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Hello!

# EPR for packaging waste in Sweden



#Deep-Dive European EPR

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# 190 PACKAGING WASTE KG/Y

Average European generates 190 kg packaging per year.  
In 2030, half of this amount will be **plastic**.



# EPR in transition

## EPR for non-beverage packaging



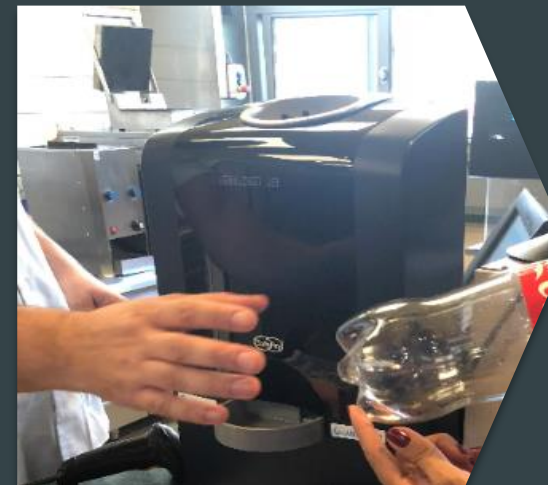
EPR responsibility for non beverage packaging and recyclable glass bottles:

- Organizational
- Financial

- Municipalities teake over collection responsibility
- PROs pay to the Ministry of Finance
- Cost compensation based on algorithm

# DRS

## DRS – EPR for beverage containers



DRS - EPR responsibility for recyclable beverage packaging (PET, can):

**Organizational  
& Financial**

- EPR for bevcons since 1984
- Exemption from SUP fee



# BEVERAGE particular problem CONTAINERS



## Quantity

Average consumption in Europe amounts to hundreds of beverages in plastic, metal or glass containers per capita and year.



## Volume

Used beverage containers take up to 40% of the space in waste bins and substantial volume in litter bins.



## Littering risk

Beverage and food containers and make up 80% of litter.

# CLOSED LOOP SINCE 2009!

Swedish DRS for recyclable beverage containers have resulted with high collection rates and circularity of plastic bottles.



Thanks to *door-to-door* recycling and *right of first refusal*, circularity of plastic bottles has been secured in Sweden since 2009. Deposit bearing plastic containers are directly transported from the DRS operator's logistics centre to the recycling facility located next-door. Plastic flakes are sold to local beverage producers who have pre-emption rights to the rPET.

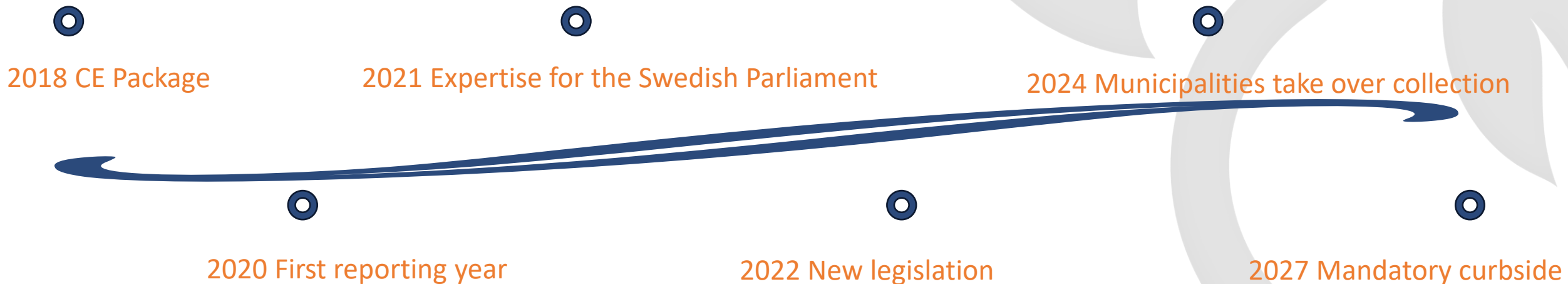




Knappt 20 procent av de plastförpackningar som används i Sverige återvinns till ny plast. Resten eldas upp. Foto: Brian Yurasits/Unsplash

# SWEDISH EPR\* IN TRANSITION

\*EPR for recyclable glass bottles and non beverage packaging



## Blueprint for circularity?



- End of operational responsibility of PROs
- Municipalities are compensated based on algorithm

Future.....



