

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



**Bulgaria** 

October 2016



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# Waste prevention programme

This **country fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires that Member States adopt their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention is considered the most desirable option.

## BULGARIA FACT SHEET

	<p><b>GDP</b> EUR 43 billion (0.3 % of EU-28 total in 2014)</p>
	<p><b>Per person GDP</b> EUR 12 800 (in purchasing power standard) (47 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)</p>
<p><i>Source: Eurostat</i></p>	<p><b>Use of materials</b> 140 million tonnes DMC (2.1 % of EU-28 total in 2014) 19.4 tonnes DMC/person (149 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014) Resource productivity 0.28 EUR/kg (14 % of EU-28 average in 2014)</p>
	<p><b>Structure of the economy</b> Agriculture: 4.9 % Industry: 31.2 % Services: 63.9 % (2014 est.)</p>
	<p><b>Surface area</b> 111 thousand km<sup>2</sup> (2.5 % of total EU-28)</p>
	<p><b>Population</b> 7.2 million (1.4 % of EU-28 total)</p>

## Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
2.	Type of programme	Part of waste management plan
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	National Waste Prevention Programme <a href="http://www.moew.government.bg/wp-content/uploads/filebase/Waste/NACIONALEN_PLAN/_/NPUO_2014-2020.pdf">http://www.moew.government.bg/wp-content/uploads/filebase/Waste/NACIONALEN_PLAN/_/NPUO_2014-2020.pdf</a>
4.	Duration of programme	2014–2020
5.	Language	Bulgarian
6.	Contact persons	Ministry of Environment and Water
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	The objectives of the programme are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decouple economic growth and the negative environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste;</li> <li>• reduce the amount of waste, and its harmful effects, reduce the content of harmful substances in materials and products (p.59).</li> </ul>
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<b>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</b> Yes. Decoupling economic growth from the increasing use of resources, resulting in a negative impact on both mankind and the environment, is a major goal in the field of environmental policy. This principle of sustainable development guides the government's actions. (p.51) All measures target the achievement of this goal. (p.59)
9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing;</li> <li>• sale, retail, transport;</li> <li>• households;</li> <li>• public services.</li> </ul>
10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food/organic;</li> <li>• hazardous waste;</li> <li>• household/municipal waste;</li> <li>• packaging;</li> <li>• waste electrical and electronic equipment /batteries;</li> <li>• manufacturing waste</li> <li>• other.</li> </ul>

11. Quantitative targets	<p>The programme contains an action plan with one overall strategic target. There are many sub-objectives which correspond to individual measures. The overall strategic target is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2020 the value of the "industrial waste per unit of GDP" and "hazardous waste per unit of GDP" indicators should be less than the value of the same indicators in 2010.</li> <li>• In 2020, the value of the "generated municipal waste per inhabitant" indicator should be less than the value of the same indicator in 2011 (p.76).</li> </ul>
12. Measures on quantitative prevention	<p>The programme refers to a number of potential measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of national and institutional strategies and "e-government" programmes to save paper and related supplies (p.62);</li> <li>• national programme to support the energy efficiency of Bulgarian homes (prolong the life of housing) (p.63);</li> <li>• support and planning of training programmes (p.66);</li> <li>• granting of environmental permits in accordance with Bulgarian and European legislation (p.67);</li> <li>• development of a training project for the purposes of waste prevention, including the creation of business networks (p.67);</li> <li>• reduction of patent taxes for SMEs whose activities lead to the reuse of a product (e.g. repair of shoes, furniture, clothing etc.) (p.68);</li> <li>• making use of almost-expired food from retailers (p.68);</li> <li>• establishment of a national platform for total voluntary agreement with name and logo, the distribution of annual awards etc. to grant members additional publicity (p.68);</li> <li>• creation of an electronic network of public procurers to exchange experiences for the inclusion of criteria (p.69);</li> <li>• conduct awareness campaigns for businesses on the importance of certification (p.69);</li> <li>• introduce a fee for bags with a thickness of between 25 to 50 microns (p.70);</li> <li>• develop methods that aim to follow the polluter pays principle (p.70);</li> <li>• continue awareness campaigns and the distribution of information, including guidelines for municipalities to conduct such campaigns (p.71);</li> <li>• analysis on where the impact of applying such measures would be the greatest; study the experiences of other EU Member States (p.72);</li> <li>• adoption of appropriate "green procurement" regulation to increase the share of public procurement (p.73);</li> <li>• in-depth and regular training of employees of state and municipal administrations responsible for procurement (p.74);</li> <li>• logistical and/or organizational assistance to repair centres, including sales and deliveries to such centres (p.74);</li> <li>• creation of legislation to use reusable utensils in contracts between the state and municipal administration and catering companies. (p.75);</li> </ul>
13. Measures on qualitative prevention	<p>Adoption of a number of regulations on permissible content or bans of harmful substances (p.65).</p>

