

LIFE BIOBEST

GUIDING THE MAINSTREAMING OF BEST BIO-WASTE RECYCLING
PRACTICES IN EUROPE

Annex 3: Results from the Mirror Groups to D2.1: Improved and homogenized datasets

WP2: Definition of bio-waste indicators and data analysis

T2.1: Identification and analysis of existing data

JULY-AUGUST 2023

Public Report



Co-funded by
the European Union

LIFE21-PRE-ES-LIFE BIOBEST - 101086420

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Table of Contents

1	Mirror Group A.....	3
1.1	Mirror Group A Agenda and structure.....	3
1.2	Mirror Group A composition.....	5
1.3	Results and outcomes of the Mirror Group A.....	7
2	Mirror Group B.....	14
2.1	Mirror Group B Agenda and structure.....	14
2.2	Mirror Group B composition.....	16
2.3	Results and outcomes of the Mirror Group B meeting.....	17
3	Index of figures.....	28
4	Index of tables.....	30

1 Mirror Group A

LIFE BIOBEST project identified and invited contact persons from various member states working at the Ministries of Environment (MoE), from Waste Agencies or from National statistical offices that are focusing on MSW management data, composting and anaerobic digestion facility data.

The interaction with these persons and authorities aimed to obtain information regarding barriers to collect data for bio-waste management two Mirror Groups have been organised and the insights from these meetings served to establish recommendations to data collection and management.

An online meeting was arranged by polling at least 2 dates to all participants and selecting the date and timeslot with largest preference. The Mirror Group A webinar with all Mirror Group members was organised on 23rd of May 2023 (14:00 – 16:30; CET) to identify barriers in getting existing data about bio-waste recycling, considering that some member states do not publish their municipal waste data.



Figure 1. Mirror Group A summary

1.1 Mirror Group A Agenda and structure

The meeting was arranged and conducted by Consorzio Italiano Compostatori (CIC).

The Agenda of the Mirror Group meeting was divided into different steps or questions; the meeting started by sharing with stakeholders which kind of data and barriers LIFE BIOBEST project is looking for, showing examples of already established databases and highlighting barriers already identified.



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**Guiding the mainstreaming of best biowaste recycling
practices in Europe**
LIFE21-PRE-ES-LIFE BIOBEST - 101086420

Mirror Group webinar: Identification of barriers limiting the bio-waste data
collection and management

Link to the registration form: [HERE](#)

Date: 23rd of May 2023 (14:00 – 16:30; CET)

14:00 - Welcome
14:15 - Quick roundtable to introduce the participants
14:30 - Introduction of the Life Biobest project
14:45 - What data we are looking for and what barriers we may encounter
15:15 - An example on best performance of data collection and management
15:30 - Open discussion with all participants to identify barriers in getting
existing data and how to overcome them
16:15 - Conclusions

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Figure 2. Mirror Group A Agenda

To ease the participation and evaluation by participants, bio-waste management and recycling is schematised as a supply chain starting from feedstock (bio-waste) up to treatment (recycling at compost or anaerobic digestion plants) obtaining products (compost/digestate); hence the supply chain is divided into three steps:

1. Legislations and Regulation
2. Collection and transport
3. Recycling (treatment)

For each step (1-2-3) questions were shared among participants followed by a session of polls/and answers about the different questions using the SLIDO app (www.slido.com). It was

requested to submit only 1 response to the survey per National or Regional Stakeholder, while EU institutions (JRC, Eurostat) or other stakeholders at the EU level were requested to not reply to the survey.



Figure 3. Indications for the use of SLIDO during Mirror Group A

A set of 5 targeted questions were addressed to the participants with a number of polls to be answered during the online participation, plus a final question to evaluate the degree of satisfaction.

1.2 Mirror Group A composition

The following table list all stakeholders identified and contacted by LIFE BIOBEST project; the last column traces the answers provided and the effective participation during the webinar.

Stakeholders were contacted at least 2 times between April-May 2023 by e-mail and direct contacts from the experts of LIFE BIOBEST project. A few National Authorities did not reply at all to our request while some participants were unable to join on the date proposed and, in some cases, they have been interviewed in a dedicated online call.

Out of a total of 21 stakeholders contacted, 13 representatives participated. On June 14th a specific individual interview was arranged with a stakeholder (from the Ministry of Environment of Estonia) that was available to engage regarding the evaluation of barriers but unable to join on the dates selected for a maximum participation among all potential participants. The answers and comments of each interview were included anonymously into the results obtained during Mirror Group A.

Stakeholder	Jurisdiction	Contact person	Reply	Participation
JRC – Joint Research Centre – European Commission	EU	Mr. Jorge Cristobal Garcia	Yes	Yes
Eurostat	EU	Mr. Oscar Gomez-Prieto Ms. Joanna Sulik	Yes	Yes
UBA – German Environment Agency	Germany	Mr. Tim Hermann	Yes	Yes
MoE Italy	Italy	Mr. Andrea Lanz	No	No
ARC – Waste Agency of Catalonia	Spain/ Catalonia	Mr. Francesc Giró i Fontanals	Yes	Yes
MINZP – Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia	Ms. Miroslava Masničáková	Yes	Yes
MoE Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Mr. Jan Marsak	No	No
Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie	Austria	servicebuero@bmk.gv.at	No	No
EEA	EU	Ms. Almut Reichel	Yes	No
OVAM – Public Waste Agency of Flanders	Belgium/ Flanders	Mr. Gil Gram	Yes	Yes
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia:	Slovenia	Ms. Ludmila Ivančikova –	No	No
NWCPO – National Waste Collection Permit Office	Ireland	Mr. Leo Duffy	Yes	Yes
ADEME – The French Agency for Ecological Transition	France	Ms. Muriel Bruschet	Yes	Yes
Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente	Portugal	Ms. Ana Carrola	Yes	No
NHKV – National Coordination of Waste Management and Asset Management Plc.	Hungary	Mr. Tamas Rupp	Yes	Yes
RWS- Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management)	Netherlands	Mr. Olaf van Hunnik	No	No

Stakeholder	Jurisdiction	Contact person	Reply	Participation
Miljøministeriet	Denmark	Mr. Casper Schwartz Glottrup	Yes	No
MITECO - Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge	Spain	Ms. Gema Gonzalo Pedrero	Yes	Yes
Provincial Government of Styria - Waste and Resource Management	Austria/STMK	Mr. Theo Friedrich Ms. Ingrid Winter	Yes	Yes
VARAM - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Latvia	Ms. Alise Vecozola Ms. Sandija Svarupa Ms. Santa Kristiāna Šteinblūma Ms. Jolanta Malnace Ms. Linda Arbidāne Ms. Ilze Donina	Yes	Yes
Keskkonnaministeerium - Ministry of the Environment of Estonia	Estonia	Ms. Karen Silts	No	Yes (individual interview on June 14 th)

Table 1. Invited and actual participants of Mirror Group A

1.3 Results and outcomes of the Mirror Group A

Initially most of the participants thought that their country counts only partially with reliable data on bio-waste collection and recycling for waste decision-making strategies.

