



# Producer Responsibility Organisations – Experience from Switzerland

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# What is a **Producer Responsibility Organisation**?

- Set up to implement the EPR principle for take-back and recycling of post-consumer products
- A collective system where several producers collaborate and mutualise their responsibility through a specific organisation
- Independent entity – can be for profit or not-for-profit
- Many avatars – Producer Compliance Organisation, Product Stewardship Organisation, Compliance Scheme
- Between 1998 and 2007, it is estimated that more than 260 PROs were established in Europe



# What does a PRO really do?

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Manages the financing of the system



Organises and supervises the activities the collection and recycling activities



Maintains integrity of the system through standards and audits



Conducts awareness raising programs

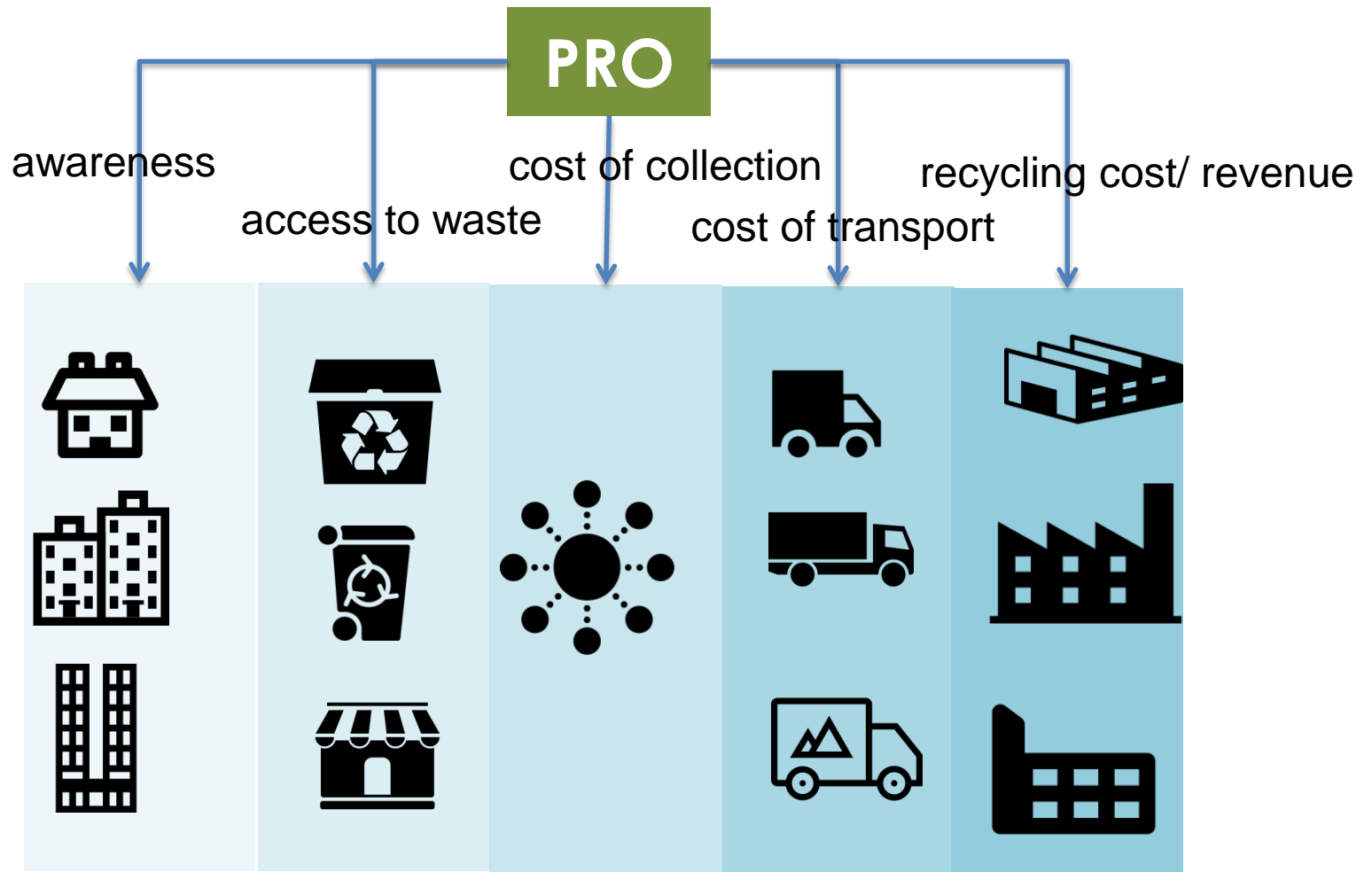


Manages the corresponding data



Provides reporting and compliance on behalf of its members

