

Draft report of the UNECE/CES Task Force on Waste Statistics

Developing a framework on waste statistics



CES Task Force on Waste Statistics

Developing a waste statistics framework



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Established in February 2017 based on an [issue paper](#) drafted by Netherlands and UNECE in cooperation with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Ukraine, as well as with Eurostat, OECD and UNSD

Members:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Chair), Canada (Vice-Chair), Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, Russian Federation
- Basel Convention Secretariat, Eurostat, OECD, UN-Habitat, UNSD
- UNU (Vice-Chair), ISWA, EAWAG, GIZ, University of Leeds
- UNECE provides the Secretariat of the Task Force

Main objective: To develop a framework on waste statistics and draft a glossary of the most important terms and definitions in waste statistics. Work should be completed by end of 2018.

Status of work: Draft report has been handed over to an editor, completion of work by end of 2018

Next steps: Presentation to CES Bureau in February 2019; if approved electronic consultation and presentation to CES Plenary in June 2019

Why is there the need for a framework?

Growing information demand and weaknesses of data collections



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- Growing information demand, e.g.
 - SDGs
 - Basel Convention
 - UNEP 10-year framework programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production
 - Circular economy initiatives

- Existing weaknesses, e.g.
 - Important waste flows not measured or conceptually not considered (e.g. informal activities)
 - Key terms and definitions are not fully harmonized (e.g. “municipal waste”)
 - Boundary between waste, products and secondary raw materials is not clearly defined;
 - Several waste flows are difficult to measure (e.g. imports and exports of waste)
 - Different ways to measure the amounts of waste
 - No standard international waste classification
 - Often more details needed (e.g. e-waste, textiles waste, food waste,...)

Key messages of the report

Clarifies important terms and brings them into a semantic relationship



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- What is waste?
 - Internationally always defined from the perspective of the holder that discards it or has to discard it.
 - Material for which the generator has no further use for his own purpose of production, transformation or consumption, and which they discard, or intends or is required to discard.
 - This is a wide definition which includes any type of solid or liquid material (except wastewater).
 - What is waste for the discarding unit could be a secondary raw material, or a good that has value for the unit that receives it.

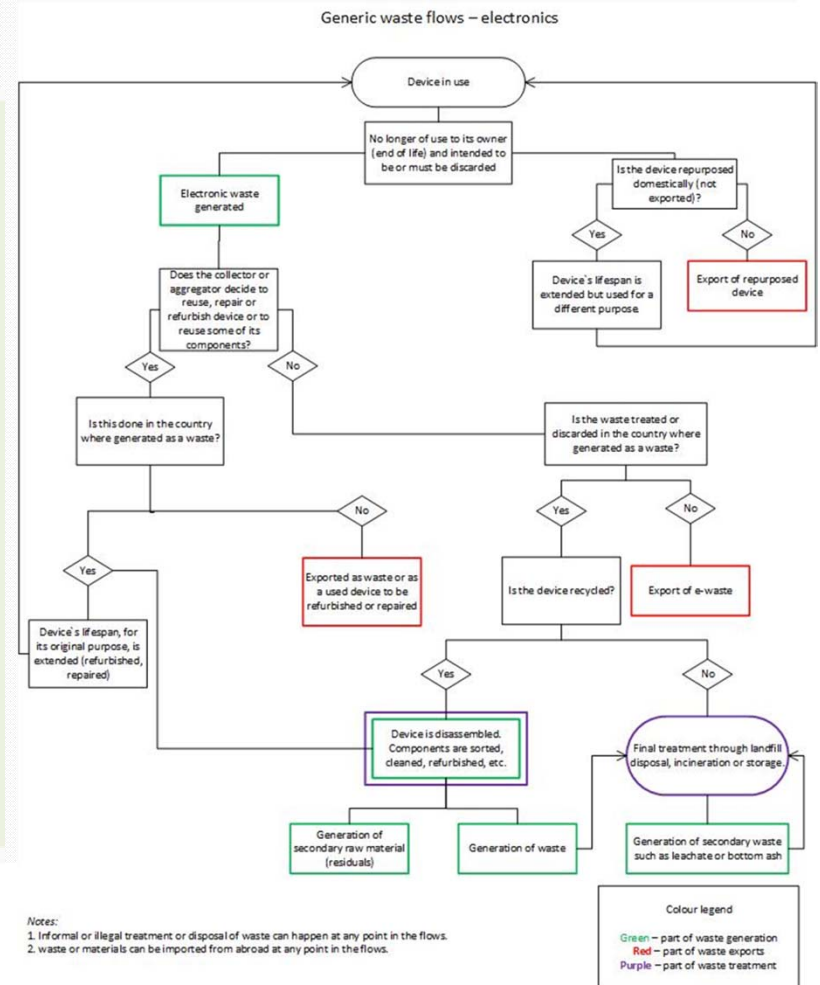
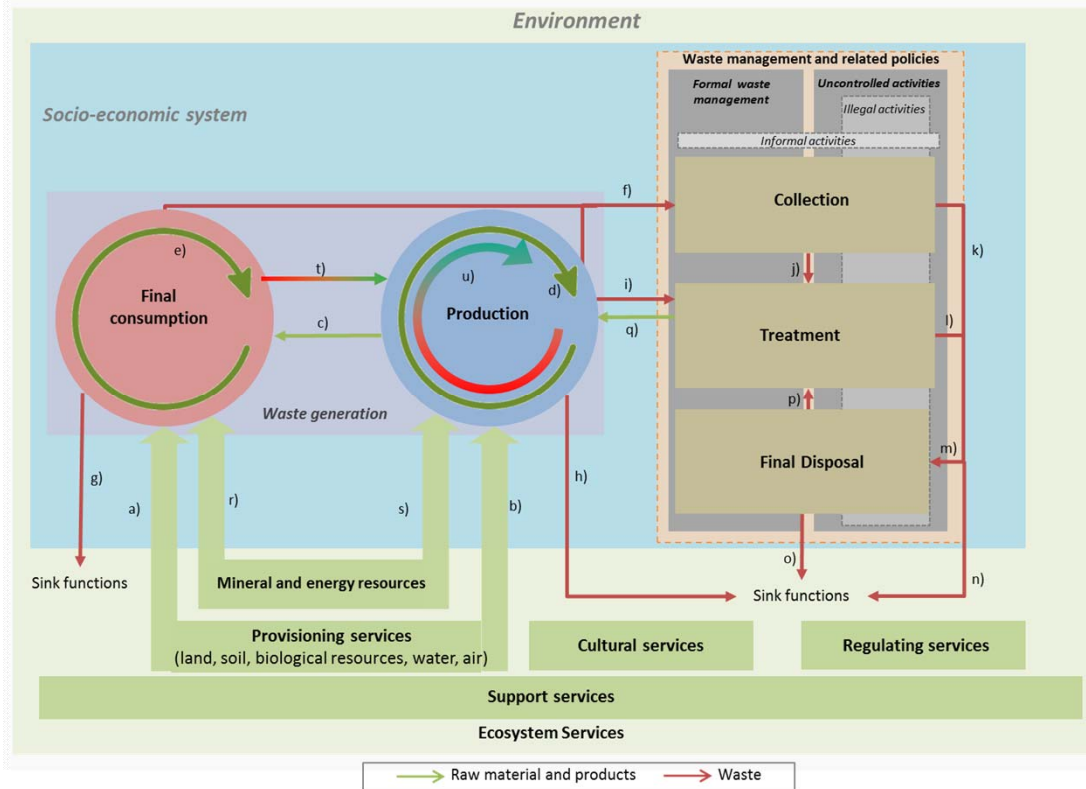
Key messages of the report

