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Waste management in Portugal: challenges and goals to be achieved

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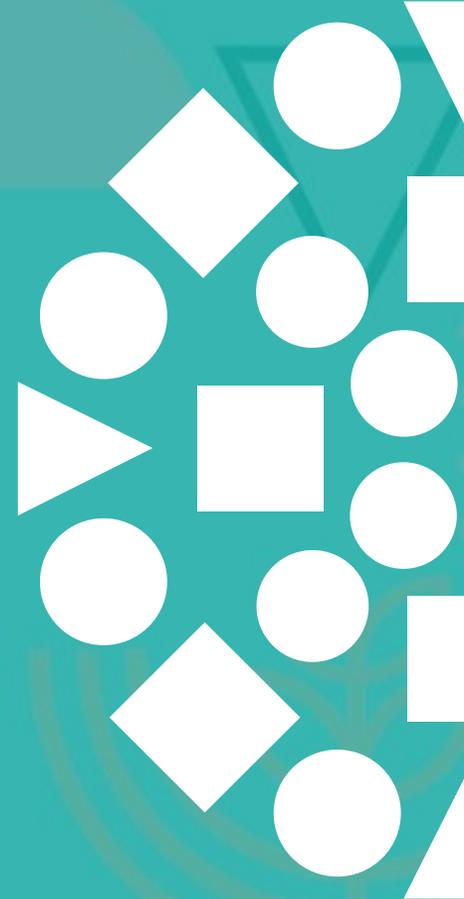
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Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive



• The Problem

In the Union, 80 to 85% of marine litter is made up of plastic, 50% of which are single-use plastic products and 27% are fisheries-related items.

These plastic products represent a particularly serious problem in the area of marine litter, with significant negative impacts on the environment, human health and the economy.



Fonte: Centro Comum de Investigação, Comissão Europeia (2017)



Goals

In June 2019, Directive 2019/904, of 5 June, on reducing the impact of certain plastic products on the environment was published, with the following objectives:

- preventing and reducing the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, more particularly in the aquatic environment, and on human health;
- promote the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials, contributing to the efficient functioning of the internal market.

Scope of application

The Directive applies to single-use plastic products most found on European beaches, to products made from oxo-degradable plastic and to fishing gear containing plastic.

- The Directive defines different measures and objectives depending on the type of plastic article.



Restriction measures on placing on the market

Products covered
Swabs
Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks)
Plates
Straws
Beverage shakers
Balloon Sticks
Expanded polystyrene cups (EPS)
EPS food / beverage containers

Implementation measure and timeframe
Prohibition on placing on the market as of July 3, 2021

Rational
Products for which adequate and more sustainable alternatives already exist. Prevalence of EPS residues in the marine environment.

Products covered
Products made of oxodegradable plastic

Implementation measure and timeframe
Prohibition on placing on the market as of July 3, 2021

Rational
Oxodegradable plastic does not properly biodegrade, contributing to the pollution of the environment by microplastics. Furthermore, it is not compostable, it negatively affects the recycling of conventional plastic and does not provide a proven environmental benefit.



Consumption reduction measures

Products covered

Food containers and drink cups, including lids

Implementation measure and timeframe

A measurable quantitative reduction in the consumption of these products in the territory of the Member States must be achieved by 2026, compared to 2022.

Rational

Products for which adequate and more sustainable alternatives are not yet readily available, and an increase in the consumption of most of these products is expected.

In order to achieve an ambitious and sustained reduction in the consumption of food containers and drinking glasses, Member States may in particular adopt the following measures:

- Consumption reduction targets;
- Economic instruments (ex: prohibiting free distribution);
- Increase the availability of alternatives (ex: reusable);
- Agreements with the economic sectors involved.



Selective collection

Products covered

Beverage bottles with a capacity of less than 3 liters, including their caps and caps

Implementation measure and timeframe

Ensure the following targets for separate collection for recycling:
77% by 2025; 90% by 2029.