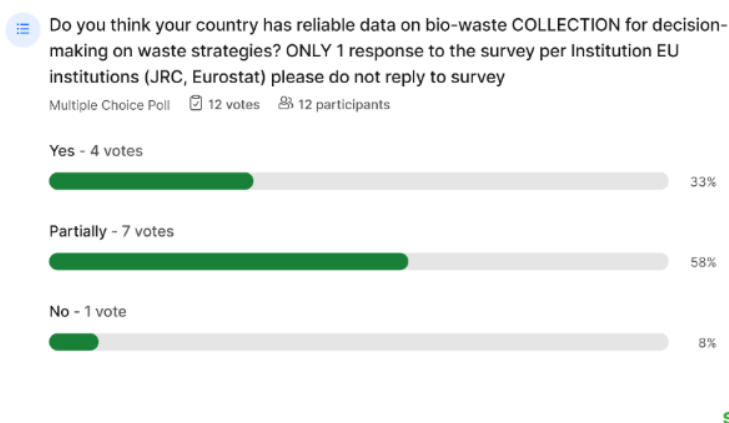


Figure 4. Poll about the presence of reliable data on bio-waste collection



Figure 5. Poll about the presence of reliable data on bio-waste recycling

Regarding the availability of bio-waste management data, the Stakeholders confirm that these data are generally public and accessible online (the poll regarding this question, presented on Figure 6, proves it with 77% of positive answers).



Figure 6. Poll about the publicity and accessibility of bio-waste management data

There is space for improvement of the level of detail of the data especially in the case of quantities of bio-waste collected, since, according to the poll shown on Figure 7, only 50% of the Stakeholders consider that detailed data is available up to the municipal level (for bio-waste collection). At the same time, as seen on Figure 8, almost 80% of the Stakeholders think that detailed data is available about single treatment plant for bio-waste recycling.

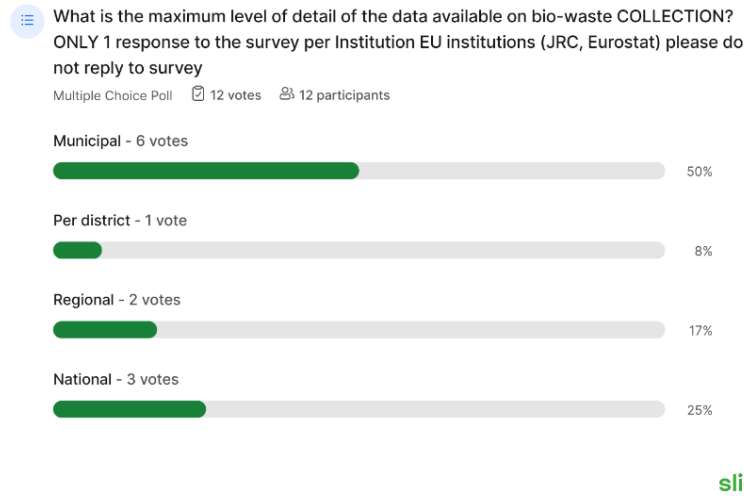


Figure 7. Poll about the maximum level of detail of the available data on bio-waste collection

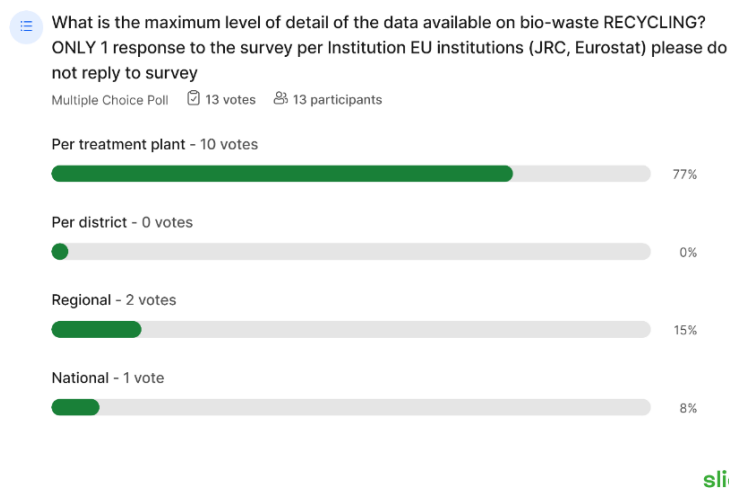


Figure 8. Poll about the maximum level of detail of the available data on bio-waste recycling

Regarding the accessibility of data for bio-waste treatment plants at the national/regional level, the answers of the stakeholders confirm the outcomes of the first 5 months of activity of LIFE BIOBEST project; in fact, as shown on Figure 9, 62% of the answers confirm that this information can be accessed only by addressing a special request to the relevant authority(s). A general overview of how bio-waste is collected and recycled is not immediate for one Member State out of two (see Figure 10), since the institution that gathers the data at treatment plant level is not responsible for the data on bio-waste collection. Unifying the responsibilities and the authorities that collect and publish both types of data would certainly improve the situation at the level of a single Member State.

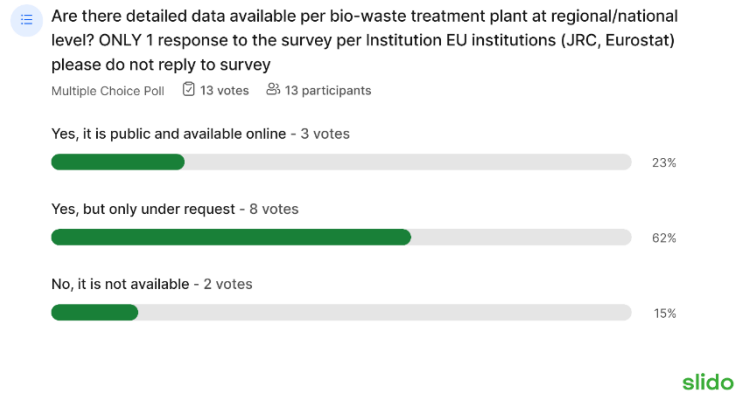


Figure 9. Poll about the data availability per bio-waste treatment plant

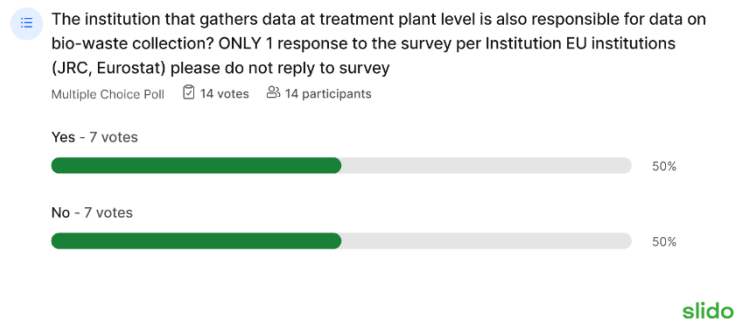


Figure 10. Poll about the institution that gathers data at treatment plant and on bio-waste collection

Regarding the two main barriers identified by stakeholders to have unified data describing bio-waste collection and recycling in their specific country, the answers identify a number of issues, ranked according to the poll; the main barrier appears to be the lack of obligation for local authorities to report the data to a regional or national institutions, together with a lack of infrastructures/websites to collect data and understaffed authorities responsible to coordinate the data management. The rankings of the main barriers to have unified data on bio-waste collection and recycling in the country that were highlighted by the Stakeholders are presented respectively on the following Figure 11 and Figure 12.