# A day in the life of a PRO



# Why Switzerland?

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- One of the earliest systems >> longest operational history
- Started voluntarily by producers (1994), legislation came afterwards (1998)
- Based on EPR and polluter pays principles
- Second highest per capita collection rate in Europe - 16.10 kg/ inhabitant in 2015
- Scope: all WEEE product categories covered
- Sustainable financing model >> financed through an Advanced Recycling Fee (ARF) on new products put on market
- Setting the pace for technical standards >> precursor to European CENELEC



# The Swiss System

- 3 Producer Responsibility Organisations



- Started in 1994 by the Swiss IT industry Association
- Focus on recycling of IT & CE products
- Not-for-profit entity



- Started in 1991 as an independent not-for-profit foundation
- Focus on recycling of domestic appliances

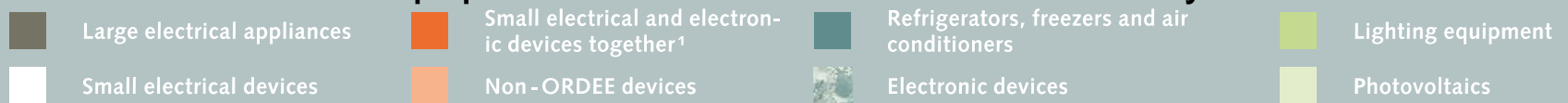


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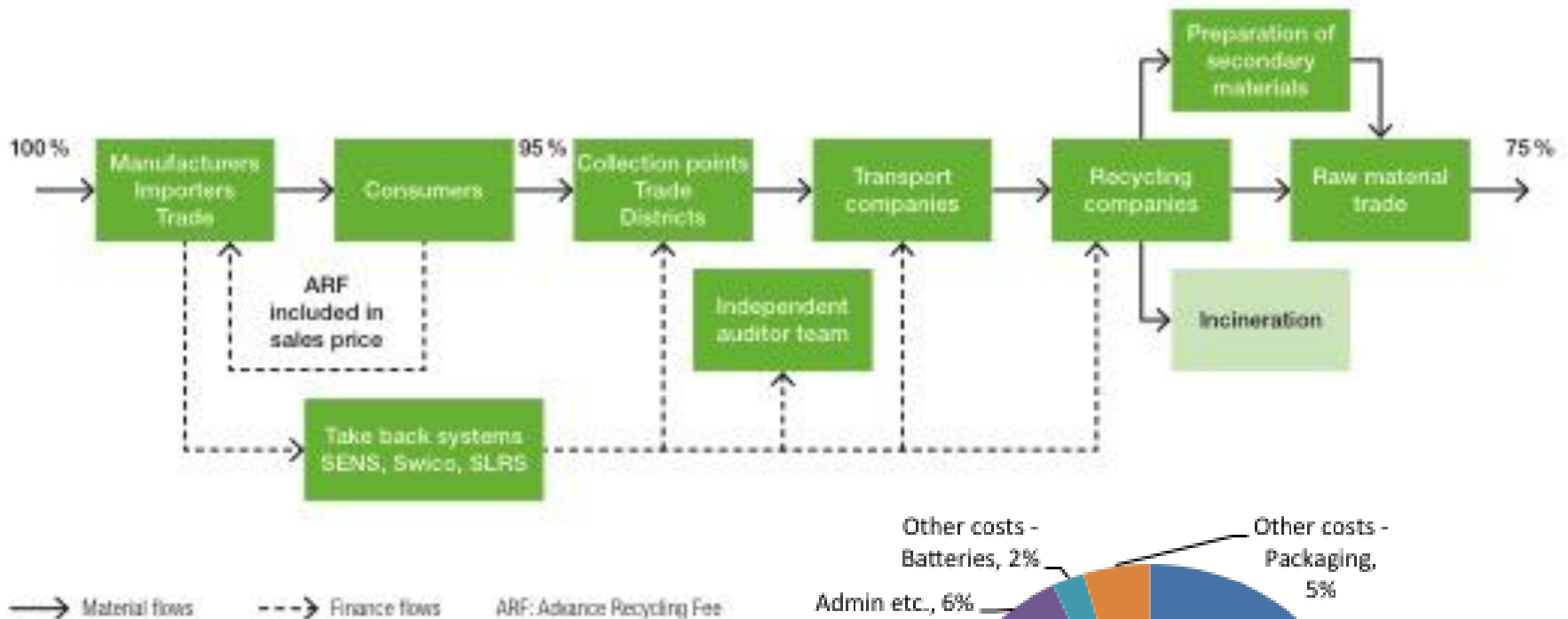
- Started in 2000 by industry
- Focus on lamps

