

Impact of street collectors in Greece

Istanbul 22/5/2015



HELLENIC RECOVERY
RECYCLING CORPORATION

Street collectors of packaging waste in Greece

- Unofficial recycling (UR) was always a part of the “market” but only for non packaging metals
- Street collection of packaging materials appeared in massive scale along with the start of the financial crisis (2010)
- Potential source of income (mainly: immigrants, roma)
- High density populated areas (mainly Athens and Thessaloniki) are facing the biggest problems

Targeted materials

- **Cardboard-newsprint paper (mainly)**

- Easy to be removed from the bins
- Traditional activity (well structured market)
- Easy to handle-high density bulk

- **Aluminum cans**

- High priced material

- **Other Metals-Plastics (small scale)**

- Light weighted materials → inefficient transportation
- Metal scavenging largely comes from stealing of non-packaging equipment as cover of sewer, cables, road signs, rails, etc.

Cardboard trade route



Common picture in the streets of Athens #1



Common picture in the streets of Athens #2

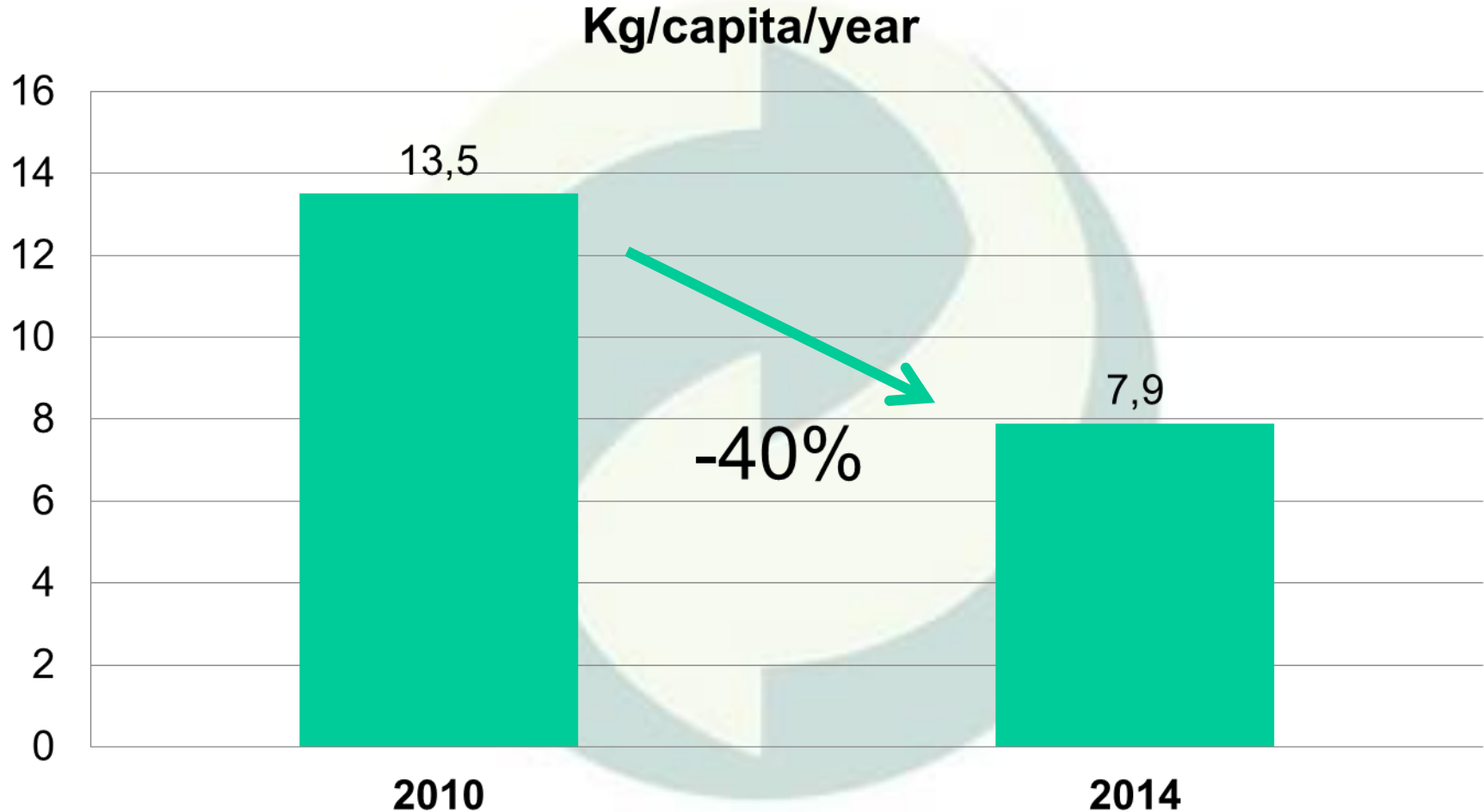


Impacts

Besides the environmental impacts and black market activities the main effects to PRO's activities are the following:

