

# Task Force on Waste Statistics

Under the auspices of the Bureau of the Conference  
of European Statisticians (CES Bureau)

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Expert Group on Environment Statistics

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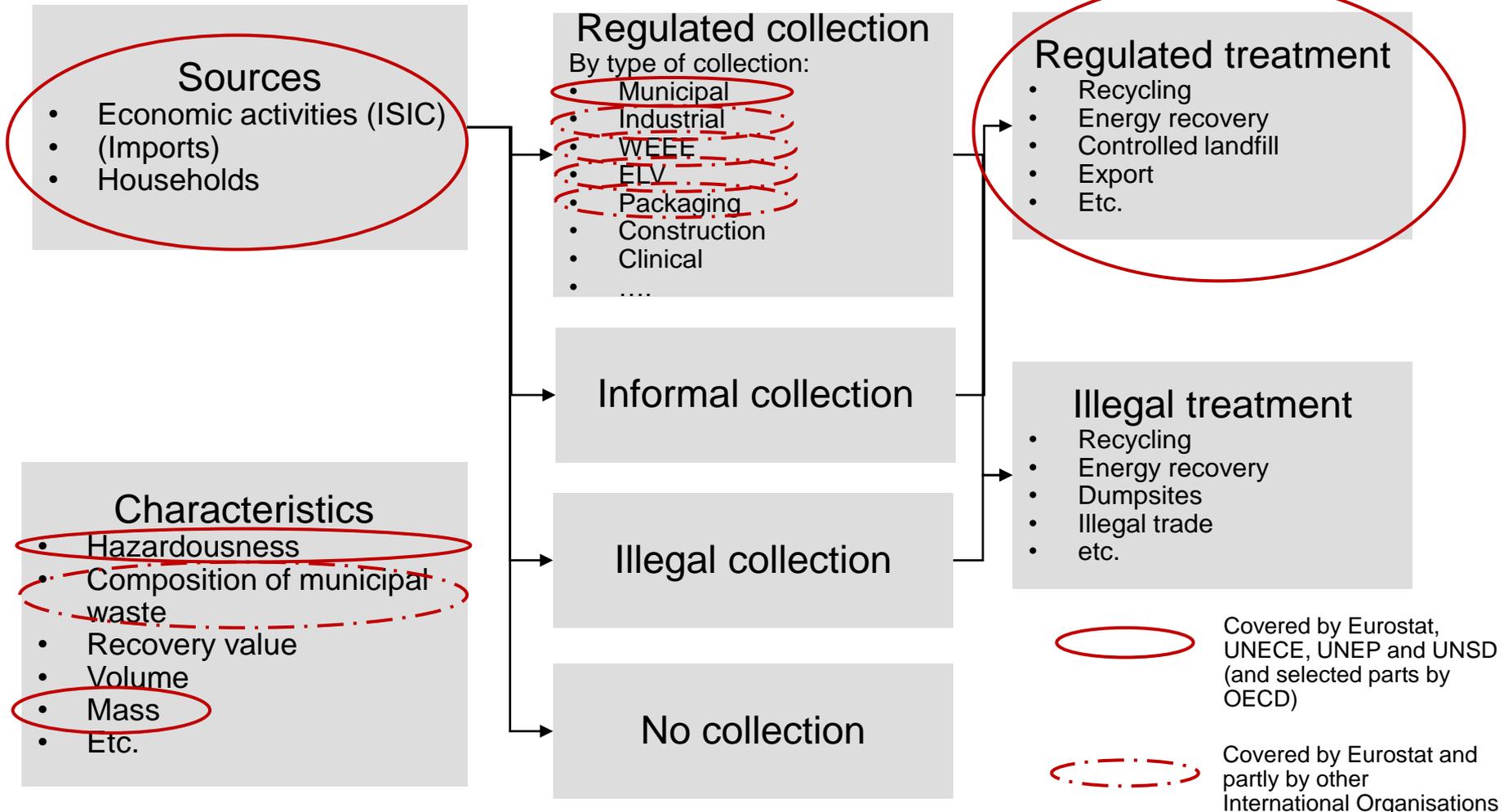
# Some weaknesses of international data collections

