



# Grant Programme against Marine Litter – Objectives and Projects with a focus on EPR approaches

Grant Programme against Marine Litter of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Susanne Altvater, ZUG

TouMaLi Conference, 10-11 Oct. 2022



Quelle: Duong Quoc Binh WWF-Viet Nam

# Grant Programme against Marine Litter

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- Since 2019 the Grant Programme against Marine Litter has been funding projects in economically developing, emerging, and transitioning countries (ODA-eligible)
- Project selection through idea competitions in yearly calls for project outlines
- Regional Hubs – Dissemination of knowledge and project results, supporting transformation, South-to-South learning



**40** million euros  
financing volume in  
8 projects since 2019

**20** million euros  
in further **5 projects** are ready  
to proceed

**25** million euros  
were transferred into the  
**PROBLUE Fund** of the World  
Bank

# Thematic Funding Priorities

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Changes in production, sales and consumption that avoid the generation of waste



Establishment of waste management and recycling systems



Reduce input from other, significant point sources



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# Example: TouMaLi



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## TouMaLi – Prevention of Marine Litter in North Africa

### Quick facts

- **Project:** Contribution of a sustainable waste management system in tourism sectors to the protection of marine ecosystems – TouMaLi (Prevention of Tourism Marine Litter)
- **Grant recipient:** University of Rostock, Department of Waste and Resource Management
- **Location:** Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria
- **Duration:** 01.05.2021 until 30.04.2024
- **Measures:** Implementation of sustainable waste management systems in tourist regions of North Africa; Development of a marine litter pollution assessment scheme based on beach litter monitoring; Use and implementation of the 3R rules (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) for material flows at local level
- **Funding volume:** EUR 4.232.000

### Further Information

- [Grant Program against Marine Litter](#)
- [Project Website TouMaLi](#)

- TouMaLi is the first project in Africa
- <https://www.z-u-g.org/en/responsibilities-and-tasks/grant-programme-against-marine-litter/project-overview/toumali/>





# For more information



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## Grant Programme against Marine Litter

The oceans are the planet's largest ecosystems and provide a habitat for a vast number of species. They also provide an important source of food and income for many people. However, these important systems are increasingly threatened by pollution. Every year, around 13 million tonnes of plastic waste are washed into the oceans. Marine animals can mistake this waste for food or become trapped in it, often with lethal consequences. Plastic consumed by marine animals can also enter the human food chain. It is estimated that by 2040, the annual plastic input into the oceans will more than double.

Marine litter is a global problem that can only be solved by international cooperation. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 of the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and several other international agreements highlight the reduction of marine litter as an important contribution for the protection of the marine ecosystems. The German government also placed this topic right at the top of its political agenda during its G7 and G20 presidencies.

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer (BMUV) is supporting the engagement of the German government with its Grant Programme against Marine Litter 'Marine Debris Framework - Regional hubs around the globe' (Marine DePRAG). The main goal of the Grant Programme is to prevent plastic waste at the source. For a long-term, sustainable prevention of marine litter approaches that reduce the generation of plastic waste are particularly important. At the same time, measures that establish and improve functioning waste management and recycling systems in the short term are also needed.

The Grant Programme focuses on less economically developed countries and emerging markets. In addition to regions from which rivers transport plastic from the interior of a country into the oceans, focus lies on coastal regions and island nations. Furthermore, in order to achieve an effective, global reduction of marine litter projects can also be funded in regions where comparatively few activities to prevent marine litter have been carried out yet.

The Grant Programme funds projects that support technological cooperation and investment, the implementation of policies and strategies, as well as political consulting and capacity building.

### Who is eligible for funding?

Application for funding can be submitted by German federal implementing and non-governmental organisations, companies, universities and research institutions, as well as German subsidiaries of international and multilateral organisations and institutions, which are registered in Germany. They must have a demonstrated expertise in implementing projects in less economically developed countries and emerging markets, as well as in the areas of product development, supply chain management, circular economy and/or waste management. Individuals are not eligible for funding, nor are governments entitled to receive direct funding.

ZUG gGmbH is the responsible project sponsor. The next funding window will open in autumn 2022. From then on, applications can be submitted to the ZUG.