- Negative effects to the official recorded MSW recycling rates
- Decreases quality of the collected material
- Increases operating costs of MRFs (less incoming valuable materials=loss of income)

Impact on MSW recycling rates I (cardboard)



Impact on MSW recycling rates II (cardboard)

**2010-2014
Per Capita
recovery rate:
- 40%**

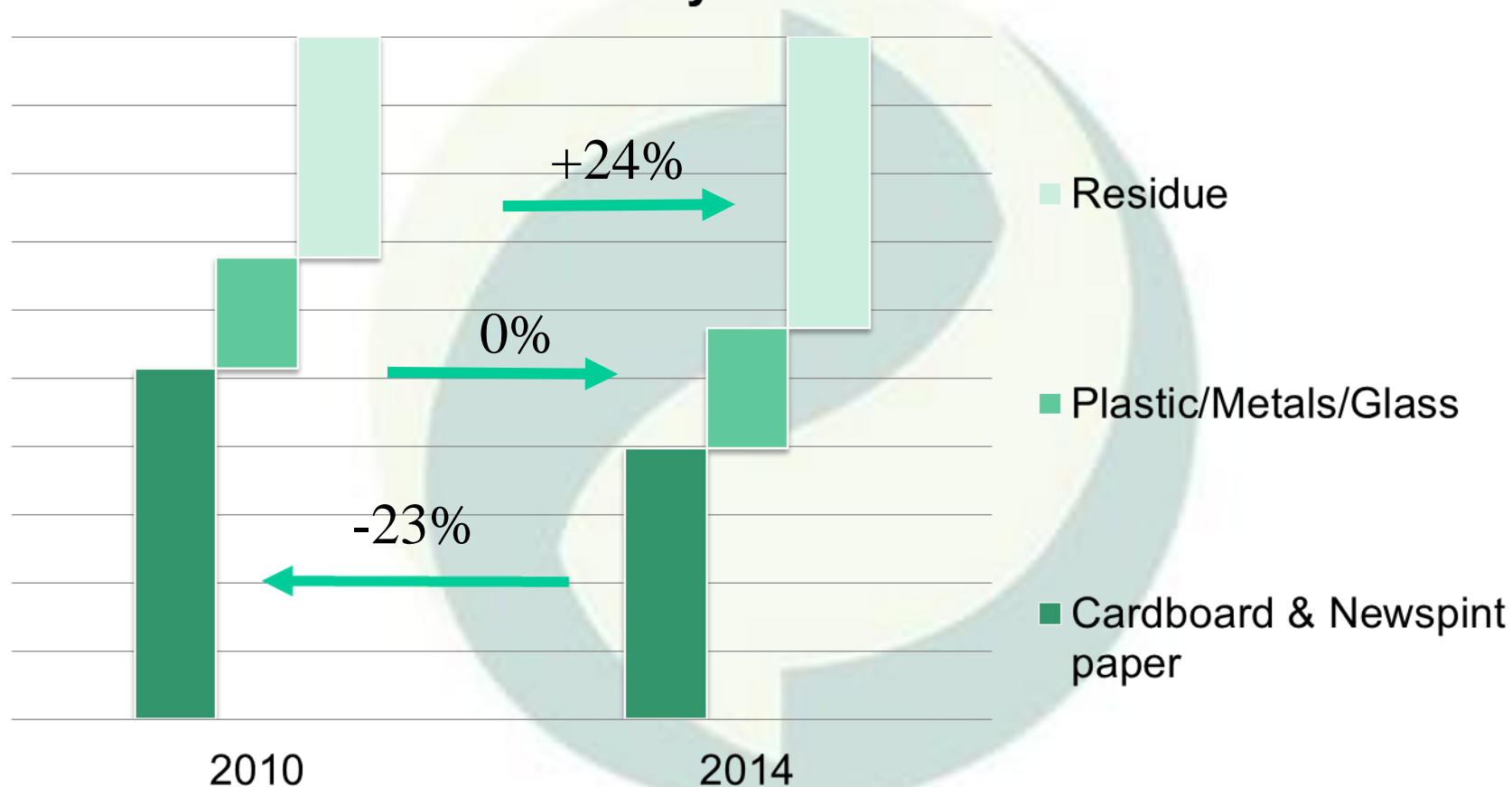
**Market size reduction*
2010-2014: 20%**