Clarifies important terms and brings them into a semantic relationship



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- Text and figures to distinguish “resource“, “product“, “waste“ and “secondary raw material“



Notes:
 1. Informal or illegal treatment or disposal of waste can happen at any point in the flows.
 2. Waste or materials can be imported from abroad at any point in the flows.

Key messages of the report

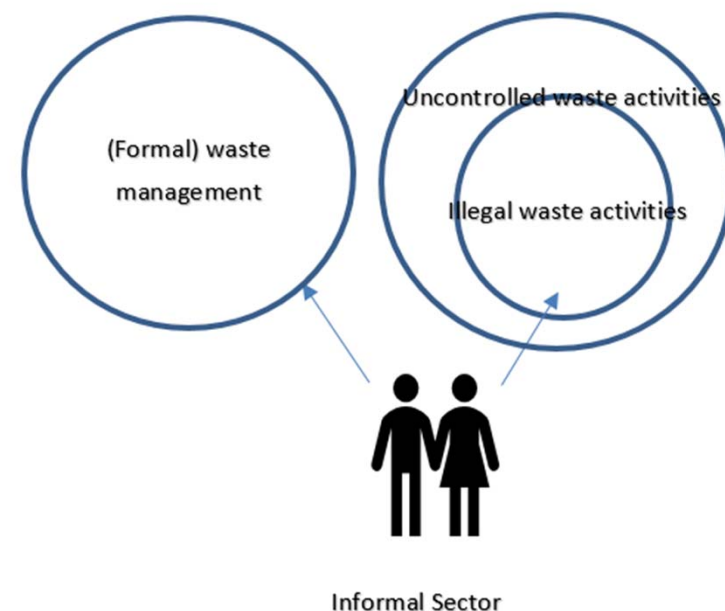
Clarifies important terms and brings them into a semantic relationship



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What is waste management, and how is this related to informal, illegal and uncontrolled waste activities?