- Bring system is being transformed into curbside collection



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resources  
remain  
resources

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*Extended Producer  
Responsibility: Historic  
Background and Future  
Outlook*

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION • DEEP DIVE INTO EUROPEAN EPR • 13TH FEB.**

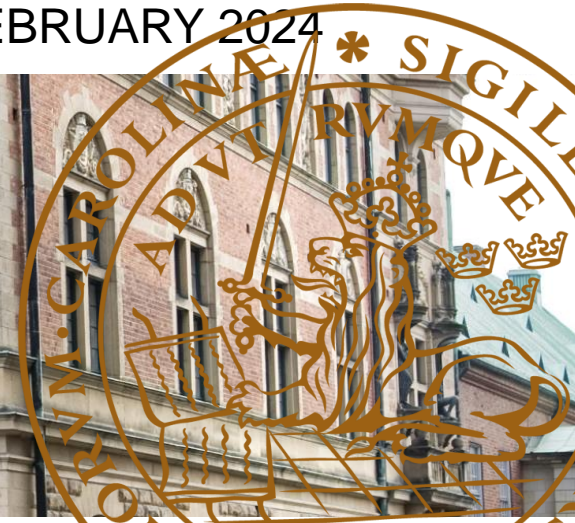




# Deep Dive into European EPR from Sweden - Emergency of EPR and way to the future

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IIIEE, LUND UNIVERSITY, 13 FEBRUARY 2024





# Why was EPR needed?

- New materials and elements not used earlier (plastics, many metals etc., and mixed in products) and challenges in waste management
- Societies with an ever-growing level of consumption
- Waste leads to pollution and littering, and we knew more about these problems than earlier

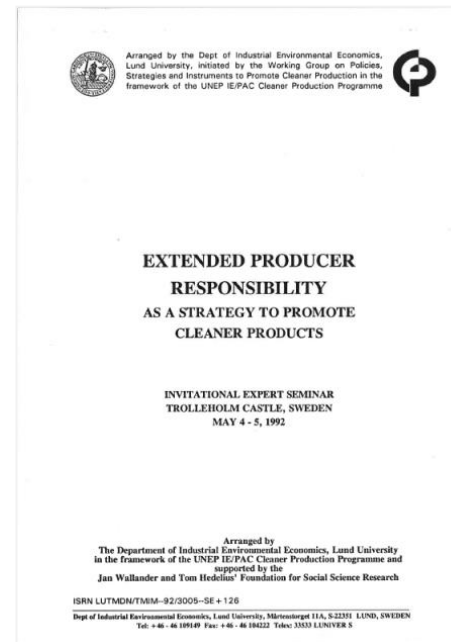
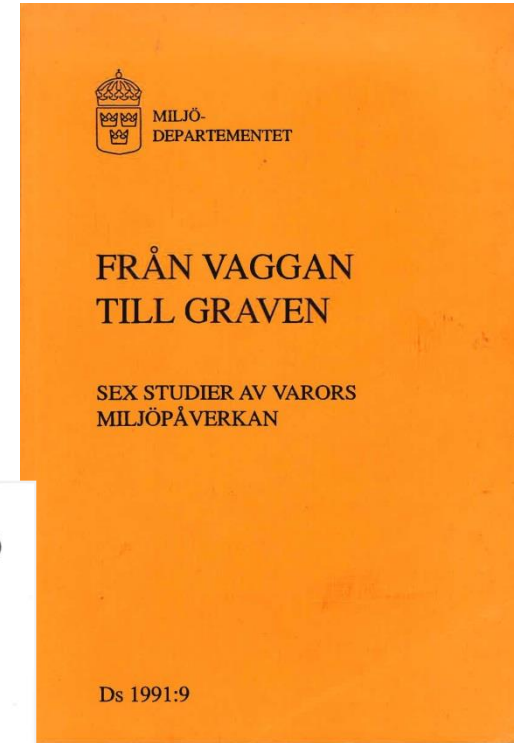
# The challenge

- We need **collection, separation of materials and recycling**, but only after a long utilisation and reuse of products
- Municipalities typically do not have readily available **resources** to run a good waste management system
- We need to find such resources – both **knowledge and money**, and use them in an efficient system
- Products should be **designed** accordingly



