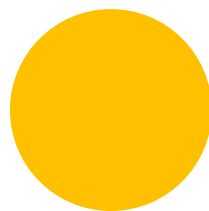


Nordic Council
of Ministers

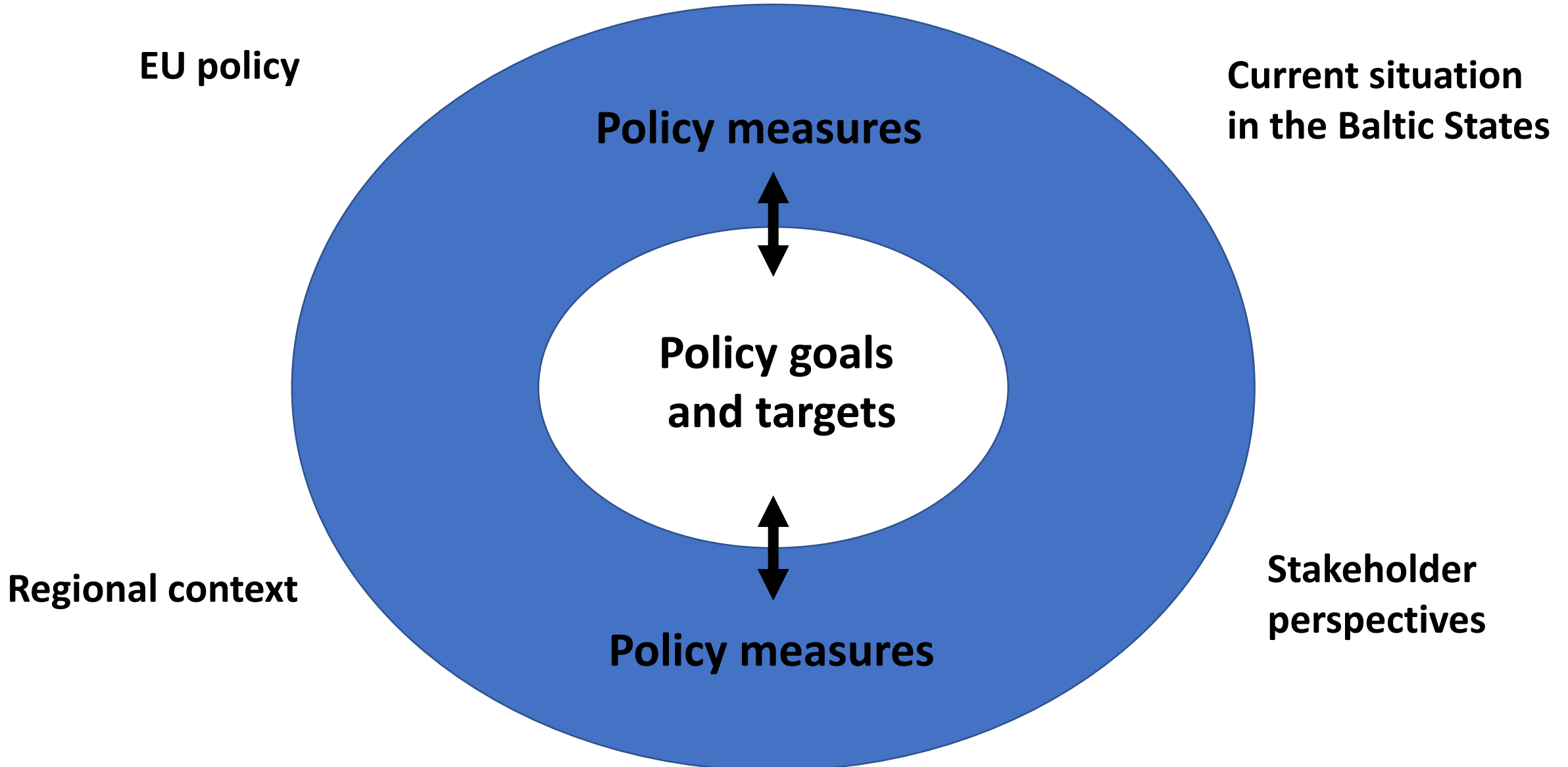


Policy recommendations for the used garments and textile in the Baltic States

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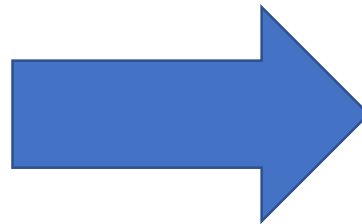
Policy context and elements?



Policy goals

Overall goal:

Moving towards a more circular and sustainable textile system via increased collection, reuse and recycling of textiles



Sub-goals (1)

INCREASED COLLECTION

1. Increase separate collection of used textiles from households
2. Develop and stimulate separate collection activities for textiles and workwear from public institutions and private institutions (e.g hospitals, nursing homes, military, hotels)

INCREASE AND PROMOTE REUSE

3. Maintain high consumption of second-hand and further nurture the demand for and culture of second-hand, repair, sharing and other reuse practices

INCREASED RECYCLING

4. Establish a thriving recycling sector in the region to take advantage of low labour costs (compared to Nordics) and high quantities of recycling feedstock (non-reusable textiles) emerging from the sorting industry
5. Seed renewal (clean and repair) and upcycling (resewing and redesign) industries in collaboration with Nordic/EU brands/retailers to create quality products for sale in the Nordic/Baltic/EU market

Sub-goals (2)

INCREASE AWARENESS

6. Increase awareness, provide information and develop capacity in the area of circular textiles (collection, reuse and recycling)

DEVELOP COOPERATION AND COMMON WORKING PRINCIPLES

7. Increase collaboration between organizations (e.g collectors, sorters, reuse and recycling institutions) to ensure that collected items find reuse and recycling markets
8. Increase collaboration between industry stakeholders to increase reuse and recycling of used Baltic textiles
9. Ensure that importers, domestic collectors, sorters and wholesale sector businesses adhere to minimum codes of conduct/working principles for waste treatment

Possible policy measures, which are considered relevant in order to achieve the objectives and improvements in collection, reuse and recycling of textiles in the Baltic region

Strategic and legal measures

- Define and develop a **national strategy/action plan** that supports circular economy of textiles
- Setting **national targets for collection, reuse and recycling**
- **Obligation for municipalities to secure separate collection** of used garments and textiles, combined with minimum **targets for reuse and recycling** of the collected textiles
- **Establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** to garments and textiles

Economic instruments

- **Tax/VAT reductions** for second-hand retail, and repair and upcycling operations
- **Tax relief on labour** for domestic collectors and sorters
- Higher **landfill fees/tax**
- **Economic incentives** (tax reductions etc.) for recycling companies to relocate in Baltics
- Financial support to the development of the innovative technology through **R&D grants** (collection/sorting/recycling)
- **Financial support** to the establishment of the required **infrastructure and technology investments** (collection/sorting/recycling)
- Government **funding pool for start-up investments** in new circular business models within textiles
- Promotion and targets for **Green/Circular Public Procurement**

Soft instruments

- **Communication/campaigns** to inform citizens on how to dispose of used textiles, the benefits of reuse, repair and recycled content in products)
- **Codes of conduct** (for collection, sorting, resell and wholesale sector)
- **Building platforms for dialogue and collaboration** across the sector
- Strengthen and support educational programs that ensure textiles production and handling skillset (e.g. sewing, design, repair etc.)
- **Capacity building (training and education)** to increase the specific knowledge and skills for repair, redesign, reweave and other recycling activities
- **Voluntary agreements** for large public and private organisations to organize the take back, reuse and recycling of their textiles