### Contact

[marine-litter@z-ug.org](mailto:marine-litter@z-ug.org)

### Project Overview

### Documents & application

[Project outline forms](#)

[Funding guidelines](#)

[Safeguards](#)

[easy-Online application form \(in German\)](#)

[Factsheet Marine Litter](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[All documents in German](#)

### Further information

[press release: call for funding under grant programme against marine litter](#)

[BMUV website: Marine Environmental Protection](#)

[press release: G7 countries outline measures against marine litter](#)

[RETech Conference on Marine Litter](#)

[Information about ODA](#)

Next round of projects: starting end of 2022 with four projects in Africa: South Africa, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria (and the others in Guatemala, Ecuador and Brazil)

Next call: 7 Nov 2022

<https://www.z-ug.org/en/responsibilities-and-tasks/grant-programme-against-marine-litter/>



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# Some EPR approaches of funded projects



# BMUV global sector project Marine Litter (2020-2023)

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## BMUV global sector project Marine Litter (2020-2023)

- GLZ aims to provide the BMUV with needs-based support services
- Example: study “Assessing the impact of EPR on marine plastic packaging generation”



# BMUV global sector project Marine Litter (2020-2023)



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- Some findings:

Mandatory EPR to create a measurable impact

Additional action: Implementing specific measures for specific actions

Integrate the informal sector

Effective monitoring is key

-> No one single, most effective set-up for EPRs to prevent marine litter

Setting up a nation-wide system

Incooperate marine litter reduction into targets

Additional measures: Implement additional measures, e.g. EPR gear for fishing gear

Implementing EPR for all packaging materials



# India - Circular Economy Solutions Preventing Marine Litter in Ecosystems (2020-2023)



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- India remains one of the world's largest producers of plastic and sources of marine litter
- Demonstrate and implement approaches for reducing, reusing and recycling plastics and support the implementation of EPR for plastics
- Involvement of private-sector actors, such as recyclers and the packaging industry

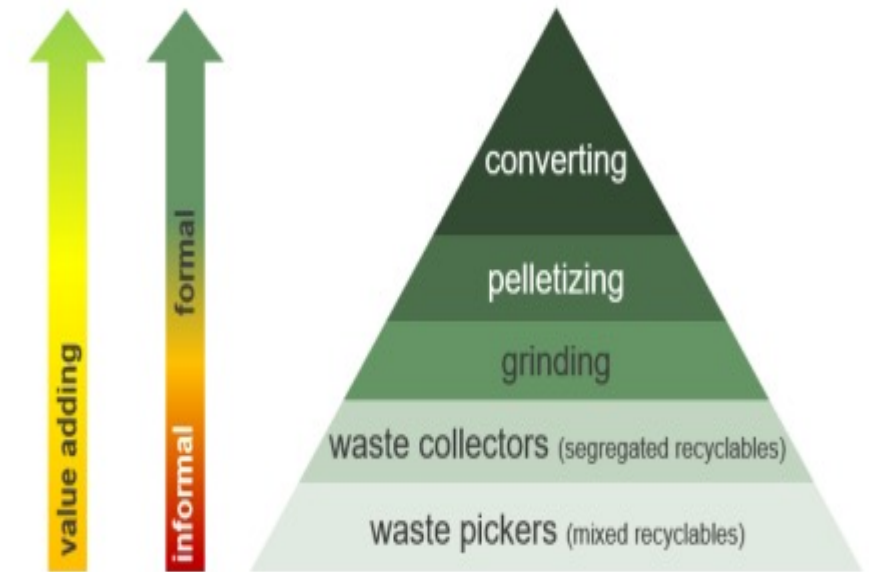


# India - Circular Economy Solutions Preventing Marine Litter in Ecosystems (2020-2023)



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- particular effort to involve the informal sector, since the entire system of collection, sorting and processing residential waste depends largely on its work



Informal activities in waste management

Source: EPR scheme assessment report, WWF, 2021



# India - Circular Economy Solutions Preventing Marine Litter in Ecosystems (2020-2023)



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Steps to integrate currently informally operating companies as business partners in EPR systems:

- Trust building on the system and the necessary service areas
- Professional monitoring and legal advice
- Concluding service agreements for business partners

Informal sector	Integration as business partners
Uncertain commercial base	Fixed service agreements
Uncertain marketing conditions	Reliable acceptance of recyclables
Uncertain situation for employees/workers	Improvement of employee situation
High operational risks	Risk minimisation
Vulnerability to unfair business practices	Controlled business practices
No tax payments (potentially payments for operation to other informal landlords or stakeholders)	Tax payments
No reporting obligations to public authorities	Reporting obligations to public authorities (can be very time-consuming and cumbersome)
No obligations to provide access to healthcare and social welfare to workers/employees	Should provide access to healthcare and social welfare to individual workers/employees