Rational

Beverage bottles are the single-use plastic article most found on the beaches of the Union, and it is necessary to promote more effective selective collection systems, namely through deposit systems or setting goals under the RAP regimes.

Awareness-raising measures

Products covered

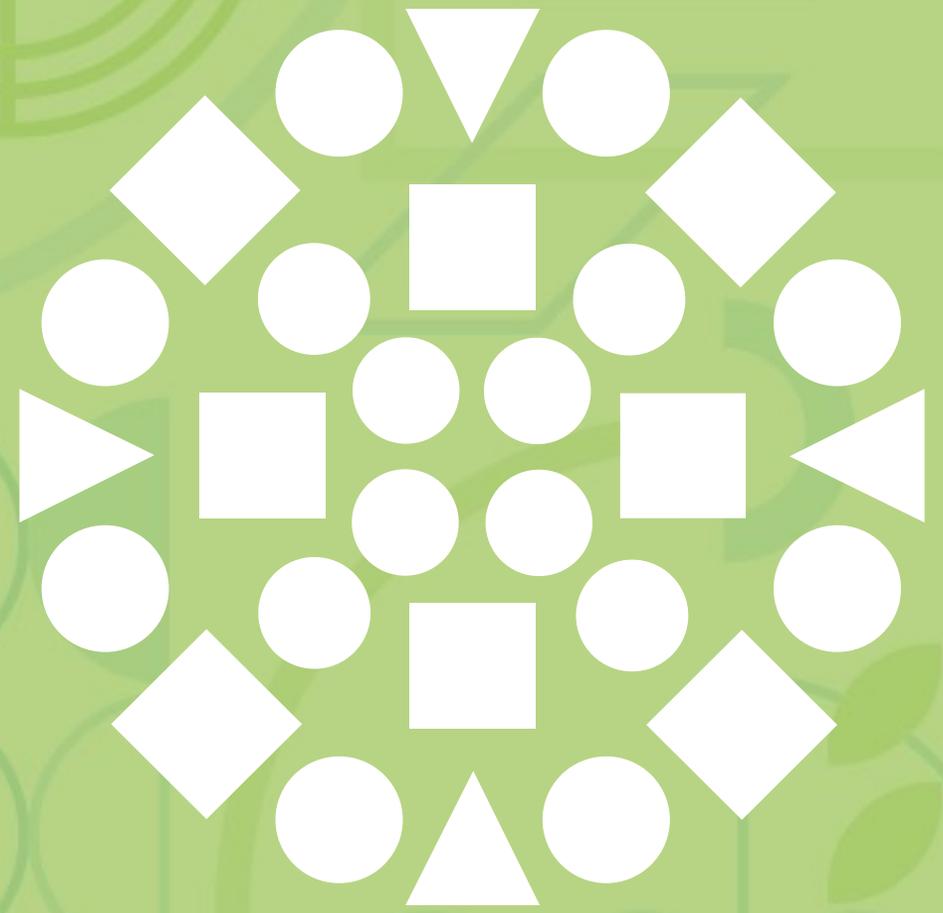
Food containers
Beverage containers
Drinking glasses
Bags and wrappings
Light plastic bags
Wet Wipes
Balloons
Tobacco products with filters
Sanitary pads and tampons

Measures

Measures to encourage responsible behavior and to inform consumers about:

- The availability of reusable alternatives and reuse systems;
- Waste management options and the environmental impact of waste disposal, especially in the marine environment;
- The impact on the sewerage network of inadequate means of waste disposal.

National Situation



National Situation

Law No. 69/2018, of 26 December, amends Decree-Law No. 152-D / 2017

- Until December 31, 2019, a system of incentives to the final consumer is implemented, in the form of a pilot project, for the return of non-reusable plastic beverage packaging.
- From January 1, 2022, it is mandatory to have a deposit system for non-reusable beverage packaging made of plastic, glass, ferrous metals and aluminum.

