

Presentation

Presented and hosted by



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- **Objective :**

To present an overview of global and Mediterranean actions and directions on tackling plastic waste, advancing circularity and promoting sustainable alternatives



- **Scope :**

Global, Mediterranean sea

The waste hierarchies

5Rs and 3Rs Hierarchies

- **3Rs Hierarchy** : Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- **5Rs Hierarchy** : Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recovery, Rot (disposal)

Today's approach

Least impactful

Most impactful

Upstream



Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recovery

Disposal

Downstream



Clean-up : initiatives' examples

Marine clean-up

Many public and private organisations are acting to "clean up" oceans and seas using **innovative technologies** : nets, floating booms or waste collecting boats.



THE OCEAN
CLEANUP



Land-based clean-up

Land-based and **coastal** waste collecting schemes are often seen as an effective way of preventing waste from ending up in the ocean.



Clean-up : key considerations and relevant applications

Key considerations

- **Costly** operations €
- Is it **enough** given the scale of plastic pollution ?
- **Risk** of giving the impression that it is the **best solution**

Relevant applications

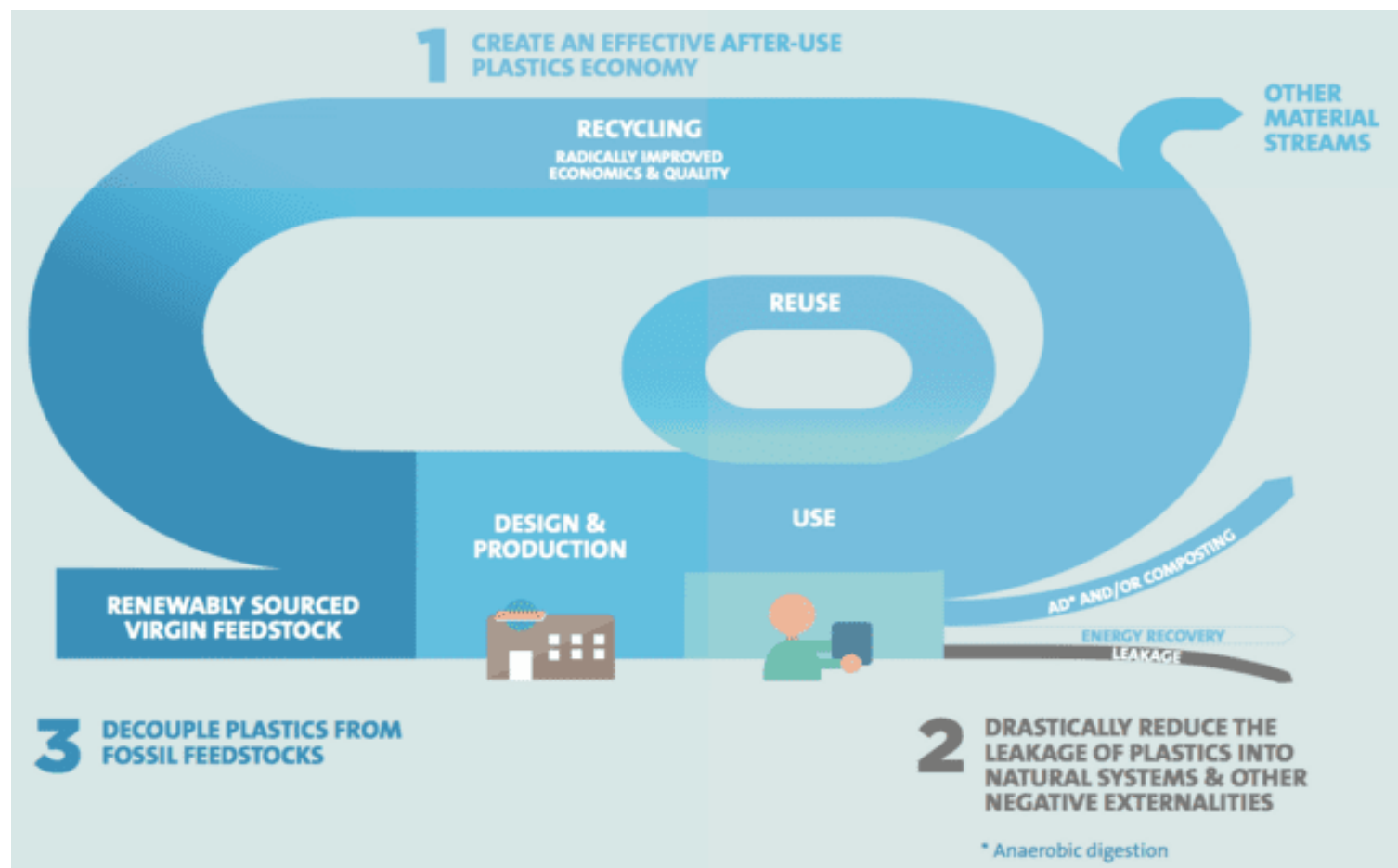
- Raising **public awareness** on plastic pollution
- Collect **data** (hotspots, sources, types) 
- Cleaning **heavily polluted** and **protected** areas

Recycling

A closed-loop circular economy?