Source: EPR scheme assessment report, WWF, 2021

# Vietnam – Mitigating Marine Plastic Debris (2019-2023)

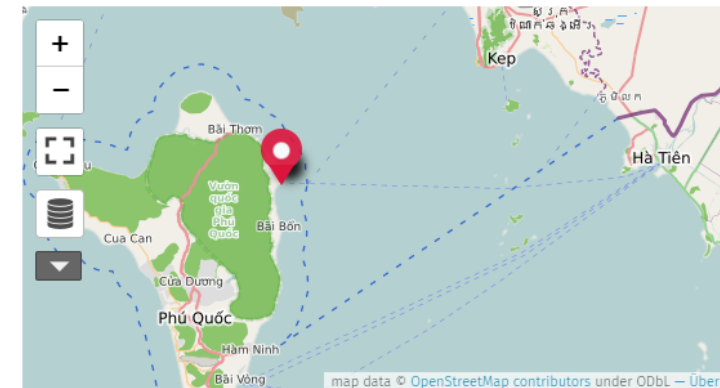


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- Worldwide, Vietnam one of the five biggest polluters of plastic marine litter
- A campaign to reduce plastic waste at national and provincial level to raise awareness of the problem and encourage changes in behaviour
- Providing support to towns and cities for the design and implementation of waste management concepts
- Using several pilot projects in protected marine areas to demonstrate the development and operation of an improved waste management system.

## Community-based waste management in Da Chong

On the island of Phú Quốc, the rural coastal town of Da Chong has introduced a community-based waste management system and run a beach cleaning campaign to raise awareness about the problem of marine litter.



Source: EPR scheme assessment report, WWF, 2021



# Vietnam – Mitigating Marine Plastic Debris (2019-2023)



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## Proposal of a customized EPR system enforcement for Vietnam

- Create registers for producer and importer to be able to calculate and allocate the EPR fees (and a 2<sup>nd</sup> register for WM actors)
- Enable strict monitoring: due to Vietnam's significant waste imports from other countries -> important to ensure that payments are only made for processing domestic waste and that recyclers clearly keep materials of different origin separated in documentation and operationalisation
- Supervision of the PRO and the fulfilment of its responsibilities is in hands of public authorities
- Anchor standards in a legal framework



Sorted plastic fractions in bales

Source: EPR scheme assessment report, WWF, 2021



# Vietnam – Mitigating Marine Plastic Debris (2019-2023)



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## Proposal of a EPR scheme framework for Vietnam:

- Mandatory EPR scheme
- EPR scheme for all consumer packaging materials and specified non-packaging plastic items
- Joint management of Vietnam Environment Protection Fund (state-led) and industry-led PRO
- Modulated fees enable a steered recycling market through application of reduced EPR fees for high-value recyclable packaging (bonus) and an increased fee for low-value packaging (to be paid by companies)
- Strict monitoring and enforcement systems



Manual sorting of household packaging waste  
Source: EPR scheme assessment report, WWF, 2021

# Caribbean Sea – Prevention of Marine Litter (2021-2024)

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- Implementation of circular pilot solutions and establish systems of Extended Producer Responsibility in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia and with support of the Cartagena Secretariat
- Strengthening the capacities of political partners at local and national level
- Creation of sustainable structures at the municipal level and development of sustainable sources of financing





# EPR approaches of the European Union



# EPR approaches of the European Union

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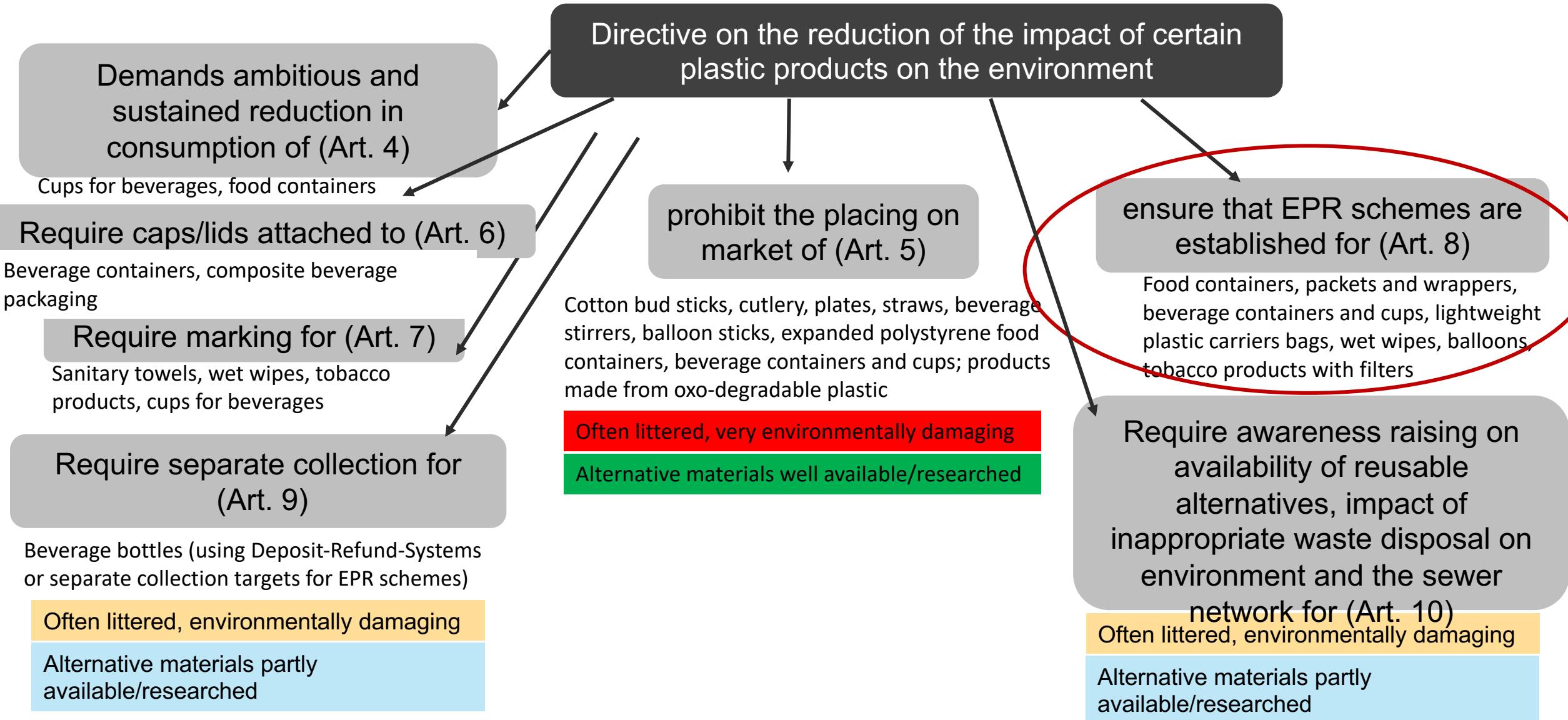
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- Several regulations to set up systems for the return and collection of used packaging (Plastic Packaging Waste Directive) or to address specifically marine litter (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)
- EPR with first systems implemented 1993
  - > recovery targets are set at EU level, compliance at national level
- Some countries run one single scheme to organise recovery of packaging (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden)
- Others allow for competition within different systems (Austria, Germany, Portugal)