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14.	Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: Examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1–16)	<p>1,</p> <p>Making recommendations for the prevention of waste generation in MOEW guidelines for municipal waste management programmes.</p> <p>Development of waste management programmes for municipalities including specific objectives and waste prevention measures.</p> <p>Implementation of the waste prevention measures in municipal waste management programmes.</p> <p>Analysis of opportunities available via state grants to achieve waste prevention and establishing an assessment criteria as part of the national policy to reduce and eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies.</p> <p>Applying the measures identified by the analysis.</p> <p>Pilot introduction of a discount of the municipal waste fee (MWF) to households which carry out home composting.</p> <p>Reduction of paper waste and other waste office supplies, through the implementation of national and institutional programming documents for "e-government"</p> <p>2,</p> <p>Development of a funding programme for scientific, development research and innovation, leading to waste prevention.</p> <p>Applying the research, development and innovation programme for waste prevention as part of the activities of the Bulgarian Scientific Research Fund.</p> <p>Creation of a website to present the results and best practices from the research and development of products and technologies which use fewer resources and generate less waste.</p> <p>3,</p> <p>Development and use of indicators on the harmful environmental impact of waste.</p> <p>Development and implementation of a system to collect information to track the progress of the implementation of the PWP measures, including additional regulations.</p> <p>4,</p> <p>Adopting rules, and including in the invitation to the beneficiaries to fund projects to develop new products and technology. Such products should require less natural resources, contain less hazardous substances, and generate less waste as well as promoting products and technologies with better environmental performances. Subsequent implementation of related projects.</p> <p>5,</p> <p>Adopting rules and including in the invitation to the beneficiaries of funding for training for industry and employers' organisations, as well as information platforms for businesses on European and national policies and programmes for effective use of resources and methods to support waste prevention. Subsequent implementation of related projects.</p> <p>6,</p> <p>Preparation of instructions and training to RIEWs on permits for waste management activities.</p> <p>7,</p> <p>Application of guidelines on waste prevention policies to do with issuing waste permits to RIEWs.</p> <p>8,</p> <p>Elaboration of the rules, and incorporation in the calls for proposals to potential beneficiaries, to do with funding for training for SMEs on waste prevention, including the development of business networks.</p> <p>Implementation of waste prevention training projects for SMEs, including the development of business networks.</p>
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Determining a license tax, following local Taxes and Fees Act guidelines, for those whose activity directly leads to the reuse of some products (e.g. shoe repair, furniture, clothes, household appliances, etc.).

Creating and maintaining a national website, incorporating regional information on the location and availability of second hand construction materials.

9,

To include voluntary agreements for waste prevention, including a study of the experience of other European countries in training programmes, on waste prevention policies for business and administration

Elaboration of rules for the development of sector plans for waste prevention by industry organisations.

Implementation of projects to develop sector plans for waste prevention by branch organisations.

Concluding voluntary agreements between MOEW and branch organisations, and individual companies to implement waste prevention measures.

Concluding voluntary agreements between MOEW and branch organizations, and individual enterprises in the hotels and restaurants sector to prevent food waste.

Developing and implementing a plan for the use of almost-expired food from retail chains towards socially disadvantaged groups.

Development of national platforms for waste prevention towards which with voluntary agreement have joined state/municipal/branch / NGO/consumer/ educational/scientific/ media and other organizations. Such platforms would have their own logo, annual awards, etc. Additional publicity for these platforms would be gained by publishing a list of companies on the MOEW site or by organising media coverage.

10,

Conducting information campaigns for businesses on the importance of certification.

11,

Determining the amount of tax received from the sale of disposable plastic bags since 2015.

12,

To integrate issues on waste prevention when developing new curricula.

Elaboration of rules for projects to conduct targeted campaigns to explain and provide information on waste prevention policies.

Implementation of projects for conducting targeted campaigns to explain and provide information on waste prevention policies.

Including issues for waste prevention in the information campaigns carried out by Recovery organization (RO) focusing on waste packaging, WEEE, ELV and WBA.

13,

Implementation of the projects selected to award eco-labels.

15,

Developing guidelines for conducting "green" procurement which includes eligibility criteria for EMAS, ISO 14001 and eco-labelling.

Elaboration of rules and announcing a call for the preparation of projects to train employees on "green procurement", including the development of detailed methodological guidelines and samples of bidding documents. Subsequent implementation of related projects.

16,

Municipalities to establish public registers in order to provide public information on the services provided for repairs and maintenance in the municipality, leading to longer product life and corresponding to waste prevention.

Creation and maintenance of a national website with information on construction materials from demolition or repairs that can be reused and also on recycled materials.

