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