

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide showing several hands of different skin tones assembling colorful puzzle pieces (red, yellow, green, blue, pink) on a dark surface. A large grey arrow points right, and a blue arrow points down, both partially overlapping the puzzle pieces.

Recommendations for policy solutions to enhance textile fibre recycling in the EU

Presentation of results of Work Package 4

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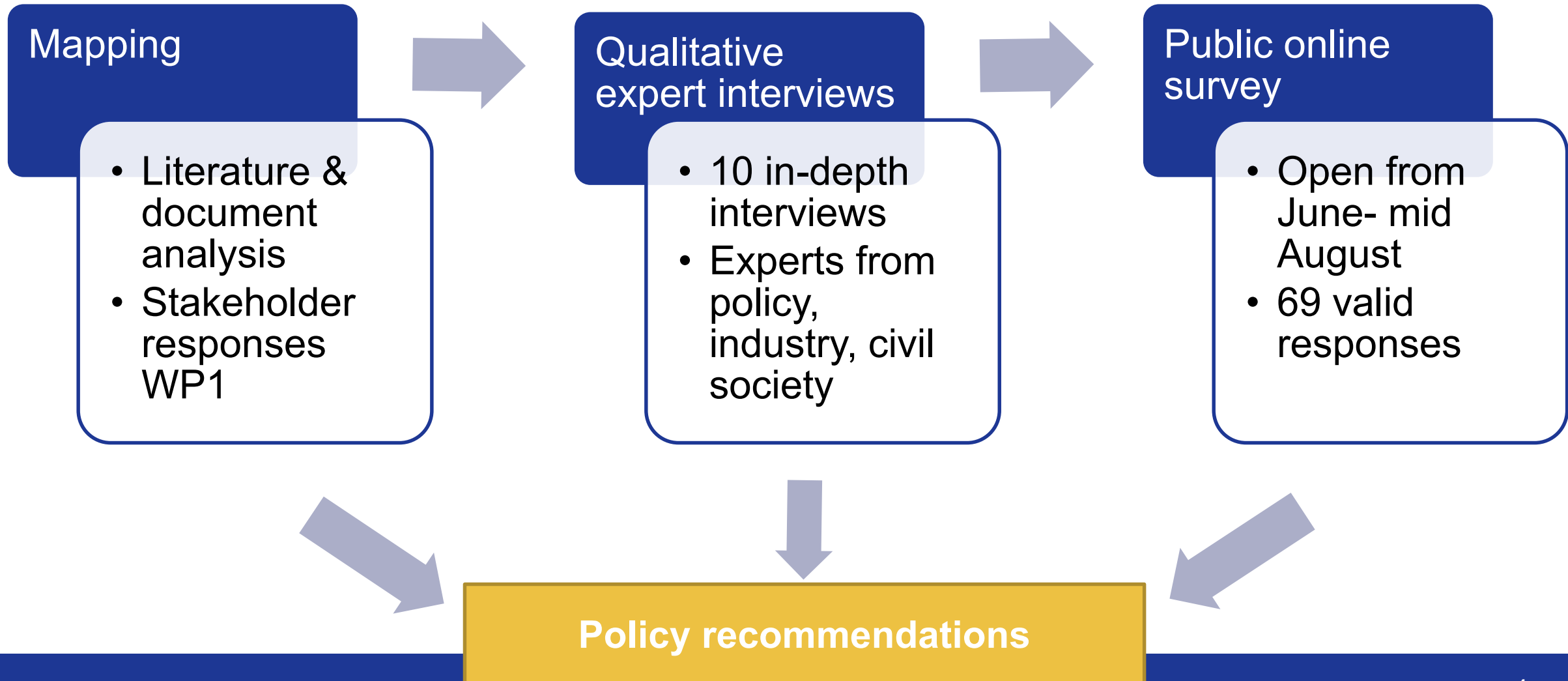
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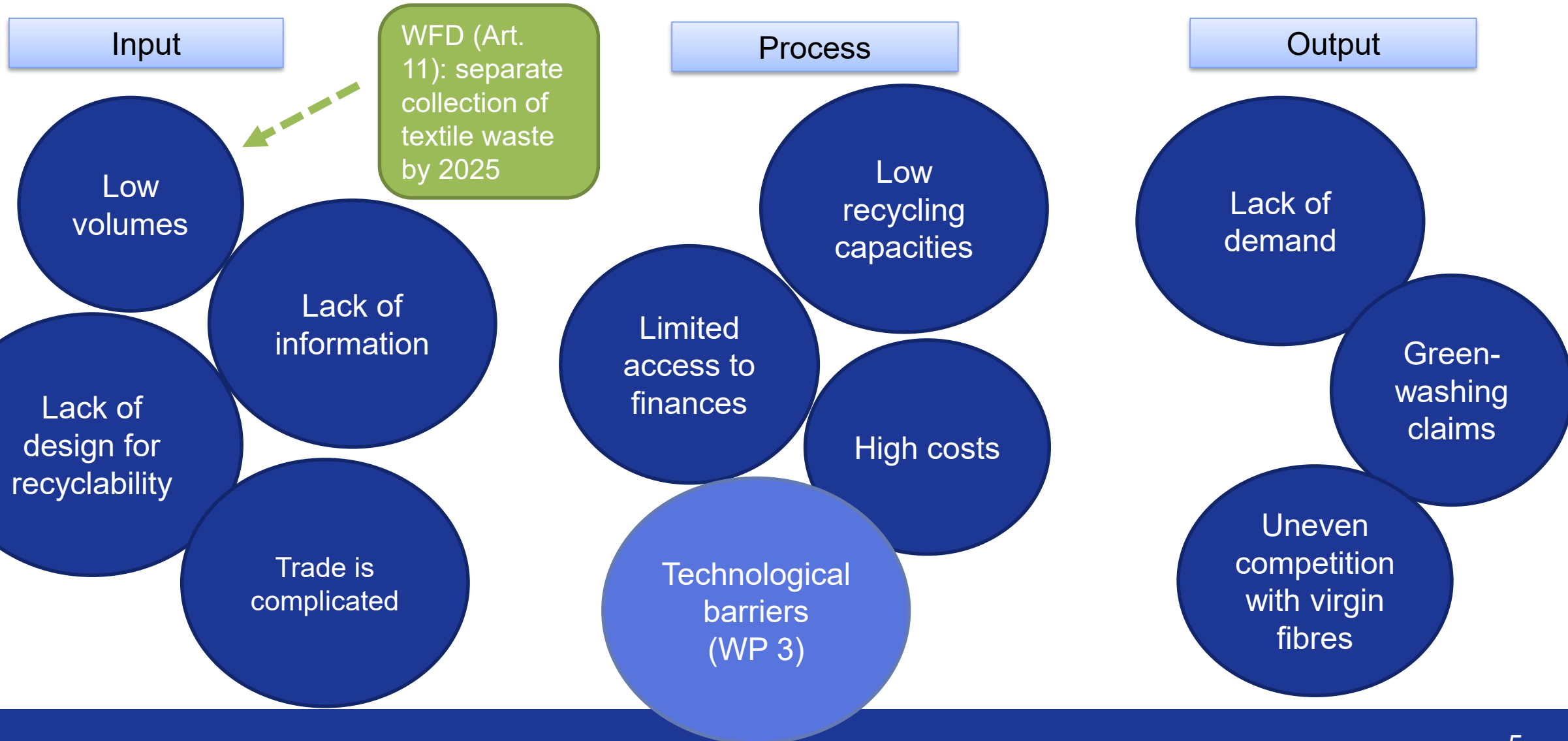
Research question and objectives

- 1. In how far is EU policy fit for supporting & fostering textile fibre recycling in the EU?**
 - ▶ Bottlenecks & regulatory barriers?
 - ▶ Policy gaps?
- 2. What are alternative & coherent policy solutions to support the industrial uptake and scale-up of textile fibre recycling activities in the EU?**
 - ▶ Technological & market reality of textile fibre recycling
 - ▶ Focus on EU policy level