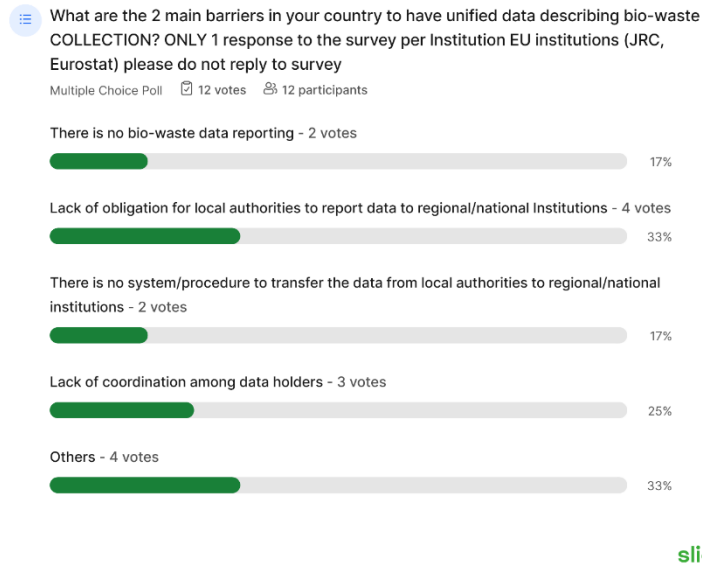


Figure 11. Poll about the main barriers to have the unified data on bio-waste collection

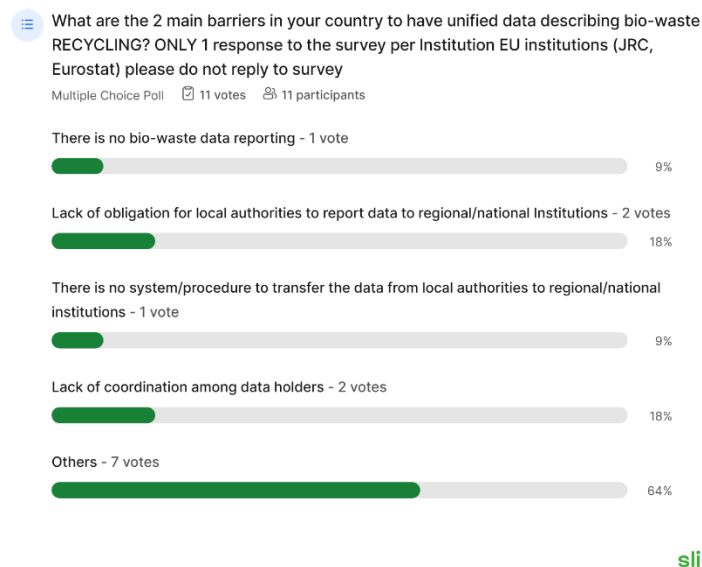


Figure 12. Poll about the main barriers to have the unified data on bio-waste recycling

Interesting results emerge from the question addressing the missing data and information about bio-waste collection (see Figure 13); the quality of bio-waste appears not to be monitored and reported systematically to National authorities (73% of polls) followed by the lack of data about the cost of the service to municipalities (which represent a factor of sustainability in the circular economy approach). Similarly, the lack of information about the gate fees applied at single recycling facilities for bio-waste and the destination or market for the products of the recycling process (i.e. compost, digestate or biogas), determines a coarse overview about the effectiveness of compost, digestate and biogas production (see Figure 14).

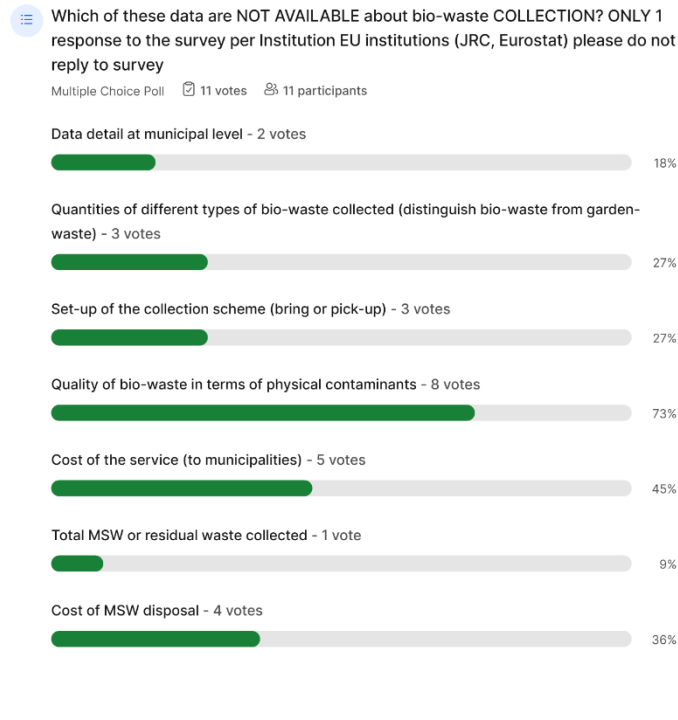


Figure 13. Poll about the non-available type of data on bio-waste collection

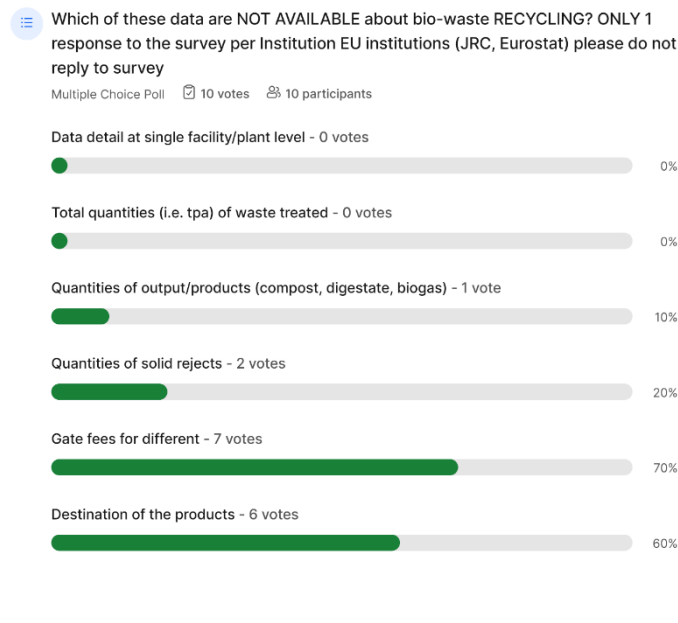


Figure 14. Poll about the non-available type of data on bio-waste recycling

An example of detailed national data available in Italy for both bio-waste collection and recycling with a detail at the city level (for collection) and the facility level (for recycling) was shown and shared with all participating stakeholders. Catalonia's public database on food waste characterizations was also presented as an example how regional authorities are monitoring the

quality of bio-waste from separate collection. The details of these Best Practices are commented on in chapter 8 of D2.1 Improved and homogenized datasets.