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		<p>Elaboration of rules for projects focusing on acquiring or improving skills to repair and maintain products. Subsequent implementation of related projects.</p> <p>Elaboration of rules for the funding of companies that create jobs associated with the repair and maintenance of products. Subsequent implementation of related projects.</p> <p>(p.76 - 86)</p>
15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	None.
16.	Indicators proposed	<p><b>Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?</b></p> <p>Yes. The programme states that it is very difficult to accurately measure success.</p> <p>Indicators were divided into three main groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicators for individual measures that directly affect waste generation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reuse of appliances: reuse old equipment in relation to the amounts of old appliances reported, the types of appliances and the change from the previous year to the year in question;</li> <li>○ reuse of packaging: the amount of used packaging in multiple species when taking into account the total amount of the relevant packaging;</li> <li>○ prohibition of certain substances: number of products which are not allowed to contain certain substances, how this ban is applied, the substitution of hazardous substances with less dangerous ones;</li> <li>○ permits: number of permits for facilities that seek permission to prevent and reduce waste and how this is measured;</li> <li>○ systems for environmental management: number of companies with environmental management systems aiming to reduce waste and which achieve the set objectives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Indicators for individual measures which do not directly affect waste generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ examples include "number of trainings in a region" or "number of citizens living in regions where waste fees are defined based on the polluter pays principle". More specific information on these indicators is not given.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other specific indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ for example "intensity of waste" defined as the amount of waste in different sectors; development of "productivity of resource use" defined as GDP related to internal direct use of materials (p.60/ 61).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Apart from the principal indicators, further indicators are mentioned for each WFD category:</p> <p>1: the number of decisions adopted and implemented by the NCWP (p.64);</p> <p>2: number of adopted and implemented decisions of NCWP (p.64)</p> <p>3: number of introduced and / or established indicators for the purpose of waste prevention (p.65);</p> <p>6: successful projects, number of products manufactured by eco-design standards, conducted information campaigns, number of designers and planners reached through information (p.66);</p> <p>7: number of permits which include a waste prevention requirement, amount of avoided waste as a result of permits which included waste prevention measures (p.67);</p> <p>8: number of trainings and number of participants from SMEs as a proportion of the total number of SMEs (p.68);</p>

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9: number of agreements, number of enterprises included in the agreements, number of implemented voluntary agreement measures, number of decisions adopted and implemented by the NCWP (p.68);

10: number of certified organisations, number of contracts including such criteria, number of campaigns providing clarification and/or training (p.69);

11: amount of discarded waste from households and businesses before and after the change in the method of calculation of solid waste, the quantity of plastic bags produced and sold or other products for which there is an additional charge before and after the introduction of the fee, number of decisions adopted and implemented by the NCWP (p.70);

12: number of awareness campaigns and trainings (p.71);

13: number of Bulgarian businesses that have conducted successful "end of waste" accreditation procedures (p.71);

14: number of agreements / meetings which ended with concrete measures in the design chain, production, transportation, sale; number of decisions adopted and implemented by the NCWP (p.72);

15: number and/or value of "green" procurement, trainings and number of employees involved, number of decisions adopted and implemented by the NCWP (p.74);

16: number of reused products, number of events using reusable utensils and prevented waste, number of visits to state owned sites linking merchandising and reuse to the sites, number of sales made as a result of these visits (p.75);

P.65 states that Bulgaria does not yet have indicators for prevention, which implies that the measures are not fixed yet and still under development.

The Action Plan attached to the programme mentions further indicators specifically linked to the strategic overall goal and each individual measure.

Indicators corresponding to the strategic objective are:

- "industrial waste per unit of GDP"; "municipal waste generated per inhabitant"; "hazardous waste per unit of GDP" (p.76)

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17.	Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p><b>Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?</b></p> <p>Yes. As part of the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP), reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of the results of the Bulgarian Waste Prevention Programme are carried out with a system currently being used for other programmes under the NWMP.</p> <p>According to the NWMP, the coordinating unit for implementing the waste prevention programme shall report to the Ministry of Environment and Water. The report will be sent out at the latest by the end of January of the year following the reporting year. Every three years, after initial approval by the Government of the National Waste Prevention Programme, the Minister of Environment and Water shall submit a report to the Council of Ministers for its implementation. In case of failure to achieve the objectives described above, the report should state the reasons and the measures to be taken to ensure future performance. (p. 170 f.)</p>
18.	Target groups	<p>Key stakeholders mentioned in the programme are state, municipalities, economic and scientific entities, NGOs and households (p.52/53).</p>
19.	Involvement of stakeholders	<p>Municipalities, economic and scientific entities, NGOs and households are all mentioned in the action plan and therefore involved in the implementation of measures (p.76 f.).</p>
20.	Other comments	<p><b>Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. Cost of waste prevention measures, the budget for each specific measure is indicated in the Action Plan from p.76-86.</p>

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