Applied Method

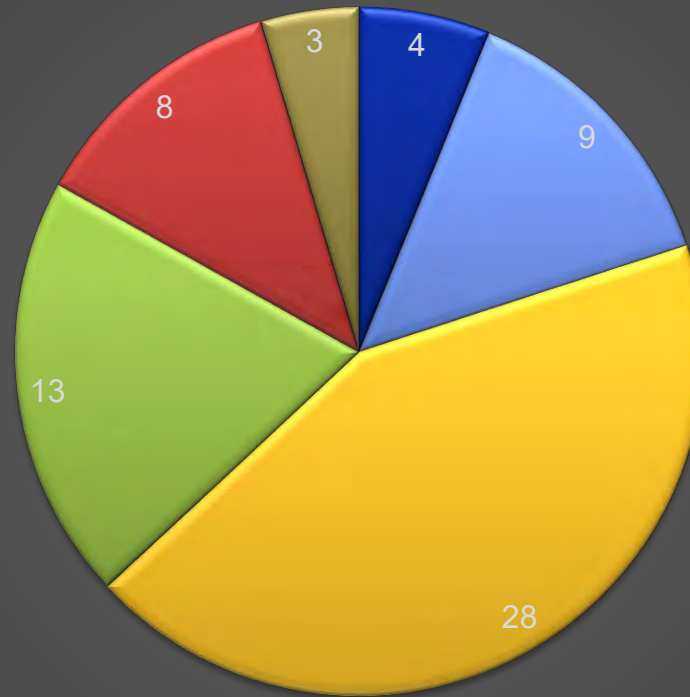


Regulatory and policy barriers identified



Recommendations for regulatory and policy options

Who took part in the survey?

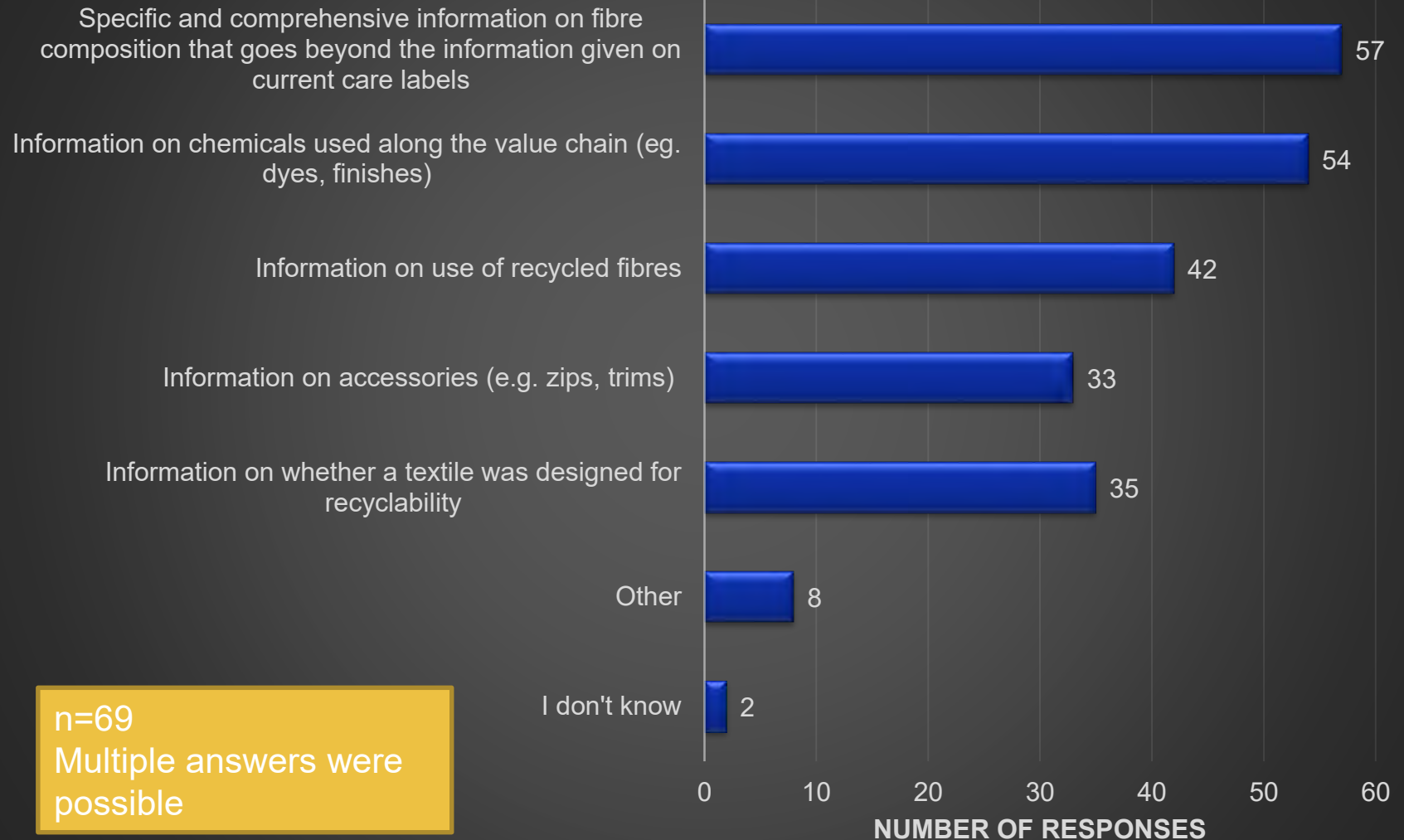


European Policy / Administration National Policy / Administration Business
Business Association Civil Society Organisation / NGO Academia

Enhancing transparency

Lack of
information
hampers
recycling

What information do recyclers need?



Enhancing transparency by:

1. Expanding the information requirements regarding fibre content

- ▶ More specific information on fibre content
- ▶ Information on accessories to facilitate disassembly
- ▶ Review of Textile Regulation (EU No 1007/2011)

2. Introducing information requirements for chemicals

- ▶ chemicals used along the value chain (dyes, finishes, ...)
- ▶ ensure that information is accessible for sorters & recyclers
- ▶ New policy element

How to make this practicable for companies (easy process) and for the monitoring & enforcement?

Ease sorting by enabling automatic reading of information

To enable textile fibre recycling, the current way of labelling textiles is obsolete.

Problems with current labelling:

- ▶ Labels in garments are often missing or washed-out
- ▶ Current labels cannot be read out automatically

Which medium is best suited to provide information to recyclers?

A data carrier which is automatically recognized and read out in the sorting and recycling plants (e.g. NFC or RFID transponders)

Textile labels or markings indicating the required information directly on the textile product (by way of attaching a label or tag, ...)