A final set of questions addressed the main features and drivers included into the National legislation regarding bio-waste recycling in the country of the stakeholders; the answers clearly indicate that targets for the separate collection of bio-waste are available to a smaller number of Member States compared to the ones addressing the separate collection of all MSW; this is somehow consistent with current EU legislation addressing minimum recycling of MSW, but may need to be revised if bio-waste has to be recycled consistently from 2024 onwards throughout the EU.

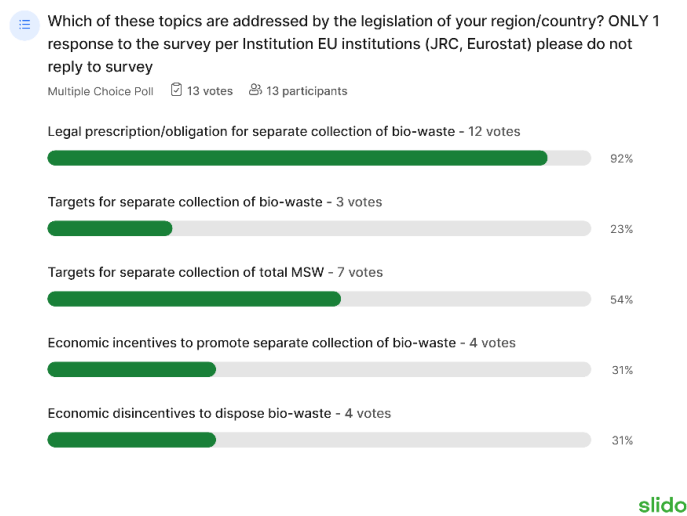


Figure 15. Poll about the topics addressed by the legislation in each Country

2 Mirror Group B

LIFE BIOBEST project identified and invited contact persons from about 20 umbrella organisations located in the EU and engaged in promoting recycling of MSW, waste minimisation, focusing specifically on bio-waste recycling in terms of composting or anaerobic digestion. The organisations include non-governmental organisations (NGO) and associations of professional companies of the waste management or treatment sector.

The interaction with these persons and umbrella organisations aimed to obtain information regarding barriers to collect data for bio-waste management, as done previously with the minor groups involving National Authorities, and the insights from this interaction served to establish recommendations to data collection and management.

An online meeting was arranged by polling at least 2 dates to all participants and selecting the date and timeslot with largest preference. The Mirror Group B webinar with all Mirror Group members was organised on 20th of June 2023 (14:00 – 16:30; CET).



Figure 16. Mirror Group B summary

2.1 Mirror Group B Agenda and structure

The meeting was arranged and conducted by CIC – Consorzio Italiano Compostatori.

The Agenda of the Mirror Group meeting was divided into different steps or questions; the meeting started by sharing with stakeholders which kind of data and barriers LIFE BIOBEST project is looking for, showing examples of already established databases and highlighting barriers already identified.



The poster features a dark blue background with a light blue circular graphic in the top right and a yellow circular graphic in the bottom left. At the top left, it displays the LIFE BIOBEST logo and the European Union logo with the text 'Co-funded by the European Union'. The main title is 'Guiding the mainstreaming of best biowaste recycling practices in Europe' followed by 'LIFE21-PRE-ES-LIFE BIOBEST - 101086420'. Below this, it states 'Mirror Group webinar: Identification of barriers limiting the bio-waste data collection and management'. A link to the registration form is provided as 'HERE'. The date is '20th of June 2023 (14:00 – 16:00; CET)'. The agenda items are listed with their respective times: 14:00 - Welcome and introduction of the Life Biobest project; 14:10 - What data we are looking for and what barriers we may encounter; 14:45 - An example on best performance of data collection and management; 15:00 - Open discussion with all participants to identify barriers in getting existing data and how to overcome them; 15:45 - Conclusions. At the bottom right, a disclaimer states: 'LIFE BIOBEST is a project co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the CINEA - EC. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.'

Figure 17. Mirror Group B Agenda

To ease the participation and evaluation by participants, bio-waste management and recycling is schematised as a supply chain starting from feedstock (bio-waste) up to treatment (recycling at compost or anaerobic digestion plants) obtaining products (compost/digestate); hence the supply chain is divided into three steps:

1. Legislations and Regulation
2. Collection and transport
3. Recycling (treatment)

For each step (1-2-3) several questions were shared among participants followed by a session of polls/and answers about the different questions using the SLIDO app (www.slido.com).

A set of 5 groups of questions were addressed to the participants with a number of polls to be answered during the online participation, plus a final question to evaluate the degree of satisfaction.

2.2 Mirror Group B composition

The following table lists all umbrella organisation identified and contacted by LIFE BIOBEST project; the last column traces the answers provided and the effective participation during the webinar. Part of the participants are also members of the LIFE BIOBEST consortium.

Stakeholders were contacted at least 2 times between April-May 2023 by e-mail and direct contacts by the experts of LIFE BIOBEST project. A few organisations did not reply at all to our request while some participants were unable to join on the date proposed and in some cases they have been interviewed in a dedicated online call.

Out of a total of 17 umbrella organisations contacted, 7 representatives participated. Specific individual interviews were arranged with umbrella organisation that were available to engage regarding the evaluation of barriers but unable to join on the dates selected for a maximum participation among all potential participants. The interviews were arranged with representants of:

- Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) – an umbrella organisation for EPR schemes in EU and in non-EU countries
- Service of General Interest Europe (SGI Europe) – an umbrella organisation representing companies responsible for public services in various EU countries.

The answers and comments of each interviewee were then included anonymously into the results obtained during Mirror Group B.

Umbrella organisation	Contact person	Reply	Participation
European Biogas Association (EBA)	Mr. Mathias Hartel	No	No
European Compost Network (ECN)	Mr. Steffen Walk Mr. Riccardo Gambini	Yes	Yes
Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA)	Mr. Joachim Quoden	Yes	Yes (individual interview on July 5th)
European Waste Management Association (FEAD)	Mr. Paolo Campanella	Yes	No
Municipal Waste EU (MW EU)	Ms. Vanya Veras	Yes	No
European Environment Agency (EEA)	Ms. Almut Reichel	Yes	Yes

Umbrella organisation	Contact person	Reply	Participation
International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)	Ms. Jane Gilbert	Yes	Yes
Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)	Mr. Enzo Favoino Mr. Jack McQuibban Ms. Manon Jourdan	Yes	Yes
Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+)	Mr. Jean-Benoit Bel Ms. Lauriane Noirot	Yes	Yes
European Bioplastics (EUBP)	Mr. Hasso von Pogrell	Yes	No
European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)	Ms. Elisabeth Freytag Rigler	No	No
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	Ms. Patrizia Heidegger	No	No
EURIC - Advocating Recycling in Europe	Mr. Emmanuel Katrakis	No	No
Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)	Ms. Silvijia Aile	No	No
Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)	Mr. Pavel Misiga	No	No
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Ms. Oriana Romana	No	No
Services of General Interest Europe (SGI Europe)	Ms. Henriette Gleau	Yes	Yes (individual interview on July 4th)

Table 2. Invited and actual participants of Mirror Group B

2.3 Results and outcomes of the Mirror Group B meeting

During the start of the meeting the LIFE BIOBEST team shared with the participants the results of the data search by highlighting the Best Practice cases identified (see chapter 8 of D2.1 Improved and homogenized datasets).

