Enhancing Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy through EPR

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Policy Options for Enhance EPR in India

- Provide education, capacity building, and information to ensure monitoring and enforcement of the E-waste Management Rules
- Applicable to a wide range of target groups:
  - Strengthening capacities of SPCBs to meet monitoring, enforcement and reporting requirements vis-a-vis CPCB
  - Increase knowledge of consumers (households and schools) on formalised disposal channels and segregation of e-waste from regular household waste
  - Skilling of workers from the informal sector on environmentally sound handling of e-waste (e.g. MeitY awareness raising programme) and path to formalisation
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- Develop integrated monitoring frameworks to ensure enforcement of Rules at the ground level
  - Development of guidelines for inventorisation methodologies for e-waste and capacity building of SPCBs to meet reporting requirements
  - Audit mechanisms for recyclers to understand capacity of different WEEE/plastic packaging items to ensure double reporting/paper trading
  - Guidelines for recycling and use of SRM from urban mining to substitute demand for virgin raw materials
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• Create negative and positive financial incentives (e.g. taxes versus subsidies)
  • Implementation of EPR fund financed by producers which could be disbursed as grants/subsidies to authorised recyclers and collectors to enhance waste management infrastructure
  • Provide tax breaks on repairs to support local service industry in the non-academic sector
  • Encourage the use of Deposit Refund Schemes (DRS); successfully implemented in EU countries for various types of packaging (e.g. PET bottles), yet little experience in the field of e-waste; may incentivise eco-design and recyclability
  • In the case of globally-traded products, better eco-design incentives could also be achieved by harmonising environmentally-sensitive design (OECD).
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- Promote inclusion of the informal sector via dedicated policies and incentives for formalisation
  - Informal sector not explicitly addressed by E-waste Management Rules or Plastic Waste Management Rules
  - Recognise importance of informal workers through dedicated state policies (e.g. case of e-waste strategy of Telangana)
  - Encourage formal-informal partnerships and innovative business models

Case study: Saahas Zero Waste (India)
Adaptation of CENELEC standards to the Indian context

- Standards can support the implementation of E-Waste (Management) Rules and create business opportunities
- Adaptation of CENELEC can be beneficial for public and private institutions, such as
  - Producer/ producer associations: interested in a level playing field and recycling benchmarks
  - Formal collector/ recycler/ refurbisher: interested in compliance with legislation
  - Public organisations: improving enforcement of legislation
  - Consumer Organisations and Environmental Groups
- Illegal imports and existing Indian waste management infrastructure needs to be taken into account when opening up to the international markets
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Adaptation of CENELEC standards to the Indian context

• Combination of advantages of available standards and tailoring to Indian context as optimal solution

• Implementation and enforcement of standards in India can be challenging:
  • Lack of awareness on hazardous informal recycling
  • Investment from manufacturers and recyclers needed
  • Lack of awareness on value-creating aspects of standards
  • Informal structure of waste management sector -> lack of compliance

• Prospective Conformity Assessment system to be brought with system wide changes

• No recycling and recovery targets should be addressed through progressive strategies like draft RE policy and signals by the government in setting up EcoPark

• Categories of e-waste should be expanded (for e.g. solar panels?) and existing sub-categories to be specific

• Wastes with negative treatment value would need additional financial support

• Public tenders for e-waste arising from bulk consumers should consider compliance with standards and implement monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance in downstream.
Policy Options for Enhance EPR awareness in India

Case study: ProSUM – Prospecting Secondary raw materials in the Urban mine and mining wastes funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme

- ProSUM from Latin: “I am valuable”
- First urban mining knowledge data platform, co-developed by WEEE Forum and funded by the European Union (Jan 2015- Dec 2017)
- Functions as a centralised database for material stocks, flows and treatment of WEEE, ELVS, batteries and mining wastes
- Web-portal easily accessible; database which helps identify opportunities for e-waste recycling and extraction of precious metals fit to end-user requirements
In 2019 alone, Circularity Capital-backed flexible subscription business Grover successfully recirculated 94,500 devices. Hugely important when we consider that only 17.4% of all global e-waste is properly collected and recycled every year.

Source: Circularity Capital, 2020
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- Issue horizontal high-level guidelines for eco-design criteria of EEE in order to increase longevity of products
  - Guidelines may include criteria for recyclability, provision of repair manuals/services and spare parts, modular design etc.
  - “If you can’t repair it, you don’t own it”
  - Particular attention may be given to the availability of firmware updates, patches and fixes in order to ensure that hardware can reach its technical lifetime

Software innovation cycles rather short; create need for increased computational capacities
Easily exchangeable via updates

Technical product lifespan

Innovation cycles for hardware components usually slower
EEE hardware often not upgradable
Thank you

Website: www.eu-rei.com