Other

Documents accompanying the product

I don't know

58

24

12

8

5

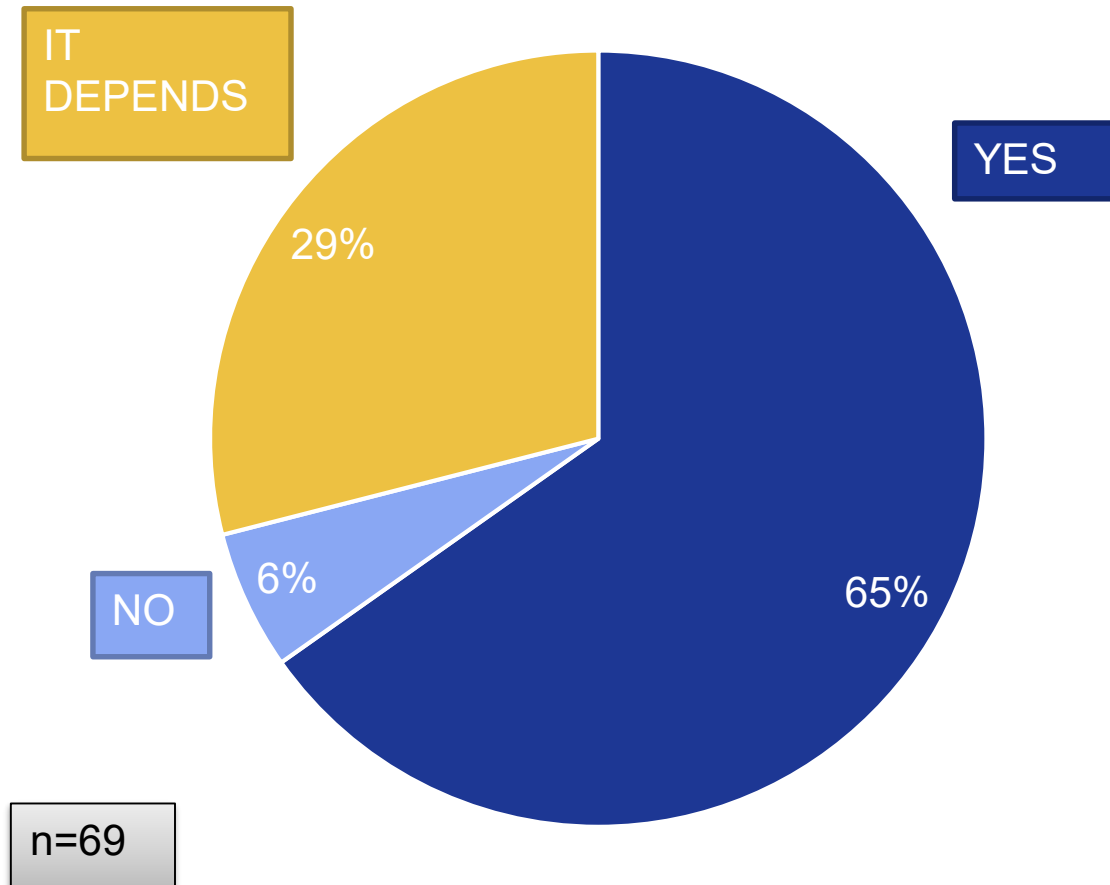
Data carrier needs to be easily removable

n=69
Multiple answers were possible

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Introducing a digital product passport for textiles

Are you in favour of introducing a digital product passport?



Advantages perceived:

- Improve sorting efficiency
- Ease monitoring and enforcement of REACH
- Increase transparency along the value chain
- Make information load manageable

Concerns:

- Uncertainty on design of instrument
- Additional burden for companies
- Data security
- Who has access to information?

Introducing a digital product passport for textiles

What is important to consider in the design of DPP?

- ▶ Clearly regulated information access on a need-to-know-basis
- ▶ Standardise information requirements
- ▶ Low administrative burden
- ▶ “one-stop-shop”

Examples from practice

- ▶ For the carpet sector:
<https://gut-prodis.eu/en/product-testing-gut/product-passport>
- ▶ For clothing: Circularity ID
<https://circular.fashion/en/software/circularity-id.html>



Introducing minimum design requirements to ensure recyclability of textiles

Problem:

Recyclability often hampered by

- ▶ The mix of materials
- ▶ Use of chemicals that impede or complicate recycling
- ▶ Low quality of textile products
- ▶ Accessories (e.g. zips)
- ▶ Lack of dialogue between designers / producers & sorters / recyclers
- ▶ Lack of (harmonised) standards for circular textiles

Solution:

EU Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC)

Threshold requirements for specific product groups, e.g.

- ▶ Limit the use of problematic chemicals to a certain thresholds
- ▶ Set maximum of time (in seconds) needed to remove zippers & other hardware

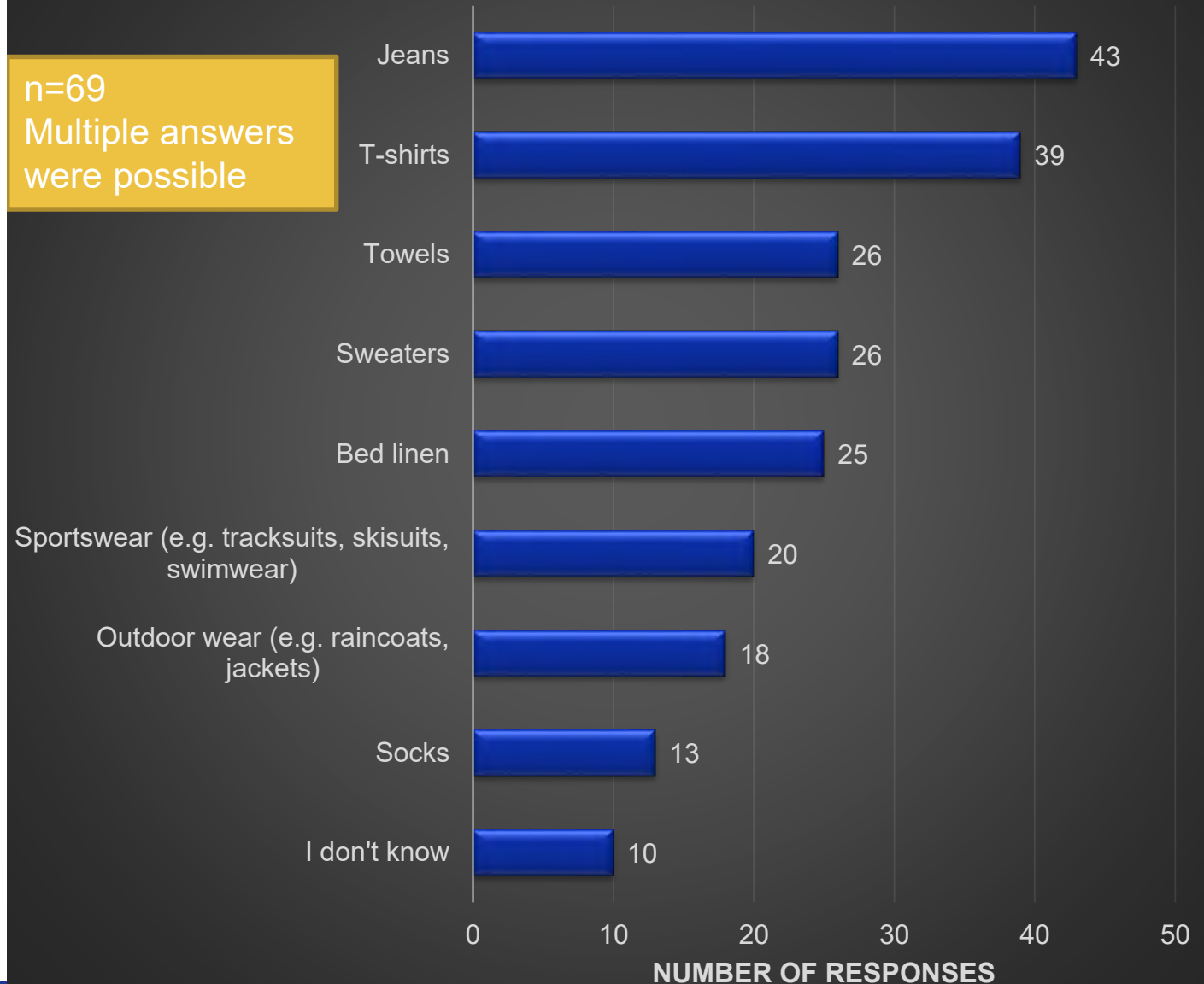
Promoting design for recyclability

Advantages of minimum design requirements:

- applicable to all addressed textile product groups produced in or imported to the EU
- Eliminates the worst performing textile products from the market
- investment opportunity
- Reduce amount of textile waste that needs to be incinerated, landfilled or exported

n=69
Multiple answers were possible

For which product groups could obligatory design requirements be introduced first?



