

# National factsheet on separate collection

## Greece

**Note:** This ‘National factsheet’ has been prepared within the EC study “**Assessment of separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU**”. The document represents the status-quo of the EU Member State (MS) in September 2015. The information included in this document has been elaborated for all 28 EU-MS based on publically available documents, i.e. national legislation, Waste Management Plans, Waste Prevention Programmes, strategies, implementation reports, and statistics. All information is cited in the factsheet, a complete list of information sources can be found at the end of this document.

For quality assurance purposes the ‘National factsheet’ has been sent to the EU Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members on waste for verification and commenting, the comments received are included in this final version.

### 1 General requirements on separate collection based on national legislation

The Greek Law No. 4042/2012 that was implemented in 2012 is the single law transposing the requirements of the WFD into domestic law.

Most of the requirements of WFD have been exactly / literally transposed into national legal requirements.

However, the Article 22 of the WFD is transposed with additional information in Law no. 4042/2012 Article 41, enforcing targets for the separate collection of bio-waste to be achieved in specific target years.

**Table 1: Overview of national law(s) that implement separate collection**

Year and Abbreviation	Title of the law (translation)
[GR Law 4042/2012]	Ποινική προστασία του περιβάλλοντος – Εναρμόνιση με την Οδηγία 2008/99/ΕΚ – Πλαίσιο παραγωγής και διαχείρισης αποβλήτων – Εναρμόνιση με την Οδηγία 2008/98/ΕΚ – Ρύθμιση θεμάτων Υπουργείου Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής. («Protection of the environment through criminal law in compliance with the Directive 2008/99/EC – Waste Production and Management Framework, in compliance with the Directive 2008/98/EC...»)

**Table 2: Overview on evaluation categories**

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>additional</b>	The requirements of the WFD have been transposed and additional information or requirements are set out in the national legal requirement, i.e. additional definition, precision of requirement that goes beyond the text of the WFD
<b>one:one</b>	The requirement of the WFD has been transposed exactly / literally or transposed analogously. No additional requirements or explanations are set out.
<b>deviating</b>	The requirements of the WFD have been implemented into national legal requirements but have been adjusted, left out or deviated
<b>not included</b>	The requirement of the WFD is not transposed into national law

**Table 3: Assessment on national transpositions**

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
<b>1. Article 3 (11) WFD: Definition separate collection: "separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment"</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 11 (11)	One:one	11 (11) 'separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment;	11 (11) χωριστή συλλογή: η συλλογή όπου μια ροή αποβλήτων διατηρείται χωριστά με βάση τον τύπο και τη φύση για να διευκολυνθεί η ειδική επεξεργασία,
<b>2. Article 10 (2) WFD: "waste shall not be mixed with other waste/material with other properties"</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 26 (2)	One:one	26 (2) «waste ... shall not be mixed with other waste or other material with different properties.»	26 (2) «τα απόβλητα ... δεν αναμιγνύονται με άλλα απόβλητα ή με άλλα υλικά με διαφορετικές ιδιότητες.»
<b>3. Article 11 (1) WFD: "measures to promote high quality recycling"</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 27 (1)	One:one	27 (1) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ... shall take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.	27 (1) Το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής... Λαμβάνει επίσης μέτρα για την προώθηση ανακύκλωσης υψηλής ποιότητας και για το σκοπό αυτόν καθιερώνει χωριστή συλλογή αποβλήτων όπου αυτό είναι τεχνικά, περιβαλλοντικά και οικονομικά εφικτό και ενδεδειγμένο για να επιτευχθούν τα αναγκαία ποιοτικά πρότυπα στους αντίστοιχους τομείς ανακύκλωσης.
<b>4. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if technically practicable"</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 27 (1)	One:one	27 (1) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ... shall take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.	27 (1) Το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής... Λαμβάνει επίσης μέτρα για την προώθηση ανακύκλωσης υψηλής ποιότητας και για το σκοπό αυτόν καθιερώνει χωριστή συλλογή αποβλήτων όπου αυτό είναι τεχνικά, περιβαλλοντικά και οικονομικά εφικτό και ενδεδειγμένο για να επιτευχθούν τα αναγκαία ποιοτικά πρότυπα στους αντίστοιχους τομείς ανακύκλωσης.

