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ACR+

The role of Local and Regional Authorities in engaging citizens

LOCAL USED TEXTILE MANAGEMENT

General lack of data and information

In many territory, the focus is on reusable textiles managed by social economy companies...

...but other territories use different systems (all textile waste, municipal or private collectors, etc.)

Many challenges hindering the current systems and performances

Local governance by public authority is not necessarily implemented

THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR USED TEXTILE MANAGEMENT

DIFFERENT ROLES...

Governance

Management
/ operation

Textile waste /
all used textile

Awareness
raising

...CONNECTED WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

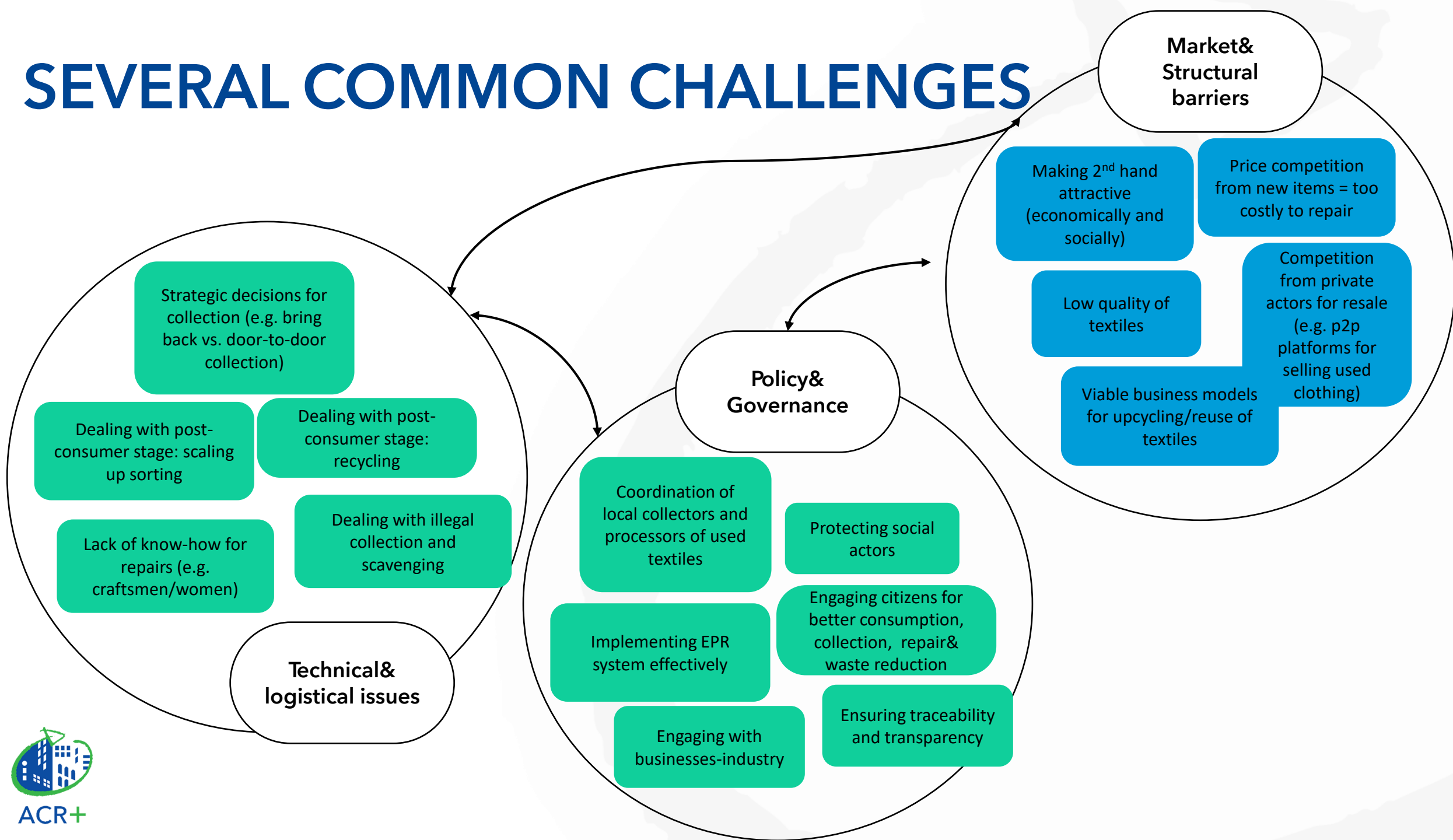
Waste
operators

Re-use
organisation /
social economy

Second-hand
shops

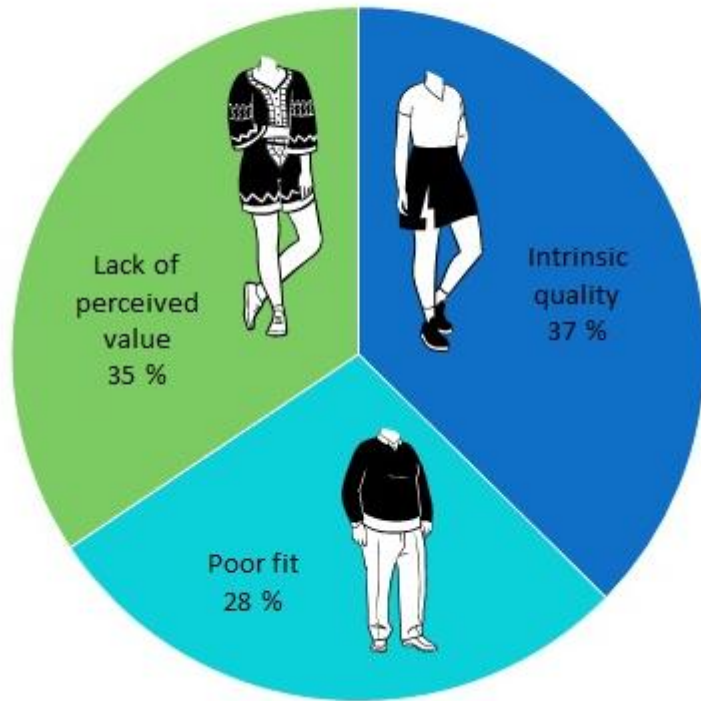
EPR schemes

SEVERAL COMMON CHALLENGES

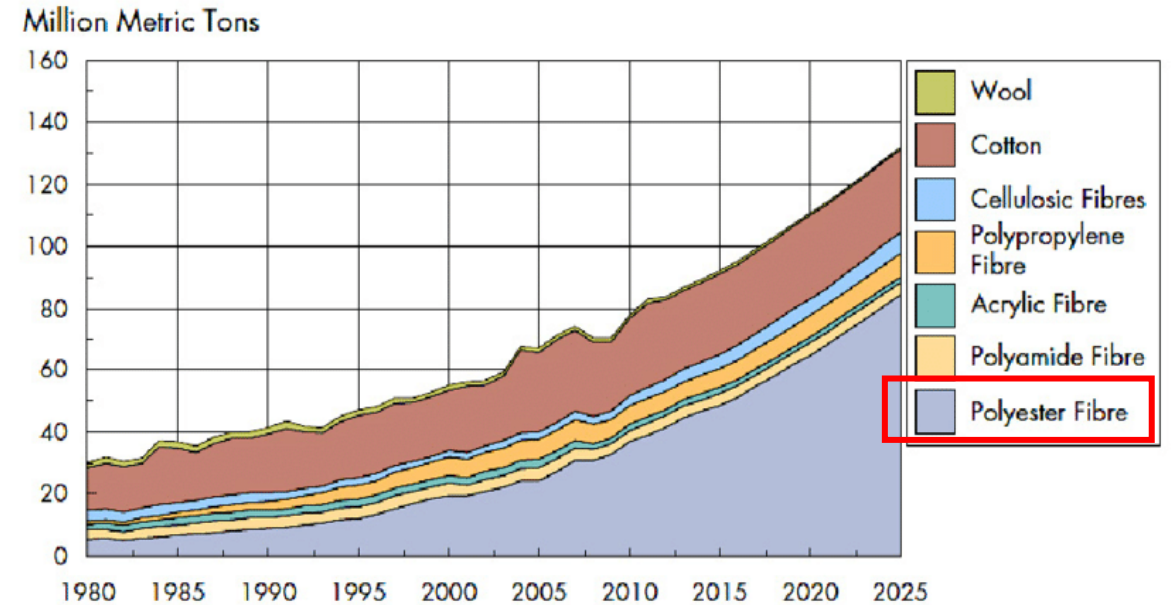


MORE COMPLEXITY...

Main reasons for clothing disposal



Source: Laitala & Klepp, 2022



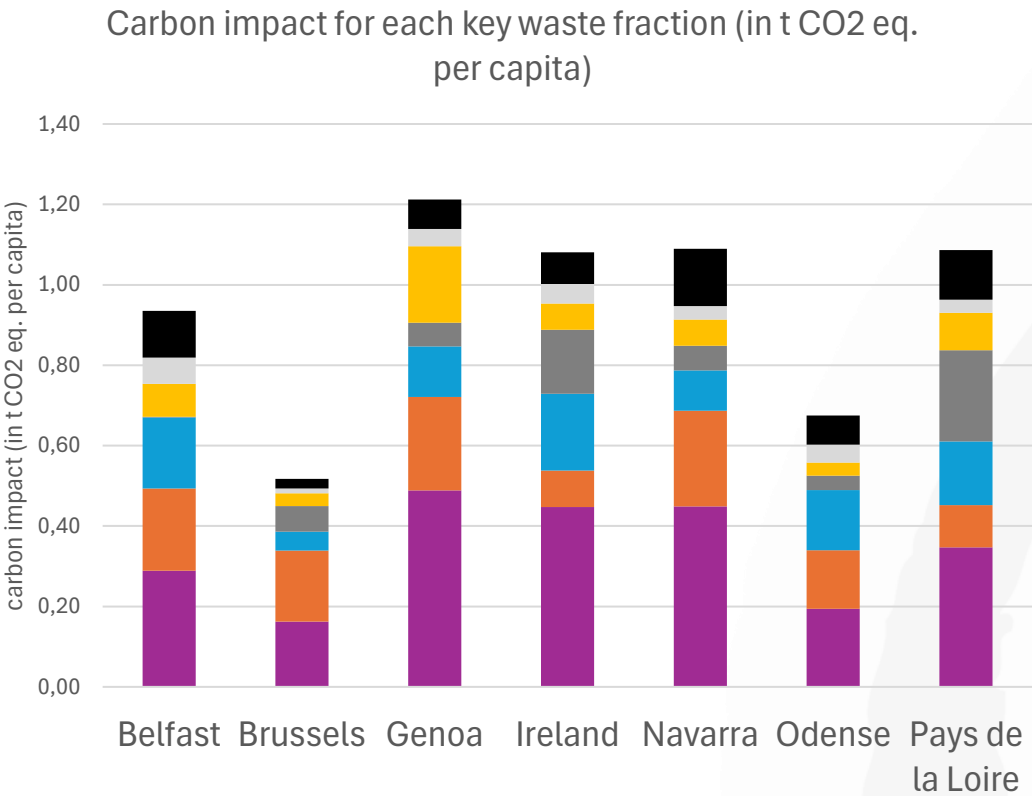
World fibre production 1980-2025 Source: Tecon OrbiChem

■ Consumption patterns:

- New acquisitions not driven by replacement
- No link between durability and longer usage
- Second-hand purchases not necessarily reducing new purchases
- Consumption driven by many different factors
- Part of the acquisitions not part of traditional purchases (direct donations, gifts, etc.)

- ## ■ Usage patterns
- (number of wears, cleaning habits, repair habits, etc.) are also complex and driven by various parameters, also depending on the type of clothing/usage

WHY DOES IT MATTER?



