

National factsheet on separate collection

Latvia

Note: This 'National factsheet' has been prepared within the EC study "Assessment of separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU". The document represents the status-quo of the EU Member State (MS) in September 2015. The information included in this document has been elaborated for all 28 EU-MS based on publically available documents, i.e. national legislation, Waste Management Plans, Waste Prevention Programmes, strategies, implementation reports, and statistics. All information is cited in the factsheet, a complete list of information sources can be found at the end of this document.

For quality assurance purposes the 'National factsheet' has been sent to the EU Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members on waste for verification and commenting, the comments received are included in this final version.

1 General requirements on separate collection based on national legislation

The Waste Management Law "Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas likums" [LV AAL 2010] implemented in 2010 is the main legal act transposing the requirements of the WFD into domestic law.

Most of the requirements of the WFD have been transposed into national legal requirements directly, though in few cases the provisions of national legal framework are deviating from the WFD or are not explicitly provided.

This was assessed in relation to the requirement "measures to promote high quality recycling". The national provision sets out such requirements as separate collection, which shall facilitate better quality of recycling, as well as sets recycling targets, but **does not explicitly refer to high quality** in the respective areas, therefore addressing narrower possibilities than those implied in the WFD.

At the same time the requirement "separate collections (...) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors" is **not included** in the legal act or further regulations. Yet it is important to note, that notwithstanding the fact that the "quality standards" requirement is not set in the legislation, market and "demand" determines the quality of separately collected waste, as it is perceived as a resource.

In addition regarding Art. 22 of WFD, domestic law specifies "separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the recovery, composting and recycling", where recovery implies not only digestion, but also other transformation processes.

Table 1: Overview of national law(s) that implement separate collection

Year and Abbreviation	Title of the law (translation)
[LV AAL 2010]	Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas likums (Waste Management Law)
[LV MK 184/2013]	Ministru kabineta noteikumi Nr. 184 "Noteikumi par atkritumu dalītu savākšanu, sagatavošanu atkārtotai izmantošanai, pārstrādi un materiālu reģenerāciju" (Cabinet regulations No. 184 "Regulations Regarding Separate Waste Collection, Preparation for Re-use, Recycling and Material Recovery")

Table 2: Overview on evaluation categories

Evaluation	Explanation
additional	The requirements of the WFD have been transposed and additional information or requirements are set out in the national legal requirement, i.e. additional definition, precision of requirement that goes beyond the text of the WFD
one:one	The requirement of the WFD has been transposed exactly / literally or transposed analogously. No additional requirements or explanations are set out.
deviating	The requirements of the WFD have been implemented into national legal requirements but have been adjusted, left out or deviated
not included	The requirement of the WFD is not transposed into national law

Table 3: Assessment on national transpositions

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
1. Article 3 (11) WFD: Definition separate collection: "separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment"			
[LV AAL 2010] § 1 (9)	one:one	§ 1 (9) "separate waste collection – the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate preparation of waste for recovery or disposal, as well as the recovery or disposal"	§ 1 (9) "atkritumu dalītā savākšana — atkritumu savākšana, atsevišķi nodalot atkritumus pēc to veida un īpašībām, lai veicinātu atkritumu sagatavošanu reģenerācijai vai apglabāšanai, kā arī reģenerāciju vai apglabāšanu"
2. Article 10 (2) WFD: "waste shall not be mixed with other waste/material with other properties"			
[LV AAL 2010] § 20 (3)	one:one	§ 20(3) "[...] Mixing of separately collected waste with other waste or materials having different properties is not permitted. "	§ 20(3) "[...] Nav pieļaujama dalīti savākto atkritumu sajaukšana ar citiem atkritumiem vai materiāliem, kuriem ir atšķirīgas īpašības."
3. Article 11 (1) WFD: "measures to promote high quality recycling"			
	not included		
4. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if technically practicable"			
[LV AAL 2010] § 20 (3)	one:one	§ 20(3) "[...] The waste shall be collected separately for the purpose of recovery, if it is technically and economically justifiable and complies with the environmental protection requirements. [...]"	§ 20(3) "[...] Reģenerācijas nolūkā atkritumus vāc atsevišķi, ja tas ir tehniski un ekonomiski pamatoti un atbilst vides aizsardzības prasībām. [...]"
5. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if economically practicable"			
[LV AAL 2010] § 20 (3)	one:one	§ 20(3) "[...] The waste shall be collected separately for the purpose of recovery, if it is technically and economically justifiable and complies with the environmental protection requirements. [...]"	§ 20(3) "[...] Reģenerācijas nolūkā atkritumus vāc atsevišķi, ja tas ir tehniski un ekonomiski pamatoti un atbilst vides aizsardzības prasībām. [...]"
6. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if environmentally practicable"			
[LV AAL 2010] § 20 (3)	one:one	§ 20(3) "[...] The waste shall be collected separately for the purpose of recovery, if it is technically and economically justifiable and complies with the environmental protection	§ 20(3) "[...] Reģenerācijas nolūkā atkritumus vāc atsevišķi, ja tas ir tehniski un ekonomiski pamatoti un

