Drivers and barriers for the reduction of single-use plastics in the member countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Single-use plastic initiatives & SDGs funding

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Research scope

Characterising single-use plastic waste reduction initiatives across ASEM

Implementation drivers and barriers

Impact of COVID-19

Research approach

Scope:

- Single-use plastic waste initiatives in ASEM
  - bottom-up initiatives
  - self-sustainable
  - operational for at least one year

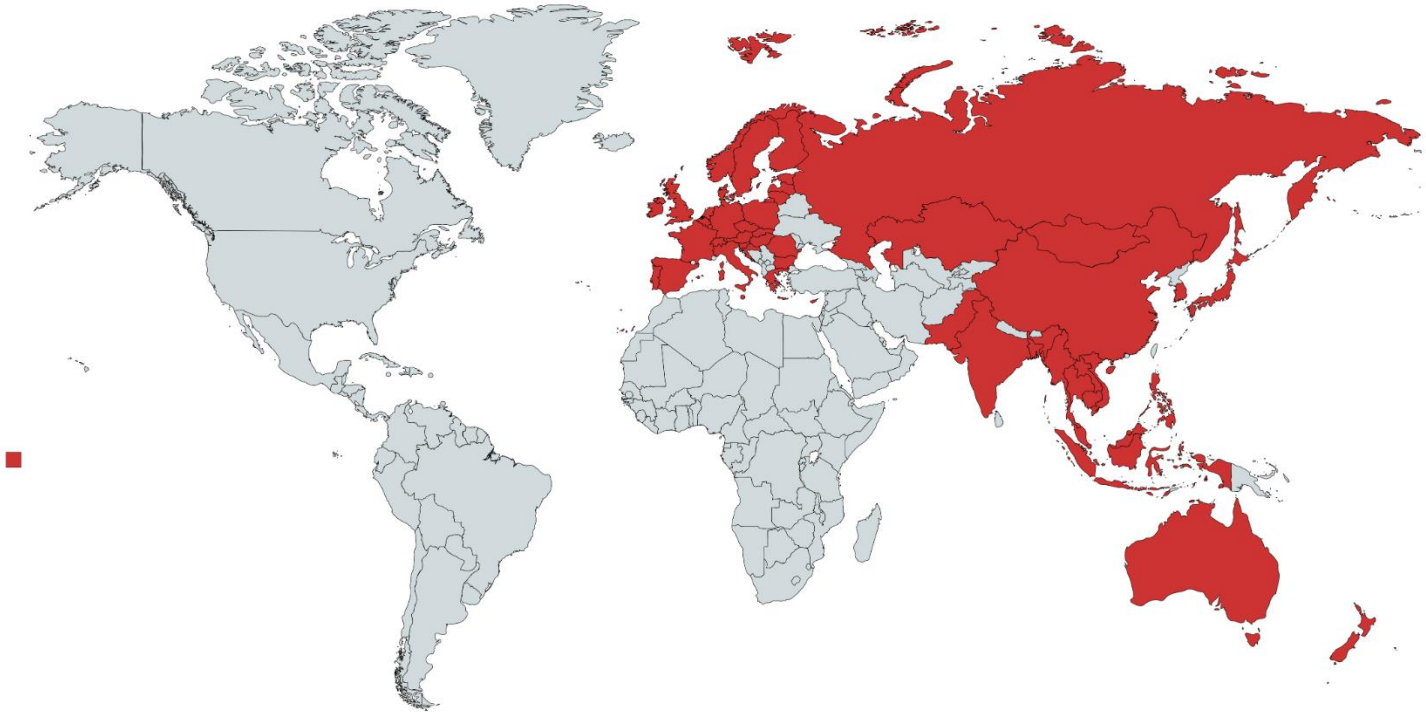
Methodology:

- Desk research and survey

Data collection:

