## WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY IN GERMANY

The German Closed Cycle Management Act (Kreislaufwirtschaftsgesetz, KrWG) is aimed to turn the waste management into a resource management. The realisation that waste can be a useful source of raw materials and energy is not new. Metals, glass and textiles have been collected before and put to new use. The waste management policy, which has been adapted in Germany over the past 20 years, is based on closed cycles and assigns disposal responsibilities to manufacturers and distributors of products. This has made people even more aware of the necessity to separate waste, led to the introduction of new disposal technologies and increased recycling capacities. Today, 14 percent of the raw materials used by the German industry are recovered waste.

The Closed cycle management is not only a contribution to the environmental protection, it also pays off economically. The waste management industry has become an extensive and powerful economic sector in Germany. Almost 200,000 people are employed in approximately 3,000 companies which generate an annual turnover of approximately 40 billion euro.

Article 4 of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC) sets out five steps for dealing with waste, ranked according to the environmental impact - the waste hierarchy.

preventing the creation of waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, recycling, another recovery (such as energy recovery) and disposal (landfill after pre-treatment) in descending order of environmental preference. This waste hierarchy has been transposed into German law.

A new obligation is included to draw up a national waste prevention programme (Article 33 KrWG). The programme formulates waste prevention targets, presents and evaluates existing waste prevention measures, and develops new measures on this basis. The aim is to strengthen waste prevention policies and make them more transparent to the general public. The Federal Ministry of the Environment formulated a waste prevention programme for the first time in 2013.

The German waste management system is totally financed by fees. No subsidies! There is a "polluter-pays" principle, means the producer has to pay for waste treatment or disposal. Various groups of main stakeholders are working in waste management - municipal and private waste management companies (waste collection, recovery and disposal). Municipal waste management companies are responsible for biowaste and domestic waste; private waste management companies ae responsible for the waste recycling (domestic waste; trade waste, commercial waste).