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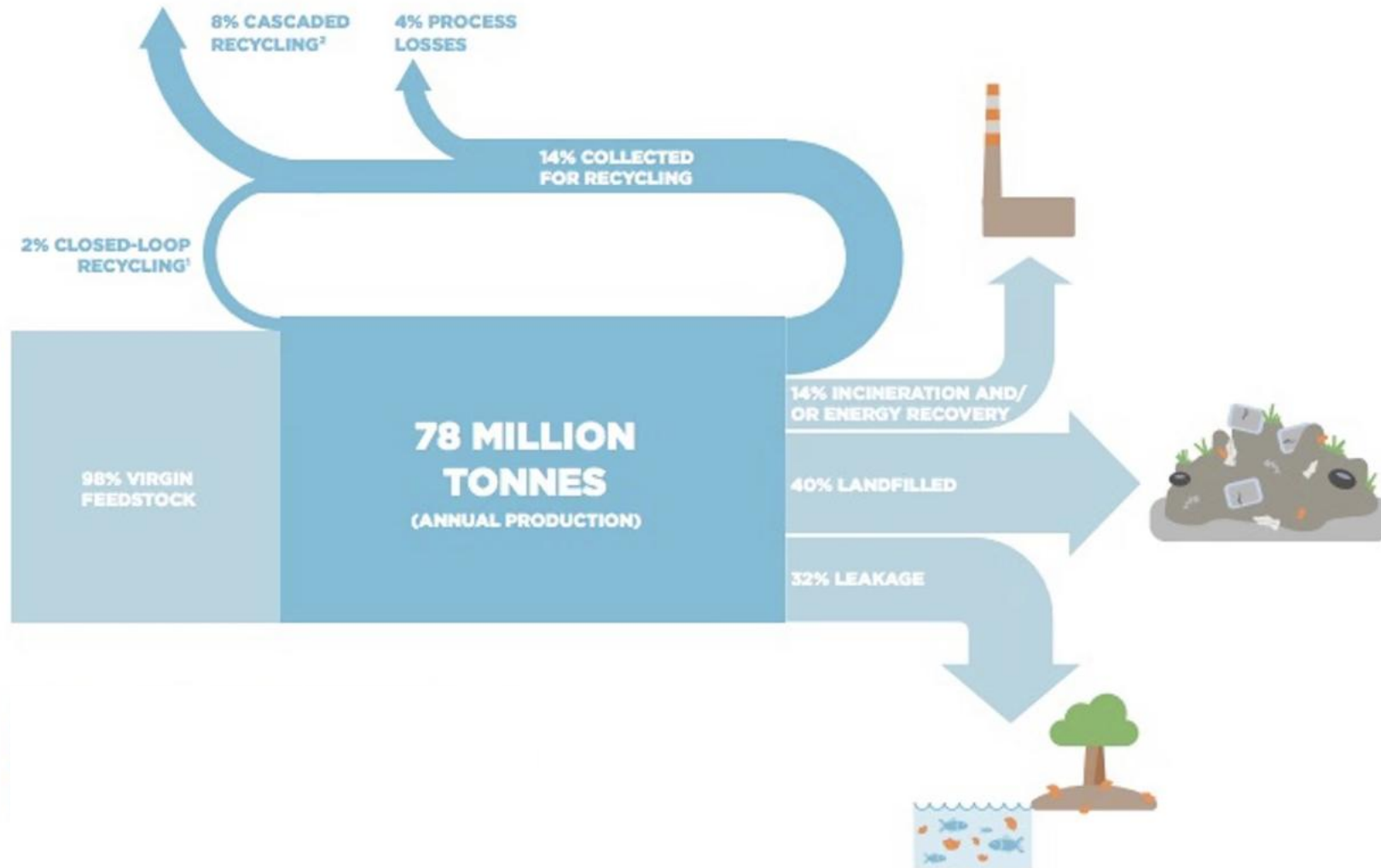


The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the Future of Plastics,
Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016

Recycling

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Recycling

A mixed picture

Plastic waste

- Plastic waste generated : **24 Mt/year**
- Recycled : **16%**

- Mismanaged : **28%**
- Plastic entering the Mediterranean Sea : **600,000 t/year**

Plastic waste recycling rates (mediterranean countries):

France	Italy	Albania	Türkiye	Egypt	Tunisia	Morocco
>25%	>30%	>15%	>10%	>15%	<10%	>20%

Recycling

Challenges facing the Mediterranean countries



Heterogeneous collection & sorting systems

Vary across the Mediterranean, resulting in **unequal recycling performance** between countries and even between **urban and rural areas..**



Uneven recycling infrastructure

Recycling capacity **remains limited** in several countries, with **insufficient treatment facilities** and investment.



