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SIDE EVENT

From a gap analysis to the standardisation roadmap for industrial symbiosis

Policy Recommendations to Support IS

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Introduction to policy instruments

Definition

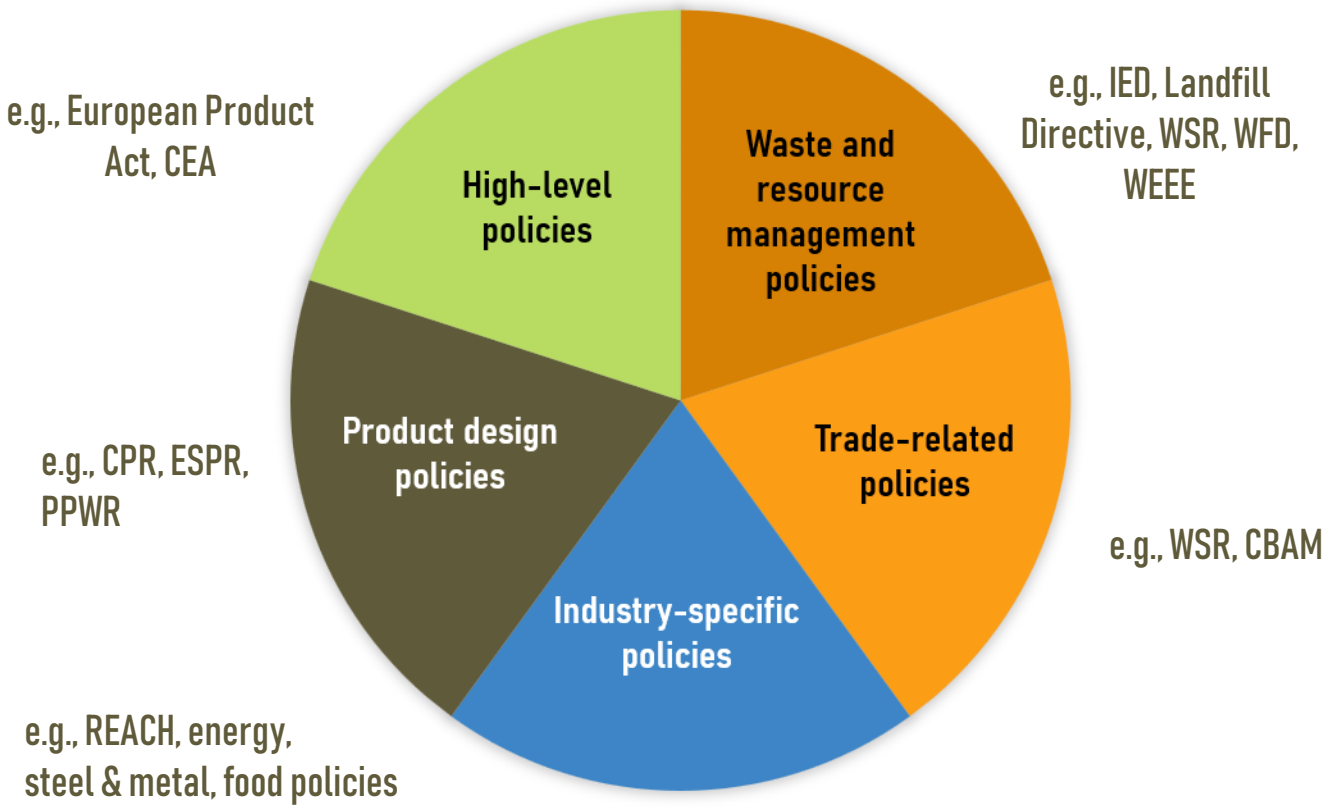
- "Policy instruments are the set of techniques by which governmental authorities [use] in attempting to ensure support and effect or prevent social change." (Vedung, 1998*, modified)

Primary types

- **Regulatory instruments:** e.g., law, regulation in combination with formal standards
- **Economic instruments:** e.g., subsidies, taxes, RD&D grants, public procurement
- **Information instruments:** e.g., rating and labelling programmes.

(see Rogge & Reichard, 2016*, modified)

