

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

UNU-VIE SCYCLE

Sustainable Cycles Programme

Study Update

WEEE Recycling Economics – The shortcomings of the current business model?

EERA meeting – June 29, 2017

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Contents



- Approach
- Status
- Survey approach:
 - The economics of WEEE treatment
 - Influence of scavenging products and components
- Costs and benefits of certification
- Practical arrangements and Q&A

Approach





Phase 1 Baseline and survey economic data



NDA: Signed for Stena and Indumetal, not yet for NOEX and other German recyclers

Data exchange: Indumetal next week, Stena from tomorrow, no exchange with German recyclers yet

Phase 2 survey (scavenging)

- A few additional NDA's for phase 2 as well
- Survey response now 9+1 from 31 = 30%
- Also translated into:
 - ENG original: <u>https://goo.gl/forms/NEiL1tqOWUZ5ziVk1</u>
 - FRA: <u>https://goo.gl/forms/pgBGgB5omqGqSbNG2</u>
 - ESP: <u>https://goo.gl/forms/MnIZYHzIPoIOHTfx2</u>
 - DEU: (almost finished): not yet final, one more check



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New deadline: July 14

Timing and Gantt - 2017



2017	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Meetings		30-Mar			07-Jun			28-Sep		30-Nov	
PHASE 1: Baseline			l								
Data Gap Analysis, review existing studies					1						
Preparation of Survey					1						
Survey, analysis of (past) treatment costs		survey response			1						
PHASE 2: Analysis of economics and scenarios											
Definition and analysis of minimal technical costs					1						
Drivers for and analysis of non-compliant treatment				_	1						
Scenario analysis for 2015-2020											
PHASE 3: Recommendations and long term strategy											
Conclusions											
Recommendations re:											
Report Finalisation, Executive Summary, Presentation											

3 physical meetings planned: March 30, June 29 and November 30 10 regular telcons planned. Shall we report also in the September 29 meeting?





In comparison to the **significant negative economic impact** of WEEE illegal trade, **reducing** the current **financial pressure** for law enforcement should be considered, the cost/ benefit ratio may be **very attractive**.

Is there a similar attractive ratio between:

The cost of WEEELABEX certification and the environmental and economic advantages?

From a macro-economic point of view:

€300-600 million

€200-500 million

due to **bad disposal** behaviour consumers

Of scavenging of valuable components, only considering compressors from temperature exchange equipment, hard disks, memory and other small IT components



represents the intrinsic material value not available for compliant processing in Europe

+ 150 to 600 M € in avoided compliance costs

Certification costs are about **10% of avoided compliance** costs and 3% of total missed opportunity costs



From a micro-economic point of view (small recyclers)

Technical costs	(€/ton)					
Category (Annex III of WEEE Directive)	Collection	Logistics	Treatment	Estimated certification costs for a small recycler*	% of absolute turnover	
C&F	45	95	105	3	1%	
SHA	50	65	-10	9	7%	

*1 Recurring costs at € 15,000 for 5,000 tons/yr for C&F, initial certification costs may be higher
*2 Recurring costs at € 9,000 for 1,000 tons/yr for SHA, initial certification costs may be higher, worst case scenario

Source: Countering WEEE Illegal Trade – Deliverable 4.3 Dynamics of the WEEE Stream (restricted to law enforcement agencies, EERA)

Recurring certification costs are typically 1% - 3% of turnover

Q&A, practical next steps

Phase 1 Exchange of data should start a.s.a.p.

- Phase 2 Quality of collection survey deadline July 14
- Report again at the September EERA meeting?

