

# RECO

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN WASTE MANAGEMENT



## Packaging waste management

Introduction of the packaging deposit system in Estonia



WOJEWÓDZKI FUNDUSZ  
OCHRONY ŚRODOWISKA  
I GOSPODARKI WODNEJ  
W GDAŃSKU

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## Legal basis

- **Packaging Act (1995)**

- Recovery and recycling targets
- Take-back obligation
- Packaging excise duty
- **Packaging deposit** for one-way and refillable beverage containers

- **Packaging Excise Duty Act (1996)**

- Excise duty is imposed on alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages packaging and other sales packaging
- Packaging excise is not applied if the recovery target is fulfilled



**Producer responsibility principle**

Individually

or

Involving third party –  
producer responsibility  
organisation(s) (PRO)



### Packaging waste collection schemes

- Deposit system (1 PRO) for beverage containers (one-way and refillable PET, al, glass containers)
- Multi-material/container based collection schemes (2 PROs) for the rest of packaging waste



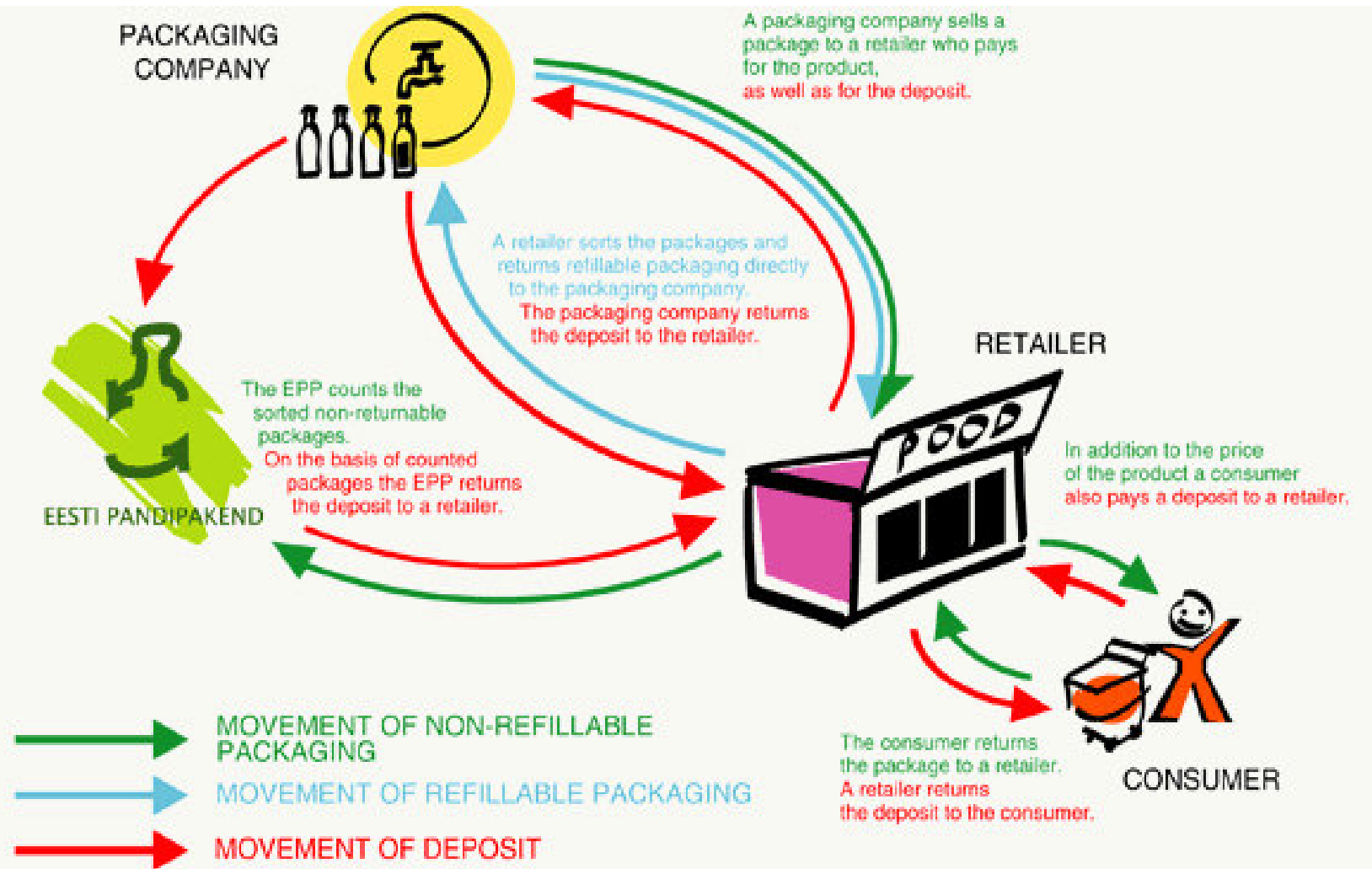
## Why deposit system?

1. Existing collection system
2. Need for quick results (recovery targets)
3. Low awareness – incentive needed
4. Estonia is sparsely populated – collection with containers is expensive
5. Growing littering problem
6. Gives a chance for refillable glass bottles





### How the system works?





## How the system works?

- PRO (Eesti Pandipakend [www.eestipandipakend.ee](http://www.eestipandipakend.ee)) organises the nation-wide collection, reuse and recovery of glass, plastic and metal packaging subject to deposit.  
The shareholders of EPP are the following:
  - The Estonian Association of Brewers
  - The Association of Producers of Soft Drinks
  - The Association of Importers of Soft Drinks and Beer
  - The Estonian Association of Retailers
- To ensure the right balance between the different associations all of them hold an equal share in the EPP. Such a structure is important from the aspect of the competition law



## How the system works?

- Packaging Act imposes a deposit of 0,5 EEK (3 Euro Cent) for <0,5 litre containers and 1 EEK (6 Euro Cent) for >1 litre containers.
- More than 1500 collection points (mainly shops)
- The number of reverse vending machines is increasing





## Results

- High return rate achieved in a short period:
  - Refillable glass bottles – more than 90%
  - PET bottles – 76%
  - One-way glass bottles – 64%
  - Aluminium cans - 42%
- 95% of consumers are aware of the deposit system (81% think that it is important to return containers)
- 65% of consumers return regularly containers to a collection point/retailer
- Producers satisfied with the system