1998 The “Ordinance on the Return, the taking back and the Disposal of Electrical & electronic Equipment”

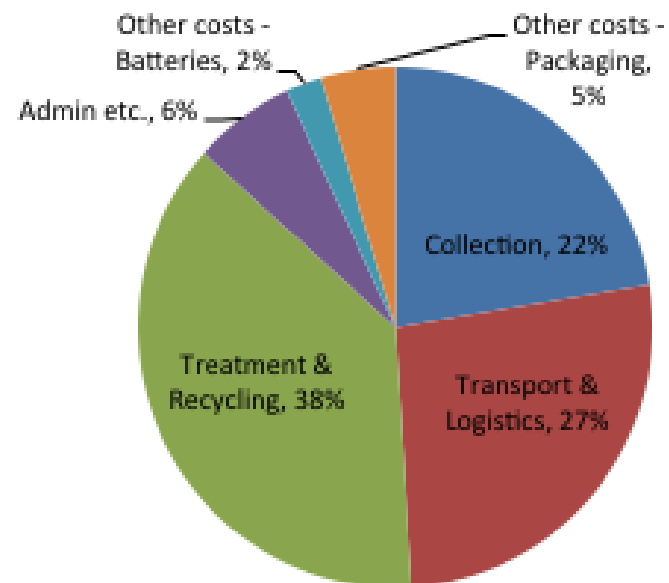
2005 ORDEE adds Tools, Gardening and Hobby, Lighting Products, Recreational Equipment and others as of 1. January 2005