- No international framework for waste statistics;
- No standard international waste classification;
- Key terms and definitions are not fully harmonized (e.g. “municipal waste”)
- Boundary between waste, products and secondary raw materials is not clearly defined;
- Several waste flows are difficult to measure and thus sometimes included or excluded in the total figures (e.g. imports and exports of waste)
- Different ways to measure the amounts of waste
- SDG indicator 11.6.1: How does the term “urban solid waste” relate to waste statistics?

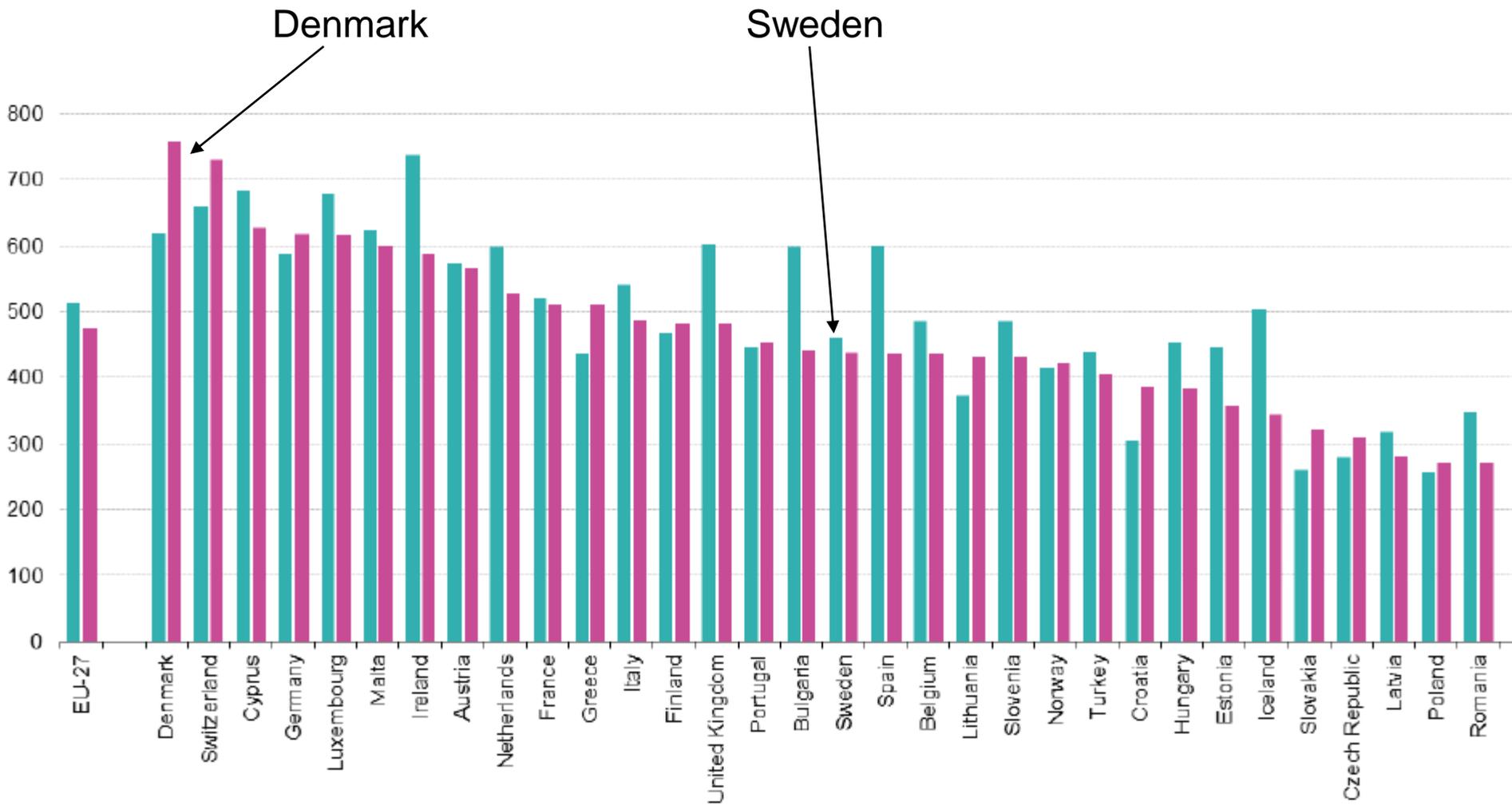
# Scope of waste statistics

Generation

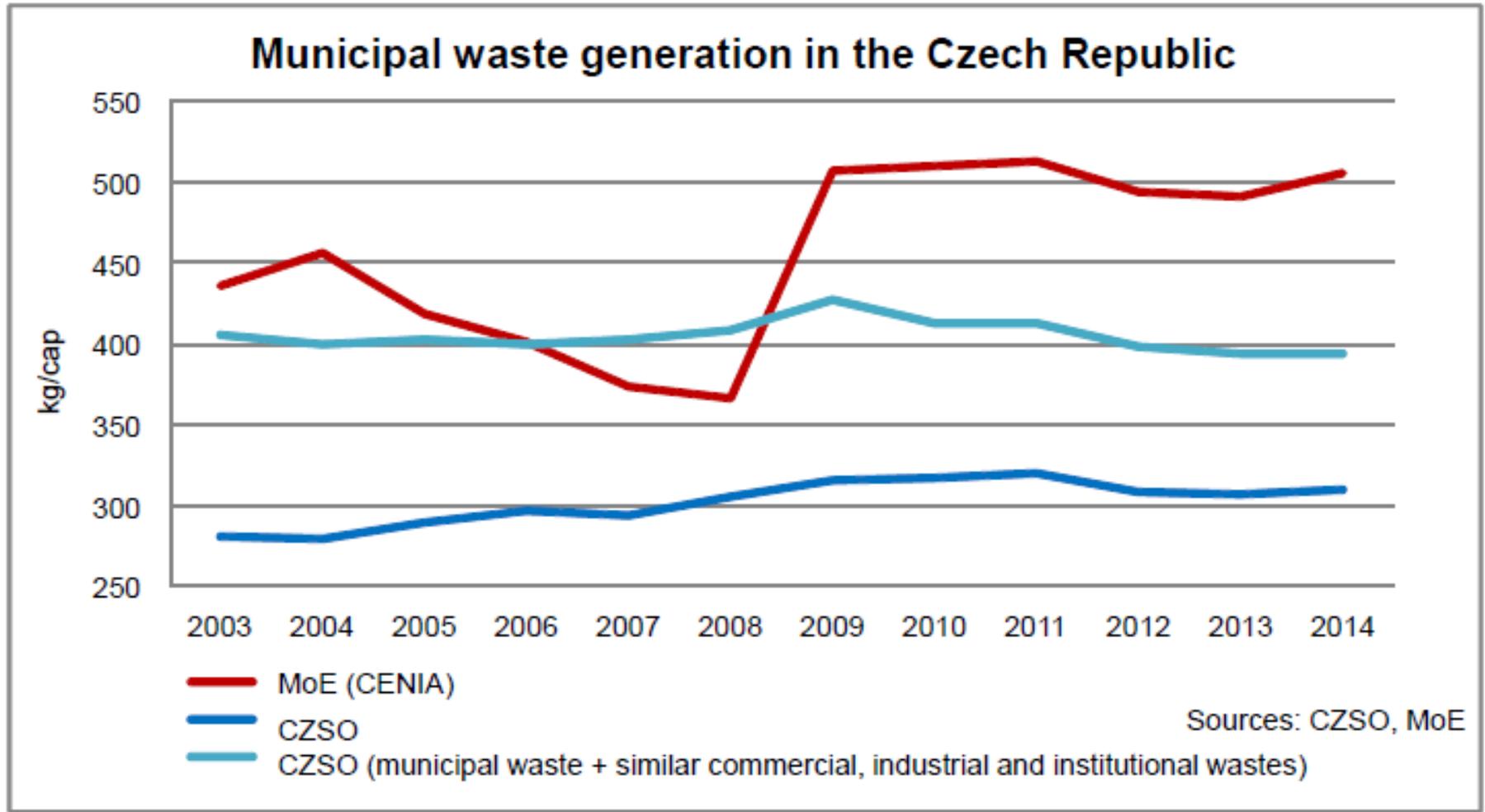
Management



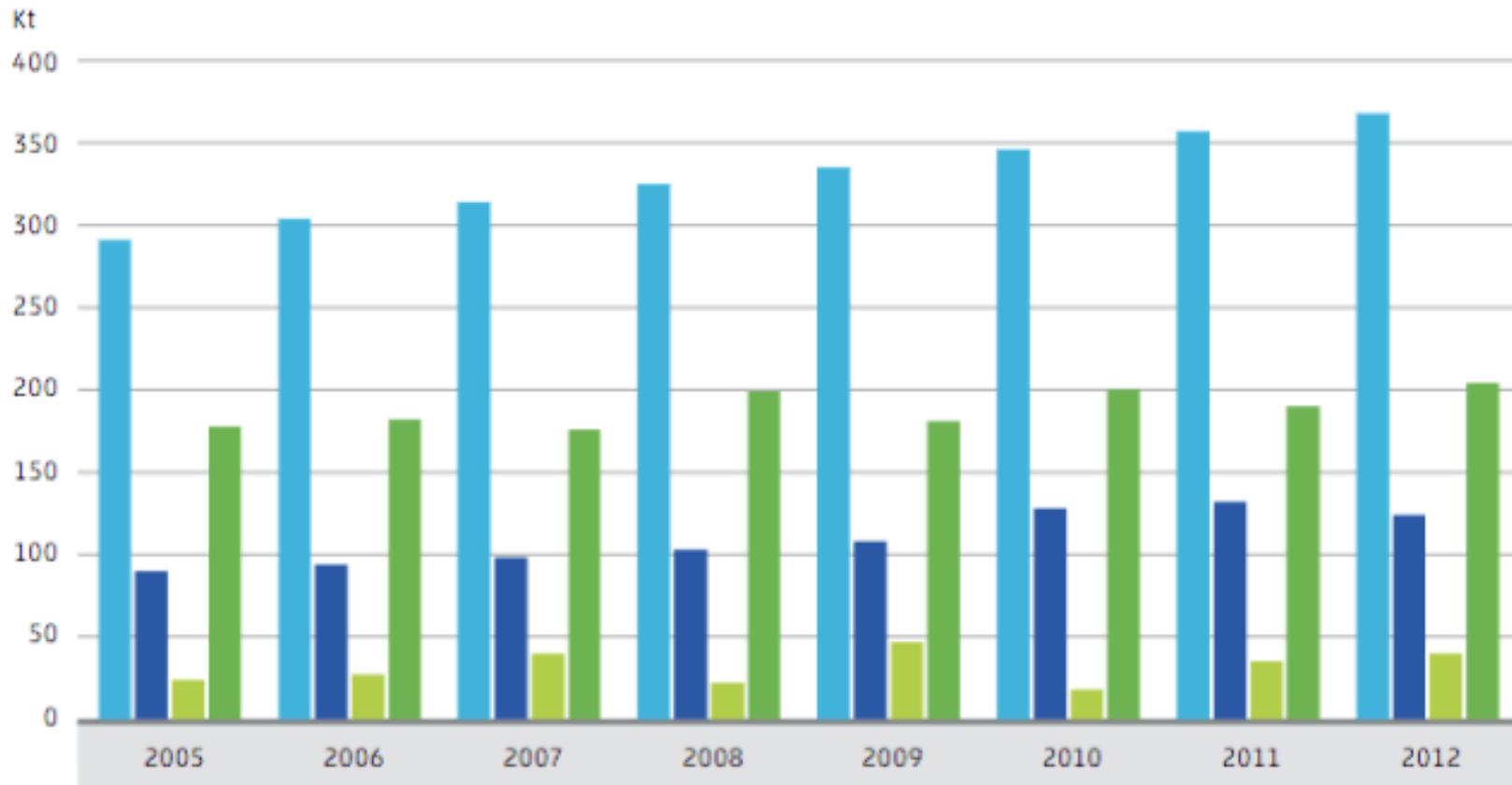
# Example Municipal Waste Generation in EU-27, why are Denmark and Sweden so different?



