

Funded by the
European Union



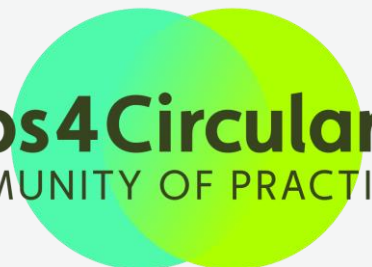
The role of Cities & Regions in enhancing I-US: On-the-Ground Experiences

John Wante
OVAM

May 15th 2025

WE MAKE
TOMORROW
BEAUTIFUL
OVAM

Hubs4Circularity
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



Who are we?

- ❑ OVAM (Flemish Public Waste Agency)
 - ❑ Founded in 1981
 - ❑ Responsible for waste and materials policy in the Flemish Region (Belgium)
 - ❑ Guiding principle: waste hierarchy

- ❑ Targets:
 - ❑ Limit household residual waste to 100 kg pp by 2030
 - ❑ reduce industrial and commercial residual waste with a similar amount
 - ❑ reduce material footprint of consumption with 30 % by 2030

Instrument: Landfill & Incineration Taxes

☐ Why?

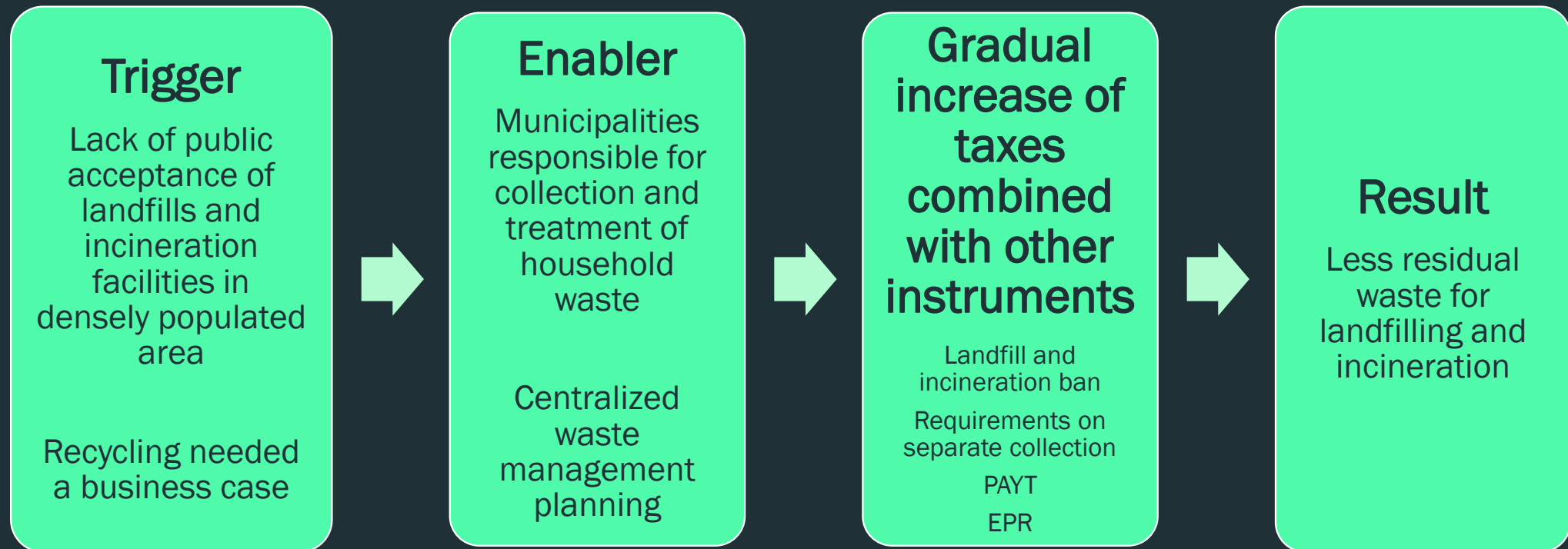
- ☐ Reduce residual waste and step up recycling, reuse, prevention

☐ How?

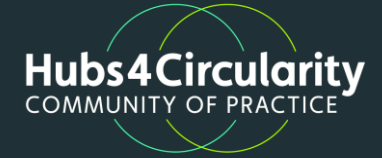
- ☐ Make landfilling and incineration more expensive than recycling
- ☐ Taxes are charged to operators of landfills and incineration facilities
- ☐ Domestic facilities and export
- ☐ Complemented with landfill and incineration ban
- ☐ Rates (2025): for example,
 - ☐ 72 euro per ton for landfilling non combustible waste
 - ☐ 29 euro per ton for incinerating industrial waste

☐ Enables industrial symbiosis

Process



Impact & Learnings



- Impact
 - Residual household waste decreased from 331 kg pp (1991) to 125 kg pp (2023)
 - Commercial and industrial waste: 68 % is recycled (2022)
- Learnings
 - Taxes are not popular, but
 - Impact on limited number of stakeholders, hence limited resistance
 - Growing importance of recycling sector creates support
 - Simplicity of the instrument
 - Complementary instruments supported reduction of residual waste
 - Necessary for creating a business case
 - Industrial symbiosis needs tailor-made approach and intermediaries that “unburden” the waste producer

Funded by the
European Union



Thank you!

Please visit our website for more information:
www.h4c-community.eu



Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme. H4C Europe is funded under Grant Agreement N° 101058416. H4C ECoP is funded under Grant Agreement N° 101058656. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union.

Hubs4Circularity
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