- 51 ASEM partner countries
- Between November 2019 and January 2020

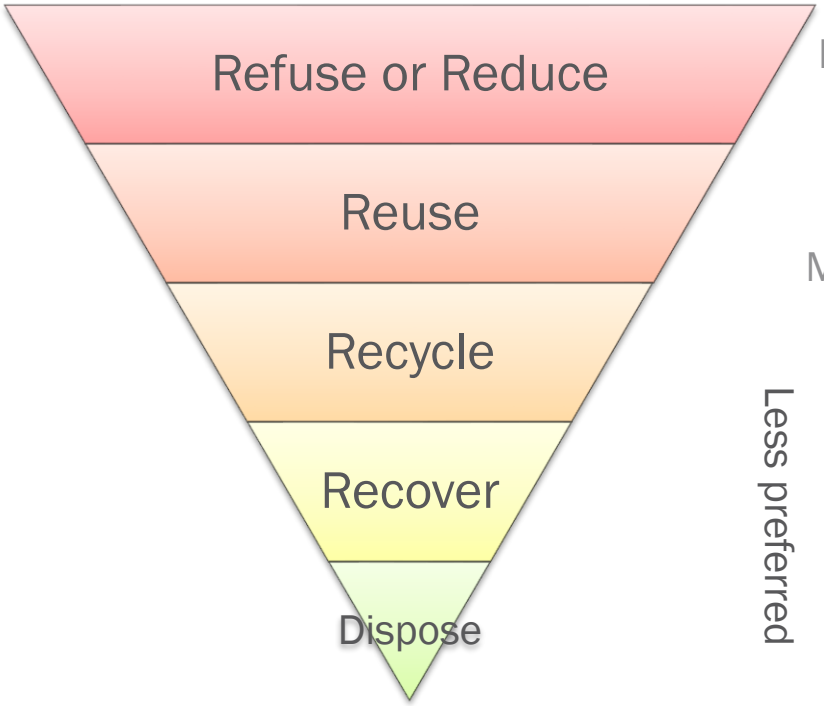
Asia-Europe Meeting Partner Countries

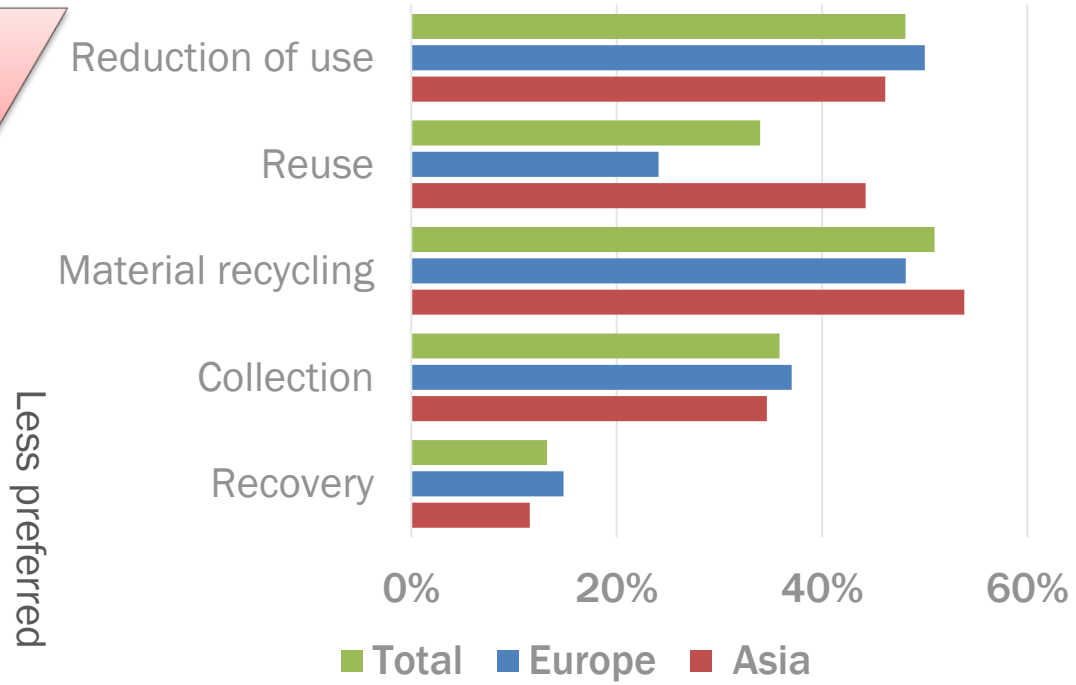


Generated at www.mapchart.net

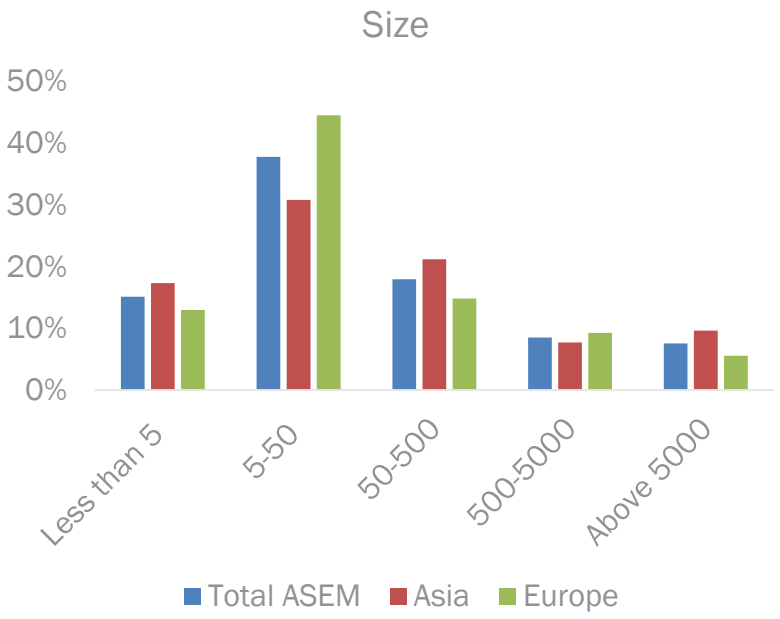
Findings from the review

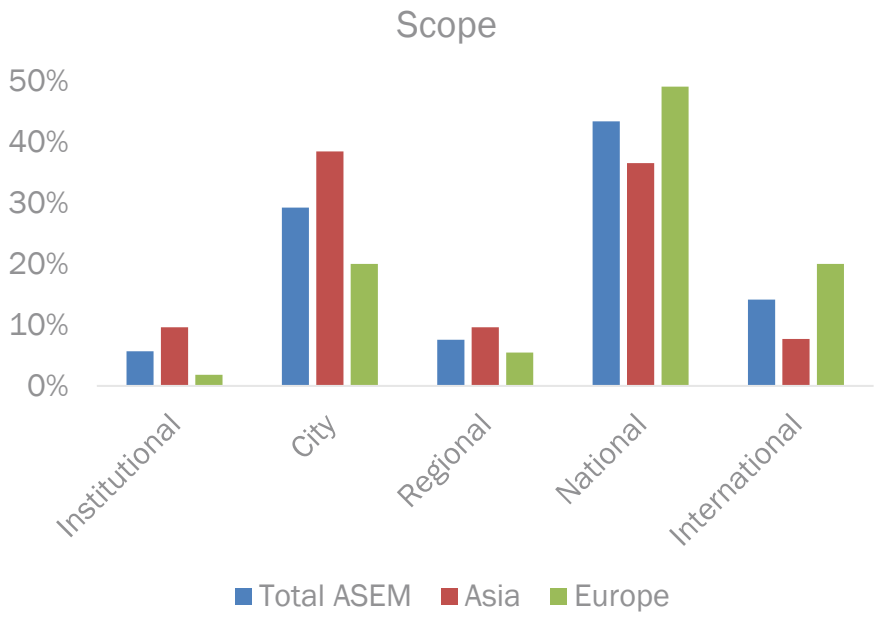
Project objectives of the studied initiatives and projects