The first set of questions addresses the main opinion of the stakeholders about the regularity of EU Member States in updating their data about bio-waste management, the accessibility of those data at online-databases and the level of detail of those data.

According to only 1/4 of the participants the data about bio-waste management are regularly updated in most EU-Member States once every two years, while the majority of the experts (57%) indicates that data are public and accessible online only for less than half of all EU-Member States (see Figure 18 and Figure 19).



Figure 18. Poll about the update of the data in EU Member States

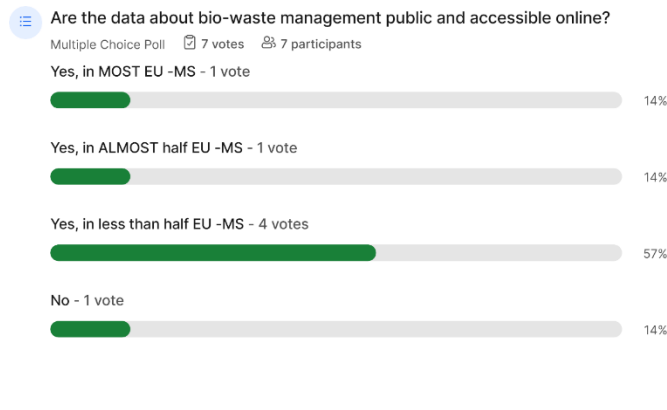


Figure 19. Poll about the publicity and accessibility of the data in EU Member States

In addition, the experts were asked to comment about the maximum level of detail of the data on bio-waste collection, limiting the answer to those Member States with available data; the answers show that only in less than 40% of the cases there is a maximum level of details (i.e., per municipality). The results of the poll regarding this question are presented on Figure 20.

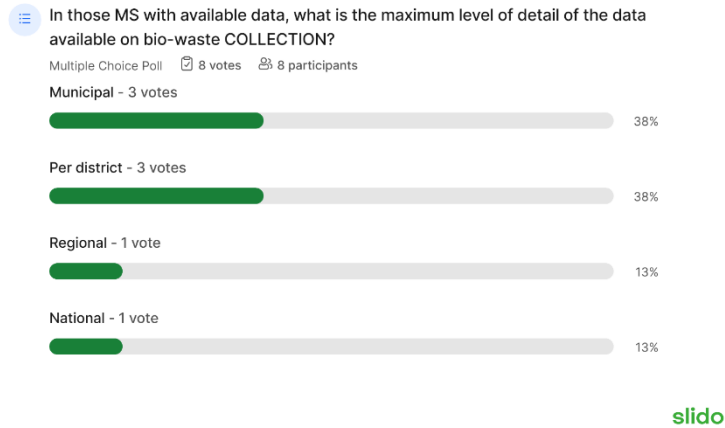


Figure 20. Poll about the maximum level of detail of the data on bio-waste collection

The experts were also asked to comment on the maximum level of detail of the data on bio-waste recycling, limiting the answer to those Member States with available data; the answers show that generally (i.e., 43% of all cases, as Figure 21 confirms) data are available per plant, which is the (expected) maximum level of detail. But again, the accessibility and availability of those data is critical, since for only 13% of the experts these are public and available online, as presented by the poll shown on Figure 22.

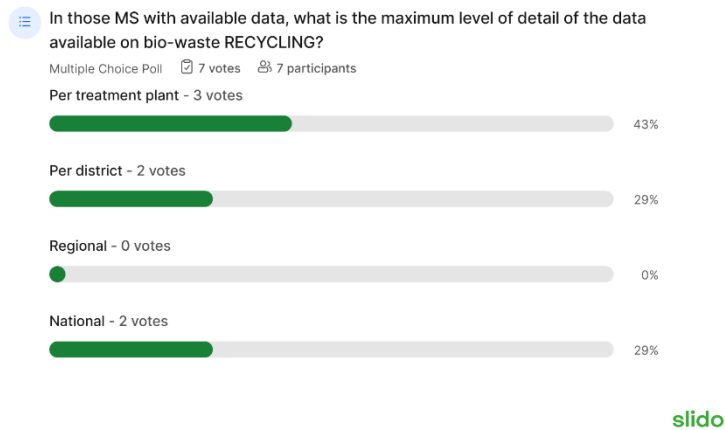


Figure 21. Polls about the maximum level of detail of the data on bio-waste recycling

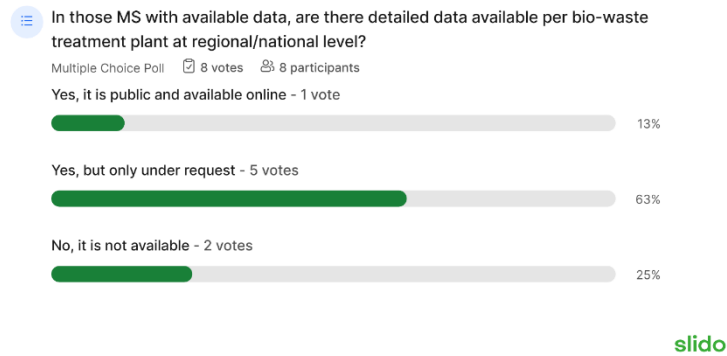


Figure 22. Poll about the availability of data per bio-waste treatment plant

Finally expert opinions revealed that in most of those Member States with available data, the institution that gathers data at treatment plant level is also responsible for data on bio-waste collection; this makes the access to data to evaluate bio-waste management in principle less complex for decision makers and local authorities.

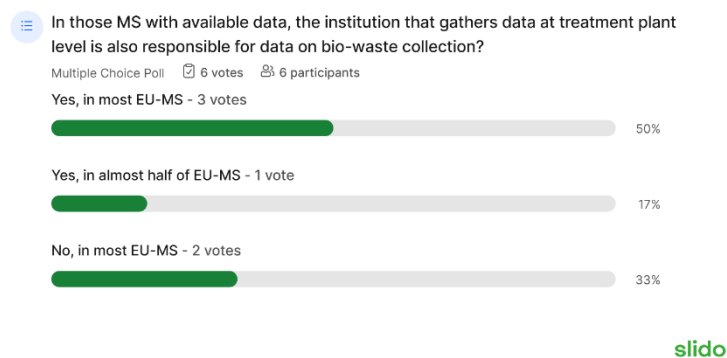


Figure 23. Poll about the institution gathering the data

A second set of questions was addressed to compare the availability of data about bio-waste management and about packaging waste management; the latter represents a sector which has a significant number of stakeholders and producer responsibility schemes which are obliged since almost two decades to reach and to report recycling or separate collection targets to the specific EU Member States they are located in. As Figure 24 presents, all the experts agree that there is a significant difference in the frequency of publishing bio-waste management and for their availability, confirming that there is “room for improvement”.

