Extended producer responsibility: an e-waste experience in Costa Rica
The first producer responsibility organisation (PRO) for e–waste in Costa Rica
Costa Rica

- 51,100 km²
- 5,111,000 inhabitants
- 60% urban population
- 26% of its land and 2.7% of its marine areas are protected
Background

2003-2004
- Project supported by Bilateral Cooperation Agreement Costa Rica - Netherlands
- Formation of an intersectoral committee
- Formulation of a National Strategy

2005
- Development of e-waste operators
- Awareness campaigns

2009
- Local adaptation of the EPR concept
- Constitution of ASEGIRES

2010
- Decree Nº 35933-S for e-waste integrated management
ASEGIRE Process

2010-2013

Learning

- Understanding of E-waste management and market
- Membership services and fees
- Search for sustainability
- Image and dissemination

2014-2016

Development

- Increase membership
- Increase in volumes
- Diversification in types of waste received
- Financial and process sustainability
- Decrease in the cost for processing of e-waste
- Exchange of experiences with Bolivia and El Salvador

Consolidation

2017-2020
ASEGIRE and waste management process

Services for members

- Administration of WEEE management
- Negotiation for optimal fee for treatment
- Guarantee of safe treatment
- Legal compliance
- Training
E waste management system in CR

- National Government - regulation and control
- Municipalities

**CEGIRE Platform**
(MinSalud, MINAE, MICIT, UCCAEP, Academia, PROs, NGOs)

Consumers → EEE importers/distributors → 22 e-waste PRO (individual or collective)

Local process or export → Waste operators

Informal sector
Lessons learned

Due to the characteristics of the e-waste, there must be regulation.

Willingness of the private sector to commit.

Integration of local companies with corporations or global companies.

It requires a multi-stakeholders dialogue and the search for solutions needs be linked to reality.

The government needs to develop instruments to audit compliance with the regulations by the sectors involved.

Regarding PROs is essential the establishment of an operating model that guarantees its financial sustainability.
Challenges

- Establishment of mandatory recovery goals
- Institutional enforcement
- Integration of informal sector into the system
- Clear public instructions on how to manage the e-waste
- Take back coverage nationwide.
- Coordination between PRO
- Official information available
Muchas gracias

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