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
		<p>requirements. [...]</p> <p>NOTE: “environmentally practicable” is translated in the LV translation of the directive as “in a way not harmful to the environment”</p>	atbilst vides aizsardzības prasībām. [...]
7. Article 11 (1) WFD: “separate collections (...) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors”			
	not included		
8. Article 11 (1) WFD “by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic and glass”			
[LV MK 184/2013] § 2	one:one	<p>§ 2 “[...] by 31 December 2014 shall establish a system for separate collection of the following waste categories:</p> <p>2.1. waste containing paper;</p> <p>2.2. waste containing metal;</p> <p>2.3. waste containing plastic;</p> <p>2.4. waste containing glass.”</p>	<p>§ 2 “[...] līdz 2014.gada 31.decembrim izveido dalītas savākšanas sistēmu šādām atkritumu kategorijām:</p> <p>2.1. papīru saturoši atkritumi;</p> <p>2.2. metālu saturoši atkritumi;</p> <p>2.3. plastmasu saturoši atkritumi;</p> <p>2.4. stiklu saturoši atkritumi.”</p>
9. Article 22 WFD: Bio-waste - Member states shall take measures, as appropriate (...) to encourage: “a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste”			
[LV AAL 2010] § 37 (2)	deviating	<p>§ 37(2) “The measures which facilitate the use of environmentally safe materials produced from bio-waste, the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the recovery, composting and recycling, as well as measures for treatment of bio-waste in compliance with the requirements of Section 4 of this Law shall be provided for in the State waste management plan and regional plans.”</p>	<p>§ 37(2) “Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas valsts plānā un reģionālajos plānos paredz pasākumus, kas veicina no bioloģiskajiem atkritumiem ražotu videi nekaitīgu materiālu izmantošanu, bioloģisko atkritumu atsevišķu savākšanu to reģenerācijai, kompostēšanai un pārstrādei, kā arī pasākumus bioloģisko atkritumu apstrādei atbilstoši šā likuma 4.panta prasībām.”</p>

2 General requirements on separate collection based on main strategies

Latvia	301 kg MSW/capita 15.61% recycling
<p>Definition of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): “Municipal waste – waste produced in a household, trade, in the process of provision of services or waste produced in other places that because of its properties, is similar to domestic residues.” [LV AAL 2010]</p>	
<p>Main strategies implementing separate collection</p>	
<p>The main strategic document implementing separate waste collection in the Republic of Latvia is the State Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 [LV WMP 2013]. Until 2013 the waste management regions (Latvia is divided into 10 waste management regions) were required to draft and implement Regional Waste Management Plans, but, as the objectives of the plans have been reached, as of 2014 the development of regional plans is no longer mandatory.</p> <p>The State Waste Management Plan aims first of all to prevent waste generation reducing the volumes of waste, to perceive waste as a resource, ensure that waste is not hazardous, as well as reduce the volumes of landfilled waste. The separate collection of household waste shall be specially considered in the current planning period. Therefore, separate collection has been identified as the one of the planned waste management methods, mentioning that as of 2015 municipalities shall establish a system for separate collection of paper, metal, plastic and glass waste [LV WMP 2013].</p> <p>Quantified separate waste collection and recycling/regeneration targets included in the State Waste Management Plan are directly stemming from the EU directives, namely, by 2020, the preparing for reuse and the recycling of paper, metal, plastic and glass waste materials from households and possibly from other origins as far as these waste streams are similar to waste from households, shall be increased to a minimum of overall 50% by weight [LV WMP 2013].</p> <p>As of 2015 all of the waste management regions were required to establish systems for separate collection of waste. To implement the system, the waste managers have established separate waste collection points (which include both – door-to-door collection and containers in publicly available places, as in Latvia they are not observed separately). Also civic amenities were established throughout the country, which along paper, metal, plastic and glass provide the possibility to turn over hazardous household waste, waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) and other household waste types. Separate collection of specific waste types (e.g., WEEE, batteries, end-of-life vehicles, packaging) has been facilitated by producer responsibility system implemented through nature resource tax.</p> <p>Several waste management regions facilitate separate waste collection by providing eco-bags and eco-boxes intended for particular type of waste (paper, plastic, metal) to private houses which are emptied by the waste management company free of charge. Yet the situation differs from region to region and even from municipality to municipality [LV WMP 2013].</p>	