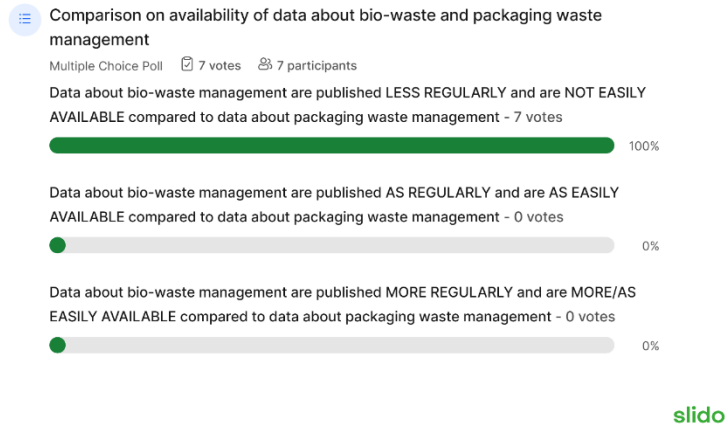


Figure 24. Poll about the comparison on availability of data about bio-waste and packaging waste management

Discussion with the experts continued to identify the main barriers in EU Member States to have unified data describing bio-waste-management; the questions focused separately on bio-waste collection and on recycling.

Regarding bio-waste collection, the main barriers ranked by experts are the lack of coordination among data holders, followed by the lack of obligation for local authorities to report data to regional/national institutions.

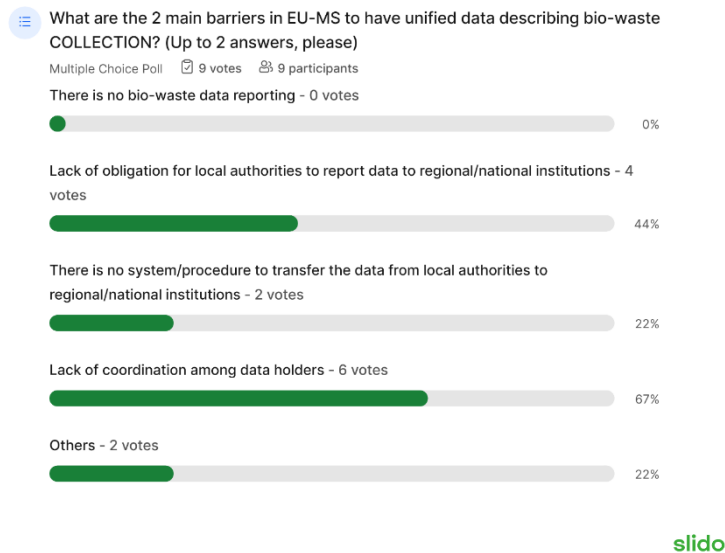


Figure 25. Poll about the main barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste collection

Some interesting data emerge from the open text poll presented on Figure 26, where the experts were given an opportunity to specify other barriers not listed on the previous poll.

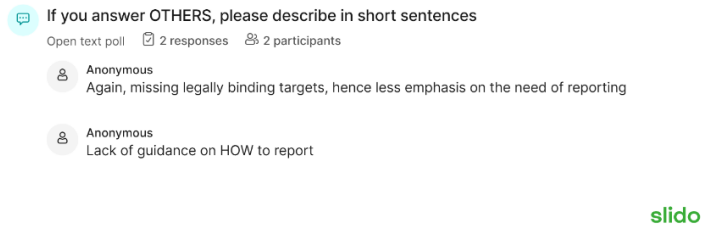


Figure 26. Poll about other barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste collection

Regarding bio-waste recycling, the main barriers identified by experts are the lack of coordination among data holders, followed by the lack of obligation for local authorities to report data to regional/national institutions. Thus, the two main barriers for reporting data about collection and recycling are overlapping.

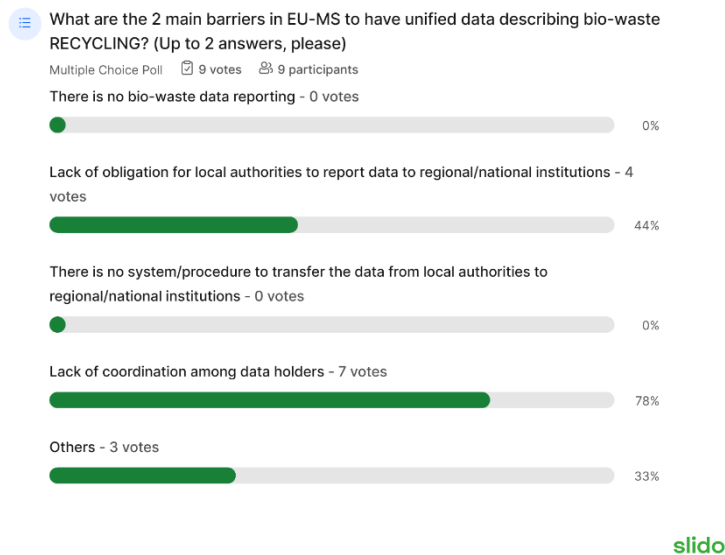


Figure 27. Poll about the main barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste recycling

Again, the experts were invited to specify other barriers to have unified data describing bio-waste recycling, not mentioned in the previous poll. These particular barriers are presented on Figure 28.

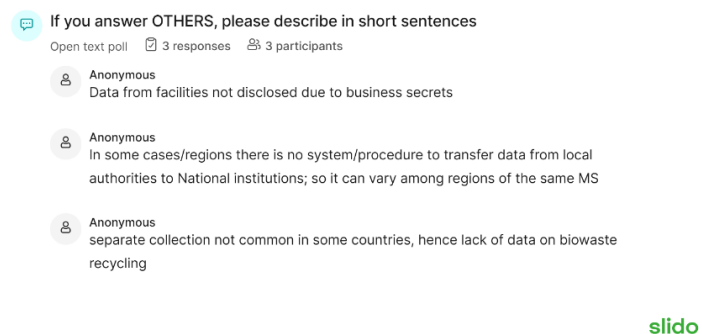


Figure 28. Poll about other barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste recycling

Considering the lack of obligation for local authorities identified in the previous answers, experts were asked to express their opinion about the suggested frequency of reporting data about bio-waste management that should be requested to local authorities (and facilities). Experts were unanimous in suggesting an annual frequency for data reporting.