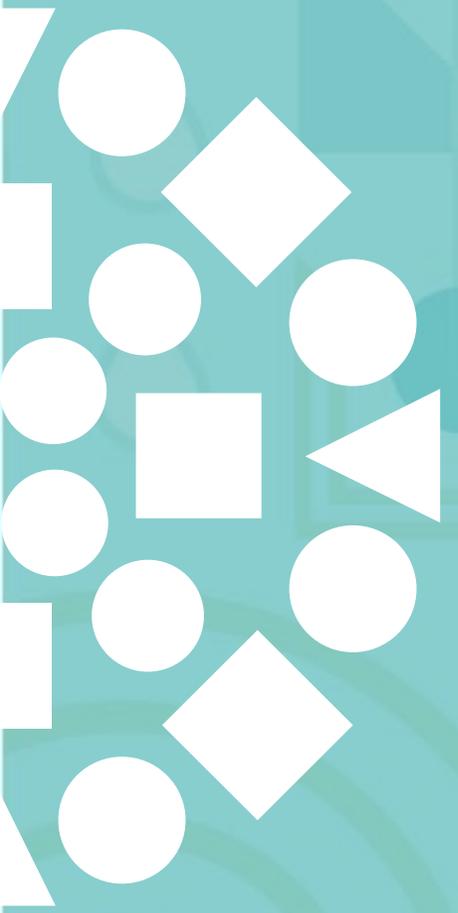
Ordinance 202/2019, of July 3 - Defines the terms and criteria applicable to the pilot project within the scope of the incentive system.

Law no. 76/2019, of 2 September

It determines the non-use and non-availability of single-use plastic crockery in the activities of the restaurant and / or beverage sector and in the retail trade.

- In establishments and other non-sedentary places and activities in the catering and / or beverage sector, reusable crockery or crockery made from biodegradable material should be used (except for the clinical / hospital and social / humanitarian emergencies).
- In the retail trade activity, single-use plastic tableware for the consumption of food or beverages cannot be made available.





General Waste Management Regime/UNILEX

DL n° 102-D/2020

Urban waste

Mandatory separate collection of biowaste

- Selective collection of biowaste, until December 31, 2023;
- In the case of biowaste from catering and industrial activities, its producers must separate it at source, without mixing it with other waste, according to the following schedule:
 - a) Until December 31, 2022, in the case of entities that produce more than 25 tonnes / year of biowaste;
 - B) Until December 31, 2023, in the remaining cases.
- Advantages associated with the selective collection of bio-waste:
 - Decreased waste disposal (ex landfill);
 - Production of quality compost for application to the soil;
 - Improvement in the quality of recycling of other recoverable flows.

