

WHAT IS EPR?

Objective

The EPR implementation for the packaging sector in Vietnam will have a deep influence on recyclable solid waste collection, sorting and recycling. To ease the understanding of the pilot project context, this factsheet aims to provide basic EPR knowledge based on the EPR Toolbox developed by the PREVENT Waste Alliance.

1. WHAT EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) WHAT IS?

EPR is an **environmental policy approach** in which a **producer's responsibility** for a product is **extended to the waste stage** of that product's life cycle.

In practice, EPR involves **producers taking responsibility for the management of products** after becoming waste, including:

- Collection
- Pre-treatment, e.g. sorting, dismantling or de-pollution
- (preparation for) Reuse
- Recovery (including recycling and energy recovery) or final disposal.

EPR systems can allow producers to exercise their responsibility **either by providing the financial resources** required and/or by **taking over the operational aspects** of the process from municipalities.

Extended Producer Responsibility

contributes to the transformation from a linear to a **circular economy**. The circular economy is an economic model that promotes a more efficient use of resources by applying the three guiding principles of 'reduce', 'reuse' and 'recycle' to create a circular value chain. It is a promising concept for improving the current treatment of packaging, particularly of plastic packaging in many countries worldwide.

Source: UNEP 2019, Basel convention UNEP/CHW.14/5/Add

The involvement of a third party, known as the **Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)** or **system operator**, is usually required in order to coordinate and operate collection, sorting and recycling systems for packaging under EPR.



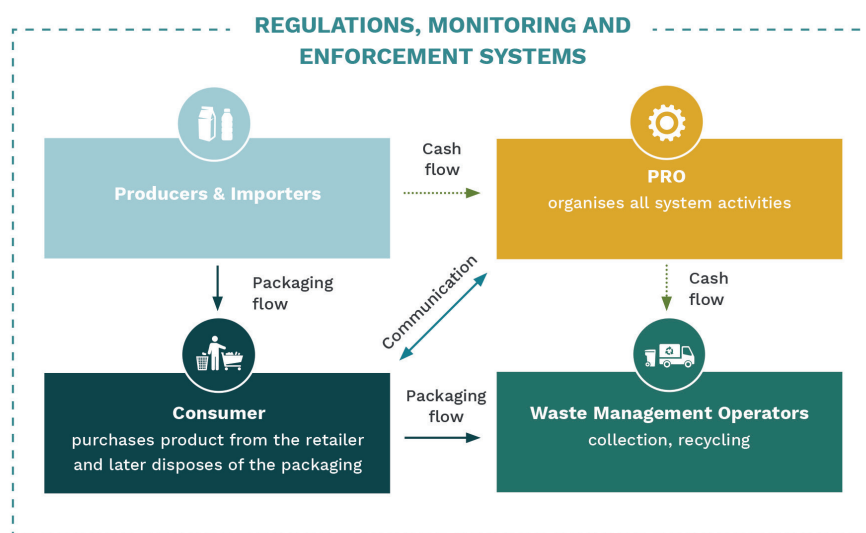
Transitioning to a sustainable waste management system for packaging

Source: PREVENT Waste Alliance. 2020. EPR Toolbox. Factsheet 00: Introduction.
More information: <https://prevent-waste.net/en/epr-toolbox/>

2. WHAT IS A PRO?

A **Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)** is a collective entity set up by the obliged companies or through legislation, which becomes **responsible for meeting the waste collection and disposal obligations** of the individual obliged companies.

The PRO is the most important stakeholder in an EPR system and is **responsible for setting up, developing and maintaining the system**, as well as for the **take-back obligations** of the obliged companies.



◀ Collective responsibility managed by a PRO

Source: PREVENT Waste Alliance. 2020. EPR Toolbox. Factsheet 01: How can roles and responsibilities in packaging value chains be defined? More information: <https://prevent-waste.net/en/epr-toolbox/>

Most PROs are industry-led, meaning that they are set up by companies, associations or other organisations in the private sector. These PROs are supervised by state authorities to ensure they perform their roles and carry out their responsibilities, but the implementation of the EPR system by the PRO is not directly connected to any public body.

Obliged companies:

Companies that are obliged to pay a fee within an operational EPR system. In most cases, these companies are domestic producers and importers introducing packaged products into the market.

3. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT PLAY?

It is up to governments to **implement clear, mandatory regulations** for the EPR system. Nevertheless, it is particularly important to **include the companies** that will be required to **contribute to funding and organising** the new system, or which are likely to become **part of the PRO**. It is also important to involve **all the actors** who will be important in **ensuring the system is implemented successfully**: producers, con-

sumer organisations, national/local authorities, recyclers, PROs, NGOs and, in some cases, standardisation bodies.

The government should also **monitor the system**, or at least ensure that appropriate **monitoring mechanisms** are in place, both to make sure all the relevant requirements and targets are met, and to guarantee a level playing field for all companies involved. This responsibility also encompasses the **imposition of sanctions** if individual obligations are not fulfilled.

4. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES?

The most important challenge for municipalities and local authorities is to ensure that all citizens are informed about the waste collection system and the fact that packaging and other recyclables will be collected separately.

The PRO needs to work closely with the local authorities. For example, local authority can collect

EPR implementation at local level:

what will be the role of local authorities and of local waste management operators?

the packaging on behalf of the PRO, and the PRO can pay the authority for this service.

5. THE EPR TOOLBOX: A TOOL TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING AND MAIN CONCERNS



Know-how to enable
Extended Producer Responsibility
created by PREVENT Waste Alliance



Content | Overview

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Source: PREVENT Waste Alliance. 2020. EPR Toolbox. Content overview.

More information: <https://prevent-waste.net/en/epr-toolbox/>



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More information: <https://prevent-waste.net/en/epr-toolbox/>.

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