

1st European Conference on Deposit Systems

20th-22nd November 2018 • Lithuania • Norway

Earlier this year, the European Commission adopted an ambitious new Circular Economy Package to help European businesses and consumers to make the transition to a circular economy where resources remain within the production and consumption loop as long as possible. The text of the package recommends use of **deposit return systems (DRSs)** for beverage containers in order to reduce marine litter as well as improve the quality of collected material and recycling rates.

Long before it was recommended in the CE directives, Lithuania launched a national DRS in February 2016. To guarantee convenient return possibilities, the government chose a “return-to-retail” collection model, where stores selling beverage containers were required to receive used containers back for recycling. The scheme has widely been labeled a success story. In the second year of operation, 92% of all beverage containers sold were returned for recycling. These numbers are expected to increase in the next few years, with the country’s 2020 return rate target already achieved.

The Norwegian deposit system has been the best case for Circular Economy since as early as 1999. Thanks to efficient collection and excellent eco-design of packaging, 97% of all plastic drink bottles are recycled, 92% to such a high standard that they are turned back into drinks bottles. As a result of this success, less than 1% of plastic bottles end up in the environment.

Both the Norwegian and Lithuanian systems are proof that economic incentives and access to user-friendly collection infrastructure leads to high-quality material recycling.

It is time for European countries to experience best performing deposit frameworks in Europe and gather valuable, detailed know how about the DRSs securing high collection rates and best quality recycling of beverage containers.



The conference is being organized by Reloop Platform in cooperation with Užstato Sistemų Administratorius (USAD - operator of Lithuania's deposit system) and INFINITUM (system operator from Norway), and will bring together stakeholders and experts on DRS including legislators, operators, recyclers and beverage producers.



Agenda

Day 1 – 20th Nov.

- Arrivals around noon
- Lunch and registration (13.30-14.30)
- Conference (14.30–18.30)
- Dinner (20.00)

Day 2 – 21st Nov.

- Study tour - supermarket collection points / depot center / Vilnius (8.30-12.30)
- Lunch (12.30-13.30)
- Transfer to the airport
- Departure to Norway or return flight home

Day 3 – 22nd Nov.

- Departure from the hotel (9.00)
- Study tour - Heia plant (10-12.00)
- Lunch (12.30-13.30)
- Supermarket collection points (13.30-14.30)
- Transfer to the airport (30 min) and return flights

Conference 20th of November – agenda (14.30-18.30)

- **Official welcome:**
Kestutis Navickas, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
Karsten Klepsvik, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway
- **Kestutis Navickas, Minister of Environment, Lithuania:** DRS – Legislative Proceedings
- **Gintaras Varnas, USAD:** Lithuanian Deposit System - Environmental Champion in Eastern Europe
- **Alessandro Pasquale, MATTONI:** Leading the Way Towards Sustainable Management of the Product's Life Cycle - perspective of the beverage producer
- **Kjell Olav Maldum, INFINITUM:** Norwegian deposit system – Circular Economy Par Excellence
- **Andoni Uriarte, RECIRCULA:** Efficient Collection System as a Precondition for High Quality Recycling
- **Anatol Shagun, VTOROPERATOR, Belarus:** Implementation of Deposit System as a Part of Sustainable Waste Management Strategy by 2035
- **Stella Slučiková, Institute for Environment Policy, Slovakia:** Analysis of the Introduction of Deposit Refund System in Slovakia

Wrap-up and conclusions - **Clarissa Morawski, RELOOP PLATFORM**
Moderating - **Anna Larsson, RELOOP PLATFORM**