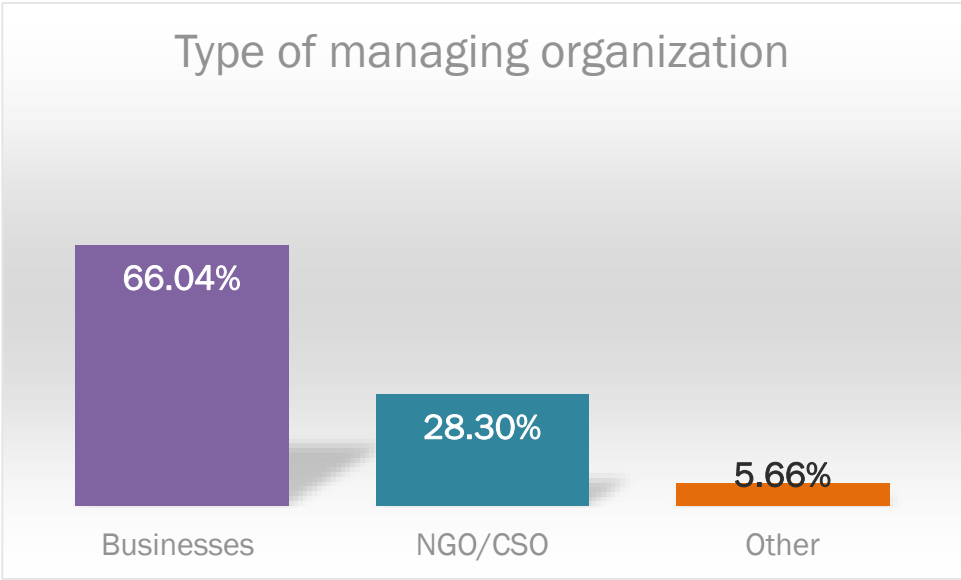


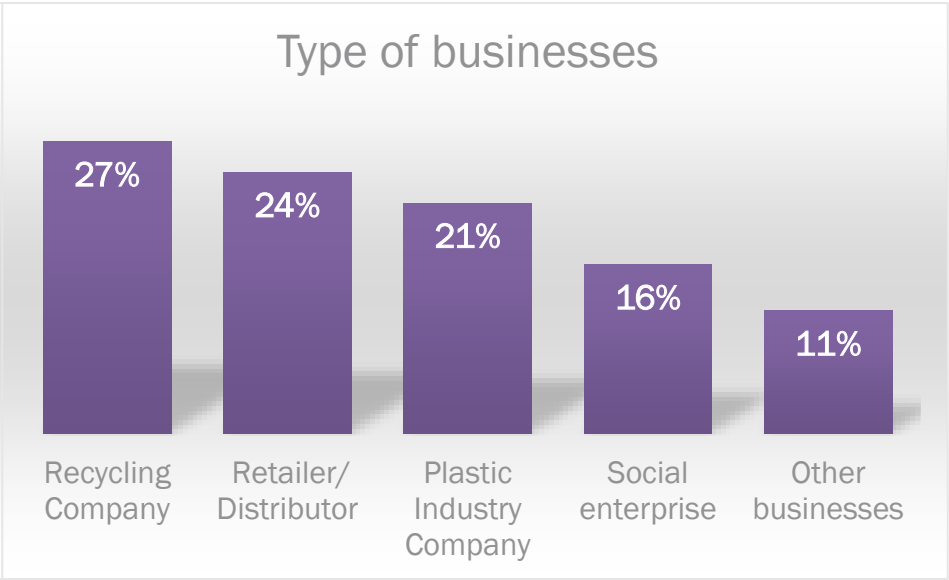
Size and scale of the identified projects: *prevalence of medium-sized organizations with local or national scope of activities*



