Informal waste collectors and traceability
MDC TI Net.

- MDC TI Net. stands for Macedonian Business Resource Center trade and investment Network
- CSO organization, created as a spin off of a Previously implemented USAID Project
- Work areas:
  - Environment
  - Local sustainable development
  - Promoting PPP and social entrepreneurship
Info Macedonia

- Basic information:
  - Generated waste 250-335 kg/person
  - Generated packaging waste 50-60 KG/person
  - Over 150000 MT of generated packaging waste
  - Law on packaging and managing packaging waste adopted in 2010 and fully in force as of 2011
  - At the moment 2 compliance schemes operators have been established
  - 20000 MT of PET per annum is collected and exported
  - Over 15000 Tones of LDPE and HDPE
  - Over 50,000 of Paper is collected
  - Glass is the least collected Material in the country
  - Pakomak has its own organization of collection of Glass
  - IWC’s collect about 90% of packaging waste
  - Over 80% of the population in Macedonia is covered with waste collection containers
  - Over 180 licensed scrap dealers
Info Macedonia

- 100 non licensed scrap yards
- Law on waste management/foresees registration of Informal waste collectors with local authorities/ however no procedure has been established on local level
- Law on Packaging and managing packaging waste enables registration as Informal waste collectors/ license can be obtained based on agreement with Municipality and PUCs/ no permits have been issued until now
- PUCs do not have the admin capacity to work with IWCs on daily basis without external assistance
- No law on social entrepreneurship foreseeing a legal framework, law on cooperatives addresses mainly the needs of the farmers
- IWC's encounter punishments by the police and the environmental inspectors
- Law on cooperatives enables only agricultural workers income tax reductions and reduced social and health benefits and no other category are mentioned
- Law on traffic safety vs vehicles used by IWCs
- There are several government strategies that address IWCs: poverty reduction strategy [2], national action plan for employment [3], sustainable development strategy [4] and strategy for Roma and their integration.
- The government of Macedonia initiated the drafting of the strategy for integration of the informal waste collectors into the formal waste management system/ the drafting of the strategy has been interrupted due to the political crises in the country
Packaging waste recycling

- The law on packaging and managing packaging waste
- Four companies (recycling schemes) established in Macedonia
- PAKOMAK, leading company (recycling scheme)
Recycling schemes

- Not willing to work with the informal waste collectors directly
- Most of the funds spent for non-effective methods of collection of packaging waste
- Escaping to work with the informal waste sector
- Recycling schemes work with scrap yards, payments made to scrap yards directly
- No benefit for the informal waste sectors
Industry interested in effective collection scenarios/ no practical examples

- The recycling schemes spent huge amounts of money on non-effective collection scenarios while industry try to establish effective methods of collection
- Recycling schemes can not fulfill the national targets without informal waste collectors
- Recycling schemes fade away from working with informal waste collectors despite the fact that the informal waste collectors collect 95% of the packaging waste in Macedonia
Ones who contribute most get the least

- Recycling schemes funds have no effect in packaging waste management in Macedonia.
- Recycling schemes would miss the national targets in case the informal waste sector is not there (no traceability of materials presented).
- Funds must be directed towards informal sector in order to create better working conditions and provide traceability.
Raising awareness for IWC’s
Integration of informal collectors into formal waste management system in order to secure tracebility

• Training and capacity building for the Roma informal waste collectors

  Activities
  – Improve Business knowledge
  – Access to information in the recycling and solid waste sector
  – Social and institutional capital and legal issues
Parties involved

- Informal waste collectors/ Roma NGO’s
- Ministry of Labor and social affairs/ Ministry of environment/ Ministry of Finance/ Employment Agency
- Municipalities
- Municipal councils
- Mayors
- Public Utility companies
- Pakomak
Characteristics of the informal waste collectors

- Informal recycling is carried by marginalized groups, mostly Roma
- Collected materials are: plastic, paper, cardboard, steel, aluminium
- Small scale business
- Labor intensive
- Unregulated and unregistered
- Low technology
- Do not pay taxes
- Do not have work licenses
- Are not included in the social welfare
- Social benefits are limiting their formalization
- They provide primary collection and collect more than 90% of the packaging waste
Characteristics of the informal waste collectors

- The informal collectors have no legal storage and processing capacity
- They are exploited by intermediaries
- Often involves women and children in collection
- Are very low in the trade hierarchy and thus earn the least in this business, they provide no value added to the material
- Often collection the smaller towns is done in the land fills
- The attitude of the formal waste management to informal recycling is often negative
- However they provide efficient recycling and are complementary to the activities of the PUC
Importance of Storage space
Legal background

- Waste management law
- Law on packaging and managing packaging waste
- Strategy for waste management of the city of Skopje
- Law on personal income tax
- Law on social benefits
- Law on city of Skopje
- Waste management plan of the city of Skopje
- LEAP (Local Environmental action Plan)
Training on health and safety
Mayor of Skopje during the signing ceremony.
Citizens aware of the importance of source separation
The boss