

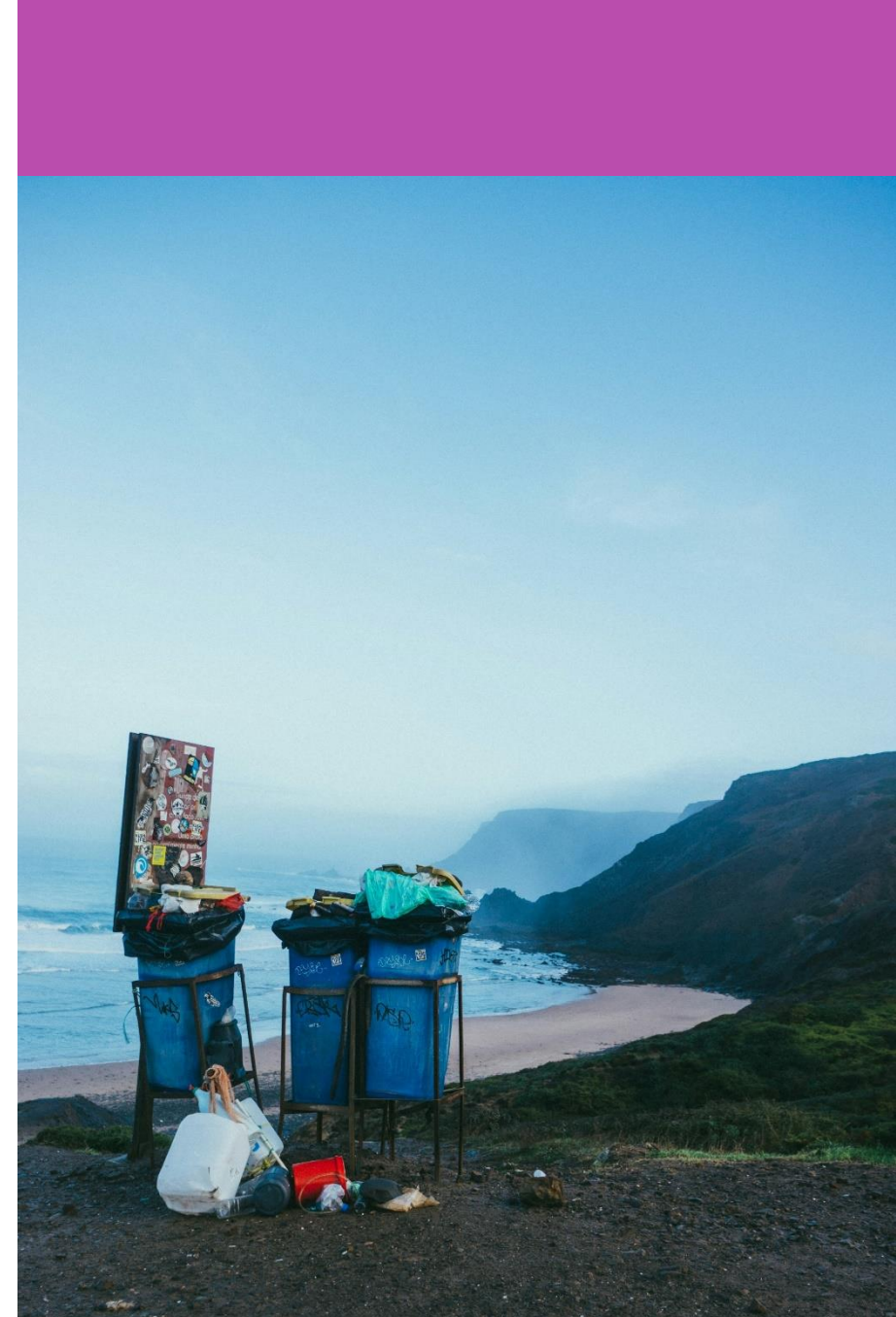
Other 'invisible' costs such as on health, quality of life, accidents, injuries to wildlife and negative impact on tourism, further degradation of the space (e.g graffiti).



## Lots of grey areas...

Although some guidance is available on **how to calculate these costs**, the practical application proves difficult.

Available evidence suggest that **despite the legislation, LRAs continue to shoulder at least some of the financial burden.**





Every year, German cities pay:  
EUR 225 million for cigarette butts and EUR 120 million for plastic take-away cups, to keep their parks and streets clean.



It costs EUR 324 million to prevent, clean up, process and monitor litter in the Netherlands, 94% of which is borne by the municipalities.