3 Implementation of separate collection

Overview on separate collection systems in place

According to the information provided from Eurostat the **recycling performance in Latvia has increased over time**. In 2008 6.4% of household waste was recycled, in 2009 – 7.7 %, in 2010 – 9.4 %, in 2011 – 9.7 %, and in 2012 – 15.8 %. As to the recycling rate of packaging waste (incl., glass, plastic, paper, metal) in 2008 46.8 % was recycled, in 2009 – 44.9 %, in 2010 – 48.9 %, in 2011 – 50.9 %, and in 2012 – 51.1 % [LV Eurostat].

Separate collection is realised through **different collection types**, where the primary tool is “collection points” - which encompass **bring points - and door-to-door collection, as they are treated as equal**. In some sparsely populated areas separate collection of waste is done through co-mingled containers, requiring separation by the waste collector and covering paper and plastic waste.

In some rather rare cases, bio-waste is collected separately – in such cases special bio-waste garbage bags should be used, and/or containers are installed. In addition, everyone can use civic amenities, which are established in all of the waste regions and provide the possibility to separately hand in not only paper, glass, plastic or metal, but also hazardous household waste (e.g. WEEE, batteries). According to the information provided by the Ministry, in October 2014 the majority of municipalities had separate collection systems in place and **only less than 10 % of municipalities had not implemented separate collection systems** [LV Ministry 2015].

The compulsory development of separate waste collection system in municipalities of Latvia is in force as of January 1, 2015, and this requirement is stemming from the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC. Prior to that separate waste collection was realised on local level on project basis, in most of the cases attracting the financing from structural funds. At the same time the possibility to hand in **separately glass bottles** has been in place for **more than 25 years**. The same is applicable to the **paper waste** [LV Ministry 2015].

Separate waste collection of paper, WEEE and end-of-life batteries is a mandatory requirement in all governmental institutions in the Republic of Latvia. This requirement is established by the Cabinet Order [LV MKR 422/2010]. Some governmental institutions (e.g. Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development) introduce additional separate collection for other waste streams – e.g., glass and PET bottles.

Table 4: Overview of main separate collection systems in LATVIA

Collection type	Paper	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Bio-waste
Door-to-door collection 	Primary	Primary	Primary		Rare (separate bins and bags on demand)
Co-mingled (door-to-door) 	Secondary with plastic (mostly in sparsely populated areas)		Secondary with paper (mostly in sparsely populated areas)		
Bring points 	Primary	Primary	Primary		
Civic amenities 	Additional collection for all streams on top of other waste types, i.e. hazardous waste from households				
Producer/retail take-back 		Beverage bottles - voluntary system by retailers	PET – as voluntary actions by retailers		

4 Information sources

- [LV AAL 2010] Waste Management Law/Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas likums (adopted 28.10.2010.; with last amendments as of 27.03.2014.)
<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=221378>, accessed March 2015.
- [LV Eurostat] Eurostat. Waste statistics.
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environment/waste/main-tables>, accessed March 2015.
- [LV Ministry 2015] Personal interview with the Head of the Environmental Protection Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Mrs. Rudīte Vesere, 06.03.2015.
- [LV MK 184/2013] Cabinet Regulations No. 184 “Regulations Regarding Separate Waste Collection, Preparation for Re-use, Recycling and Material Recovery”/Ministru kabineta noteikumi Nr. 184 “Noteikumi par atkritumu dalītu savākšanu, sagatavošanu atkārtotai izmantošanai, pārstrādi un materiālu reģenerāciju” (adopted 02.04.2013.) <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/256092-noteikumi-par-atkritumu-dalitu-savaksanu-sagatavosanu-atkartotai-izmantosanaiparstradi-un-materialu-regeneraciju>, accessed March 2015.
- [LV MKR 422/2010] Cabinet Order No. 422 “On Management of Waste Paper, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Used Batteries” / Ministru kabineta rīkojums Nr. 422 “Par izlietotā papīra, nolietoto elektrisko un elektronisko iekārtu un nolietoto bateriju un akumulatoru apsaimniekošanu” (adopted 23.07.2010.)
<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=213911>, accessed March 2015.
- [LV WMP 2013] The State Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020/ Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas valsts plans 2013. – 2020. gadam (adopted 21.03.2013.)
<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4276>, accessed March 2015.