



# **EPRO**

## **Plastics recycling in Europe**

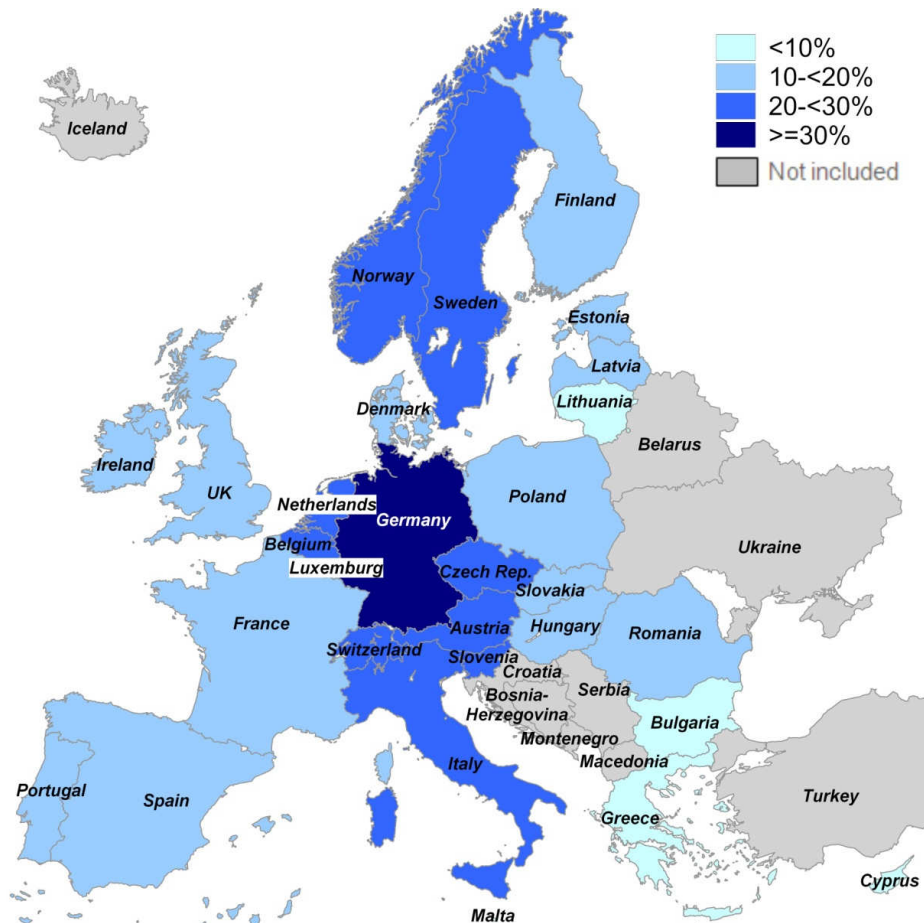
F. Huysman

Co-Chairman of EPRO



# Europe – different solutions

## Plastics recycling ratio per country



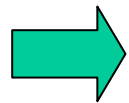
## One European legislation, different national situations

- One system / organisation versus different organisations.
- Focus on household packaging versus also focus on industrial packaging
- Different types of packaging that are collected
- High recycling targets to be reached, versus lower targets
- .....

**Big diversity in collected materials, systems, policy, ....**

# Europe – common threats

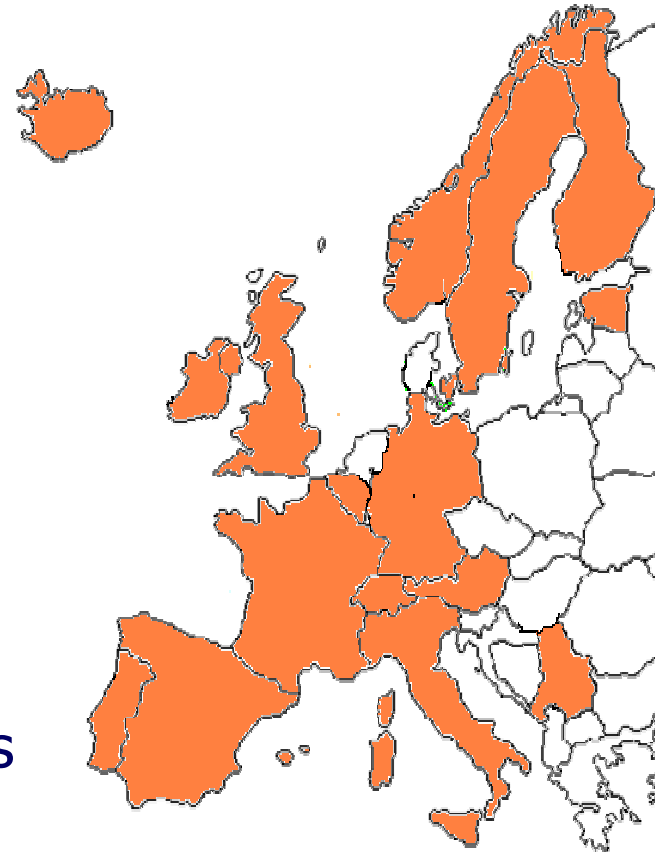
- Prices of recycled products
- Increasing targets
- Product development, resulting in 'exotic packaging'
- Export to Asia, public concern
- Bioplastics
- .....