# 1990 – Extended Producer Responsibility

- Report to the Swedish Ministry of Environment – Förlängt producentansvar
- Translated to English for a UNEP workshop we organised in 1992
- Gradually accepted in many countries and translated to various languages



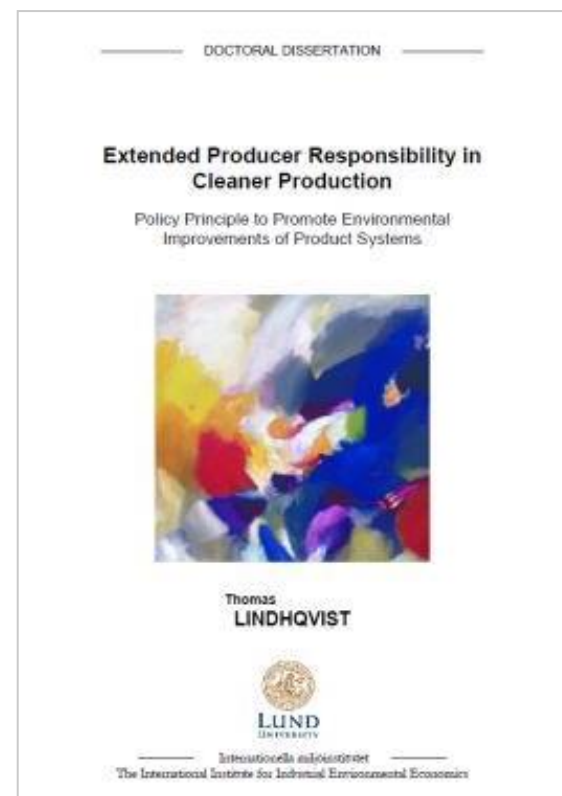
# What did EPR mean?

- Consumers pay when they are consuming, not by taxes and fees
- Producers must include waste costs in the prices of their products, and this should make producers interested in collection efficiency and design improvements
- Waste was a problem for the society and **not the least for the municipalities in Europe** and EPR promised some relief
- Municipalities facilitated the intro of EPR



# Implementation

- Packaging in Germany 1991, followed by a number of European countries
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) around 2000 in Europe with restrictions of hazardous materials
- End-of-life vehicles
- Batteries
- and gradually more products

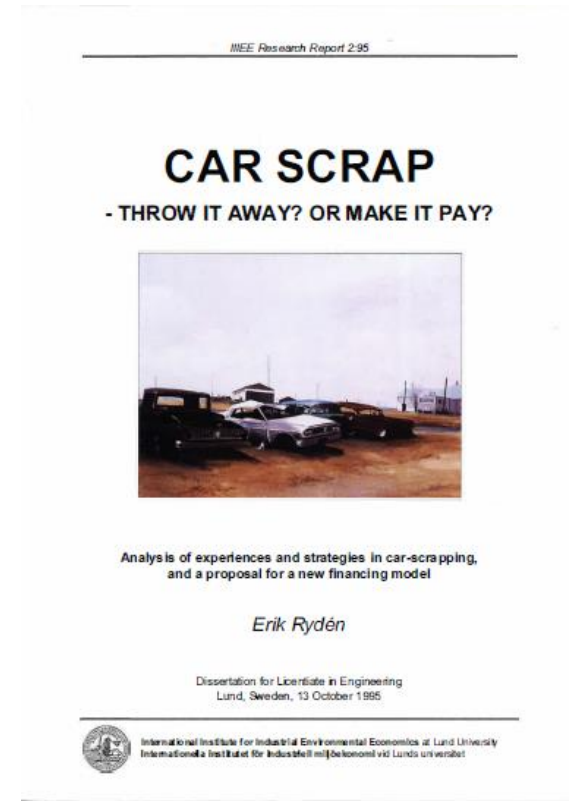


# Issues

Various types of responsibility:

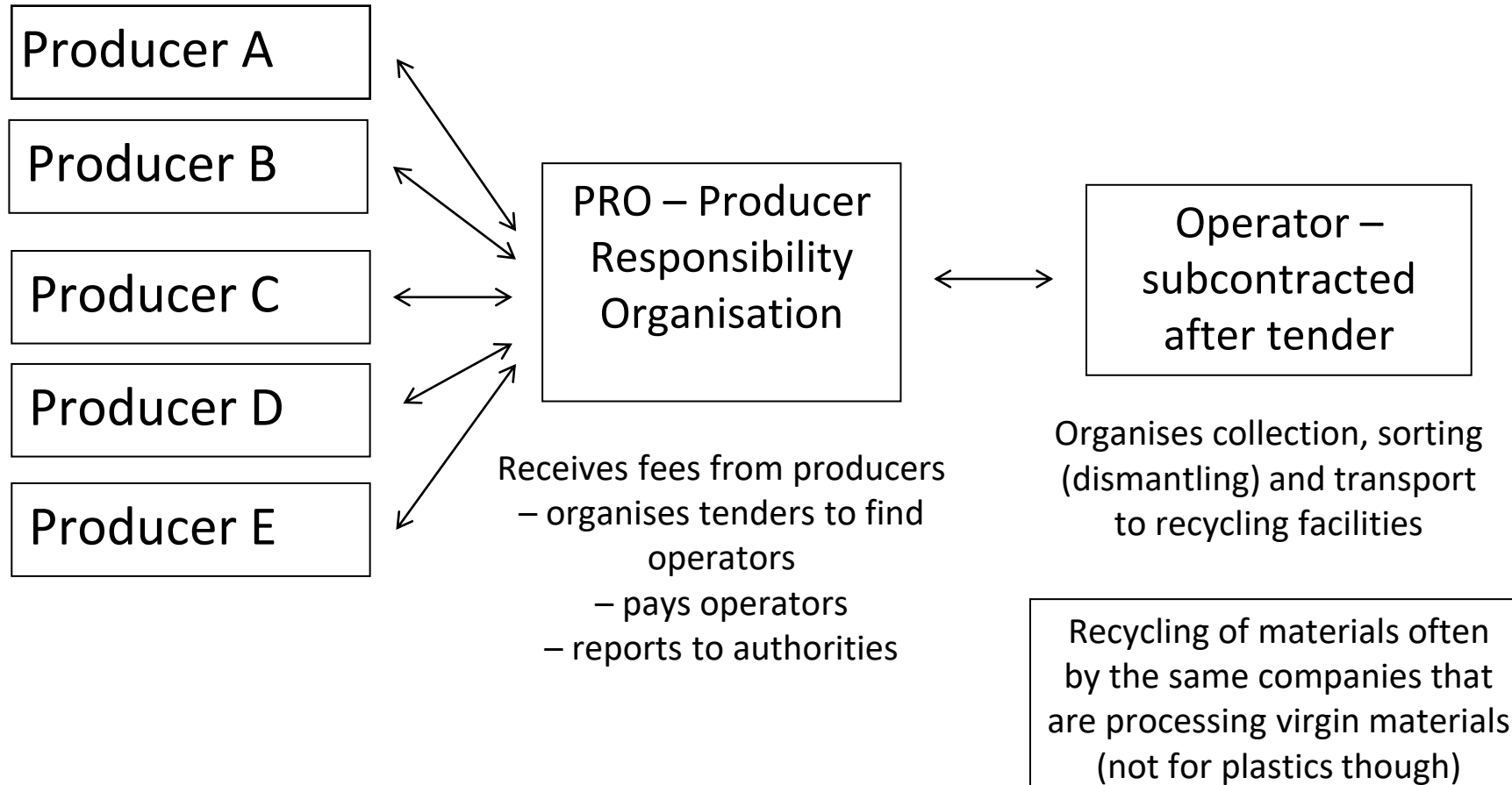
- Economic / financial
- Physical
- Informational

Complex products





# Typical EPR Scheme

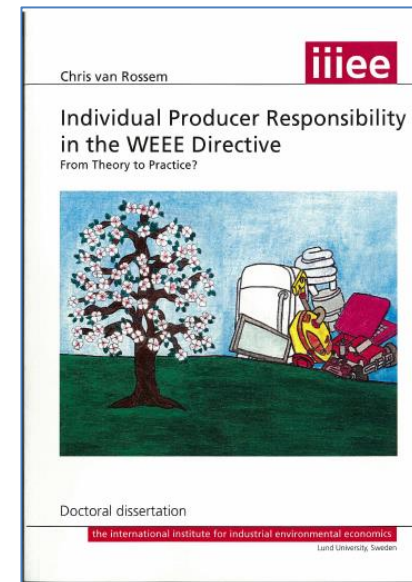
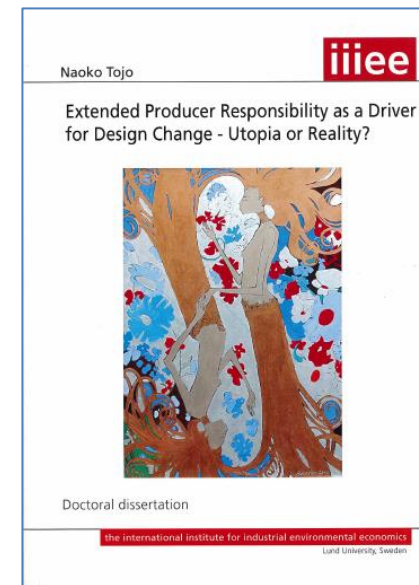