# Example municipal waste generation in Czech Republic



# Example Netherlands: Where does the electronic waste disappear?



- WEEE generated
- Official collection
- Waste bin
- Unknown

Source: Statistics Netherlands, Eurostat.



# Example informal waste picking (only individual studies exist)

- **Sofia:** 30,000 tonnes of recyclables salvaged annually by 2,000 people (a very conservative estimate)
- **Serbia:** In Belgrade 2,350 families (12,000 men, women and children) are involved in collecting as their sole income source. For Serbia, this number goes from 6,000 to 10,000 families (35,000-55,000 of men, women and children)
- In **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro,** and Serbia waste pickers supply at least 40 percent of the raw materials that industry recycles in the region
- **China** (Guiyu, Qingyuan, and Taizhou), 10% of world wide e-waste ends up there. 200,000 informal work force.

# **Task Force on Waste Statistics**

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- Established in February 2017 based on an issue paper drafted by Netherlands and UNECE in cooperation with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Ukraine, as well as with Eurostat, OECD and UNSD (see [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/Issue3\\_Waste.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/Issue3_Waste.pdf))
- **Members:**
  - Netherlands (Chair), Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (editor), Canada, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, Russian Federation
  - Basel Convention Secretariat, Eurostat, OECD, UN-Habitat, UNSD
  - UNECE provides the Secretariat of the Task Force

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- **Main objective:** develop a **conceptual framework on waste statistics** and draft a glossary of the most important terms and definitions in waste statistics. The framework should:
  - Be consistent with FDES and SEEA, and major international policy frameworks (SDGs, Basel Convention and the EU Waste Strategy);
  - Build upon existing concepts used by Eurostat, UNSD and OECD;
  - Define the scope of waste statistics;
  - Define waste, and in particular the boundary with products and materials;
  - Define a general sequence of waste flows;
  - Clearly distinguish and describe the different concepts used by users and producers;
  - Support a coherent integration of emerging issues (e.g. food waste and electronic waste);
  - Identify which parts of the framework are already covered by official statistics and which parts could potentially be covered in the future;
  - Be applicable to produce geo-referenced waste statistics.

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**Work packages → Reflecting the structure of the final report**

- WP1: Assessing the fitness for purpose of current waste statistics
- WP2: Defining scope of waste statistics
- WP3: Drafting a generic waste flow scheme
- WP4: Review of key terminology and classifications used in waste-related policies and waste statistics
- WP 5: Development of the framework on waste statistics
- WP6: Identification of follow-up work

# Discussion points

- Which kind of guidance and clarifications would you expect from the work of the Task Force?
- The Task Force is also open to experts from other regions. Who else could be involved?

Thank you very much for your attention!



Brighton Beach / New York City on 18 June 2016: Informal waste collection