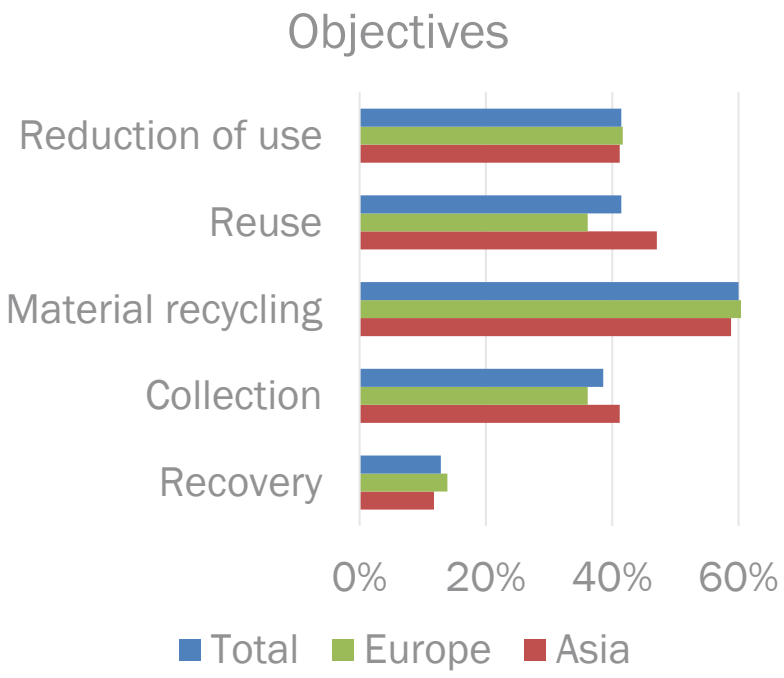


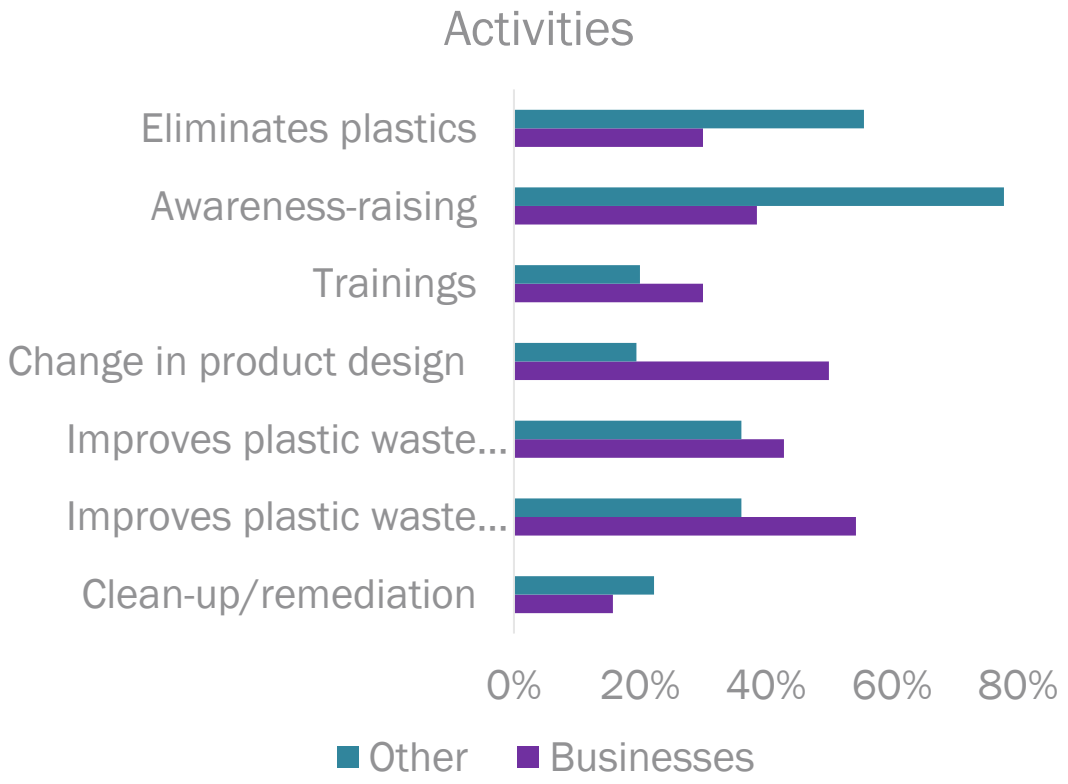
Managing organizations:
the majority of identified projects were initiated by for-profit organizations