Street collectors: 20%

- Only half of the 40% reduction is caused by the recession
- The other half is attributed to UR, which is estimated to approx. 25kt/per year

Impact on the Quality of the collection stream

MSW collection synthesis differentiation



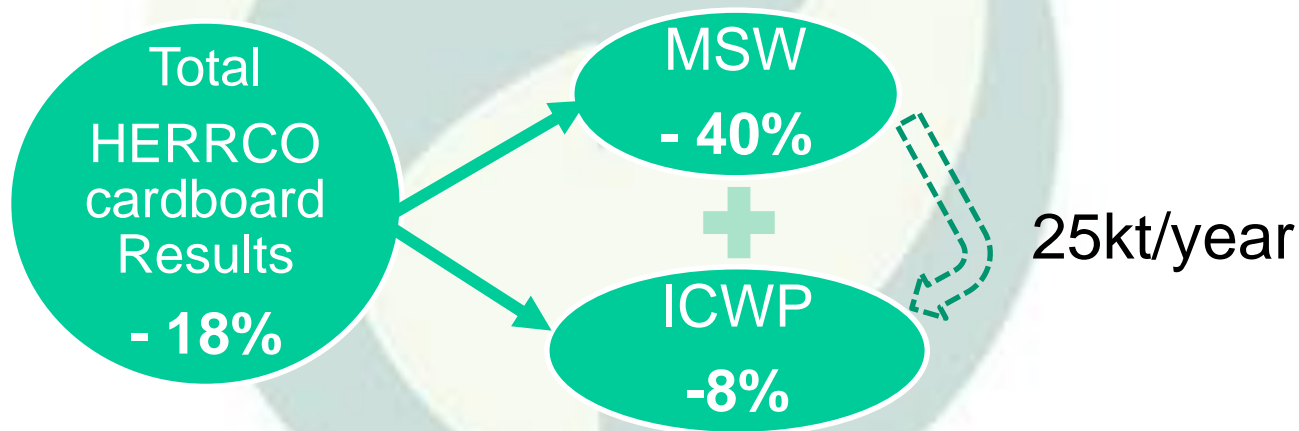
Fictional increase of residue %. Stable per capita residue rate

The annual losses from MSW end up to ICWP

- Based on the assumption that households and commercial / industrial sector are more or less equally affected by the crisis, we would expect ICWP and MSW results to decrease at the same rate.

Does this happen?

2010-2014 cardboard rates



The annual losses from MSW end up to ICWP and consequently are being recorded by HERRCo

Impacts on MRFs

- Negative financial impact on the MRFs, since their project plans have been made according to the expected quantities per resident

Financial impacts caused by the annual loss of 25kt as incoming quantities for the MRFs

- ⇒ Material sales: €2,4 mil.
 - ⇒ HERRCo funding: €0,25 mil.
 - ⇒ Additional operating cost: €0,8 mil.
- €3,5 mil./year

Implementation of separate cardboard stream

- On-going discussion with the authorities for pilot separate cardboard stream for MSW
- This would lead to much higher rates of scavenging since the material would be already sorted and therefore easier to be removed
- The result of the above would be an even larger reduction of MSW recycling rate

Conclusions / Remarks

Negative impacts:

- Decrease on MSW recycling rates
- Quality of the incoming quantities deteriorates
- MRFs are facing cost & operating problems

Results disruption

- Quantities from street collectors are being recorded from HERRCo via ICWP
- If the targets are going to be separated for MSW and ICWP, it would be highly unlikely for the MSW target to be reached
- Competition issues: In case of new PRO which would record ICWP, part of recorded materials would come from the blue bin (MSW)

General remarks

- Actions from the authorities should be taken, since the actual problem is beyond PRO's limits.