Key Issues and Challenges & Comments, Ideas...

Workshop on Waste Statistics

UNECE/Eurostat/EEA

Issues & findings

- Waste statistics are important
- Data quality is not at the expected level
- Legislation is place, but not sufficiently enforced
- International agreements are not sufficiently enforced on national level
- There are differences which influence data quality.

Why the data on waste are lower quality?

- Differences in between EU and national Waste Management:
  - Standards,
  - History,
  - Practice.
- National level problems:
  - Importance of waste statistics
  - Willingness & ability to provide true data
  - Country coverage

Differences

EU (& Balkan)

- Environment protection
- Contracted services -private
- Recording actual amounts
- Waste weighted
- Focus on processing of waste fractions (WEEE)

- Economies in evolution

Russia, NIS (&Balkan)

- City cleanliness
- Service of municipality
- Waste generation norms
- Waste estimated by trucks
- Focus on operation of basic facilities

- Economies in revolution

Comments to UN/EU & other

- International reporting can not be better than national waste statistics

- Can the request for information on waste be better coordinated?
  - Basel: Y, H codes
  - EU: EWC, R/D codes   <>   Hazard classes
  - UNSD: totals, treatment & disposal

More Comments

- Terminology
  - Should be agreed in a dialogue (and verified)
  - Legal language vs. Technical language
- Classification systems
  - Why there are so many systems?
  - National vs. International systems
  - I-IV. Hazard class system
- Practice
  - The law requires treatment or disposal but there is lack of facilities. Generators avoid problems by not reporting data in full.

Comments to Participating countries

- Waste statistics are equal to any other stats
- Change forms if they do not correspond with needs / legislation / int. commitments
- Develop / update national standards (use int. consultants for this)
- Explain reported numbers (and ask for explanation)

More comments

- Seek international assistance
  - Twinning projects for international reporting
  - Basel Int. Centres for training specialists

- A good estimate is better than blank line
  - But estimate must be well founded.

Tips

- Verification of data
  - Int. Databases (MSW/cap, ISW/?)
  - Own timelines (regional, sectoral)
  - In-country waste studies
- Some numbers can be derived from reports, studies etc.
  - MSW generation (rural/urban)
  - MSW composition,
  - MSW density,

Tons vs. m3

- Cubic meters are used not only for statistics
  - Waste generation norms
  - User fees, environmental taxes
  - Permits
- Converting m3 to tons
  - MSW in container ~ 100 kg/m3
  - MSW in a truck ~ 300 kg/m3 (press truck?)
  - MSW in disposal site ~ 800 kg/m3 and more

More tips

- 80/20 rule for industrial waste
  - Start from the largest companies
- Keep mining waste separate from industrial waste
- Commercial waste – Industrial or municipal?
  - Based on collection practice

- Cooperation between authorities is essential:
  - Statistics
  - Environment
  - Customs
  - Police