Current regulatory framework of IS

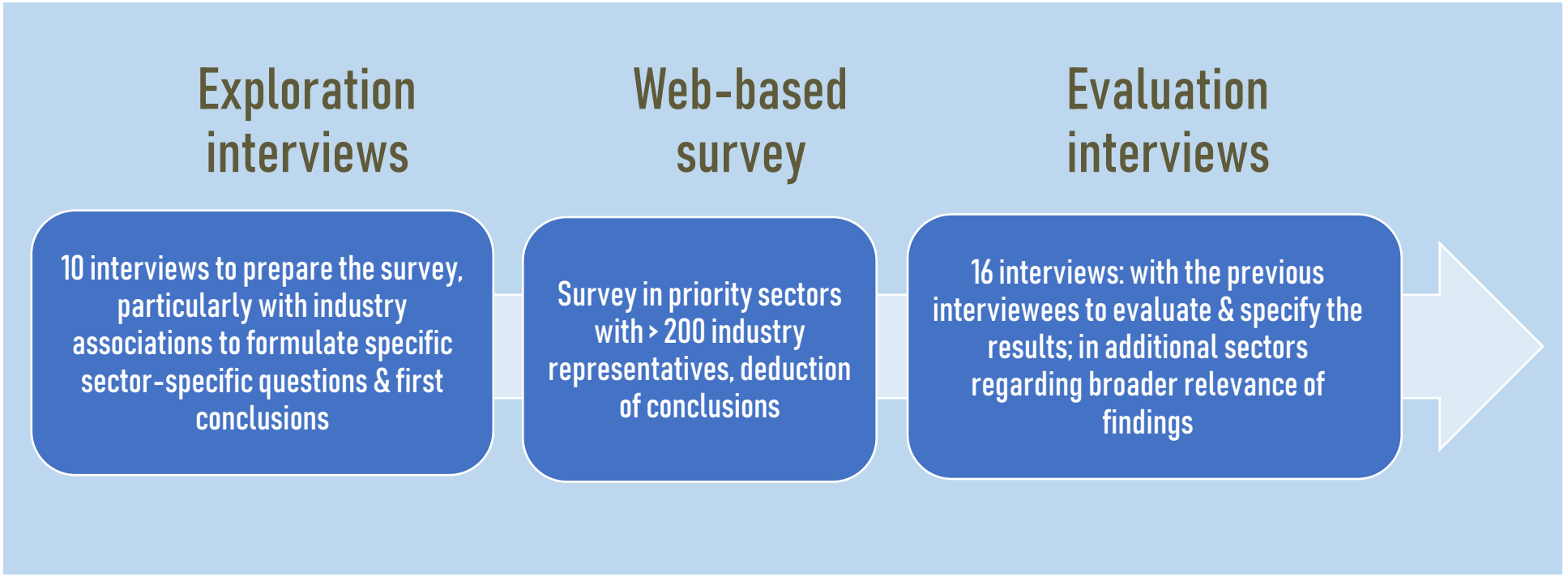


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*Vedung, E. (1998). Policy instruments: Typologies and theories. In M.-L. Bemelmans-Videc, R. C. Rist, & E. Vedung (Eds.), *Carrots, sticks and sermons: Policy instruments and their evaluation* (pp. 21–58).
Rogge, K. S., & Reichardt, K. (2016). Policy mixes for sustainability transitions: An extended concept and framework for analysis. Research Policy, 45(8), 1620–1635. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2016.04.004

Research method for developing policy recommendations to support IS



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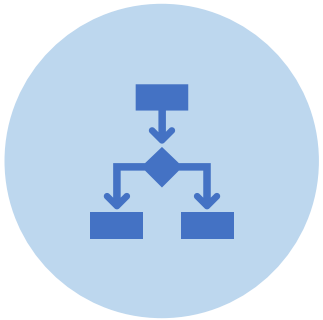
General policy recommendations

Four overarching policy action clusters were derived to support IS:

- Regulatory Framework & Standards
- Finance & Risk Sharing
- Market Demand & Quality Assurance
- Coordination, Platforms & Cross-Regional Governance

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Regulatory Framework & Standards



Prioritise reform of EoW + by-product rules through more harmonised EU-wide approaches, taking into account harmonised standards that reduce uncertainty in the cross-border use of secondary resources, starting by clarifying support structures at MS level.



Connect waste law and chemicals law (especially REACH) regarding EoW aspects, address regulatory inconsistencies and information gaps, streamline REACH authorisation procedures for essential industrial uses.



Develop standards to build confidence by clarifying the conditions under which a secondary material can be safely and reliably used, ideally by responding to legal standardisation requests.



Focus on overarching objectives and facilitate exemptions when IS and other sustainability-oriented regulations contradict.

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Finance & Risk Sharing

Provide funding to bridge the IS scale-up gap, especially at the TRL 8 industrial demonstrator stage.

Expand Carbon Contracts for Difference (CCfDs) and clarify how they can support IS-related investments in shared low-carbon production.

Adapt funding schemes so they can support cross-border projects and better align priorities between neighbouring regions/countries.

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Market Demand & Quality Assurance



Strengthen quality assurance, traceability and digital product passports (DPPs).



Implement recycled-content requirements and use public procurement strategically to stimulate and strengthen demand for secondary materials.



Assess feasibility and specific realisation options for targeted taxes on alternative disposal methods such as incineration to improve the competitiveness of secondary materials.

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Coordination, Platforms & Cross-Regional Governance

Establish a pan-European coordination group to specify IS platform services, considering best practices, current developments and suitable next steps to connect actors and facilitate transactions across sectors and regions.

Establish cross-regional governance mechanisms to coordinate IS across borders and align priorities among neighbouring regions/countries.

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Outlook

IS is no longer a niche opportunity—it is a practical route to a more competitive, resilient and circular European economy.

By turning the consultation-based recommendations into coordinated action, Europe can transform wasted resources into shared value, reduce emissions and unlock investment across regions and sectors.

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