Activities:
projects initiated by businesses are more likely to focus on recycling and collection





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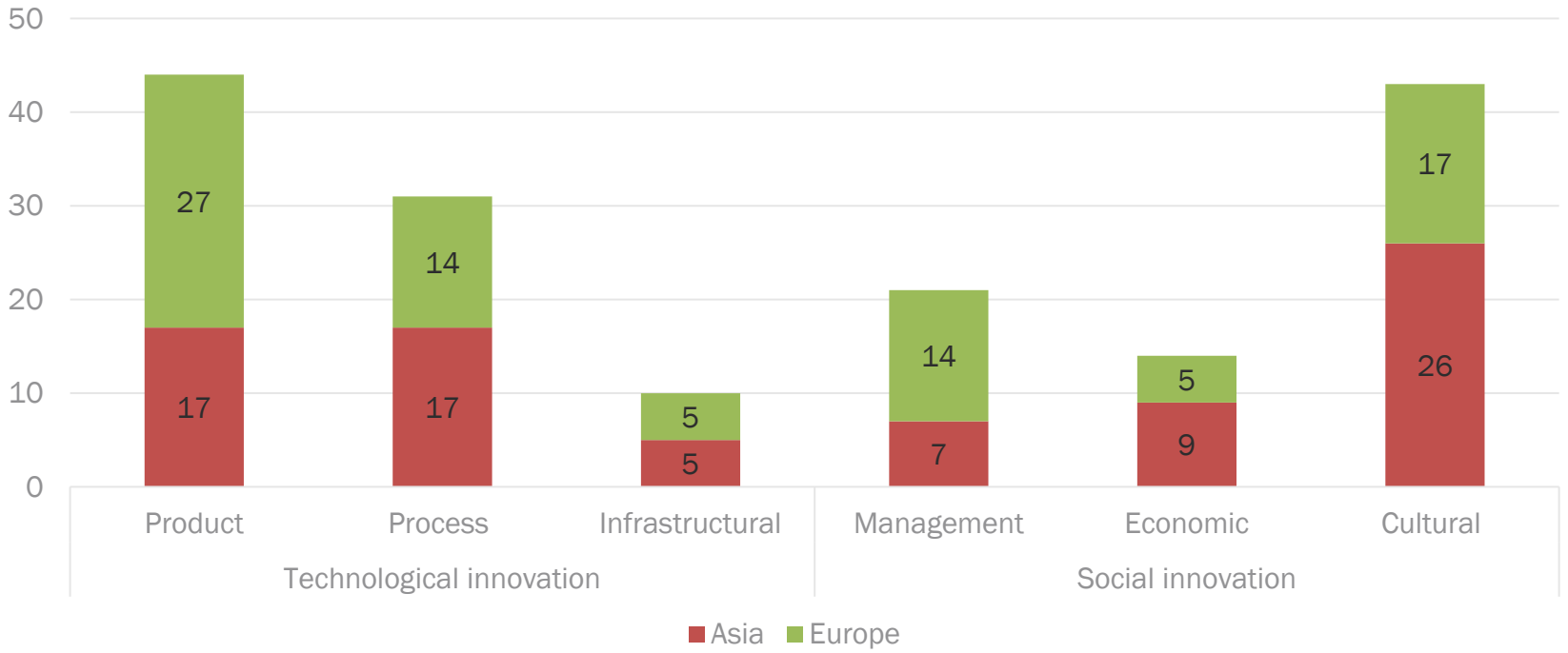
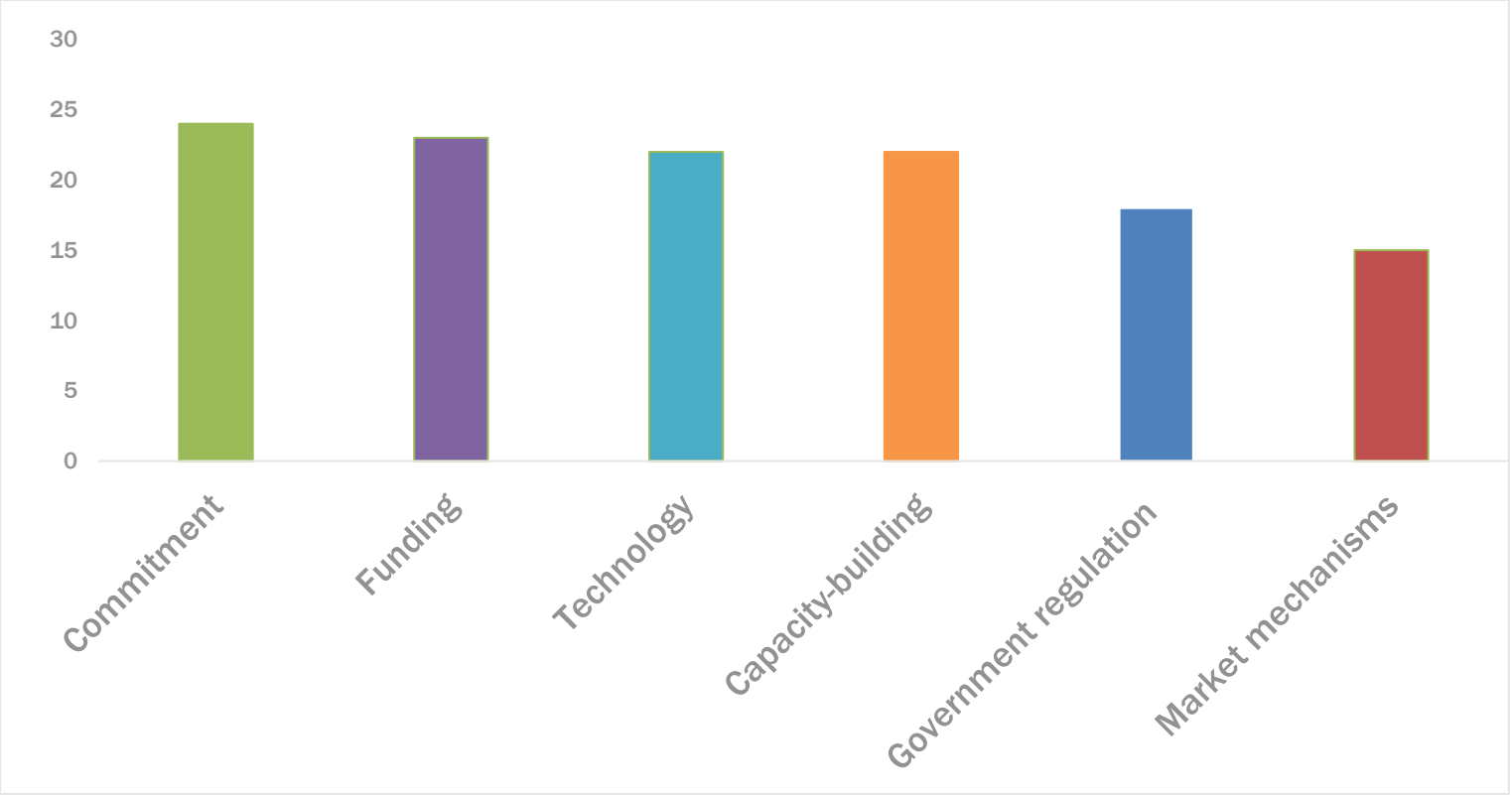
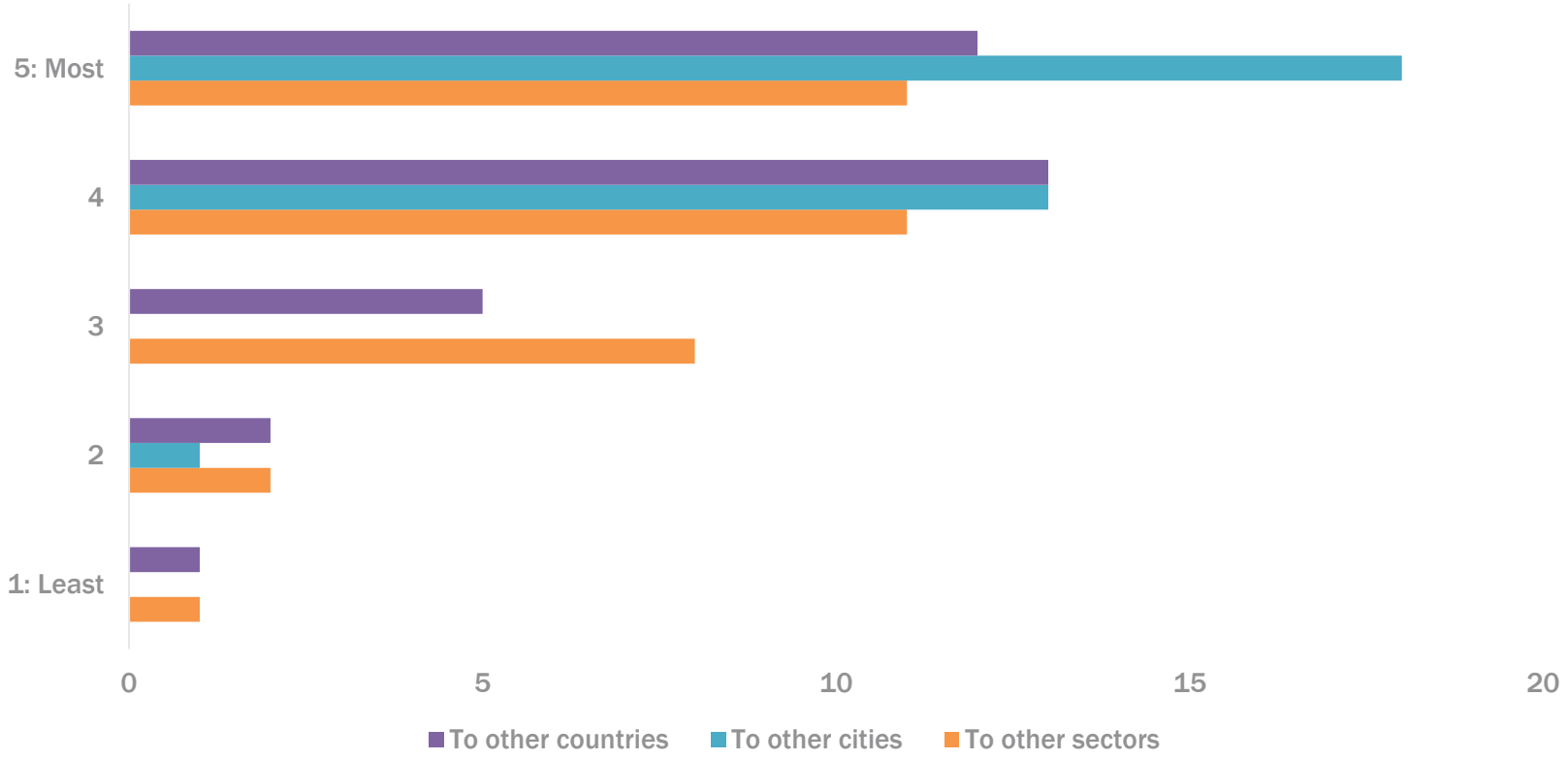
Innovations delivered by the studied projects



