



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

AUDIT REPORT

Efficiency of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in the field of hazardous waste

Performance audit

Audit period: 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2021



Proper waste management

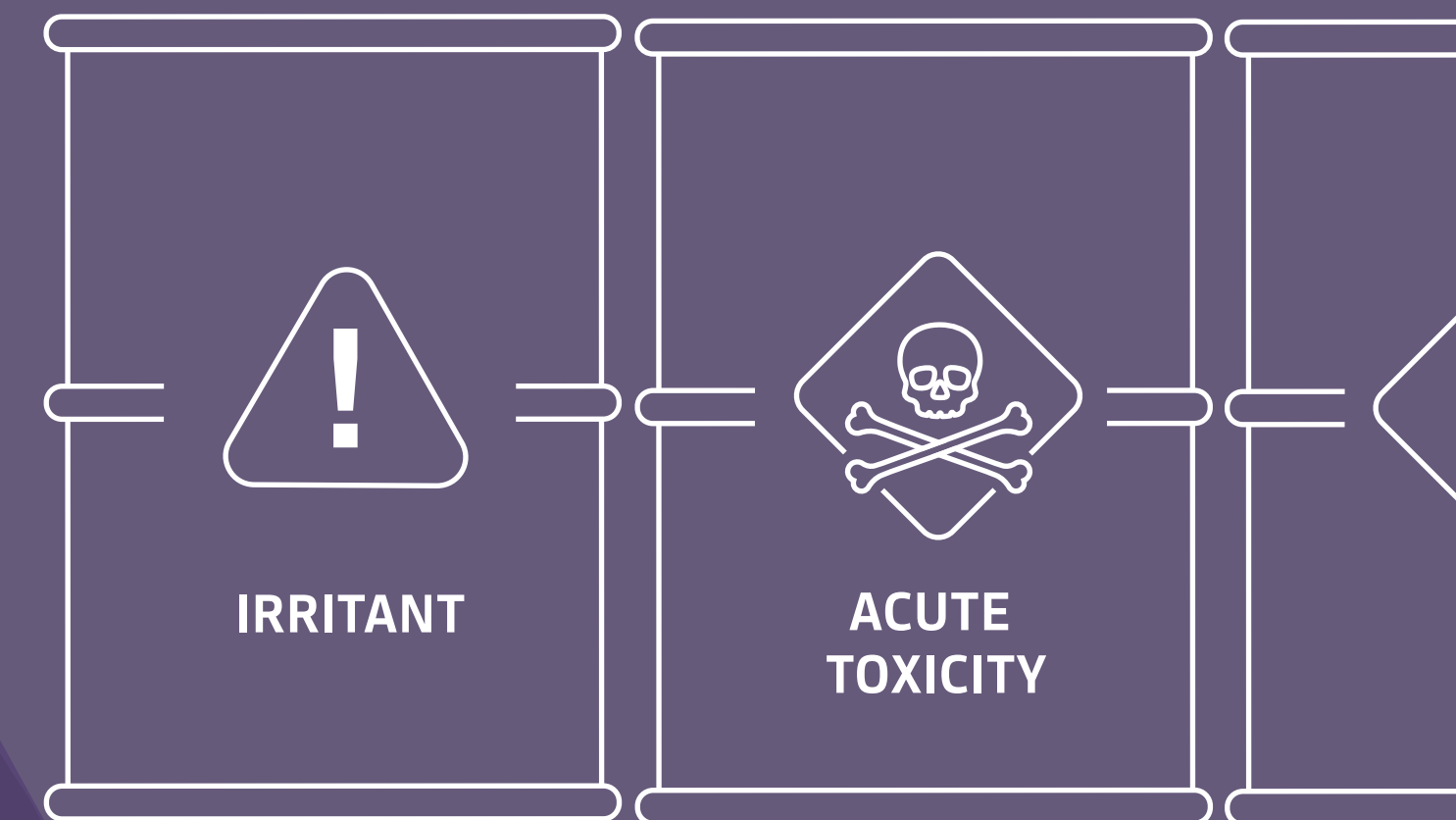
is important due to adverse impact of waste on human health and environment

Hazardous waste in Slovenia in tonnes



66 kg per capita per year

* Images of symbols are only illustrative.



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenian Environment Agency.

Hazardous waste is monitored through the IS Odpadki waste management information system



Inspection of hazardous waste



The purpose of the information system is **to ensure traceability and monitoring of waste generation and management.**

- Slovenian Environment Agency ensured **the quality of collected data by built-in controls**, yet they should be improved.
- The concerned data is collected in the **IS Odpadki** but in a way **not allowing a simple analysis.**
- ⊖ Slovenian Environment Agency failed to perform regular in-depth analyses of collected data.
- ✓ At the end of the period covered by the audit, the activities for upgrading the IS Odpadki were stepped up.
- ⊖ **The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning analysed the data only every 6 years.**