Textiles

Mixed

Other

Food waste

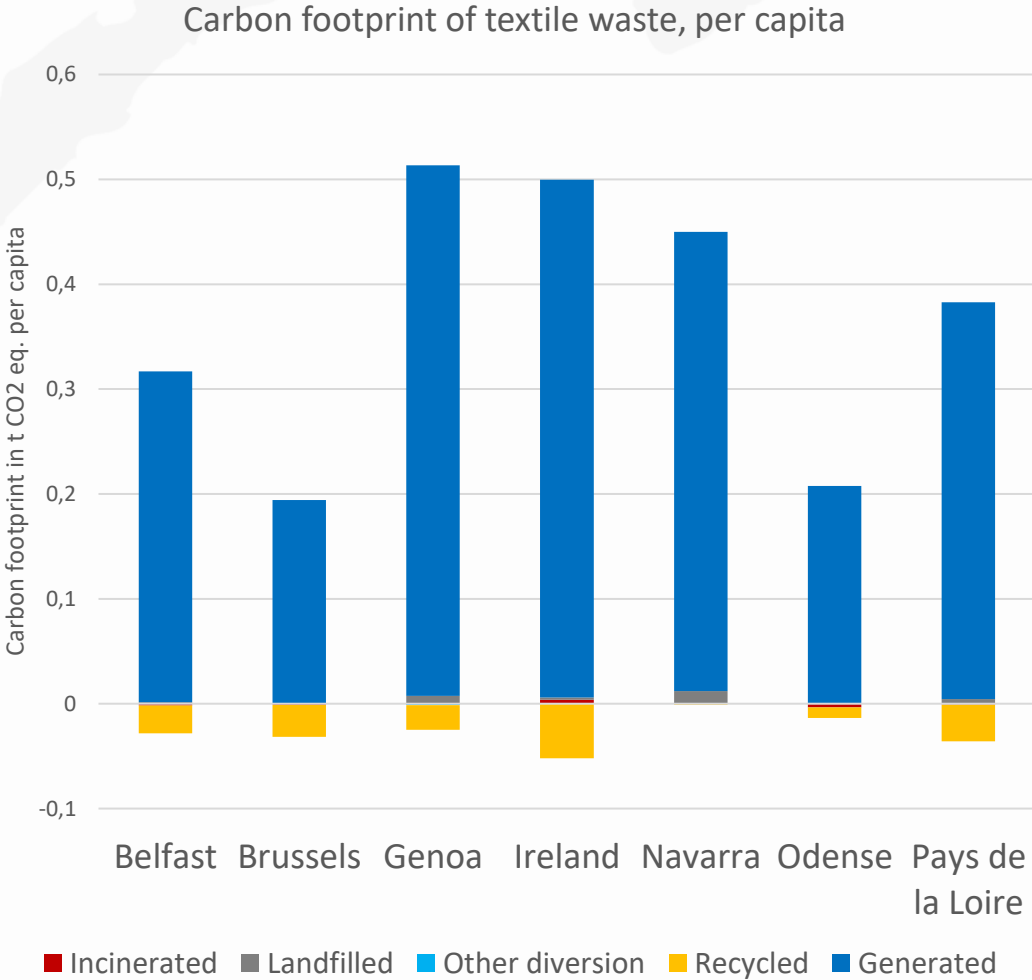
Paper and Cardboard

Plastic

Metal



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Incinerated Landfilled Other diversion Recycled Generated

ENGAGING CITIZENS - TO DO WHAT ?



COMMUNICATION!