Implementation drivers and barriers of single-use plastic waste initiatives in ASEM



Scalability of projects



Potential barriers of upscaling single-use plastic waste reduction initiatives

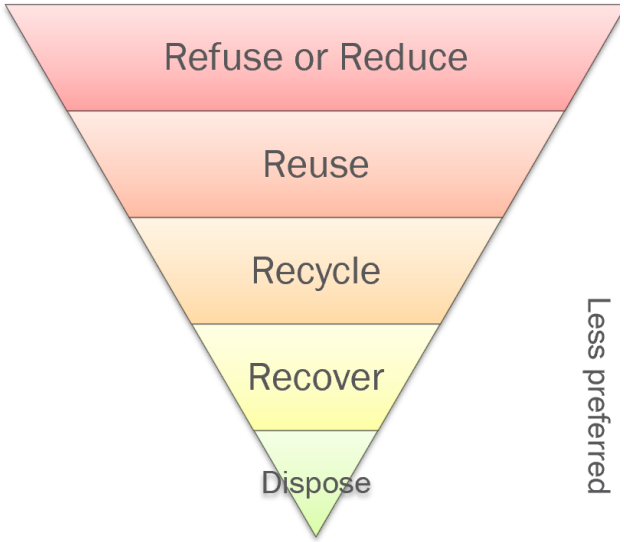
- the lack of or limited availability of regulation/standards;
- tax incentives to reduce the manufacturing cost of plastic alternatives or the cost of recycling;
- public and private funding to support initiatives until they can become profitable;
- insufficient collection and recycling infrastructure
- lack of or limited awareness, interest or commitment
- limited or lacking coordination along the plastic production chain

Impacts of Covid-19

- Most companies continued to operate without any interruption while following the required health measures
- Shifting production to produce protective equipment and sanitizers for medical use.
- Education and awareness-raising initiatives moved online

What are the solutions?

