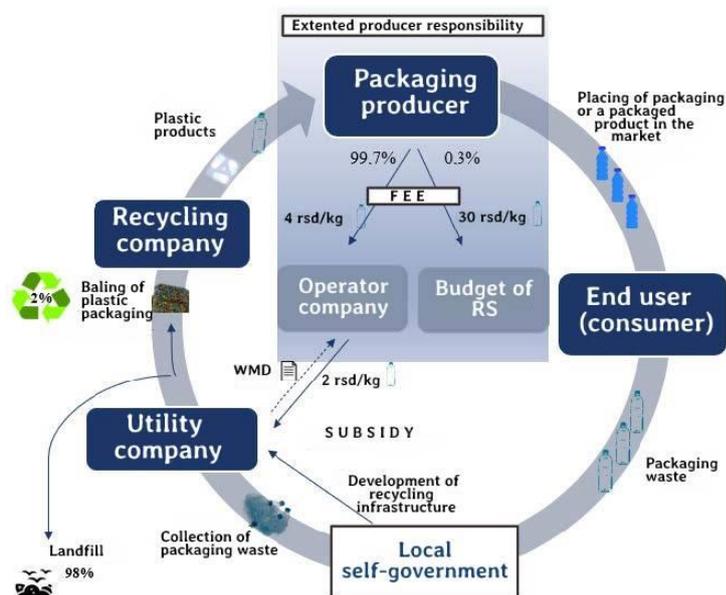


SUMMARY
Performance Audit Report
“Plastic Waste Management“

In order to achieve a higher rate of recycling of plastic waste, it is necessary to improve the system of separate collection of municipal waste and the application of the principle of extended producer responsibility

In the Republic of Serbia in the period 2017–2019, a total of 897 thousand tons of plastic waste was produced, 831 thousand tons of which account for municipal plastic waste. There is no systemic organized separate waste collection in place, as 2% of municipal plastic waste (14 thousand tons) was separately collected and recycled. No economic benefits are gained from the circular approach, as plastic is lost after it becomes waste, at the same time causing significant harm to the environment.

Figure 1. Management of municipal plastic packaging waste in 2019



Adequate coordination between the entities of the packaging waste management system has not been established. Packaging producers insufficiently invest in the system of separate packaging waste collection, which results in low recycling rate of municipal packaging waste.

Local self-governments have not fully: established the separate collection of municipal waste; organized educational and informational activities about the importance of recycling; undertaken measures to protect the property and include informal waste collectors in the existing waste collection system.

There are no accurate and reliable records on the production and management of municipal waste, which may lead to unjustified strategic decisions when selecting the waste management methods. Ministry of Environmental Protection failed to perform the inspection control over the work of operator companies for management of packaging waste.

Recommendations

State Audit Institution has issued some of the following recommendations:

To the **Ministry of Environmental Protection**, to establish more efficient application of the principle of extended producer responsibility and the oversight over the work of operator companies for management of packaging waste; to undertake measures for establishing separate waste collection and define ways for inclusion of informal waste collectors;

To the **City of Belgrade and City of Novi Sad**, to adopt plans for establishing the separate waste collection in their respective territories and organize educational and informational activities aimed at reducing the plastic waste; to undertake measures for property protection; to define ways for inclusion of informal waste collectors and establish more efficient cooperation with operator companies for management of packaging waste;

To the **Provincial Secretariat for Urbanism and Environmental Protection**, to perform inspection control over the application of the Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste;

To the **Agency for Environmental Protection**, to perform control of data received about the produced municipal waste.