Island-specific challenges

The issue:

- **High transport** costs
- **Small volumes** of recyclable waste
- **Limited** local recycling facilities



Informal waste collectors

A **key actor** in plastic recovery across several Southern Mediterranean countries. Effective recycling strategies **should recognise** and build on its contribution.

Reuse models

Reuse

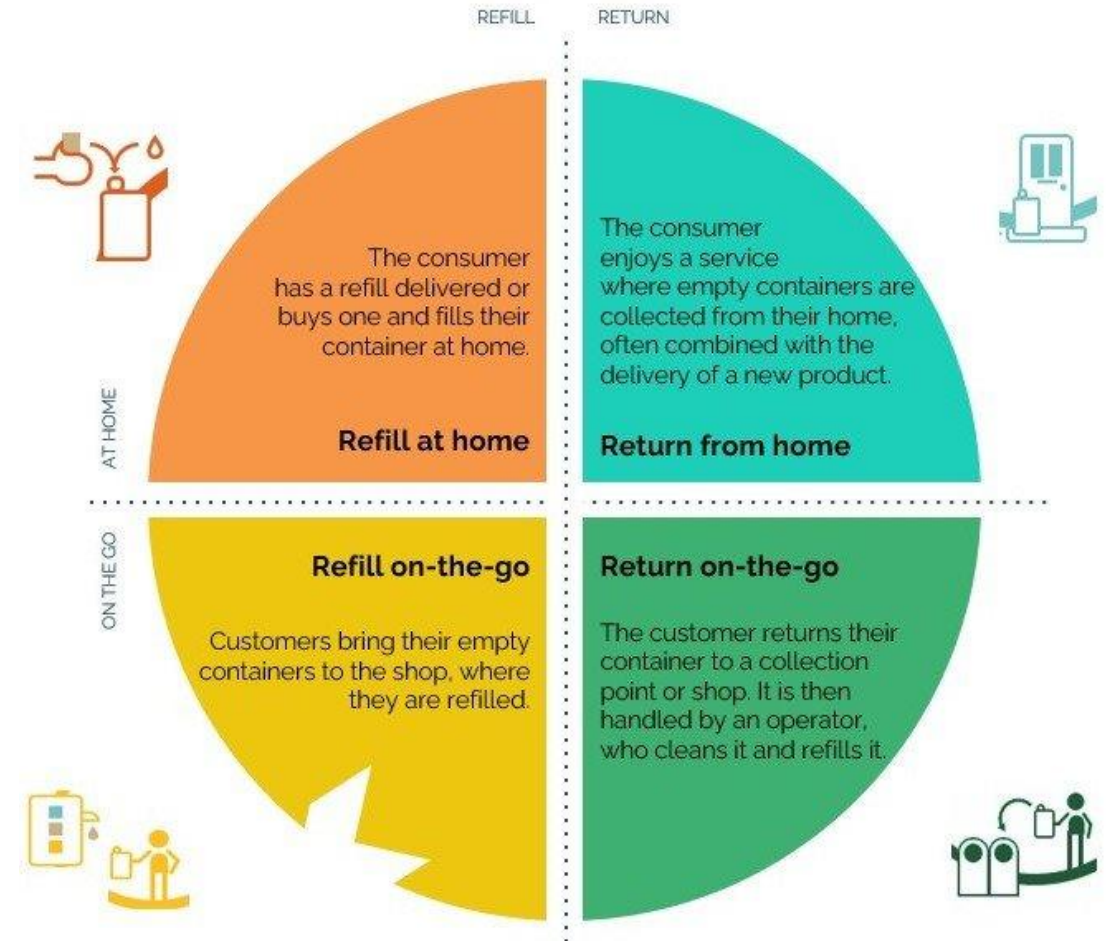
- **Definition :**

Every process by which a substance, matter or product that is not waste is **used again for the same purpose** as the one it was made for.

- **Point to watch out for :**

In English, the term "reuse" also refers to the action of using again but for a **different** purpose.

4 existing models :



Source : Adapted by ConsultantSeas

Reuse models

Focus on water bottles

- Plenty existing solutions to reduce single use plastic bottles
- Solutions that differ according to the geographic location because of:

→ Tap water quality

→ Deposit systems' maturity



Mediterranean countries examples

- **France:** *No Plastic In My Sea*, **220** solutions to replace plastic bottles: guide that identify solutions available in France
- **Cyprus:** Test of using water fountains and reusable glass bottles in a hotel : **331 gallons** of plastic water **avoided** (3 months test period)

Substitution by other materials

Plastic cup

Paper cup

Questions to ask yourself :

- Is it recyclable ?
- Does it contain plastic ?
- Is it still for a single use purpose ?