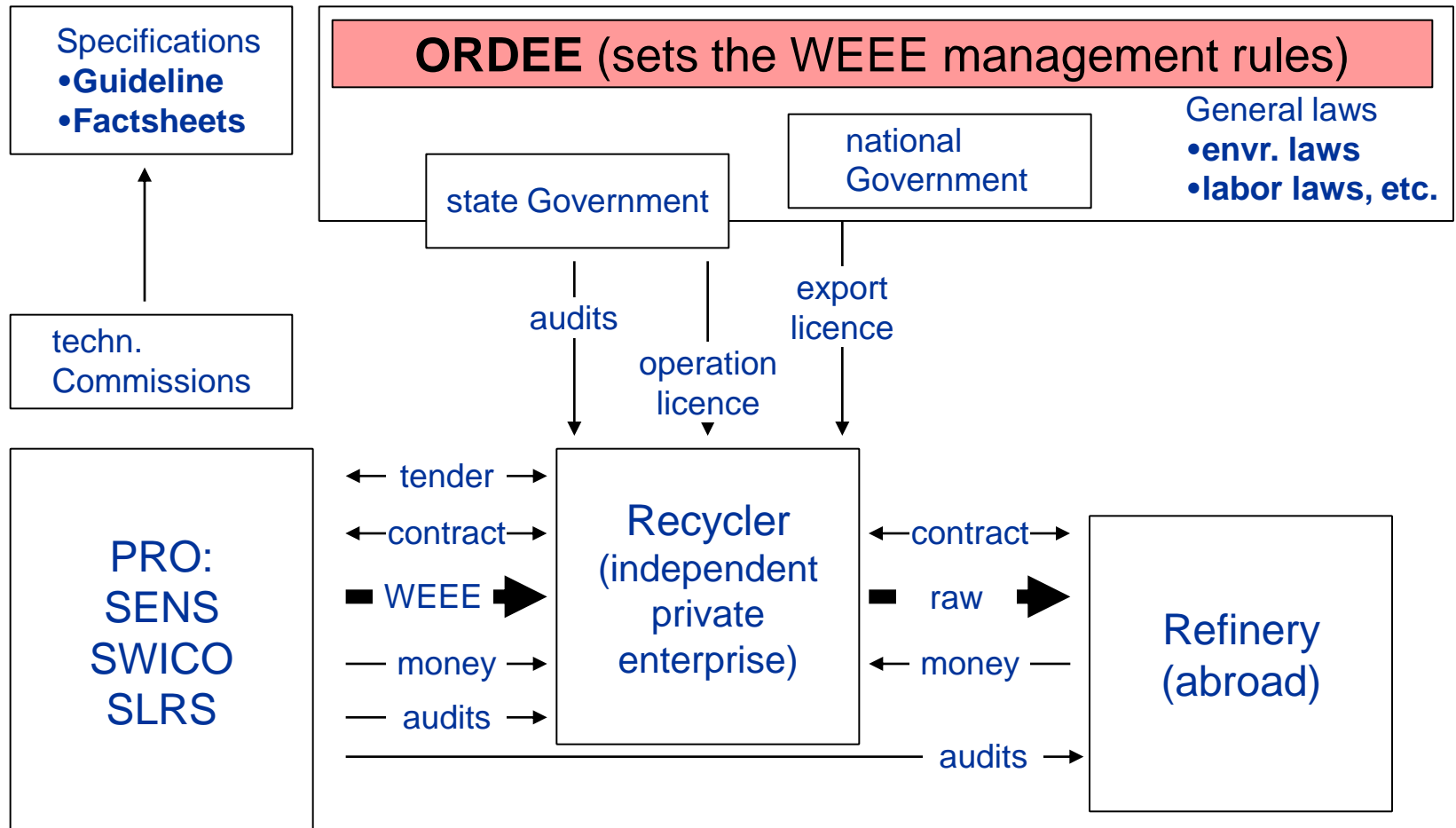
# Material and Money Flows



Total WEEE collected >> 134,000 tonnes  
 Total costs >> EUR 160 million

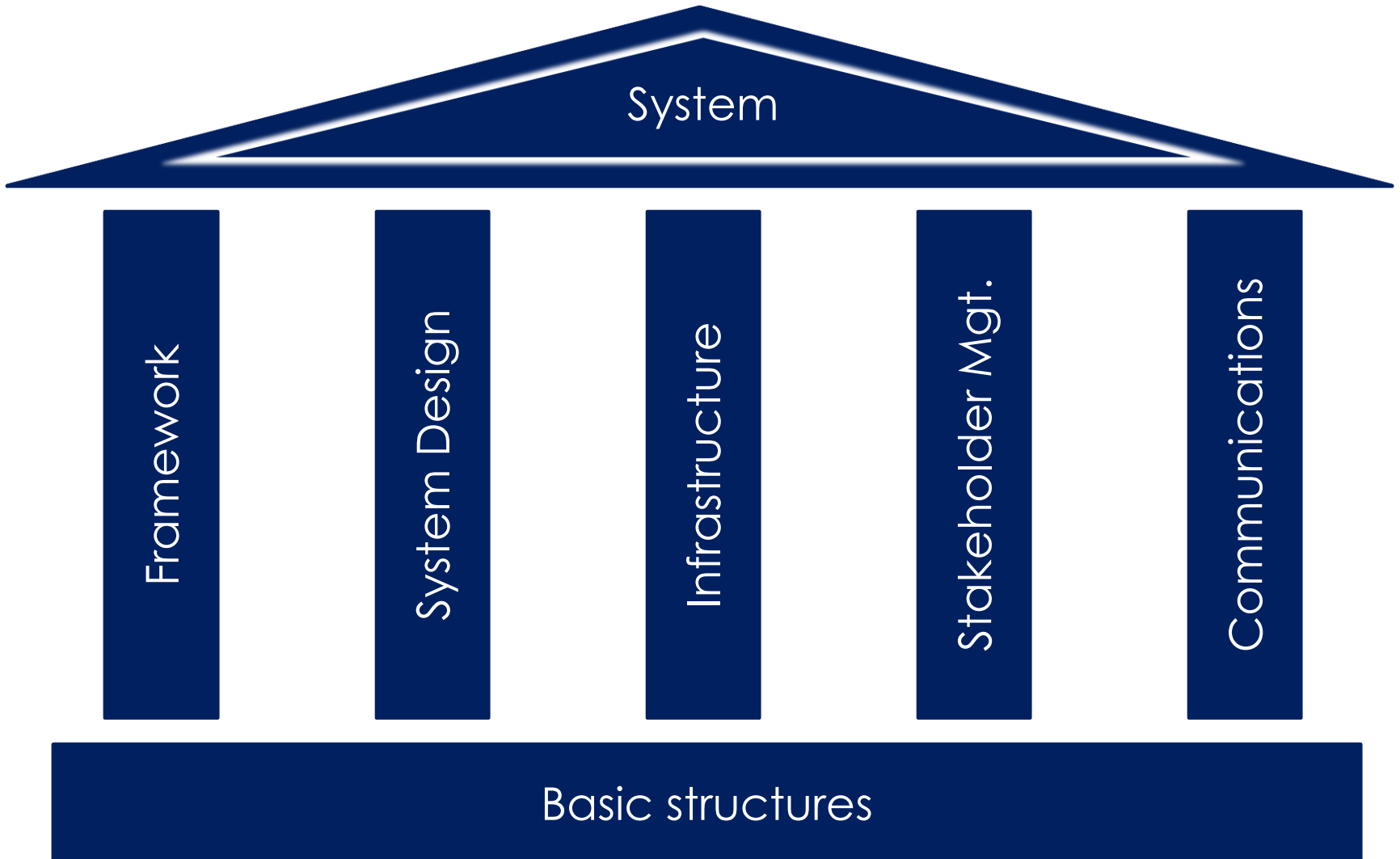


# A Swiss PROs Perspective





# Pillars for a successful system



# Secret sauce

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- Economies of scale (e.g. administrative burden, communication, data reporting, surveillance is centralised);
- Simplicity of the system (e.g. for producers who have a single organisation to join to fulfil their responsibilities, and for municipalities who have a single partner to organise waste collection, no need for additional clearing house level);
- Verification of compliance (in particular the monitoring of progress towards targets and control of free-riders) is simplified;
- Helps ensuring the quality of waste management and avoids 'cherry picking' (in order to lower costs, competing PROs would tend to cover geographical areas or waste types which generate less costs);
- Higher transparency and surveillance levels.



Thank you for your attention

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