# EPR Results in Europe

- Much more collection and better source separation
- More and better recycling

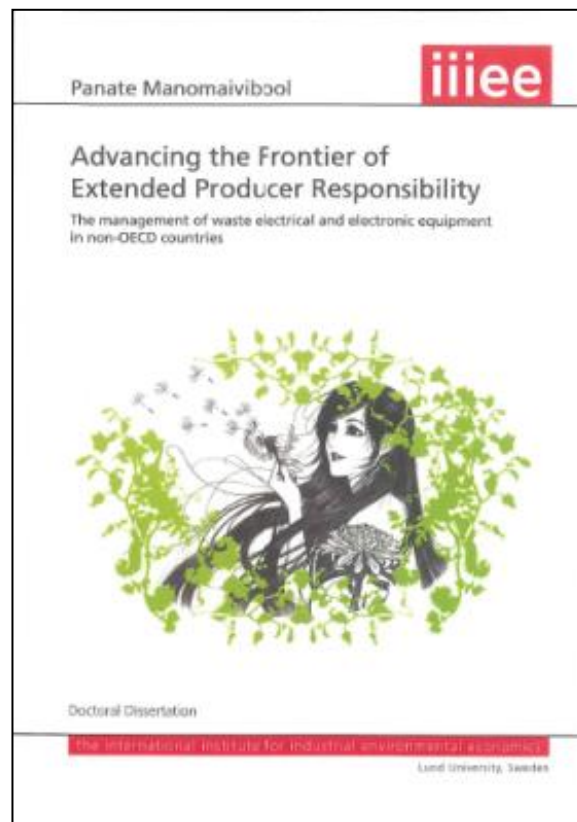
## BUT

- **Loss of resources by downcycling and lacking emphasis on durability and repair of the products**
- **Too weak demands on what is called recycling**
- **Too few design changes**



# Legal and governance issues globally

- Governments have hesitated to demand effective collection and really good recycling
- Bad governance allows cheating, insufficient control and low demands
- Governments need to supervise honestly and effectively





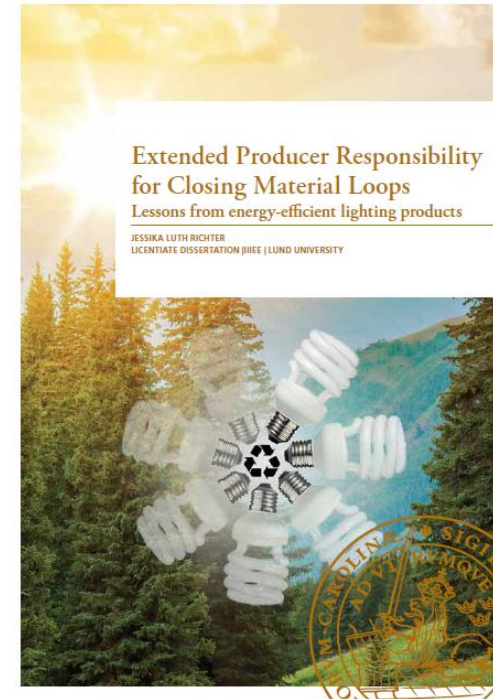
# EPR in the future

While collection always can be improved

- the most urgent need is to **improve the reuse and recycling**

The inherent value of the materials must be better taken care of

- for this you need governments to **make demands**
- and to do that you must refer to **standards and quality references**



# Thank you for your attention!

Our institute, IIIEE, is part of Lund University, the largest university in Northern Europe opened in 1666.



IIIEE teaches at master's and PhD levels in environmental management and policy since 1995 and has 1000 master's alumni from more than 100 countries.

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