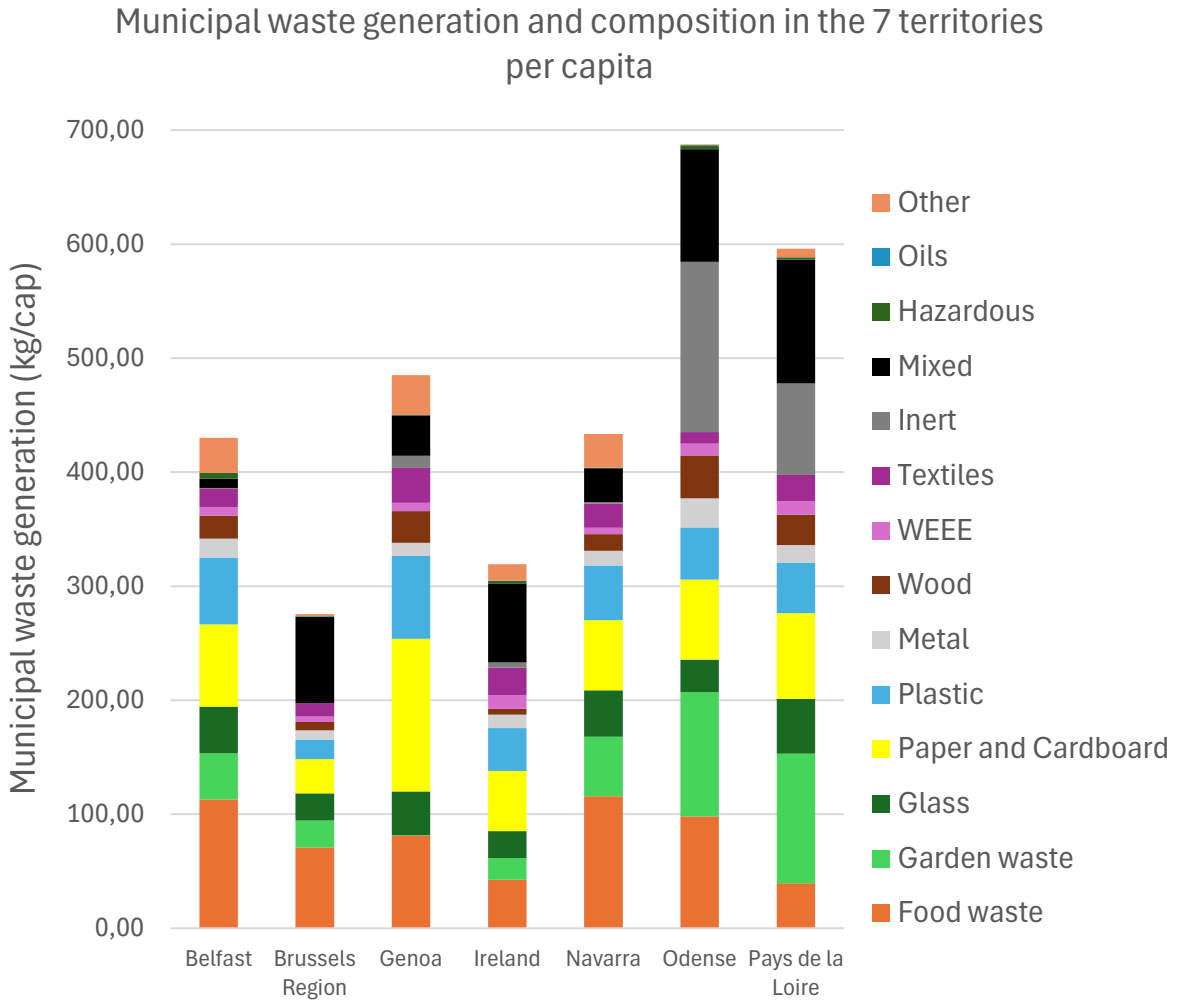
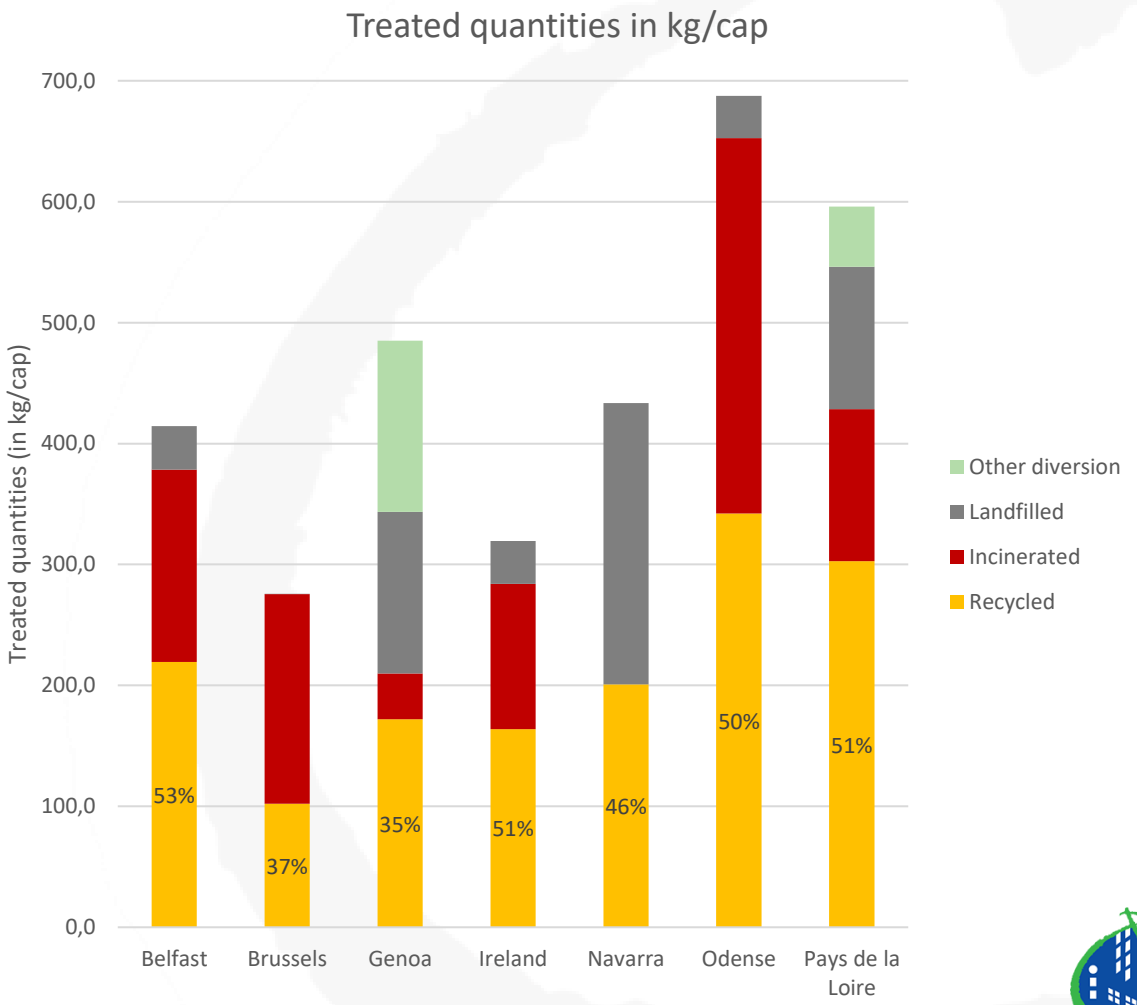
RESULTS OF THE MORE CIRCULARITY, LESS CARBON CAMPAIGN