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
<b>5. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) “separate collection if economically practicable”</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 27 (1)	One:one	27 (1) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ... shall take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.	27 (1) Το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής... Λαμβάνει επίσης μέτρα για την προώθηση ανακύκλωσης υψηλής ποιότητας και για το σκοπό αυτόν καθιερώνει χωριστή συλλογή αποβλήτων όπου αυτό είναι τεχνικά, περιβαλλοντικά και οικονομικά εφικτό και ενδεδειγμένο για να επιτευχθούν τα αναγκαία ποιοτικά πρότυπα στους αντίστοιχους τομείς ανακύκλωσης.
<b>6. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) “separate collection if environmentally practicable”</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 27 (1)	One:one	27 (1) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ... shall take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.	27 (1) Το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής... Λαμβάνει επίσης μέτρα για την προώθηση ανακύκλωσης υψηλής ποιότητας και για το σκοπό αυτόν καθιερώνει χωριστή συλλογή αποβλήτων όπου αυτό είναι τεχνικά, περιβαλλοντικά και οικονομικά εφικτό και ενδεδειγμένο για να επιτευχθούν τα αναγκαία ποιοτικά πρότυπα στους αντίστοιχους τομείς ανακύκλωσης.
<b>7. Article 11 (1) WFD: “separate collections (...) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors”</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 27 (1)	One:one	27 (1) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ... shall take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.	27 (1) Το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής... Λαμβάνει επίσης μέτρα για την προώθηση ανακύκλωσης υψηλής ποιότητας και για το σκοπό αυτόν καθιερώνει χωριστή συλλογή αποβλήτων όπου αυτό είναι τεχνικά, περιβαλλοντικά και οικονομικά εφικτό και ενδεδειγμένο για να επιτευχθούν τα αναγκαία ποιοτικά πρότυπα στους αντίστοιχους τομείς ανακύκλωσης.

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
<b>8. Article 11 (1) WFD “by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic and glass”</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 27 (1)	One:one	27 (1) ...by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic and glass.	27 (1) ...έως το 2015 χωριστή συλλογή καθιερώνεται τουλάχιστον για τα ακόλουθα: χαρτί, μέταλλο, πλαστικό και γυαλί.
<b>9. Article 22 WFD: Bio-waste - Member states shall take measures, as appropriate (...) to encourage: “a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting a digestion of bio-waste”</b>			
[GR Law 4042/2012] Article 41	deviating	41 By 2015, the rate of separate collection of bio-waste must reach, at least, 5% of the total weight of organic waste and by 2020, at least, 10% of the total weight of organic waste.	41 Έως το 2015, το ποσοστό χωριστής συλλογής των βιολογικών αποβλήτων πρέπει να ανέλθει, κατ’ ελάχιστον, στο 5% του συνολικού βάρους των βιολογικών αποβλήτων και έως το 2020, κατ’ ελάχιστον, στο 10% του συνολικού βάρους των βιολογικών αποβλήτων.

## 2 General requirements on separate collection based on main strategies

<b>Greece</b>	<b>503 kg MSW/capita 17.1% recycling</b>
<p><b>Definition of Municipal solid waste (MSW):</b></p> <p>According to the National Waste Management Plan [GR NWMP 2014]:</p> <p>"The MSW are classified under chapter 20 "Municipal wastes (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes... Packaging Waste classified in category 15.01 "packaging (including separately collected municipal packaging waste)" is also included as MSW."</p>	
<p><b>Main strategies implementing separate collection</b></p>	
<p>The main strategy implementing separate collection is the National Waste Management Plan (2014-2020). Based on the Revised National Waste Management Plan, collection schemes should be redesigned by competent authorities in order to <b>integrate separate collection schemes</b> of special streams; integration will affect the frequency of collection of MSW and produced volumes per container. [GR NWMP 2014]</p> <p><b>1. Bio-waste:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion and implementation of <b>separate collection of bio-waste</b>,</li> <li>- <b>focusing on urban areas, islands and major bio-waste producers</b> (green areas, foodservice areas, catering, hotels, army campuses, hospitals, local fruit markets, etc.),</li> <li>- the minimum priority is to fulfil the target set by art. 41 of Law 4042/2012 in national and regional level,</li> <li>- containers shall be placed in <b>same location than bins for mixed MSW</b> and packaging waste</li> <li>- collection points for the separated organic waste and green waste can be placed into the "green points"</li> <li>- maximising the diversion level of the available for <b>collection of waste from edible oils and fats</b>, to 75% until 2020.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Recyclable packaging</b> (incl. paper, plastic, metal, glass, wood):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- implementation of "green points" for collecting recyclables and other special materials</li> <li>- implementation of door-to-door collection programmes</li> <li>- total coverage of islands with recyclables collection scheme until 2018</li> <li>- separate collection of packaging waste from industrial and commercial activities</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Separate Collection of paper:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for maximizing and improving the quality of recycling of printable paper and paper packaging, <b>separate collection of paper in selected locations</b> to be improved and gradually expanded in order to achieve separate collection of paper in the whole country until 2020 and <b>collection of paper in "green points"</b></li> </ul> <p><b>4. Separate Collection of glass:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of <b>separate collection points of glass in producers such as hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues, malls, catering companies, beaches</b>, etc. until 2018, and to "green points", and other special actions of existing collections schemes until 2020.</li> </ul>	

5. Responsible authorities shall mandatory provide bins for collecting bio-waste, edibles oils and fats and all recyclables, which will be used exclusively by **major waste producers**, e.g. hospitals, army campuses, utilities installations, schools, universities, Ministries, public utilities organizations, hotels, foodservices areas, etc.
6. Utilities installations are obliged to apply separate collection of metals, plastic, glass and paper (EWC 15 and 20) – i.e. of at least three streams – to all **work and public service areas** until the end of 2015. Moreover, they are obliged to apply separate collection of bio-waste to all dining areas.

