



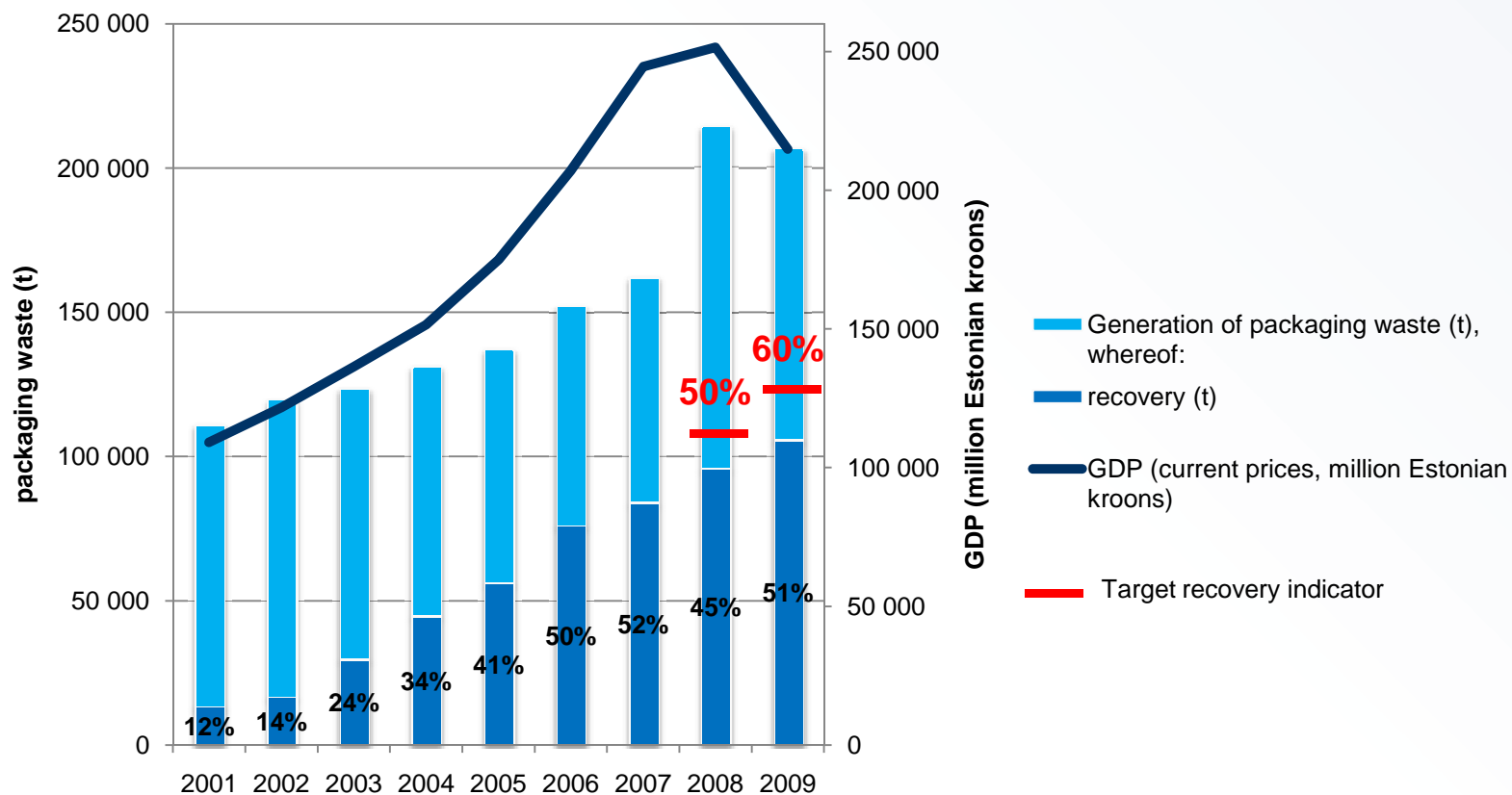
Audit on
**Effectiveness of collection and recovery of
packaging waste in Estonia**

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Generation and recovery of packaging waste in Estonia (2001-2009)