Stimulating the demand for recycled fibres by:

Introducing policy incentives to create a level playing field for circular textiles

Top 1

- Introduce **reductions of VAT** for circular textiles, including textiles that contain recycled fibres

Top 2

- **Ecomodulate EPR fees** – with perceptibly lower fees for recyclable textiles

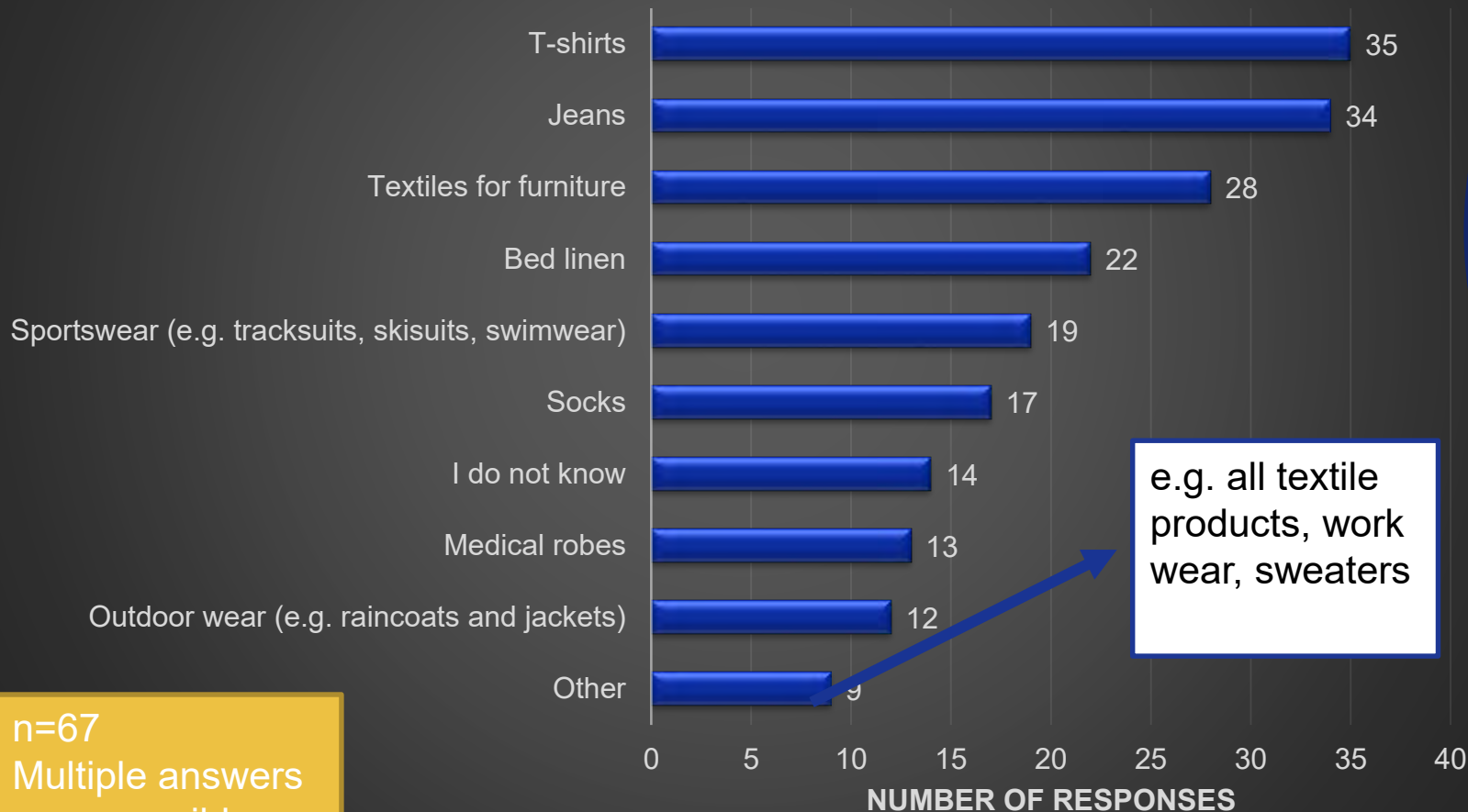
Top 3

- Introduce **labour tax reductions** for circular business models, including high quality textile recycling & sorting

**+
Address green
washing by
regulating
claims on
recycled
content**

Introducing a mandatory recycled content for certain textile products

For which textile products would it be most sensible and feasible to introduce a low mandatory recycled content by 2024?



n=67
Multiple answers were possible

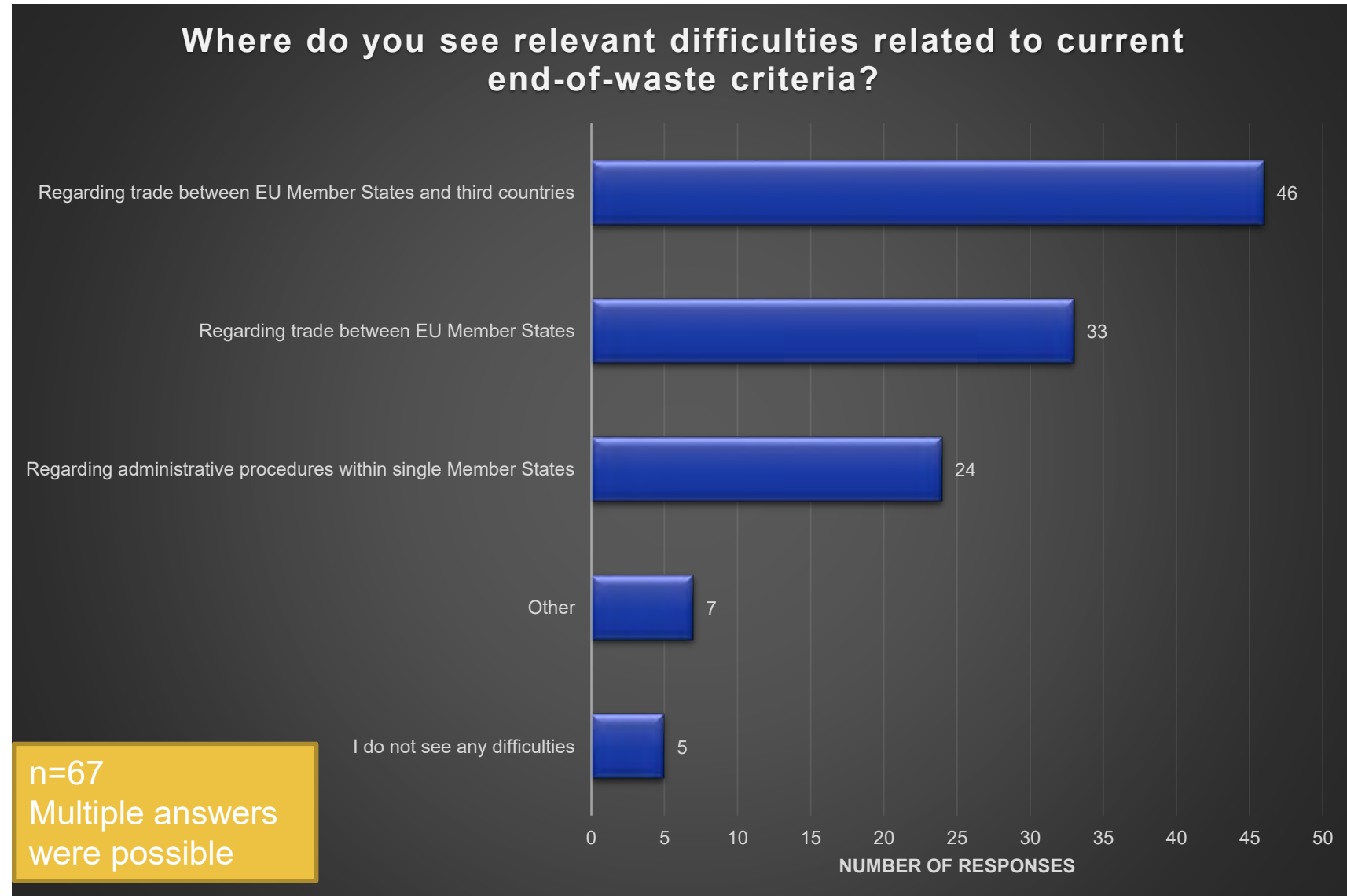
Start very low with only few selected product groups.