- Textile's consumption patterns are quite specific ([The Nordic Textile Collaboration's wardrobe survey](#))
- Used textile: an “infrequently produced” waste with a specific status
- Lack of knowledge on sorting instructions or what textiles can be “re-usable”
- Sometimes difficult to identify the different collection schemes available

Understand users' perception and behaviours

Difficulties to explain changes in sorting instructions or parallel schemes

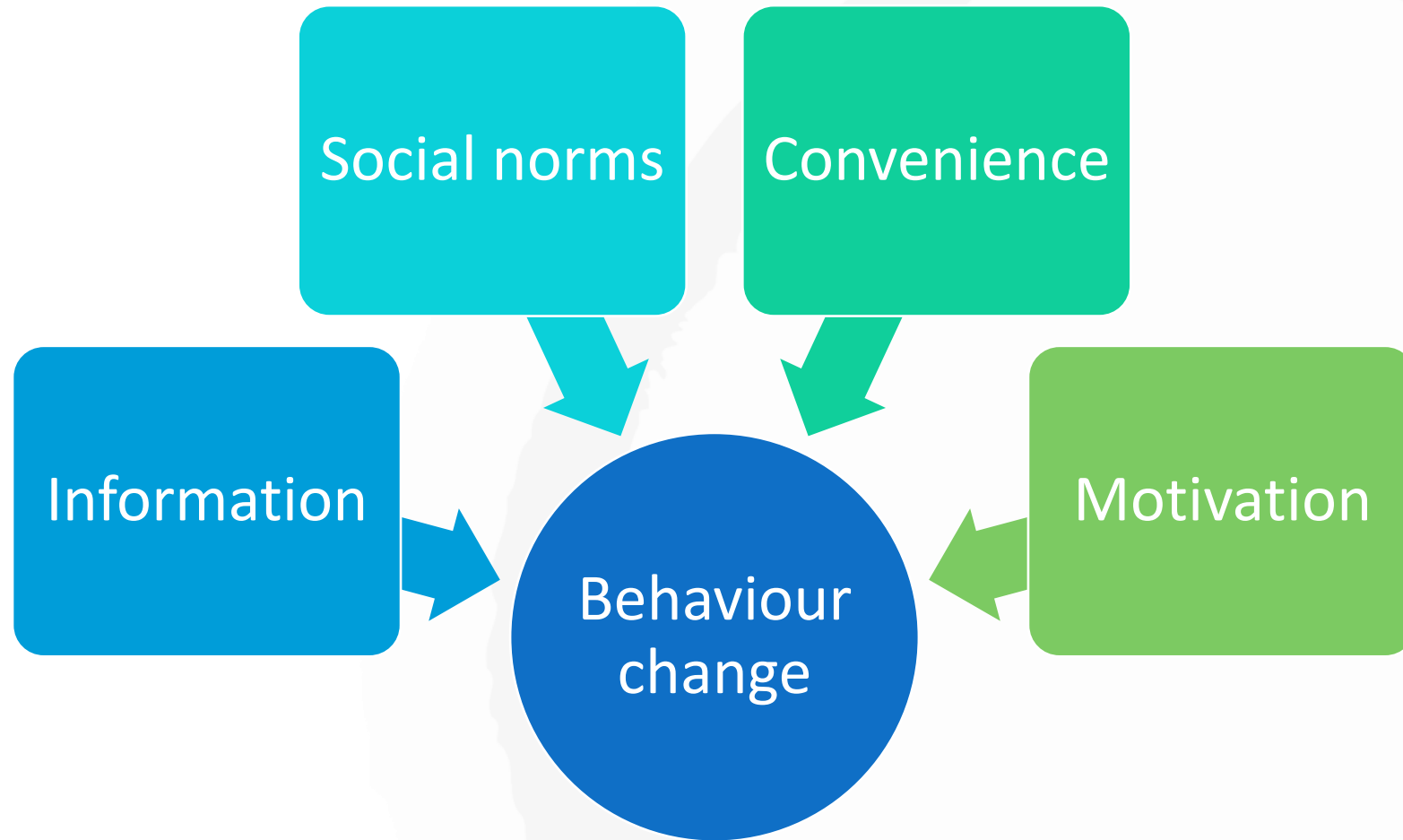
Communicate on the positive social and environmental impact

Transparency on the destination of used textiles

Sustainable consumption, use, and second-hand textiles

Limit on what consumers can decide

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION REQUIRES MORE THAN JUST COMMUNICATION



ENABLING THE “RIGHT FRAMEWORK”

Promote repair and product care

- Train citizens on identifying what can be repaired and how to do it
- Inform on repair services
- Economic incentives (repair vouchers and bonus?)