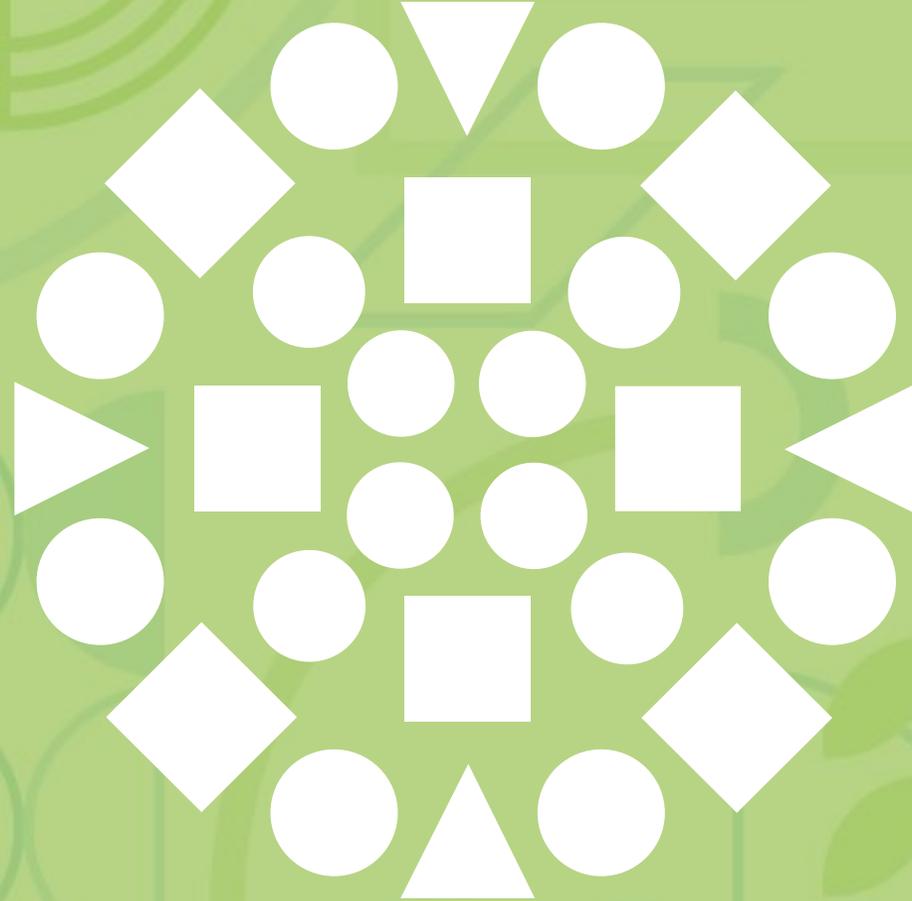


Principles of the “new” UNILEX

- Promoting eco-design of products
- Encouraging reduction in single-use packaging consumption
- To promote the increase of reusable packaging and reuse



Final considerations



Challenges

❖ **PLASTICS:**

- ❖ The level of ambition of the new European goals aims to guarantee the transition to a circular economy and its reach poses Portugal challenges of great complexity that require integrated responses, namely strategic changes, technology conversion and behavior change;
- ❖ The focus of the problem should be on changing behaviors and consumption habits to make the use of plastic sustainable. Statistics show that there is awareness of this issue and that it is the right time to act.

❖ **BIOWASTE:**

- ❖ The deadlines and targets to be reached in terms of the selective collection of biowaste, including those from restoration and industrial activities, constitute a challenge for Portugal and will involve several sectors.

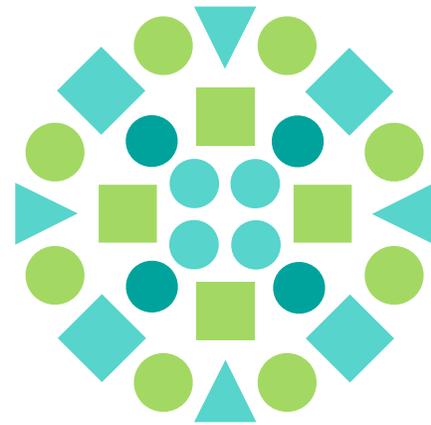
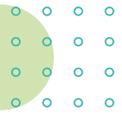
❖ **OTHER WASTE:**

- ❖ Implementation of measures for the proper deposition, collection and treatment of tobacco product residues.

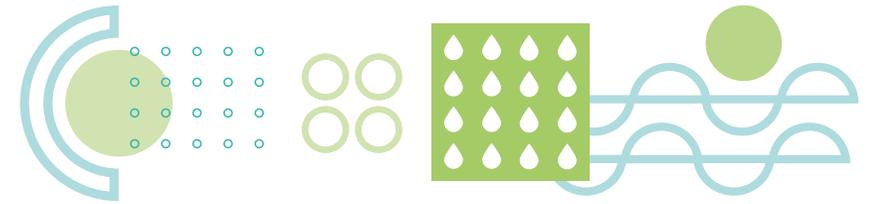
❖ **SOCIETY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT:**

- ❖ Promotion of awareness and involvement of society, motivating the correct adoption of good environmental practices.





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Obrigado!

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