

SUMMARY

Legal regulation of Municipal Waste Management

The purpose of my thesis is to analyse the national legislative frameworks on municipal waste management. The reason for my research is based on the fact that waste volumes are growing, driven by changing production and consumption patterns.

As confirmed in the Sixth Environment Action Programme, waste management is one of the key priorities of EU environmental policy and the framework in this area has been progressively put in place since 1970s. EU waste policy is instrumental for determining the potential outcomes to be achieved, but country-level policies determine the actual outcome. EU allows each Member State to tailor policies to its own particular circumstances. Waste management choices depend on the existing waste management facilities, infrastructure and governance structures.

Although household waste represents a relatively small percentage of the total amount of waste produced it is a highly significant proportion because it contains large quantities of organic waste which can cause pollution problems, as well as [materials](#) such as glass and plastics which do not break down easily. The options for dealing with municipal waste are described in the „*waste hierarchy*“ - with those towards the top of the list more desirable than those towards the bottom. Despite the hierarchy, the majority of municipal waste in the Czech Republic is still being disposed of through landfill. In general there seems to be two strategies for diverting municipal waste from landfill: (i) to aim for high material recovery combined with incineration or (ii) to aim for sophisticated level of material recovery, which includes recycling, composting and mechanical biological treatment.

So that it is increasingly important to provide answers to the question: How the national policies implemented or planned shift waste management practices in a less environmentally harmful direction according to the waste hierarchy? Common goal is to achieve more cost-effective solution to the various problems being faced, particularly in the context of the Landfill Directive and other relevant EU waste policies. The Landfill Directive pursues two approaches (i) to introduce stringent technical requirements for landfills (ii) to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill by setting targets. Therefore it is big challenge for EU Member States to meet the targets and the Czech Republic is one of the states not achieving them.

The thesis is composed of four chapters, each of them dealing with different aspects of municipal waste policies and trends at the EU level as well as in the territory of the Czech Republic.

Chapter One is introductory and contains basic information on the scope, term, structure and content of my Master's Degree Thesis.

Chapter Two examines historical development of relevant policies at EU level as well as at national level. Furthermore, it concentrates on problems resulting from the objectives and measures for municipal waste management stipulated in the Waste Management Plan of the Czech Republic, which has been drawn up for a period of 10 years, i.e. from 2003 to 2012. Finally, it defines basic terminology fundamental to the waste management.

Chapter Three is subdivided into three parts. First of all it provides an outline of legal instruments given to the local authorities at municipal level to be able to serve as a key player in the field of municipal waste management in accordance with being recognized as a waste producer by Czech national law. Secondly, it deals with the management of the collection of recyclable and packaging waste as an integral part of municipal waste based on the producer responsibility principle. Last it focuses on variety of charging systems for waste collection as their different forms can strongly influence recycling and waste minimisation behaviour.

Conclusions and recommendations for changes to be made in legislation are drawn in **Chapter Four**. The Czech Republic is one of the countries with low material recovery and incineration of municipal waste. On the other hand the introduction of separate collection system for packaging waste has achieved results. In general national strategy must of necessity combine different instruments in a tailored package.