Support local used textile management organisations

- Take advantage of local existing experiences, explore synergies among the different local players
- Guarantee their economic sustainability

Ensure the right service to citizens for used textiles

- Collection mode matching inhabitants' constraints, quality of service, transparency
- Consistency and clarity for users/citizens: visual identity, sorting guidelines, etc.

Support second-hand shops?

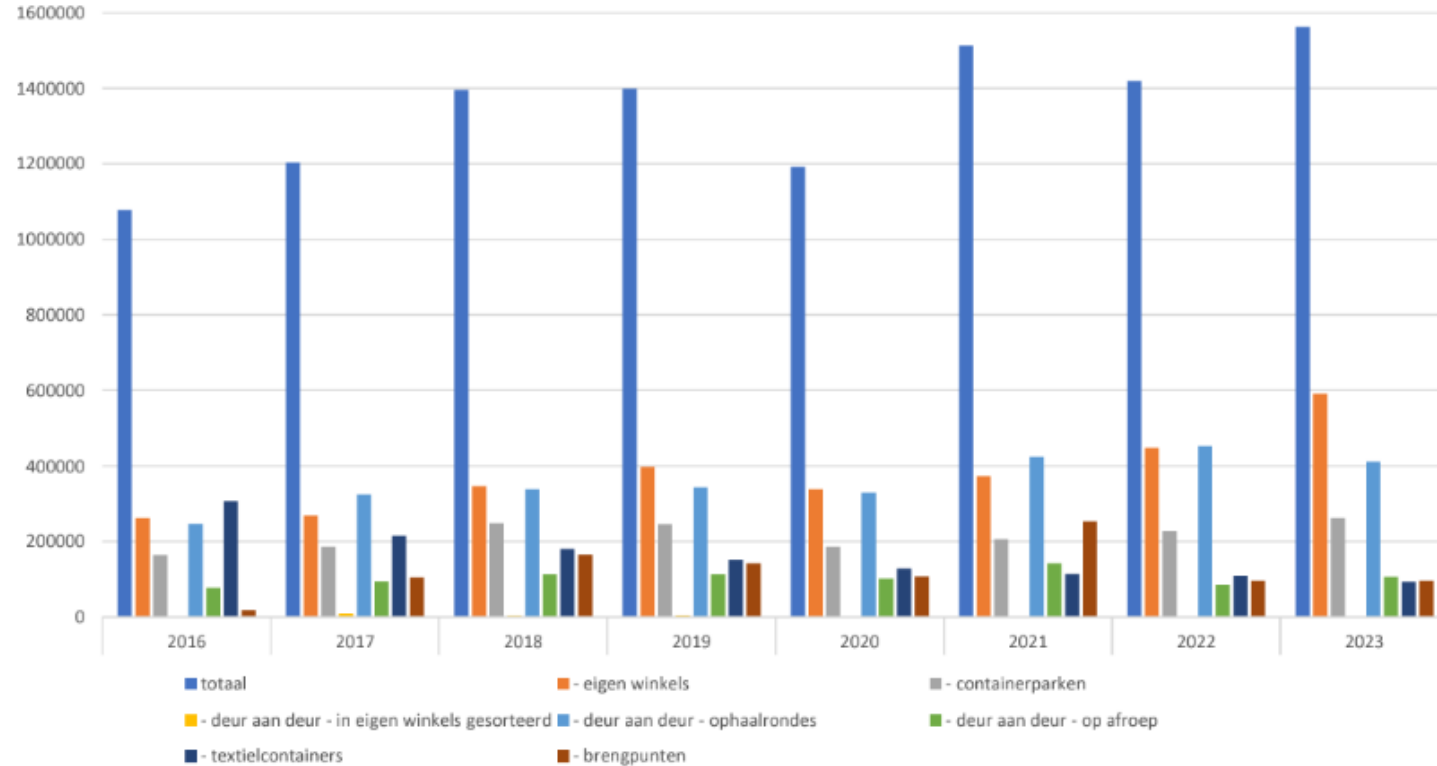


In Rotterdam (NL), fruitful cooperation between the municipality and a local charity organisation