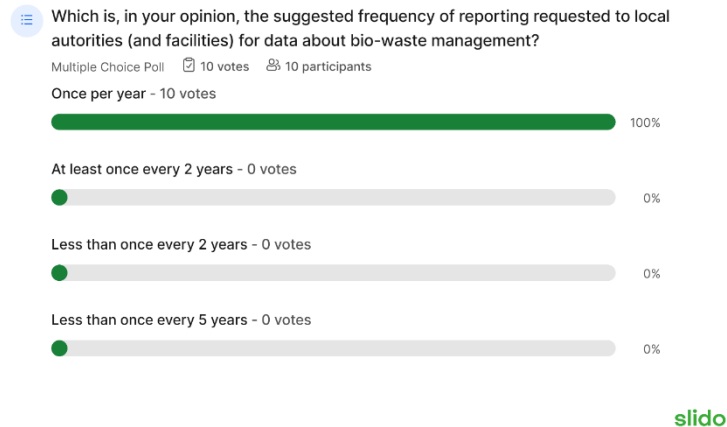
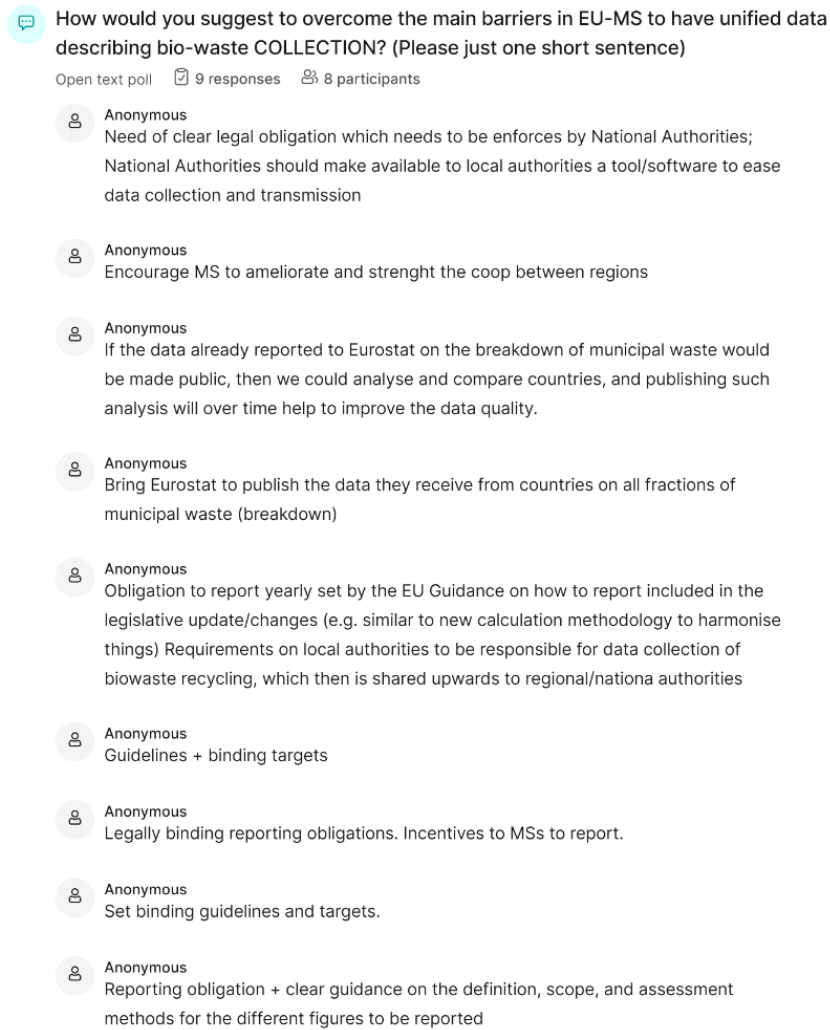


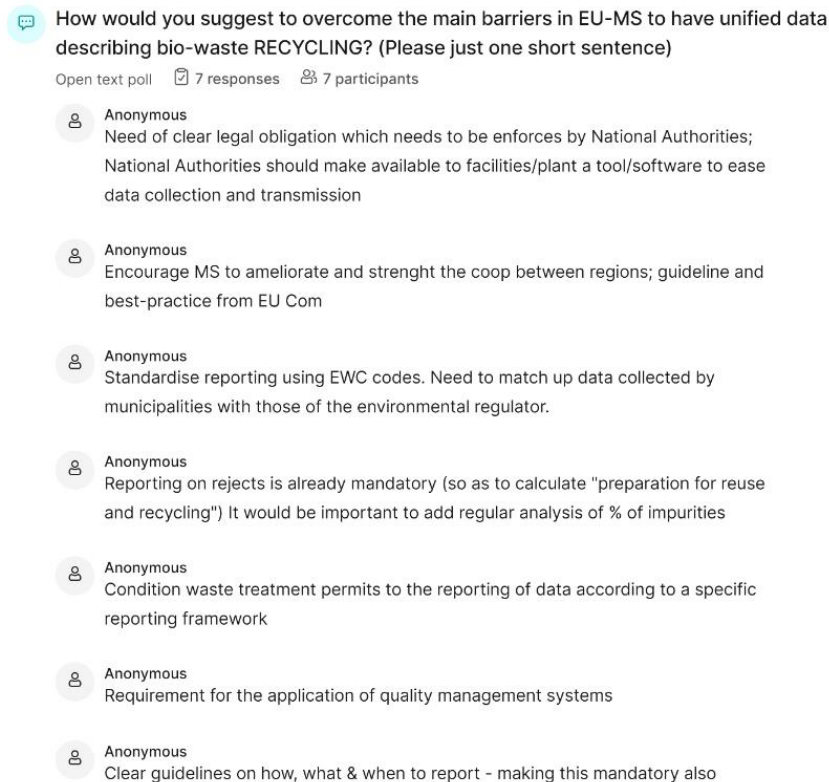
Figure 29. Poll about the suggested frequency of reporting

The discussion then addressed the possible actions that are needed to overcome the main barriers identified previously. Regarding the data about collection a number of experts suggested Eurostat to make public the full level of data they receive from EU Member States, quoting the data at the level of municipalities, beside issuing an EU guidance on how data should be reported, identifying the requirements for different level of local authorities. Regarding the reporting of data about recycling and waste treatment plants, the answers identify the need for using EWC codes in reports and focus more on quality of input waste and of the management of the recycling facilities. The possible actions proposed by the experts to overcome the mail barriers to have unified data at EU level on bio-waste collection and recycling are presented respectively on Figure 30 and Figure 31.



slido

Figure 30. Poll about the suggestions to overcome the barriers for unified data on bio-waste collection



slido

Figure 31. Poll about the suggestions to overcome the barriers for unified data on bio-waste recycling

Considering that by end of 2023 all EU Member States will need to implement the separate collection of bio-waste, the final question addressed the issue of concerns for local authorities to start the separate collection and recycling of bio-waste.

The three main issues identified by experts are: the increase of MSW management costs compared to the current situation without bio-waste sorting, followed by lack of compost or biogas plants and by gate fees for waste disposal that locally may be lower compared to those applied for recycling bio-waste (see Figure 32).

A range of answers addressed more general or common issues about MSW management such as the density of inhabitants, engagement or participation, etc. that can be ascribed generally to MSW collection and recycling and not only or specifically to bio-waste. Also, according to one comment, the role of Eurostat could be improved. These concerns specified by the experts are presented on Figure 33.