Dynamic: targets evolve as recycling technologies & capacities evolve.

Strong signal to the textile industry.

Easing the trade with input materials for recycling by:

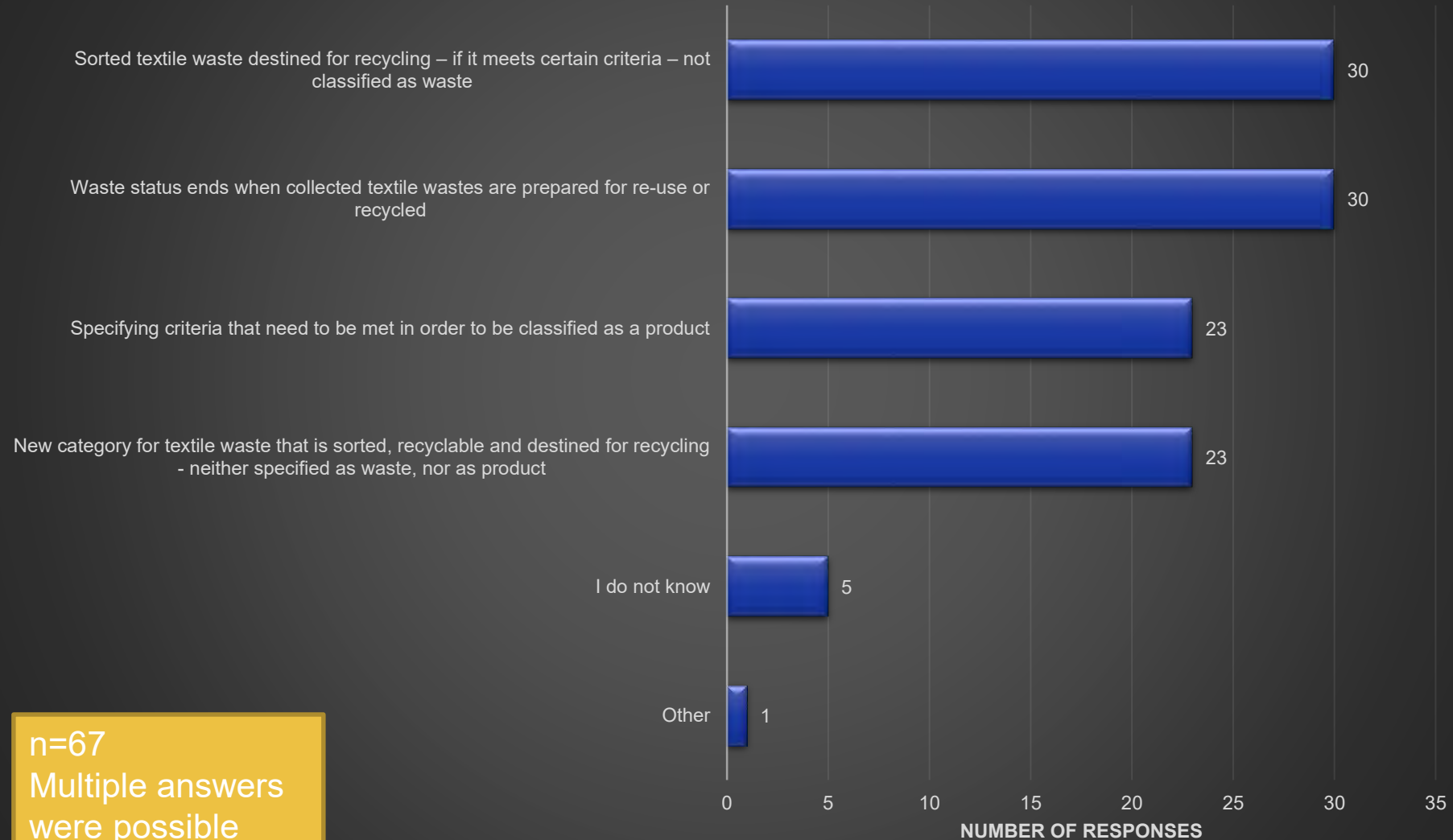
Developing EU-wide end-of-waste criteria



Easing the trade with input materials for recycling by:

Developing EU-wide end-of-waste criteria

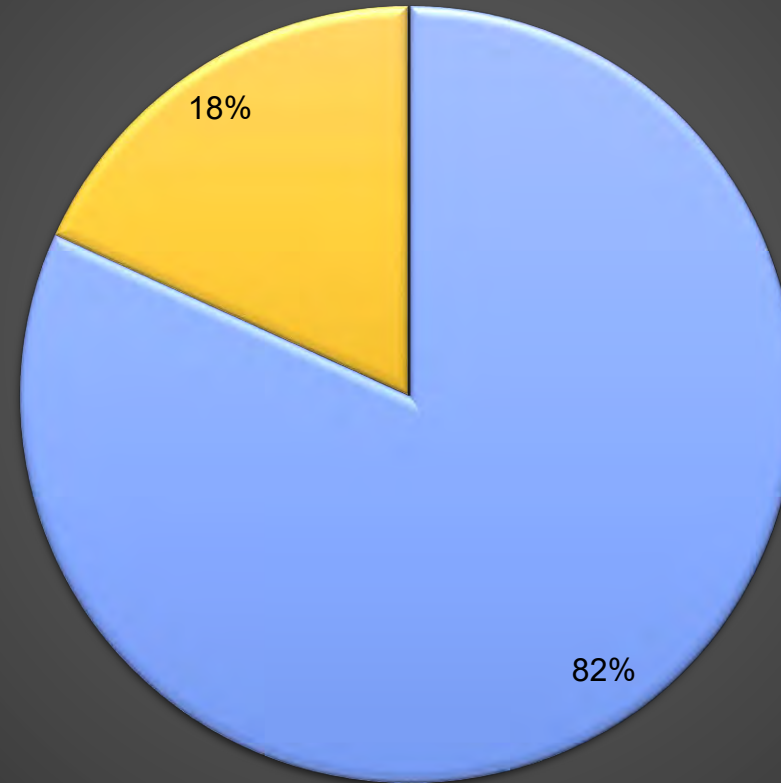
What needs to be specified in EU wide end-of-waste criteria for textiles



Easing the trade with input materials for recycling by:

Reviewing the Waste Shipment Directive

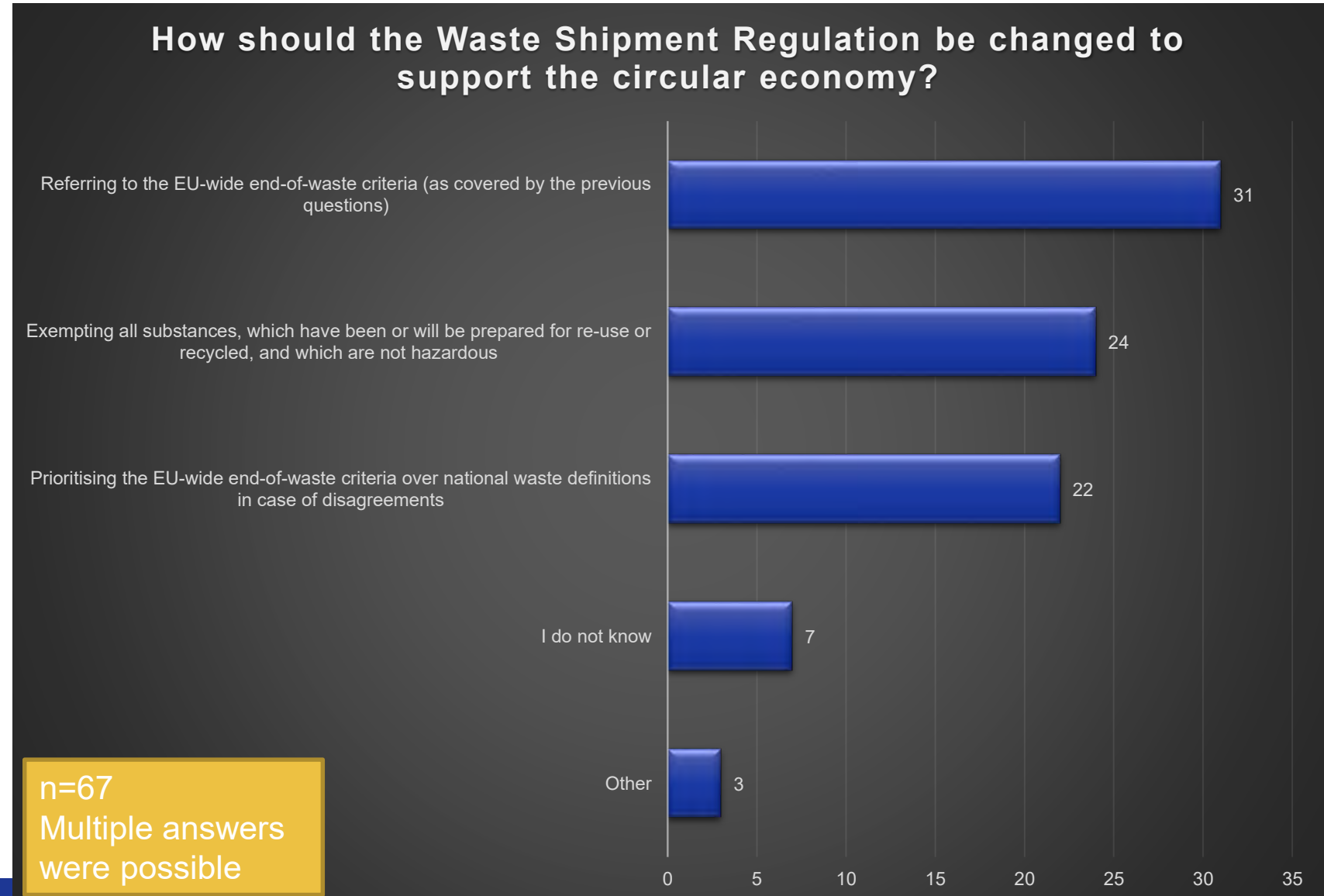
Should there be a review of the waste shipment regulation to ease the transboundary movement of secondary raw materials



■ Yes ■ No

Easing the trade with input materials for recycling by:

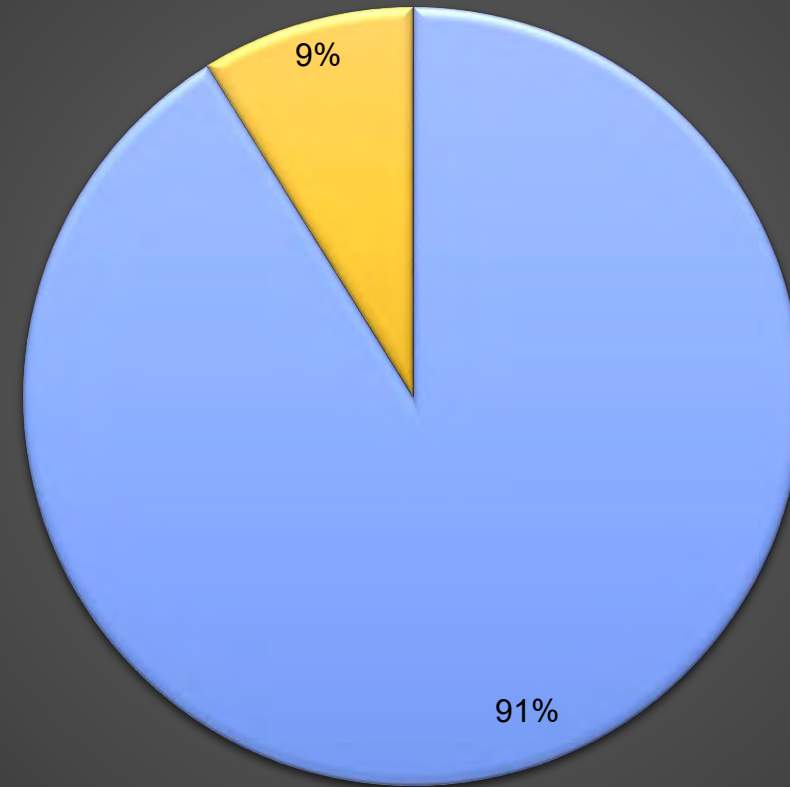
Reviewing the Waste Shipment Directive



Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

**Introducing targets
for separate
collection, recycling
and for preparation
for re-use:**

In favour of separate collection of textile waste, for recycling and preparation for re-use at European level

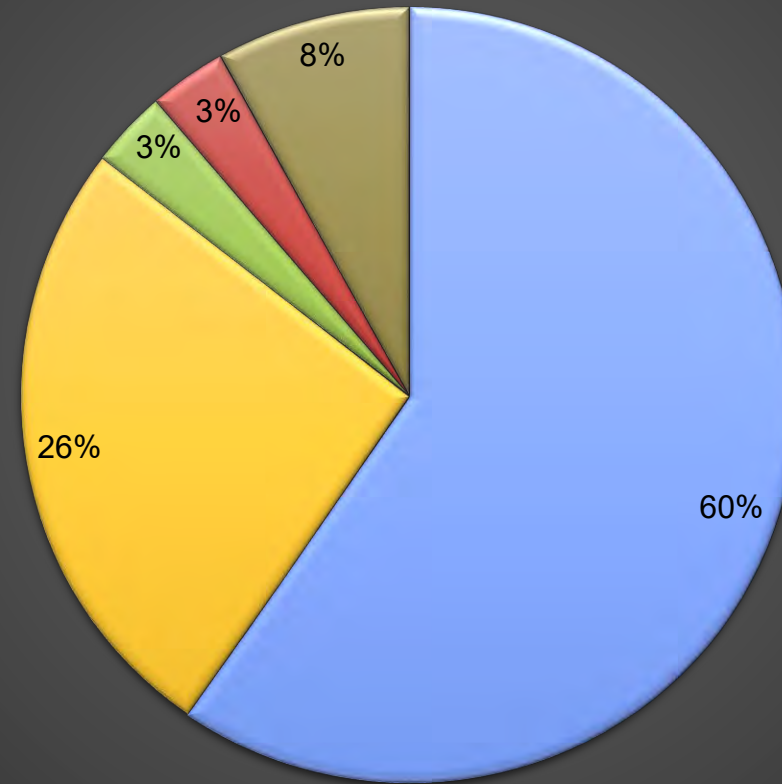


■ Yes ■ No

Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

Introducing targets
for separate
collection, recycling
and for preparation
for re-use:

By when should targets for separate collection, recycling and preparation for re-use of discarded textiles become effective?