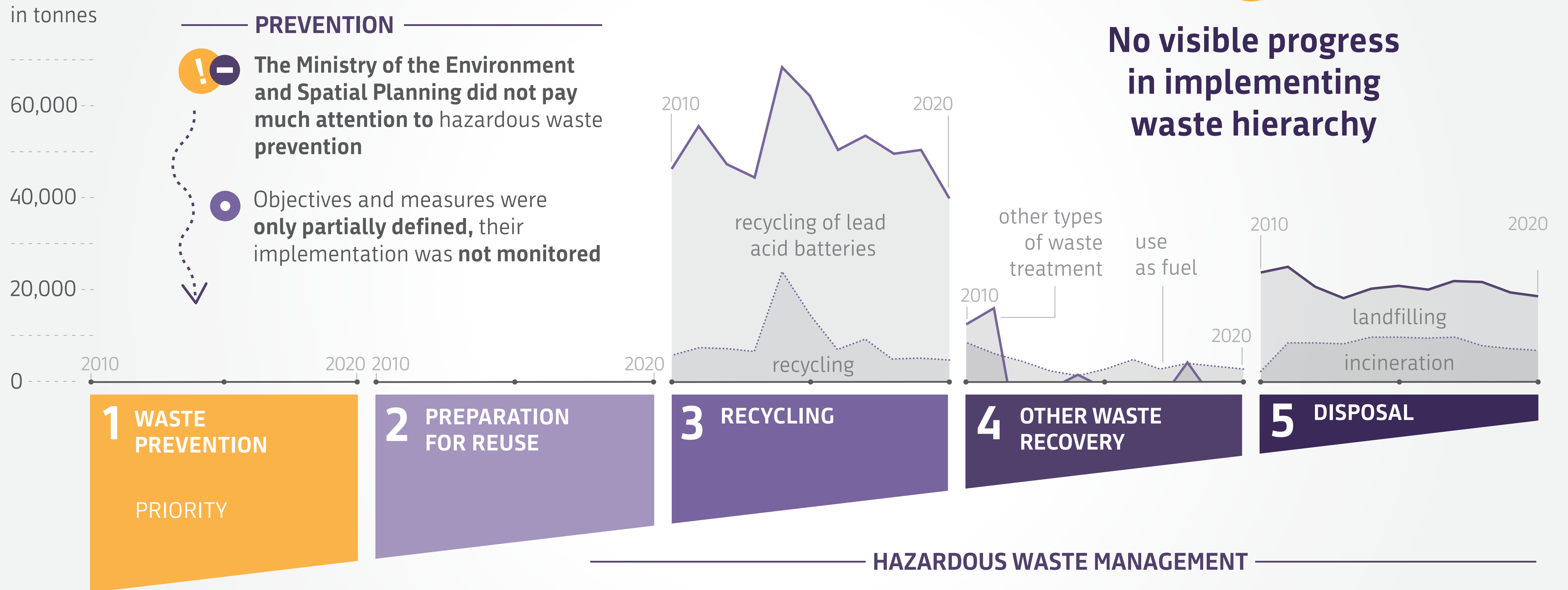


Regular inspection represents only 1/3 of all controls

- **No separate data for hazardous waste inspection**, only joint data for all types of waste.
- ⊖ As assessed by the Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning, **the frequency of detected violations** in the field of waste management **is still too high.**
- ✓ Regular inspection is carried out **on the basis of risk assessment.**
- ⊖ **The Inspectorate does not systematically detect violators.**
- ✓ The Inspectorate introduced **more frequent checks** whether the sorting of (hazardous) waste is appropriate.

Hazardous waste prevention and their management

Amount of waste in accordance with waste hierarchy



No visible progress in implementing waste hierarchy



The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning did not pay much attention to hazardous waste prevention



Objectives and measures were only partially defined, their implementation was not monitored



Rules regarding management of stakeholders were defined by respective regulations



Objectives and measures regarding management were only indirectly defined



Poor implementation and monitoring of measures by the Ministry

Rehabilitation of old environmental burdens due to inappropriate hazardous and non-hazardous waste management

€ 7.3 million

for rehabilitation of old environmental burdens due to non-hazardous waste from 2016 to 2020



Late and incomplete inventory of potentially polluted sites



No assessment of the number of sites where hazardous waste is located



No funding source provided at systemic level

€ 2.5 million

planned for rehabilitation of hazardous waste sites from 2021 to 2025

- ⊖ The risk that concerned costs will further increase.
- ⊖ The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning began to regulate the concerned field, but at a **slower pace than planned**.
- ⊖ The field of rehabilitation not fully regulated at systemic level.



OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT



The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning was **partially efficient** in hazardous waste prevention and their management.

The Ministry and its subordinated bodies **implemented some of the measures** for improving the efficiency in the concerned field **already during the audit procedure.**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COURT OF AUDIT



Defining national objectives and monitoring the implementation of measures in the field of hazardous waste



Increasing the scope of regular inspection and systematically detecting violators



Comprehensive systemic regulation regarding rehabilitation of old environmental burdens



Improved strategic planning regarding the development of waste management information system



The best waste is no waste!