**Each EPRO member is confronted with several problems,  
Most of problems are common to different members**

# What is EPRO?

- EPRO, European Association of Plastics Recycling and Recovery Organisations
- Members have to give in their country guarantee on recycling of plastic packaging waste
- 17 members – 15 countries
- Aim: To exchange experiences and thus optimise national effectiveness through international co-operation



[www.epro-plasticsrecycling.org](http://www.epro-plasticsrecycling.org)

# EPRO Working Groups

## Working groups

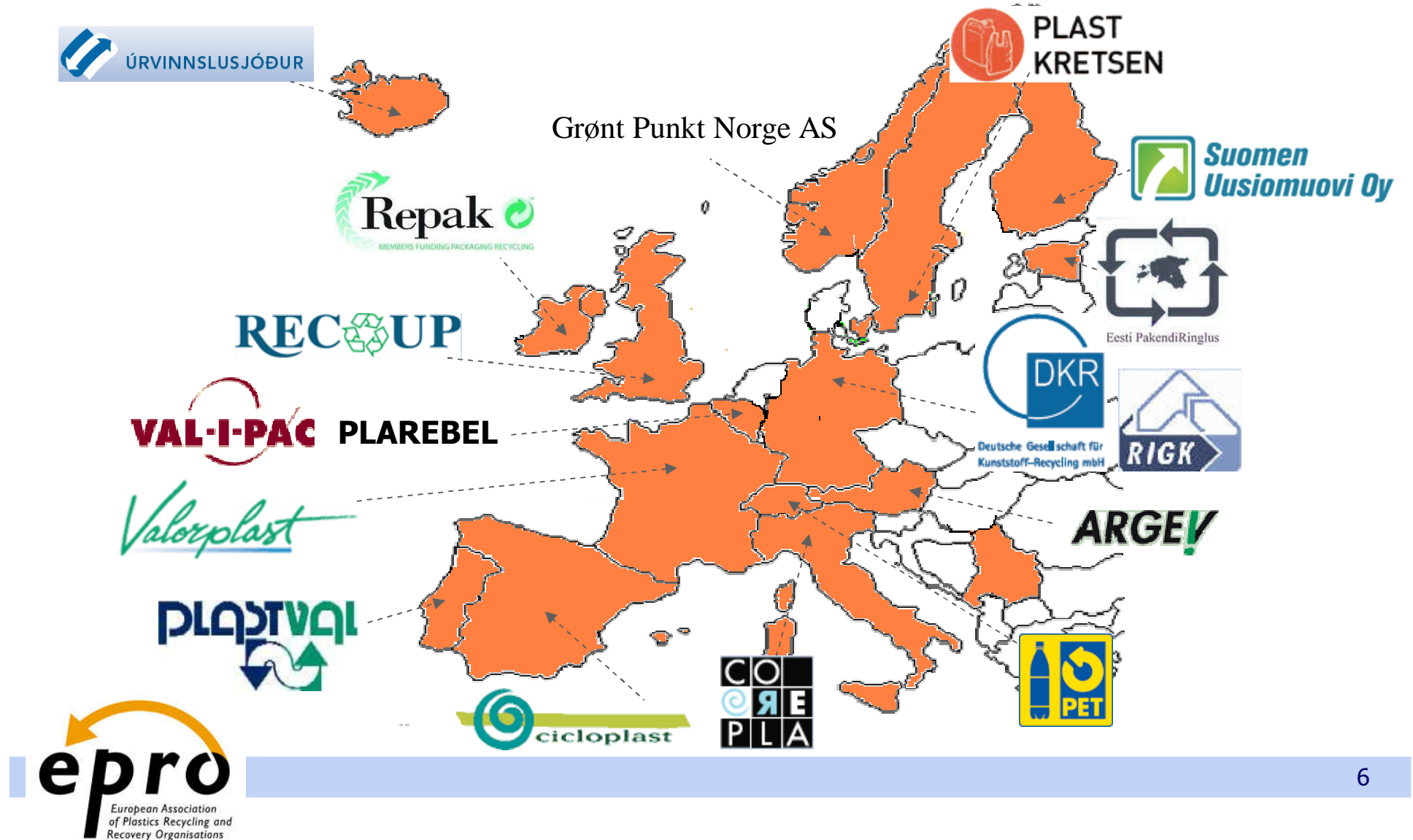
- Best Practice
- Communication
- Thematic working groups:
  - Bottle group
  - Mixed Plastics
  - Export
  - Statistics

## Topics

- Export of waste
- Bioplastics
- Recyclability
- Sorting- and recycling technology
- .....