■ 2025 ■ 2030 ■ 2035 ■ I do not know ■ other

Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

Introducing targets for separate collection, recycling and for preparation for re-use:

Targets for	Target ranges... selected	Target ranges... mentioned
Separate collection	30%, 50%, 60%, 40%	15%, 80%, 90%
Recycling	20%, 10%, 15%	30%, 50%, 60%
Preparation for re-use	10%, 20%, 15%	50%, 60%, 90%

Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

Existing separate collection rates inside EU

Country (data year)		Denmark (2016)	Finland (2012)	Germany (2013)	France (2018)	Nether- lands (2018)	Sweden (2013)
Consumption of new textiles	Ktonnes	85	72	1347 ⁱ	624 ⁱ	305	121
	Kg/person	15.0	13,2	16.7 ⁱ	9.5 ⁱ	17.7	12.6
Separate colleciton of used textiles	Ktonnes	37	16	1011 ⁱ	239 ⁱ	136	23
	Kg/person	6.4	3.0	12.5 ⁱ	3.6 ⁱ	7.9	2.4
Indsamling som andel af nye tekstiler	%	43%	23%	75%	38%	45%	19%

ⁱ Includes footwear

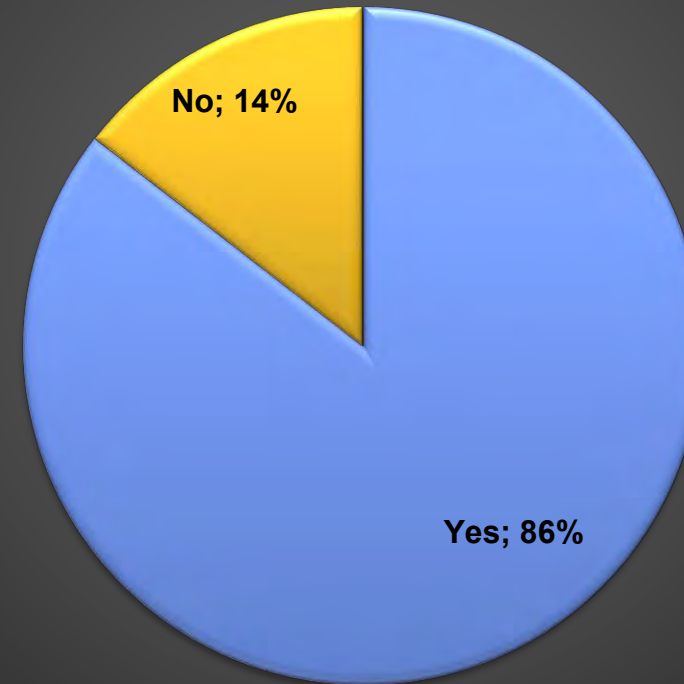
Source: see individual country chapters

Watson et al, 2020, *Towards 2025: Separate collection and treatment of textiles in six EU countries: p. 7*

Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

**Introducing
mandatory Extended
Producer
Responsibility
(EPR) for textiles**

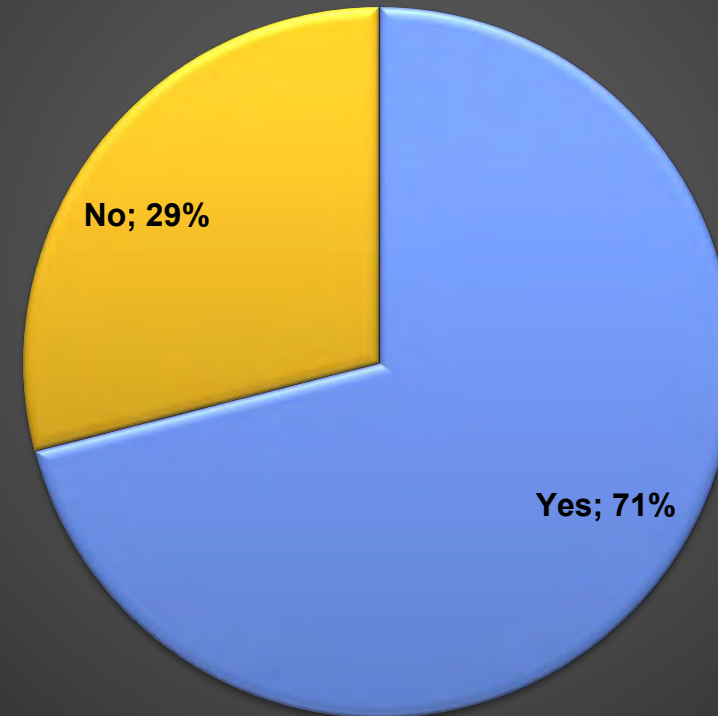
Should there be an EU-wide mandatory
extended producer responsibility scheme
for textiles?



Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

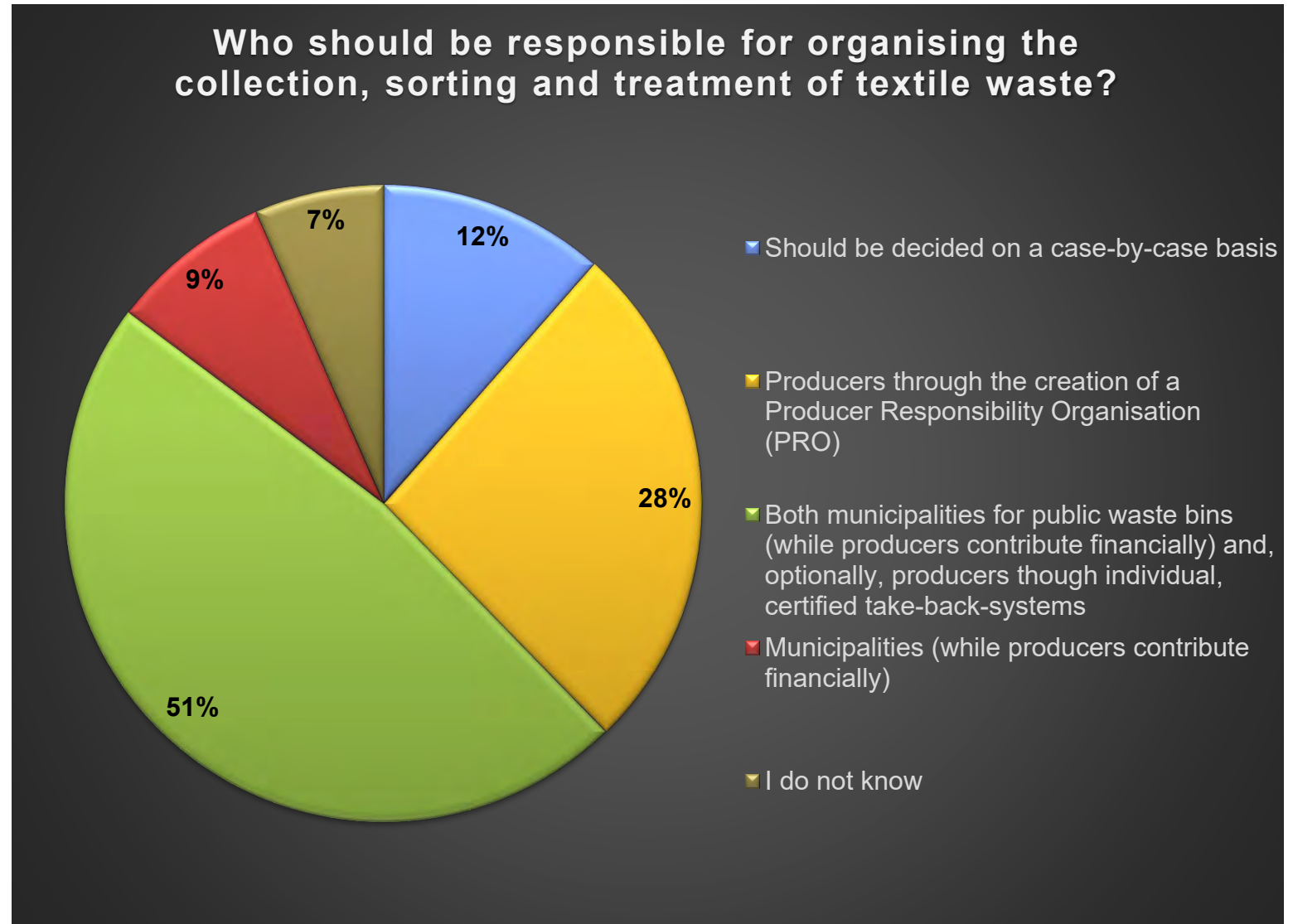
**To avoid competition
between collection
streams for reuse
and recycling in an
EPR system**

Should there be separate targets for
reuse and recycling of discarded
textiles?



Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

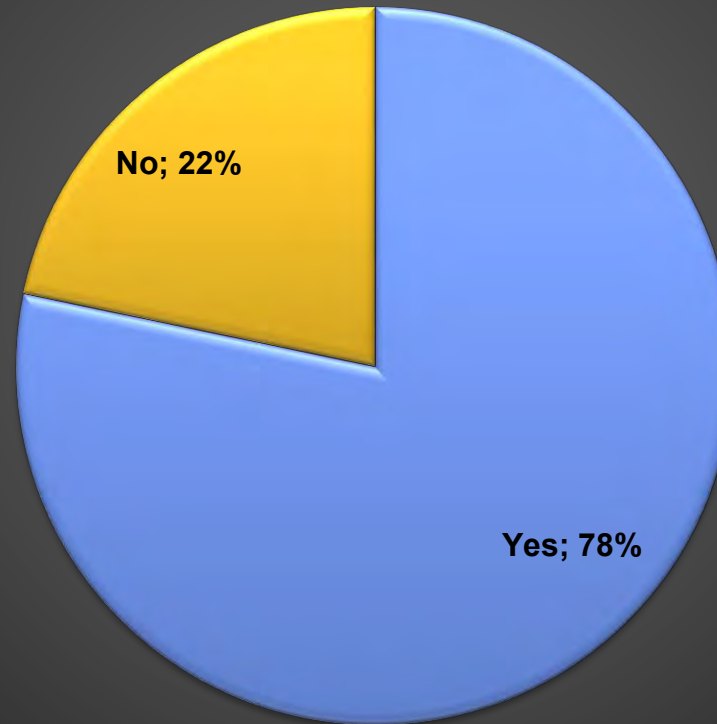
Operational responsibilities in an EPR system



Setting the frame and activating businesses by:

Design of EPR to ensure improvement in product design and not only on end-of-life management of textile waste

Do you think that ecomodulation of EPR fees can play a crucial role in fostering improved product design?



Key points on EPR highlighted in interviews and survey responses:

- ▶ EPR scheme design should prioritise reuse and preparation for reuse over recycling
 - ▶ There should be separate targets for textiles collected for reuse and recycling
 - ▶ Interviewees expressed concern on impact of EPR on design.
Ecomodulation seen as an option, however, limited success for other materials: packaging, WEEE
 - ▶ Ecomodulation in France textile EPR – value is significantly lower to have an impact on producer design choices or consumer purchase decisions
- ▶ EPR scheme should not replace existing textile collection systems – municipalities and not-for-profit/charity organisations
 - ▶ Financial contribution by producers to existing collection systems plus take back systems organized by the producers themselves

Summary of recommended policy solutions

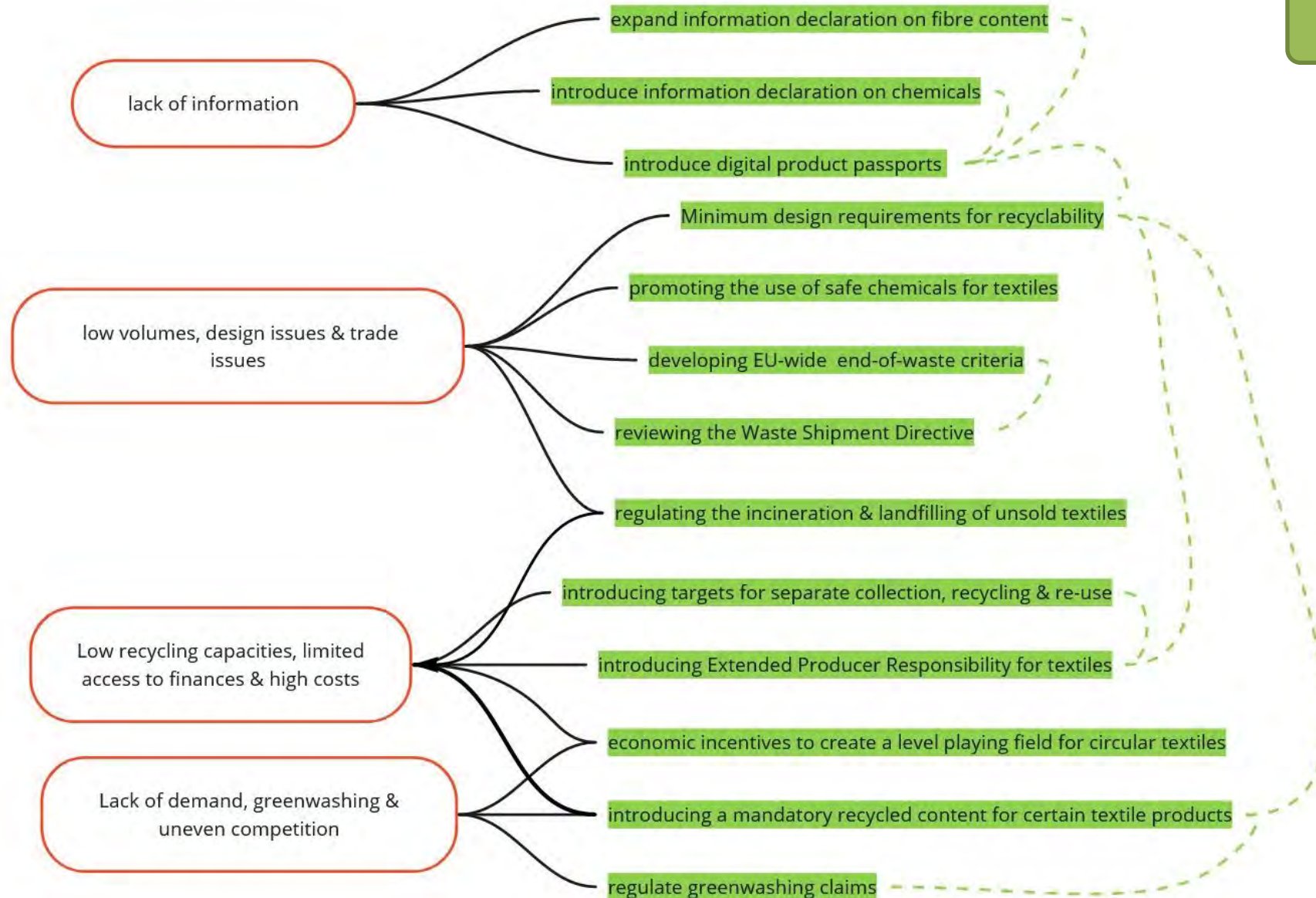
barriers

solutions

Input

Process

Output





Questions for discussion

- ▶ What is the basic information needed regarding chemicals used in textile products?
- ▶ What should minimum design requirements for jeans & T-shirts encompass?
- ▶ Which procedures and dialogues need to be initiated in order to discuss & introduce targets for separate collection, recycling and preparation for re-use?
- ▶ What criteria do you consider relevant to use for introducing ecomodulation of EPR fees?



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Thanks! Any more Questions?

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