Jean-Benoit Bel | ACR+
www.acrplus.org

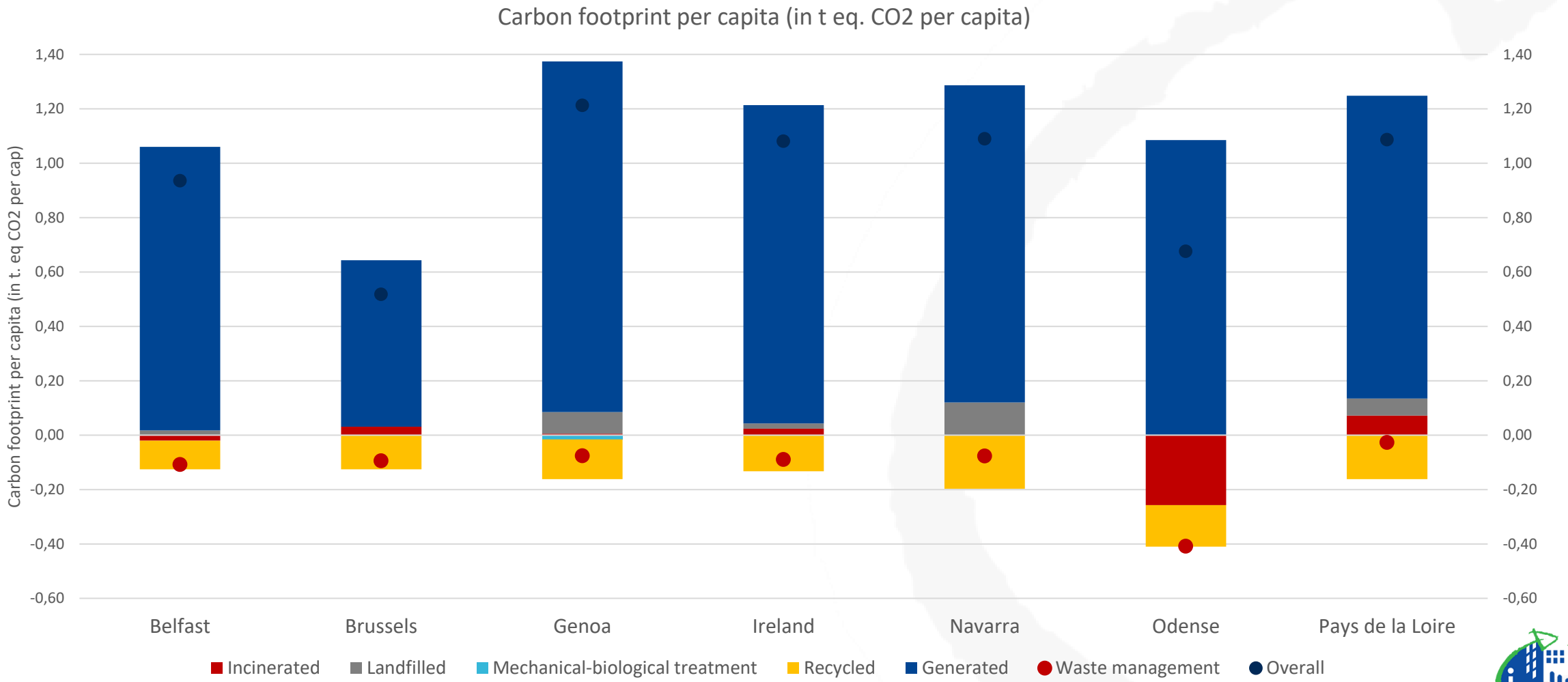
DIFFERENT WASTE MANAGEMENT



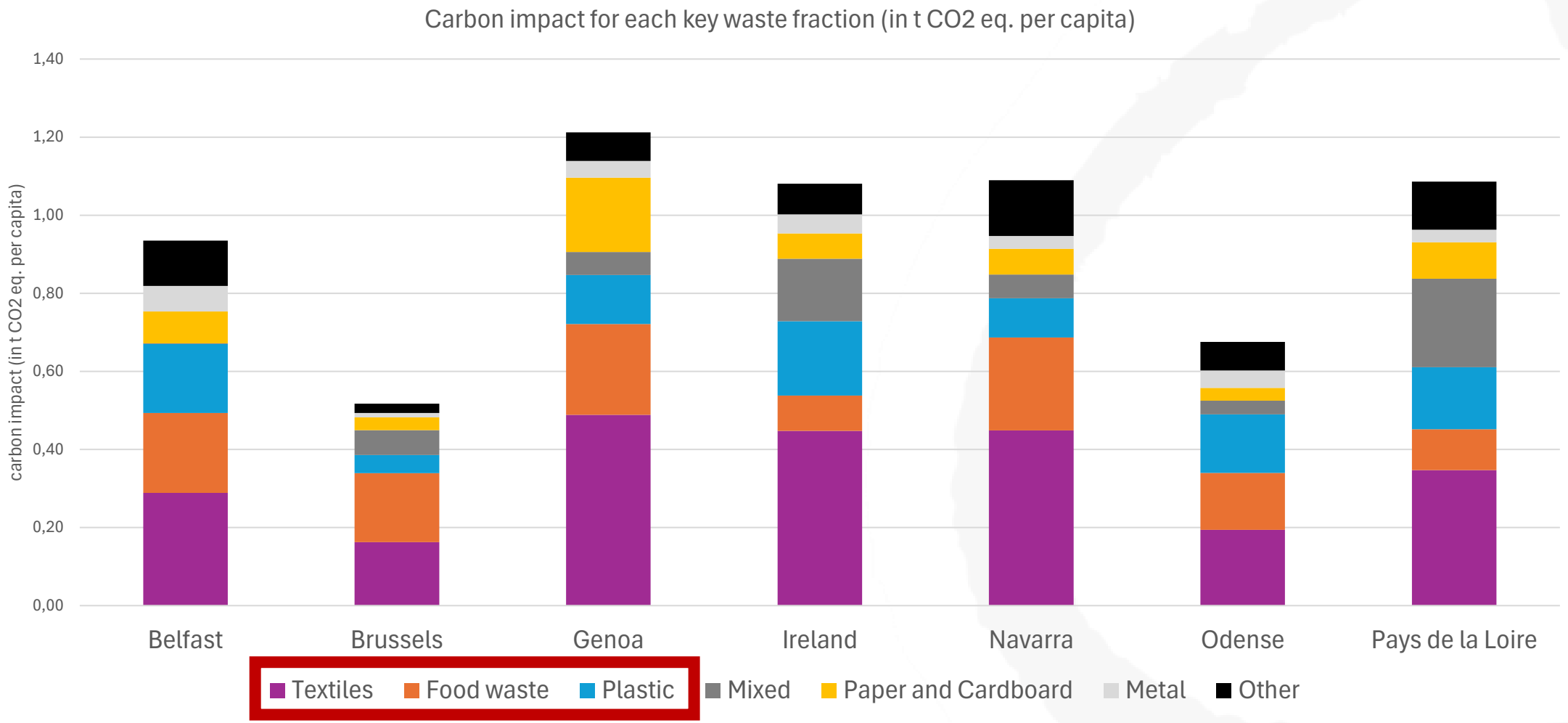


ACR+

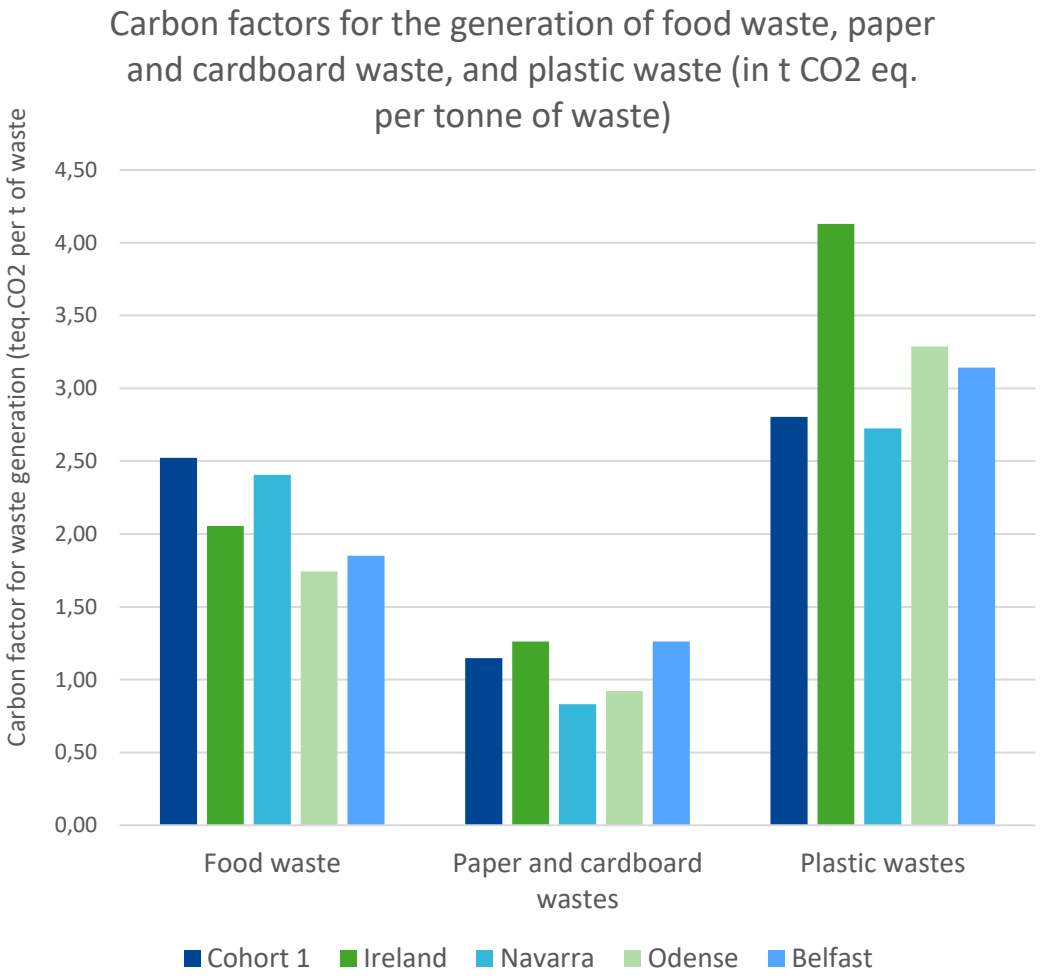
OVERALL CARBON FOOTPRINT

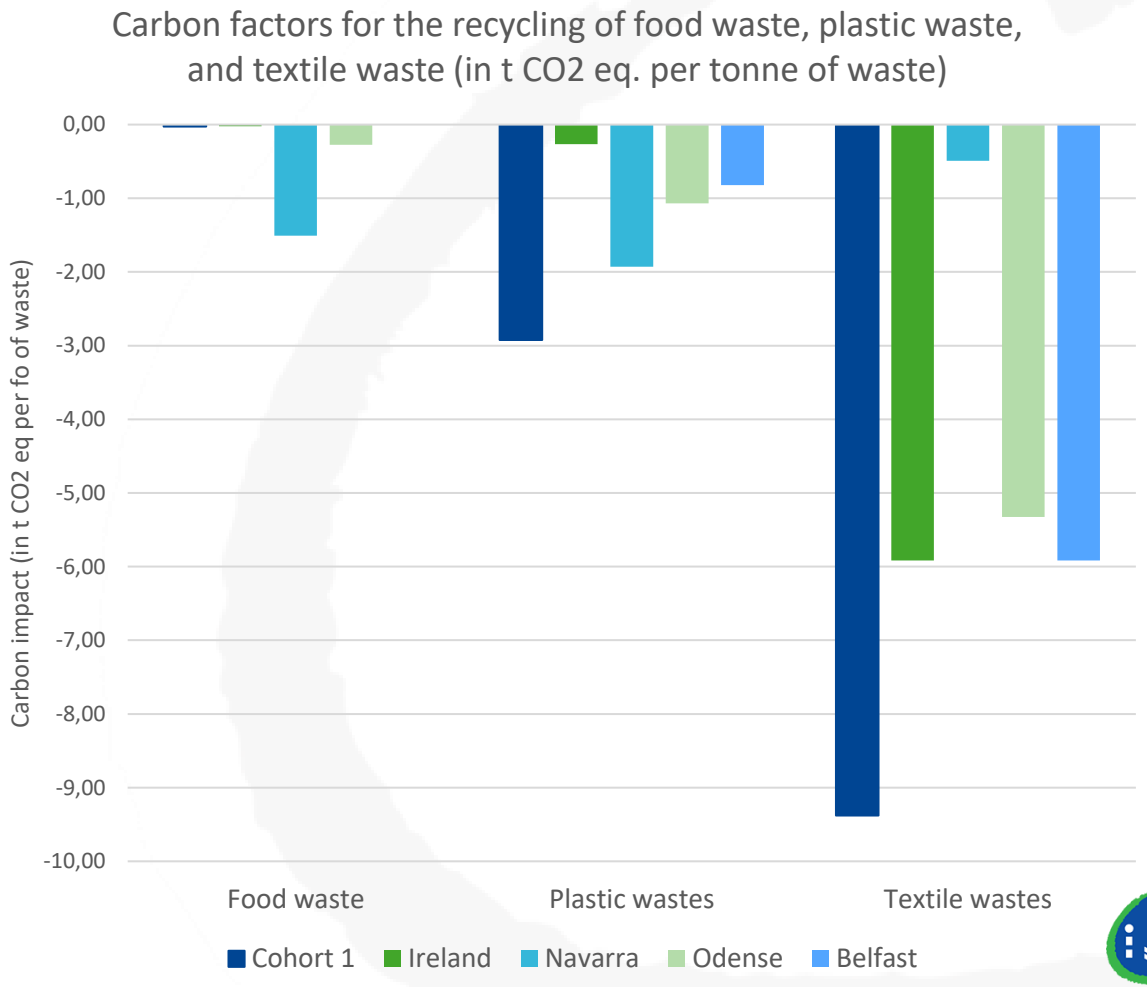


IMPACTFUL FRACTIONS



DIFFERENT CARBON FACTORS





ACR+

KEY CONCLUSIONS

SOME SIMILARITIES

- Dominating impact of waste generation
- Common critical waste fractions: textile, plastic, food
- Waste management has a small, mostly positive impact

SOME NUANCED RESULTS

- The carbon footprint differs depending on the fraction, with recycling having a more or less impactful contribution
- Several local factors impacts the carbon footprint of municipal waste (energy, composition, etc.)
- Some aspects of waste management do have an impact: treatment of residual waste, recycling routes, re-use

SOME LIMITS

- Underreported quantities (WEEE, textiles)
- Lack of data on the actual composition of critical fractions
- Lack of data on recycling and recovery routes

ACR+

REACHING -25% ?