# Some examples



In the UK, litter clean-up associated with packaging costs EUR 451 million to local authorities

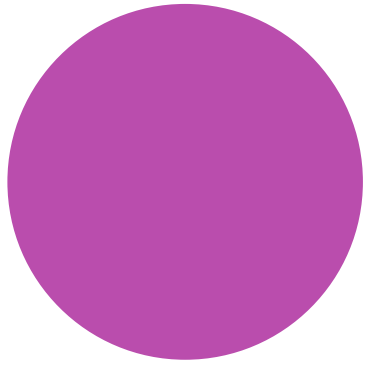
# Our proposal

An explorative study on the cost of littering:

- ❖ To investigate the real costs of litter clean up, transport and treatment in some European countries and how these are currently distributed
- ❖ To provide a more transparent overview so that the costs can be covered fully by the producers







# Contributions from the members: Example of OVAM/Flanders





Flanders  
State of  
the Art

## Obstacles in implementing the SUP

## Directive in Flanders

General Assembly ACR+ - 18-19.06.2024

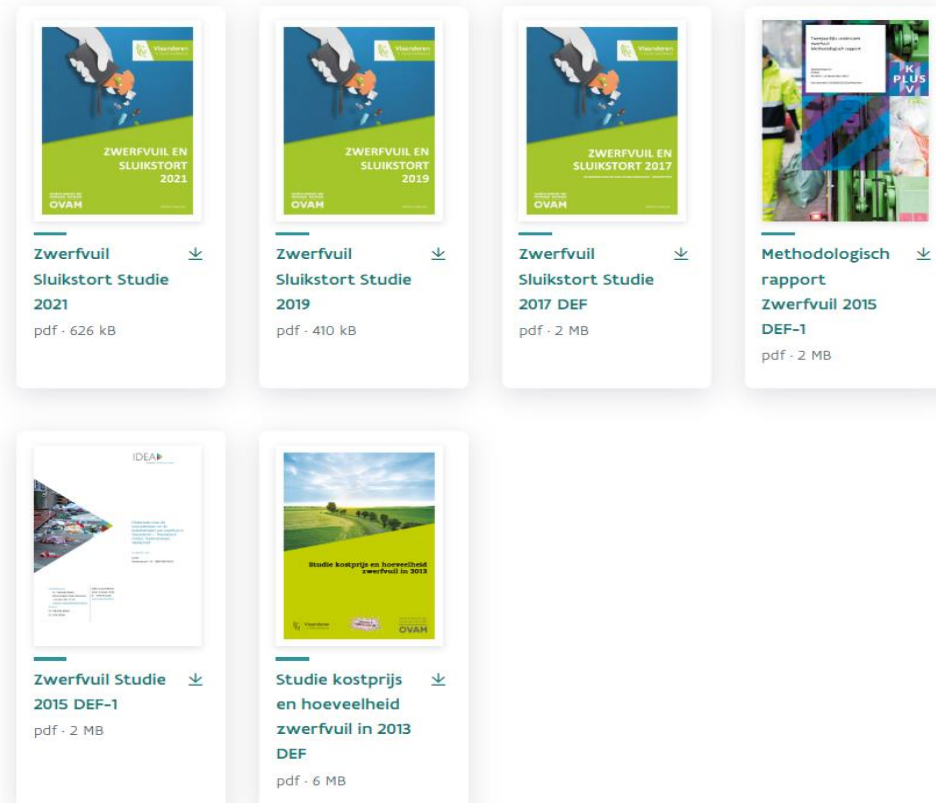
Klik om de modelstijlen te bewerken

WE MAKE  
TOMORROW  
BEAUTIFUL

**OVAM**

- Determination of costs remains difficult
  - Collection of representative data
  - Litter related cost is not always easy to isolate
  - Time-intensive and therefore costly

#### Downloads



The screenshot displays a grid of six document cards, each representing a report available for download. Each card features a cover image, a title, and the file size. The reports are:

- Zwerfvuil en Sluikstort 2021**: pdf - 626 kB
- Zwerfvuil en Sluikstort 2019**: pdf - 410 kB
- Zwerfvuil en Sluikstort 2017 DEF**: pdf - 2 MB
- Methodologisch rapport Zwerfvuil 2015 DEF-1**: pdf - 2 MB
- Zwerfvuil Studie 2015 DEF-1**: pdf - 2 MB
- Studie kostprijs en hoeveelheid zwerfvuil in 2013 DEF**: pdf - 6 MB

- Not many other studies to benchmark
  - Resistance → race to the bottom
  - The SUP-directive as it is...
    - Scope
    - Guidelines came late
    - “efficient collection”
  - How to collect the cost? (levy, tax, through EPR and collective system?)
  - Can operational responsibility shift together with the cost?
  - Allocation of cost to sectors and individual producers (based on weight, volume or numbers)
  - Distribution of the compensation to individual municipalities
- 
- Final remark: societal cost is much higher...

# Your contributions

Help us to better understand the situation in your cities and regions by:

- ❖ Providing information on the composition and amount of litter
- ❖ Sharing methodologies to calculate costs of litter clean up, transportation and treatment (if available)
- ❖ Sharing insights and experiences about the issue, challenges and how the costs are calculated/shared at the moment





Thank you!  
Interested?

Get in touch: [tt@acrplus.org](mailto:tt@acrplus.org) and [al@acrplus.org](mailto:al@acrplus.org)

Come and talk to us later, or tell us more via QR code