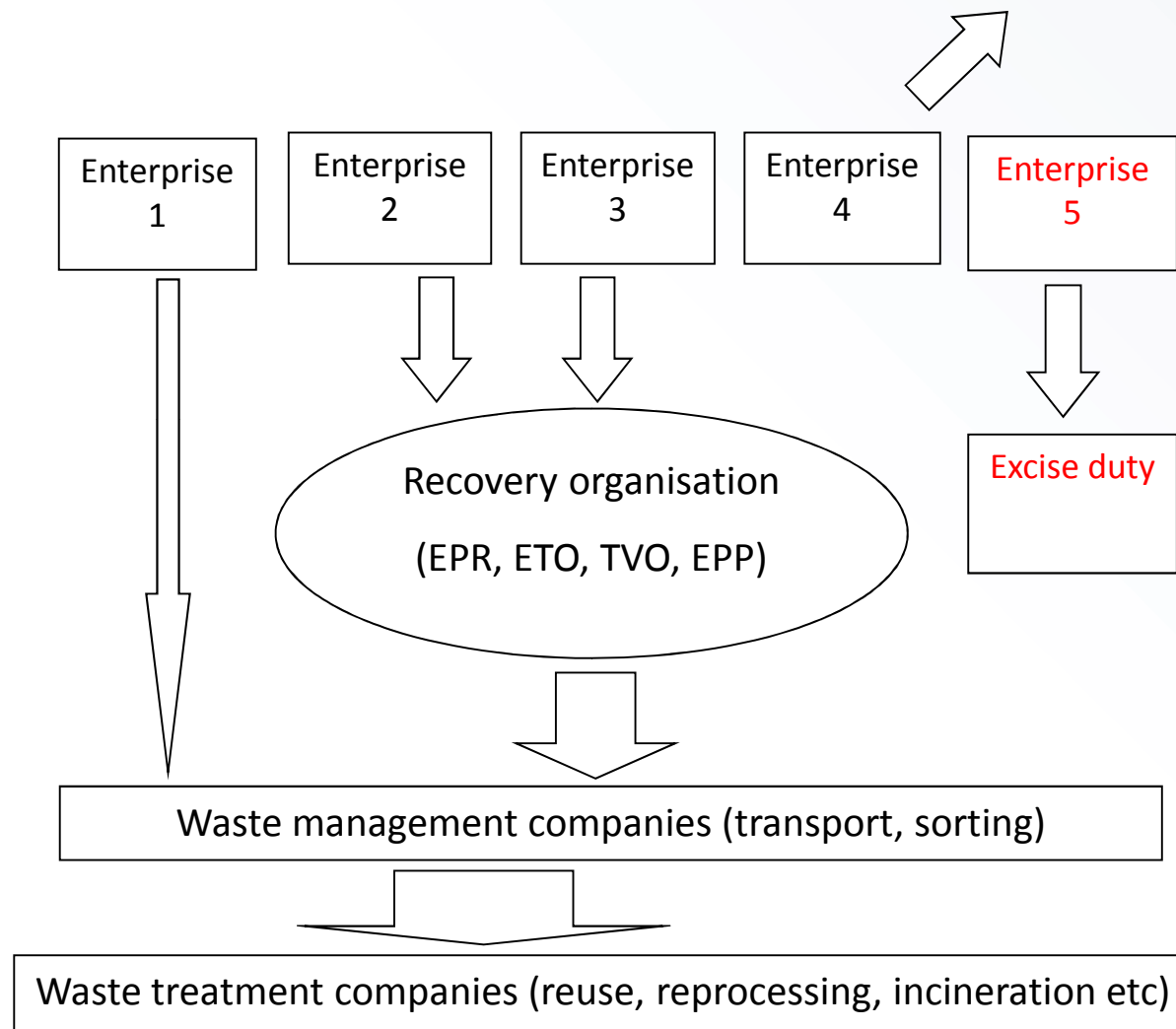




Target recovery indicators for packaging waste in Estonia

Type of packaging waste	Total recovery, incl recycling	Excise duty (EUR/kg)
Glass	70%	70%	0.6
Paper and cardboard	70%	60%	1.2
Metal	60%	60%	2.5
Plastic	55%	45%	2.5
Wood	45%	20%	1.2
Total weight	60%	55%	

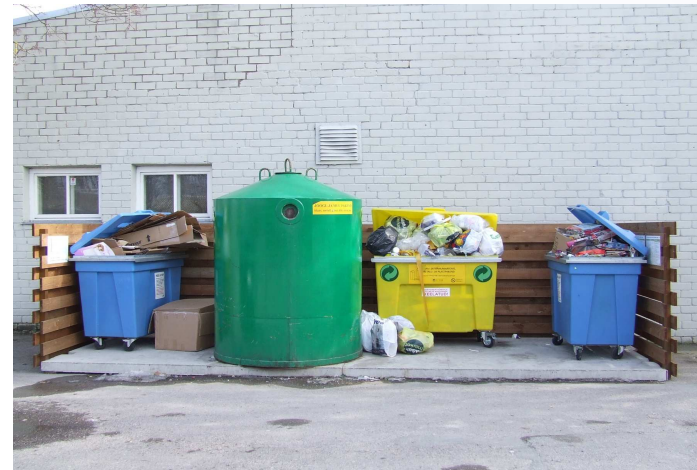
Complexity of producer responsibility issues





Background

- Two packaging waste collection systems:
 - deposit system for beverages
 - non-deposit system (containers) for all packages
- Economic instruments: obligation to collect packaging waste, packaging deposit, excise duty on packaging
- Packaging enterprises have obligation to submit data on packaging in Packaging Register and Waste Reporting Register
- Nation-wide public packaging collection system – free





Focus

Do state activities contribute to the recovery of packaging waste?

- Does the recovery of packaging waste meet the European Union target indicators?
- Does the system of collecting packaging waste from households ensure separate collection of packaging and municipal waste?
- Main auditees: Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Inspectorate, Tax and Customs Board
- Period: 2005-2009



Methods

- Data analysis and comparison of Packaging Register and General Waste Reporting Register
- Questionnaire for population on their packaging sorting awareness and habits
- Observations on packaging containers network – involvement of NAO staff
- Document analysis of:
 - legislation, research and projects
 - annual reports of recovery organisations
 - contracts between local authorities and recovery organisations
 - infringement proceedings by Environmental Inspectorate and Tax and Customs Board
- Interviews



Main problems

- It is unclear how much packaging is placed on the market
- National supervision is weak > 60 million EUR of excise duty was not claimed
- Verification of recovery is not sufficient
- Population is not aware of packaging waste sorting options
- Packaging collection network is insufficient and inconvenient for the public to use



Examples





Lessons learnt

- It is not possible to audit recovery organisations (NGOs, private entities) and packaging undertakings directly
- There might be a need for regulating the producer responsibility issues (incl. packaging waste) more in “young democracy’s”
- Pay attention to methodology how the waste amounts (released on the market, recovery) are calculated and also controlled
- Difficult to prove what happens with collected packaging waste (including exported waste)
- Communicate the doubts and concerns to registers holders and supervisory agencies
- Keep in mind the waste hierarchy!



Thank You!

Report available in English at www.riigikontroll.ee (Publications > Audit reports > Ministry of the Environment > 2010)

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