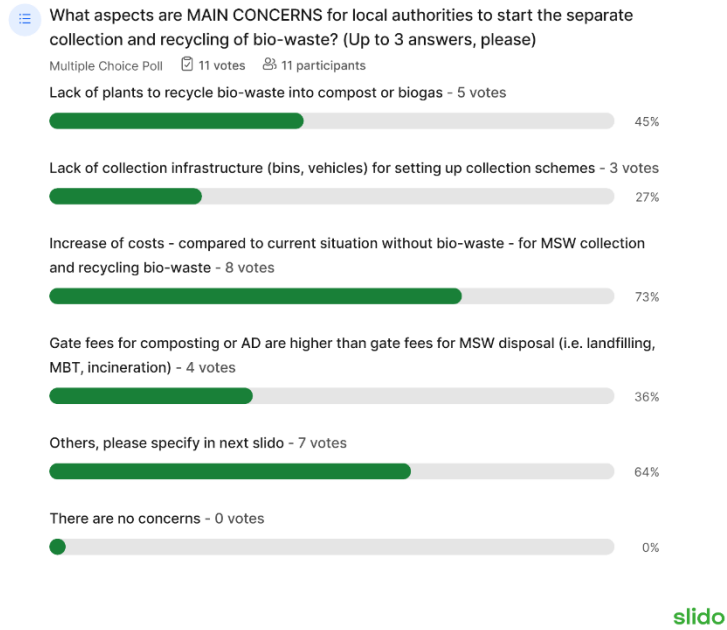
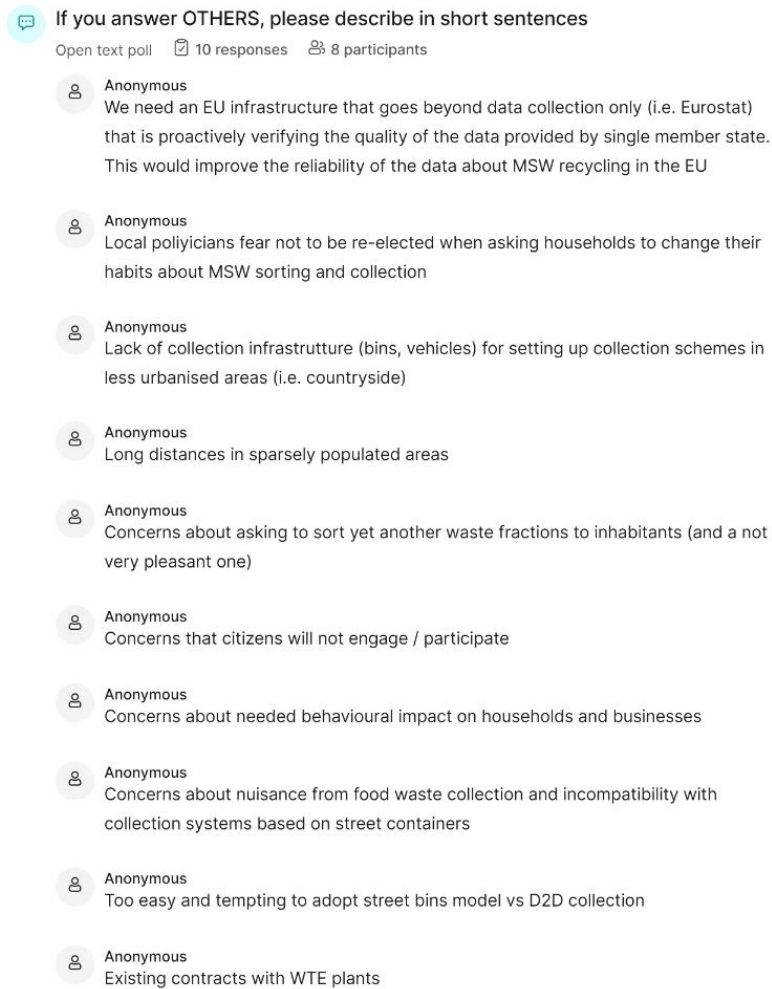


Figure 32. Poll about the main concerns for local authorities to start the separate collection and recycling of bio-waste



slido

Figure 33. Poll about the main concerns for local authorities to start the separate collection and recycling of bio-waste

3 Index of figures

Figure 1.	Mirror Group A summary.....	3
Figure 2.	Mirror Group A Agenda.....	4
Figure 3.	Indications for the use of SLIDO during Mirror Group A.....	5
Figure 4.	Poll about the presence of reliable data on bio-waste collection	7
Figure 5.	Poll about the presence of reliable data on bio-waste recycling.....	8
Figure 6.	Poll about the publicity and accessibility of bio-waste management data.....	8
Figure 7.	Poll about the maximum level of detail of the available data on bio-waste collection	9
Figure 8.	Poll about the maximum level of detail of the available data on bio-waste recycling.	9
Figure 9.	Poll about the data availability per bio-waste treatment plant	10
Figure 10.	Poll about the institution that gathers data at treatment plant and on bio-waste collection	10
Figure 11.	Poll about the main barriers to have the unified data on bio-waste collection.....	11
Figure 12.	Poll about the main barriers to have the unified data on bio-waste recycling.....	11
Figure 13.	Poll about the non-available type of data on bio-waste collection	12
Figure 14.	Poll about the non-available type of data on bio-waste recycling.....	12
Figure 15.	Poll about the topics addressed by the legislation in each Country	13
Figure 16.	Mirror Group B summary.....	14
Figure 17.	Mirror Group B Agenda.....	15
Figure 18.	Poll about the update of the data in EU Member States	18
Figure 19.	Poll about the publicity and accessibility of the data in EU Member States	18
Figure 20.	Poll about the maximum level of detail of the data on bio-waste collection	19
Figure 21.	Polls about the maximum level of detail of the data on bio-waste recycling.....	19
Figure 22.	Poll about the availability of data per bio-waste treatment plant.....	20

Figure 23.	Poll about the institution gathering the data.....	20
Figure 24.	Poll about the comparison on availability of data about bio-waste and packaging waste management.....	21
Figure 25.	Poll about the main barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste collection	21
Figure 26.	Poll about other barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste collection	22
Figure 27.	Poll about the main barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste recycling	22
Figure 28.	Poll about other barriers in EU Member States to have unified data on bio-waste recycling	22
Figure 29.	Poll about the suggested frequency of reporting	23
Figure 30.	Poll about the suggestions to overcome the barriers for unified data on bio-waste collection	24
Figure 31.	Poll about the suggestions to overcome the barriers for unified data on bio-waste recycling	25
Figure 32.	Poll about the main concerns for local authorities to start the separate collection and recycling of bio-waste.....	26
Figure 33.	Poll about the main concerns for local authorities to start the separate collection and recycling of bio-waste.....	27

4 Index of tables

Table 1.	Invited and actual participants of Mirror Group A.....	7
Table 2.	Invited and actual participants of Mirror Group B.....	17



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