*"Through external contacts and cooperation we want to share our experiences, learn from others and join forces in order to meet future challenges."*

# EPRO members



# Some EPRO Partners



# EPRO projects – Bottle recycling



The main objective of the *EPRO Thematic Working Group on Plastic Bottle Recycling* is to allow new innovations, and to support the introduction of new plastic bottles, while optimizing the economic and environmental consequences for the European PET recycling industry.

The EPRO Thematic Working Group on Plastic Bottle Recycling aims to provide expert advice for different stakeholders in packaging design and plastic recycling throughout Europe by:

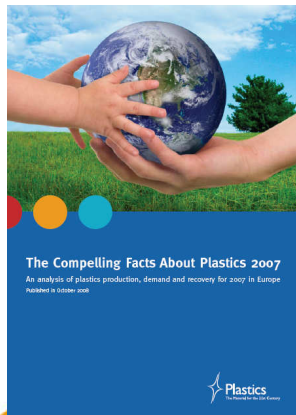
- Establishing harmonised guidelines
- Setting up test procedures for checking the recyclability of plastic bottles
- Assessing key technologies and total packaging concepts
- Giving independent advices and recommendations to the different stakeholders.



# EPRO projects – Data alliance



- Data collection on recycling of plastics is a key-activity within the best practice working group since 2004.
- Since 2006, EPRO participates in the publication of the brochure "Compelling facts about plastics".
- Epro is focussing on end-of-life of packaging



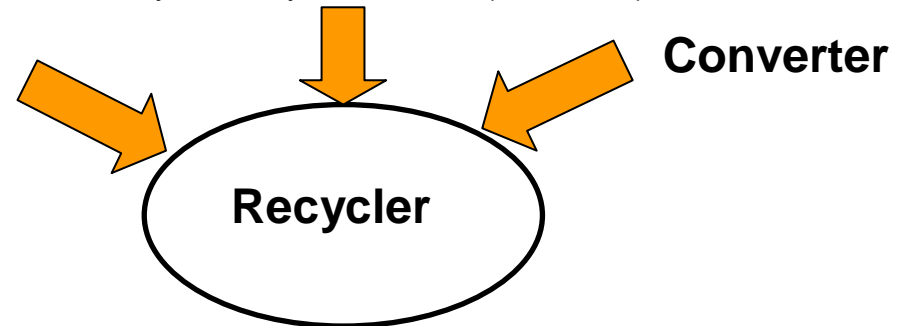
- The result is a consolidation of the waste generation and recovery data 2006 and 2007 for EU27+2.

# EPRO projects – Certiplast



**Company,  
selling the  
material**

**European legislation (REACH)  
CEN standards**  
(Plastic recycling traceability and assessment  
of conformity and recycled content (EN 15343))



Proposal,  
submitted to the  
EC

- Effectivity of recycling
- Mass balance
- Working conditions
- Environmental impact
- Management system
- Traceability of material
- Financial stability
- Legal compliance
- REACH compliance
- .....

# EPRO projects – Mixed plastics



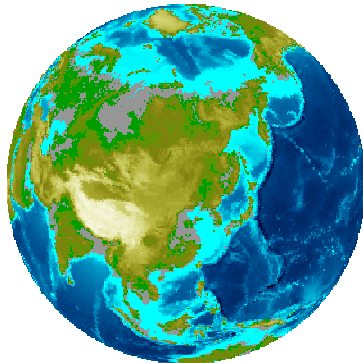
## Main topics

- Analysis of the situation of collecting, sorting and recycling of mixed plastics packaging waste
- Determine schemes that are cost effective
- Carry out studies on mechanical recycling to determine cost effective applications
- Evaluation of adequate indicators like Carbon Footprint or LCA to provide an efficient communication and support strategic decisions

## Key findings

- Sorting is a fundamental step in order to obtain fractions with a good level of purity
- Recyclate needs to substitute virgin polymer in the next application; high value applications
- Well defined end markets for each recyclate stream need to be developed

# EPRO projects – Export of plastics



- One global market, prices in Europa are influenced by economic activity in the USA and the recycling activities in China
- Prices have dramatically fallen down last weeks
  - > impact on recycling ?
  - > impact on selective collection ?
  - > impact on budget ?
  - > impact on ....
- > important to understand what happens
- > important to discuss

# Communication



- Internal communication within EPRO
  - Members part of website
  - Competence matrix
  - List of recyclers
  - ...
- External communication
  - Website
- Exchange communication experience
- Communicate on recycled products

# Summing up

- Plastic packaging recycling is confronted with different threats
- This means that we need high competence specialised in plastics
- Since EPRO has a large membership in Europe, EPRO is a good forum to exchange information and develop knowledge.
- EPRO is an accepted partner for other European Organisations, dealing with plastics