### 3 Implementation of separate collection

#### Overview on separate collection systems in place

In general, recycling increased in Greece in the decade between 2001 and 2010, from 9% to 17% approximately. This increase, however, has not been smooth, since a moderate increase was followed by a sharp one between 2006 and 2007 especially after the year 2007, when recycling (material and organic) peaked at 20 % of the total generated MSW, while afterwards, recycling rates seem to have stabilised. [GR ETC/SCP 2013]

Collection schemes of MSW currently cover 100% of the country. However, the majority of MSW are collected in the main stream of mixed waste and separate collection schemes of special streams are not sufficiently developed. The separate collection systems, applied currently in Greece, are divided in two **main categories: a) sorted recyclables** (paper & cardboard, metal, glass and plastic) **co-mingled** in “blue bins”, and **b) sorted in four less separated materials** (paper & cardboard, metal, glass and plastic). In particular, 73% of the population is covered by the system of “blue bins” (co-mingled) and other separate collection systems. In many islands, there are separate collection systems with 2, 3 or 4 bins. [GR NWMP 2014]

Collection of **packaging waste is mainly organised by close to home bring points** (collection points with containers) that provide for co-mingled collection; **civic amenities collection is uncommon** in Greece. Each municipality is responsible for running the collection scheme for packaging waste, while the investment (purchase of bags, containers, collection vehicles) and operational costs of that scheme is covered by the Greek “Green Dot” system (Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation – HE.R.R.Co S.A.). Paper (non-packaging) is typically collected in containers in some large municipalities or in the dry bin (blue bin). Commercial waste is only collected separately/co-mingled to limited extent. [GR SEPARATE 2014]






In addition, a LIFE+ Environment Project, entitled “Development of Pay As You Throw Systems in Hellas, Estonia and Cyprus” attempted to examine and implement in a pilot Pay As You Throw (PAYT) scheme in Municipality of Elefsina.

As regards **separate collection of bio-waste**, it consists of home-composting and diversion of organic waste in rural areas and collection of used vegetable oils, cooking oils and animal fats [GR NWMP 2014]. A Life Environment Project entitled “ATHENS-BIOWASTE” aimed at the pilot implementation of bio-waste separation at source in selected areas of the Municipalities of Athens and Kifissia.

According to the NWMP, the **collection schemes should be redesigned by competent authorities** in order to **integrate separate collection schemes of special streams**. The integration will affect the frequency of collection of MSW and produced volumes per container. [GR NWMP 2014]



Table 4: Overview of main separate collection systems in Greece

Collection type	Paper	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Bio-waste
<b>Door-to-door collection</b> 	Secondary	Secondary	Very rare	Very rare	Very rare (pilot)
<b>Co-mingled (door-to-door)</b> 	Primary collection for paper, glass, plastic and metal (co-mingled)				
<b>Bring points</b> 	Very rare	Very rare			
<b>Civic amenities</b> 	Civic amenities are proposed to be constructed based on the revised NWMP (mentioned as "green points").				
<b>Producer/retail take-back</b> 		Beverage bottles - voluntary system by retailers			

## 4 Information sources

- [GR NWMP 2014]** Revision of National Waste Management Plan / Αναθεώρηση Εθνικού Σχεδιασμού Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων  
<http://www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=238&language=el-GR>, accessed March 2015.
- [GR Law 4042/2012]** Protection of the environment through criminal law in compliance with the Directive 2008/99/EC – Waste Production and Management Framework, in compliance with the Directive 2008/98/EC / Ποινική προστασία του περιβάλλοντος – Εναρμόνιση με την Οδηγία 2008/99/ΕΚ – Πλαίσιο παραγωγής και διαχείρισης αποβλήτων – Εναρμόνιση με την Οδηγία 2008/98/ΕΚ – Ρύθμιση θεμάτων Υπουργείου Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής.  
<http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7Z1up05Xrto%3D&>, accessed March 2015.
- [GR ETC/SCP 2013]** Municipal waste management in Greece. ETC/SCP Working Paper by Ioannis Bakas and Leonidas Milios. Copenhagen, February 2013.
- [GR SEPARATE 2014]** SEPARATE “Enabling market uptake of innovative separation and cleaning solutions for material recycling of all product groups contained in bio-wastes and MSW” <http://www.separate-wastesystems.eu/contents/deliverablesdocs/separate-country-profiles.pdf>, accessed March 2015.