

# Policy and Legal Recommendations in the Republic of Cyprus

As a result of the previous gap analysis, the plastic hotspot assessment and the

provide a series of recommendations.

## Waste segregation and recycling in municipalities

Cyprus is very low on recycling rates, with only 7-10% of the materials produced being recycled which is very far away from the 50% target of 2020.<sup>2</sup> Also, 10 out of the 59 infringement cases at the EU Level against the Republic of Cyprus include waste management policies, actions against plastic and failure to provide solutions to reduce waste production. This alarmingly low percentages show how the public of Cyprus is highly dependent on plastic, and that recycling cannot be the solution, but that stakeholders (authorities, NGOs,

- Establishment of the landfill taxes to phase-out landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste;
- Ban of certain waste streams from disposal in landfills.

## Capacity building for local authorities

The local authorities are key players in waste management, especially in relation to separate waste collection. The whole success of the system relies upon the performance of the local authorities in delivering services, and encouraging households to engage with them. Hence, it is critical for them to have the necessary technical and financial resources to deliver. The Waste Management Plan foresees some support for local authorities in their new responsibilities by MARDE (which will be responsible for the implementation of the training activities and will collaborate with the Union of Municipalities and Communities, NGOs, Universities, etc.). This support is urgently needed and will have to be very closely monitored, while sufficient funds should be available. It is important to:

- Provide resources (know-how, training, collection equipment, etc.) to the local authorities for the development of separate collection systems;
- Develop and implement training and capacity building programs;
- Develop and implement training and capacity building programs at the community level relating to plastic waste management.

## Waste management infrastructure

The most significant measures that will allow the implementation of the proposed policy and reaching of the respective targets include:

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