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# New regulation: Single-Use Plastic Directive, 2019





## Thoughts on the installation of a Waste-Prevention Fund

- Fund addresses cost coverage for items outlined in Art. 8 but goes beyond for further SUP waste related activities:
  - Cleaning up litter, including transport and treatment of collected litter
  - Awareness raising measures (all products)
  - Waste collection for those products that are discarded in public collection systems (food containers, beverage containers, cups)
  - Data gathering and reporting (wet wipes, tobacco product filters)

# EPR in the Single-Use Plastic Directive



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## The fund's general idea:

- Producers pay contributions into the fund. These contributions are designed to incentivise producers to foster waste and litter prevention, better eco-design and reusable products
- It allows public authorities to receive compensation from the fund-to-fund waste prevention activities and SUP re-use as well as the SUP waste management activities, cleans-ups and infrastructures



# EPR in the Single-Use Plastic Directive

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## The fund's organisation:

- Producers are paying participation fees for their packaging to Producer responsibility organisations (PROs)
- The PRO's pay the amount collected from its members into the fund where they are available for various measures conducted by public authorities
- Public authorities take on a stronger role
  - by being responsible for collecting fees from producers
  - by redistributing the collected money to the actors responsible for waste management



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# EPR in the Single-Use Plastic Directive

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## Addressing issues of free-riding

- Producers that do not pay fees and do not comply with all obligations pose a serious issue in EPR implementation
  - Especially complicated for identification are online sales without a legal entity in the country of purchase
- > Determining appropriate EPR fees, clearly scoping products falling under an EPR scheme and providing easily available information on EPR obligations
- > Better than penalising free riding
- > Design measures before and after free riding has happened



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# EPR in the Single-Use Plastic Directive

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## How to calculate the financial contributions of producers?

- true cost principle (actual costs related to end-of-life management of a product)
- Regarding litter management costs, producers do not want to pay for consumer behaviour leading to litter-> but SUP-D decided at the expense of producers



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# EPR in the Single-Use Plastic Directive

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## How to calculate the financial contributions of producers?

- Two approaches under discussion:
  - Determining a percentage share per product based on the quantities of products that a producer places on the market in a country
  - Determining a percentage share per product based on clean-up monitoring data of littered items found on beaches, along shores, along rivers..



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## How to calculate the financial contributions of producers?

- Second approach more challenging: what means the term “clean-up”?
- Study (ICF and Eunomia, 2018) calculates compliances costs for EPR cost coverage for different SUP-products by dividing the SUP-product specific overall costs by the respective number of SUP-products sold on EU markets in a base year
- A range from 0.2% for food containers to 2.6% for wet wipes
- These compliance costs do not include full environmental impact costs of the products
- Suggestion: financial contributions should be determined based on all end-of-life management costs, including costs that municipalities bear to manage those SUP products discarded in public collection system or littered.



# Thank you!

**For further questions on the grant programme on  
Marine Litter:**

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