

Balkan workshop and seminar in Istanbul

20-22 May 2015



- The observed issue with scavengers has started in Bulgaria around Y2009 – Y2010, when price of packaging material started growing.
- It first had impact mainly on paper and has been then spread over plastics since last 2-3 years.
- If in the beginning it has been an individual act of representatives, mainly of the minority population in Bulgaria (Gypsies), now same people are well organized covering specific areas in each municipality.
- The whole process is actively supported by Waste management companies, which have their own collection centers situated in the cities.



Estimated scavengers environment:

- Number of scavengers engaged – > ~30.000
- Number of collection centers - > ~1'000

It is hard to give precise figures, but here are the following numbers related to scavengers activities in Bulgaria:

- Material & financial losses
 - Material losses from the separate collection systems - > 95'700t
 - Financial impact - > 7'300'000 EUR losses
- Infrastructure and social impact
 - Damaged containers – 155pcs
 - Burned containers – 635pcs
 - Littering around containers
 - Demotivation of citizens to perform separate collection



Deposit System Impact

- There is an activity from MOEW for introduction of deposit system for plastic in Bulgaria. Main reason that has been stated is the reduction of littering. Research is undergoing by a German company for the feasibility of establishing the model in the country.
- If deposit system will be introduced, the role of scavengers will not be banned, but they will have a higher earning. That will result in additional stimulation of the grey economy – for 1t PET collected after the introducing the deposit system a “collector” will receive ~ 300 times bigger income.

Law Change impact

- To fight the scavengers MOEW came to the proposal, that Municipalities together with EPR's are responsible to confiscate the horse car together with the stolen material and store them on a dedicated for the purpose place in each Municipality while the prosecution is ongoing.



- Recyclable materials in the containers belong to EPR's, but they do not have any legal possibility to cope alone with this "phenomena".
- It is in the Municipality obligations to control and impose fines to those, that misbehave with the containers or steal the recyclable materials from them, but they never do it as it is a social problem according to them.
- To bound the process a proposal has been submitted to MOEW, which was related to limit the presence of collection centers in the cities, and to be moved in industrial areas covering a list of strong requirements for compliance.
- Despite all reasonable proposals coming from behalf of EPR's, MOEW did not undertake any activity towards changes in law to help the fight with scavengers.

What else could be done?

- Locking systems, video surveillance, eco-police and others





**IT IS NOT A SOCIAL PROBLEM,
BUT A BUSINESS PROBLEM!**



THANK YOU!