- Waste management (EU): *Collection, transport, recovery, including sorting, and disposal of waste, including the supervision of such operations and the after-care of disposal sites, and including actions taken as a dealer or broker (EU)*
- TF clarified: “Waste management” refers to formal (regulated) activities only



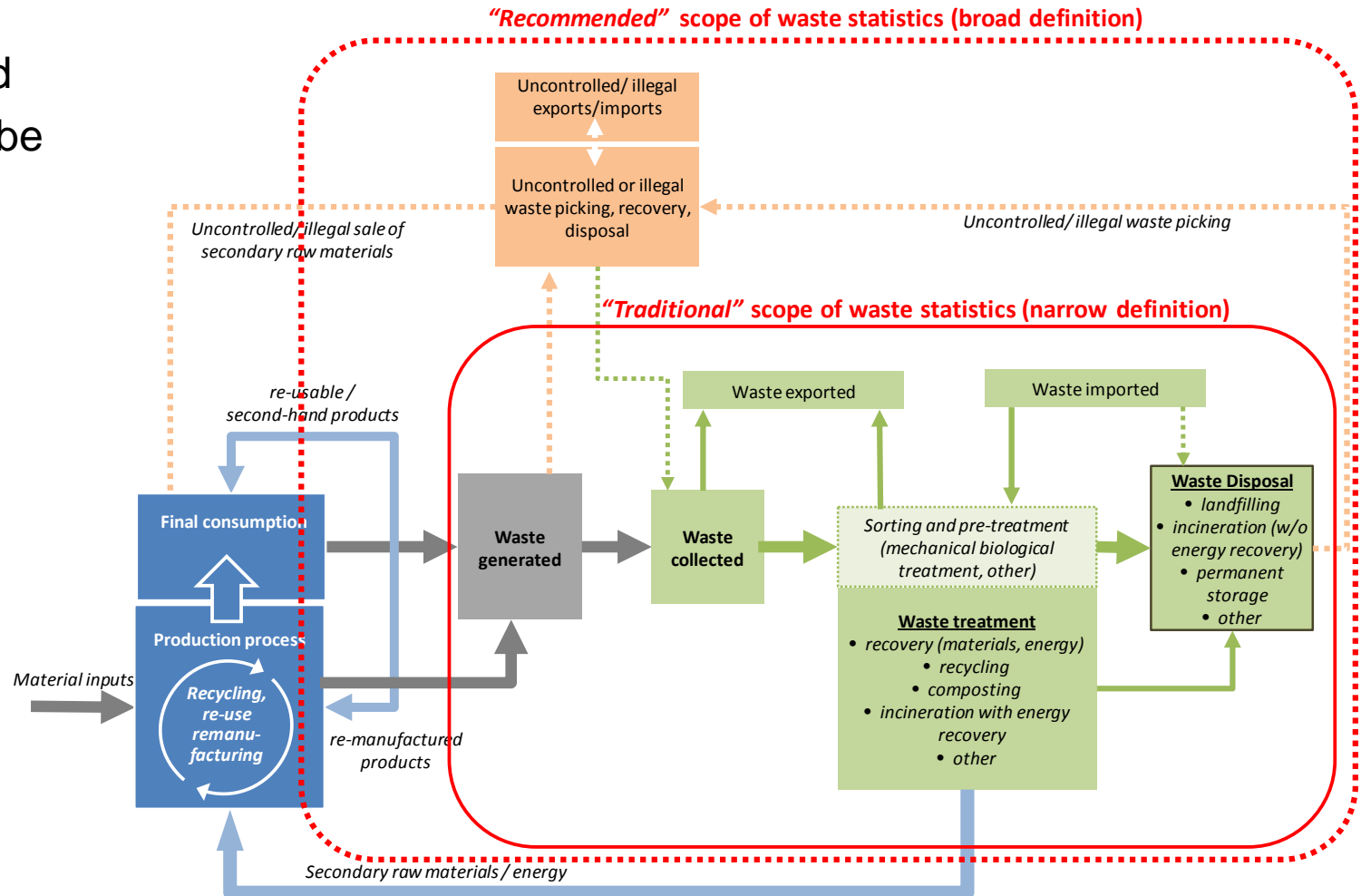
Scope of waste statistics

We need to expand the current scope to address policy needs

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Uncontrolled activities to be included!



Legend:

- Controlled waste flows / waste management
- Uncontrolled / illegal waste flows and activities

Recommended follow-up work (initial list)

The framework on waste statistics clarified important conceptual issues, but for implementation we need more



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- Methodologies for statistics on uncontrolled and informal waste activities
- Waste classification for global use (based on EU waste classification and Basel Convention)
- Guidelines for distinction of waste, resource and product in practice
- Further clarification of terminological issues (e.g. definition of “informal sector“, “waste products“, etc.)
- How to produce statistics on re-use, second-hand market etc.

Conclusions

The framework on waste statistics is an important step forward!



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- The framework on waste statistics:
 - Takes stock of policy needs and the change in paradigm towards a circular economy
 - Identifies main weaknesses of current waste statistics
 - Clarifies important conceptual issues, terms and definitions
 - Re-defines the scope of waste statistics
- Follow-up work is needed to support the implementation of the framework and to gradually improve quality of waste statistics

Thank you very much for your attention!

Michael Nagy