- Businesses across ASEM have a high potential to deliver product, process and infrastructural innovations – legislation addressing whole lifecycle product chain could stop “do now and worry later approach”
- Potential to create synergies, if single-use plastic waste reduction are coordinated across the supply chains
- Focus on innovations to tackle the plastic waste challenge
- There is a need to support the expansion of scattered single-use plastic waste initiatives to trigger systemic change

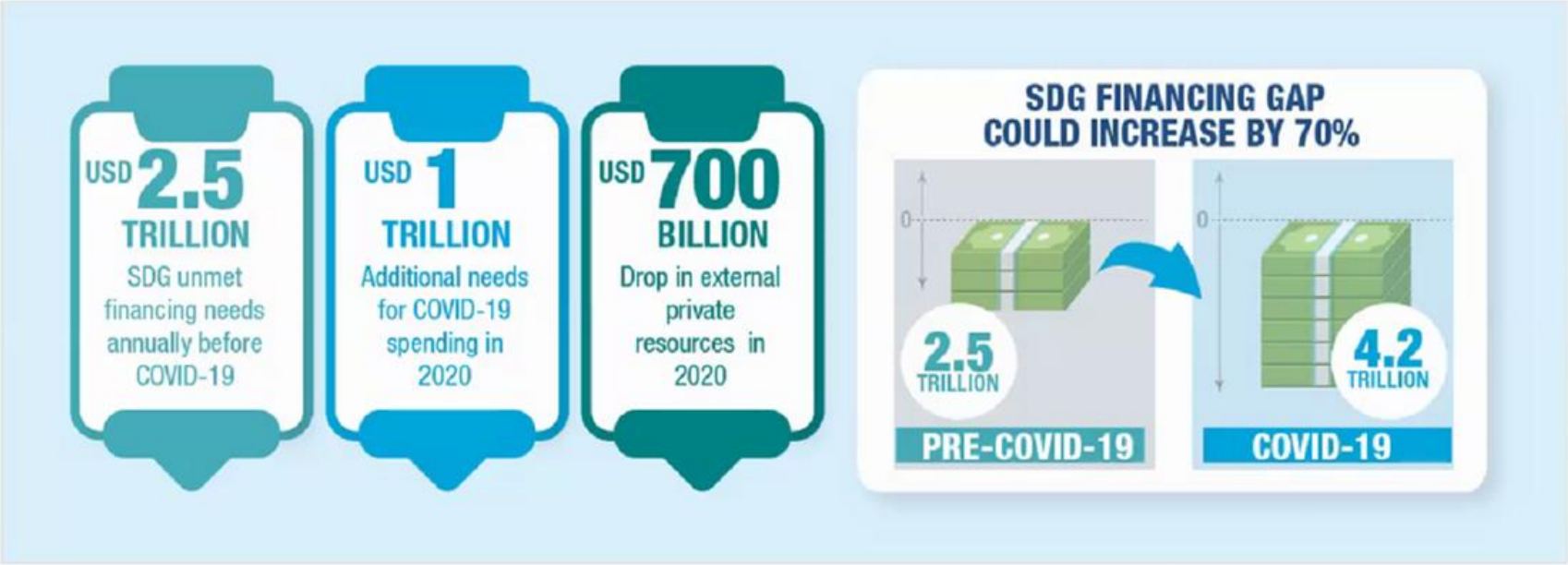


Who pays for plastic planet?

- 99% of plastics are made from fossil fuels, both natural gas and crude oil
- Plastic emits greenhouse gas emissions at every stage of its lifecycle
- Recycling of plastics is more costly than making new one
- According to IMF report 6.5% of global GDP ($5.2 trillion) was spent on fossil fuel subsidies (including negative externalities) in 2017, a half trillion dollar increase since 2015
- Reducing these subsidies "would have lowered global carbon emissions by 28% and fossil fuel air pollution deaths by 46 percent, and increased government revenue by 3.8 percent of GDP."

OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE dev

The SDG financing gap in developing countries has widened by 70%



What are the solutions?

- Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies to greening supply chains in order to contribute to green recovery
- Meeting ODA commitments - Official Development Assistance will remain an important source of development financing

*After the adoption of the SDGs, the ODA provided by the OECD countries have risen with 10,7% in 2016 from 2015, reaching 145.6 billion USD but the ASEM DAC donors, which provide more than 70% of the total net ODA, only six fulfilled their Monterrey commitments (Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom) in 2016

Thank you for the attention!