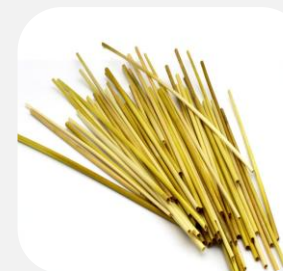


Plastic straw

Bamboo straw

Questions to ask yourself :

- Is it recyclable ?
- Does it compete with agricultural land ?



Substitution by bioplastics

Compostable

Plastic that can be converted into **compost** in the presence of oxygen and under controlled conditions



Bio-based

Plastic produced from **biomass** such as sugarcane, maize, rice or potato starch and agricultural by-products



Biodegradable

Plastic that can be **broken down** within a reasonable timeframe by living organisms



Limits

- Compostable ≠ Bio-based ≠ Biodegradable
- Competition for agricultural land
- Possible confusion for the consumer

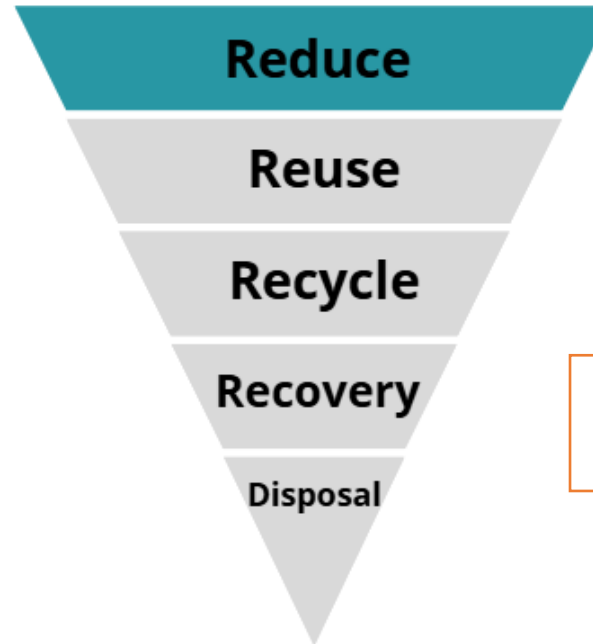
Example



*Biodegradable
and
compostable
bags,
Flessobags
Italy*

Reduction and prevention

Engagement from
the private sector



Public policies

1) Product specific
regulations

2) System-wide
instruments

Focus on single use plastic bags (SUP)

One of the most widely regulated SUP products across the Mediterranean.

- Ban in **France** : *Decree no. 379/2016*
- Ban in **Italy** : *Law No. 28/2012*
- Ban in **Morocco** : *Law no. 77-15, 2016*
- Mandatory levy in **Türkiye** : *Law no. 77-15, 2016*



Reduction and prevention

Policy instruments in the Mediterranean : System wide instruments

Packaging & Single use Plastic Regulations

Reduces unnecessary packaging
and promotes reusable,
recyclable and recycled-content
packaging.



EU: PPWR introduces packaging reduction, reuse targets and recycled content requirements.



Morocco: Law 77-15 ("Zero Mika") bans the manufacture and use of plastic bags.



Tunisia: Progressive restrictions on selected single-use plastic products and packaging.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Implemented or under
development in several
countries



France: Mature EPR schemes covering packaging and many other product streams.



Tunisia: Eco-Lef system for the collection and recovery of plastic packaging.



Morocco: EPR framework under development as part of the National Household Waste Programme.

Reduction and prevention

Policy instruments in the Mediterranean : System wide instruments

Deposit Return Systems (DRS)

Encourages consumers to return beverage containers through a refundable deposit



Türkiye: National DRS being progressively rolled out under the Zero Waste Initiative.



Italy: Growing interest in DRS, alongside existing reuse and refill systems.



Albania: DRS discussed as a potential tool to improve beverage packaging collection.

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)

Uses public purchasing to promote sustainable and reusable products and services.



France: Public procurement increasingly integrates SUP reduction requirements.



Italy: Green Public Procurement (CAM) includes mandatory environmental criteria.



Egypt: SPP principles are progressively being integrated into national green growth and sustainable consumption initiatives.

Conclusion

↑ Prefer **upstream solutions**
(reduction, substitution)



Substitution



Number and **type** of solutions
that varies between each
mediterranean countries



Marine clean-up

↓ Over **downstream solutions**
(recycling, clean-up)



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Thank you for your attention!