- **Focus on key fractions** : food waste, textile waste, plastic waste
- Focus on **prevention** and **re-use**
- Need for **very ambitious targets**: if focus on 3 key fractions, then reduction targets should be set between 30% and 50% depending on the territories
- **Recycling will help, but will not be sufficient**: in Belfast, increasing the recycling rates of plastic, food, and glass waste up to 90% would lead to a -10% reduction of the carbon footprint
- Some interventions on eco-design and production processes **out of the scope of local and regional authorities**

ACR+

MORE CONCRETE ACTIONS

Reducing food waste

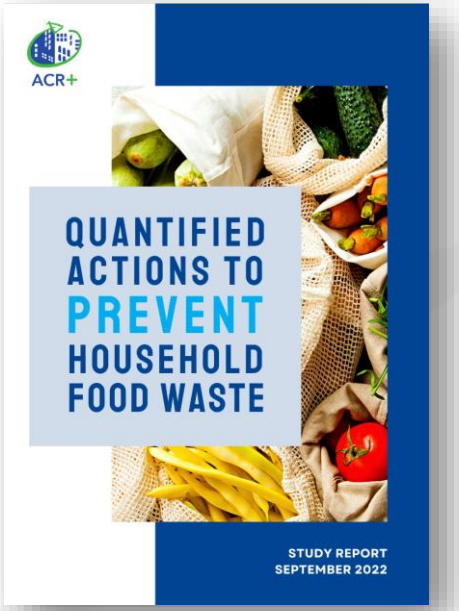
- Setting ambitious food waste prevention strategies as part of food strategies
- Improving food labelling
- Promote self assessment of food waste
- Develop a quantitative monitoring system
- Promote food donation

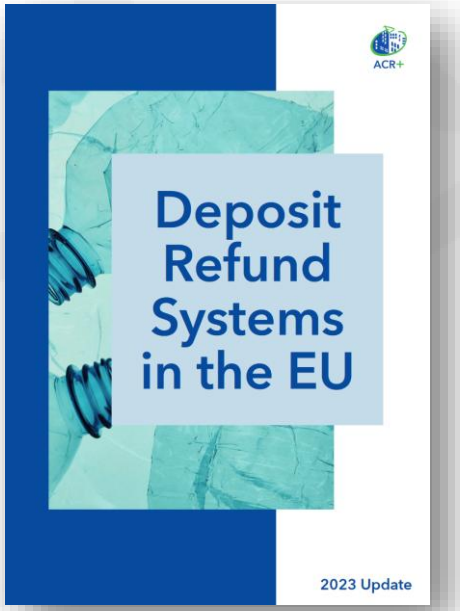
Improve textile waste management

- Setting a real local governance with clear targets and responsibilities
- Strengthen existing collection schemes and address underperformances
- Promote second-hand purchasing and players
- Wait for an EPR system to extend collection to all textiles
- Circular tender for professional textiles (including GPP)

Improve plastic waste management and prevention

- Ensure quality of sorted fractions
- Door to door collection and PAYT schemes tend to give higher yields
- DRS gives the highest collection rates
- Regional policies can promote reuse (e.g. in HORECA sector) or bans several single-use plastics (disposable cups in public events and administrations, etc.)





ACR+

CONCLUSIONS

- **Waste generation and composition** condition its carbon footprint
- Waste management has a limited impact, but improving both quantities captures, and the **actual recycling routes** do have a certain potential
- **Following the waste hierarchy** generally lead to more carbon savings.
- **Local and regional authorities do have a role to play**, even if many other essential interventions fall out of their scope
- **Envisioning waste management within a circular economy approach is a proper way to ensure that it delivers better performances in terms of climate change mitigation**

ACR+

BEYOND THE RESULTS ?

- Key similarities are likely to be **transferable** to other contexts
- Reconsidering the weight-based approach is necessary, but **challenging to operationalise**
- Priority actions might be **out of the scope of waste management policies**, or even **out of reach of the local organisation**
- How to promote waste strategies aligned with climate change mitigation in **absence of legally-binding targets on the top priorities?**

ACR+

Thanks !

www.acrplus.org

@ACRplus

Jean-Benoît Bel

jbb@acrplus.org