In Antwerp (BE), local organisations joining forces under a common system and brand

COLLECTION MODES? THE CASE OF ANTWERP



Phasing out textile banks and increasing collection in shops and door-to-door scheme

THE NEED FOR THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK ALSO FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

An unfavourable context

- Increasing flow of low-quality, plastic-based textiles leading to more consumption and more waste
- A re-use sector in jeopardy facing higher operational costs, lower recovery routes and revenues, and fierce competition
- High-quality recycling not yet available

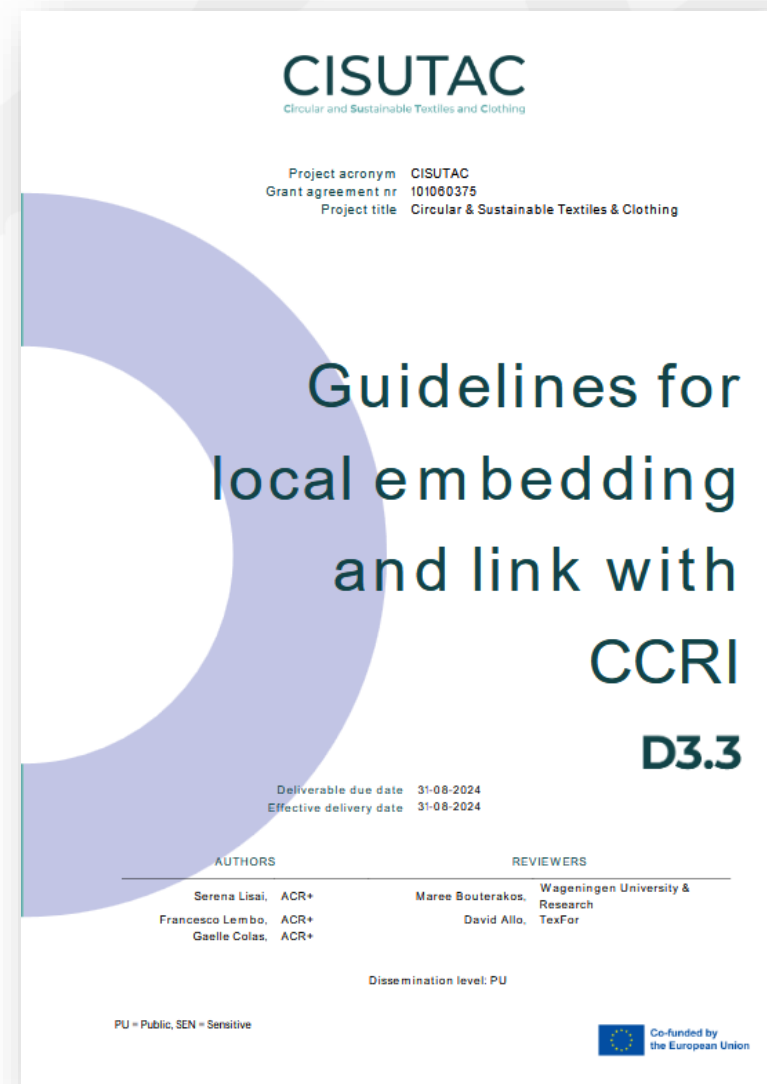
The need for transitional economic instruments

- EPR systems supporting the transition to a more circular used textile organisation
- Eco-modulated fees supporting eco-designed products and limiting quantities put on the market
- Support to re-use that yields the main environmental and social benefits

Additional legal and economic instruments?



MORE RESOURCES





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Thank you for
your attention!

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