

# TELAKETJU 5<sup>TH</sup> OPEN R&D WEBINAR

1 FEBRUARY 2021

## SEPARATE COLLECTION OF TEXTILES IN 2022 - The Danish case

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**REVALUATE** is a system thinking advisory platform that facilitates circular economy in the Nordic-Baltic region through:

- consultancy
- research
- hands-on projects
- knowledge dissemination
- mentoring

**REVALUATE** works with businesses, the public sector, academia, start-ups and the non-profit community.

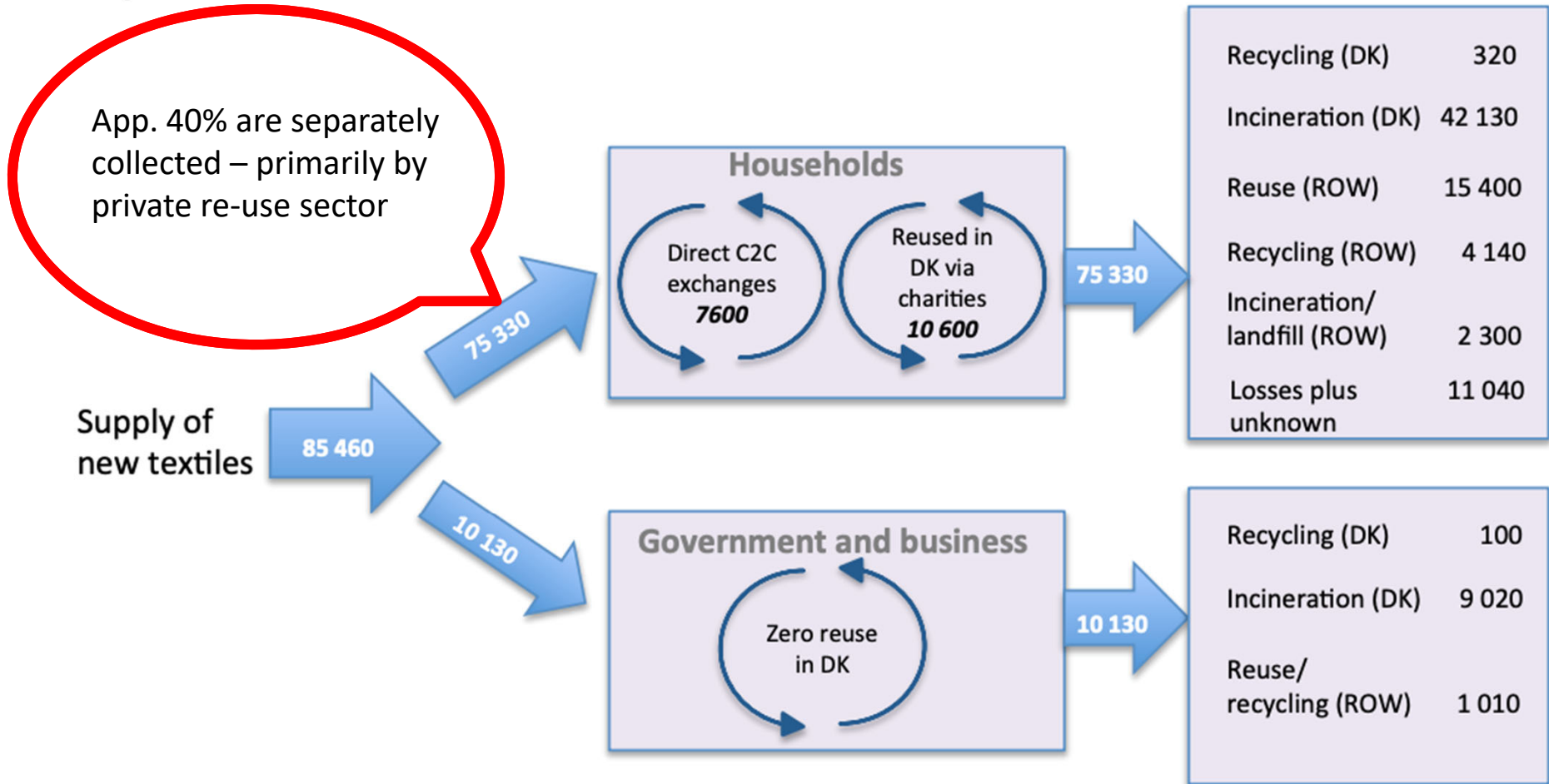
Expertise in strategy development and circular business model innovation, value chain development, project and innovation management, policy development, communication and consumer engagement.

# Agenda for today

- Current textile collection in Denmark
- Political context
- Project: Recommendations for collection system and sorting criteria
- What's next?
- Questions?

# Current situation

## Simplified overview of flows of new and used textile in Denmark



Source: Danish EPA (2018)

# Political climate agreement for a green(er) waste sector context (June 2020)

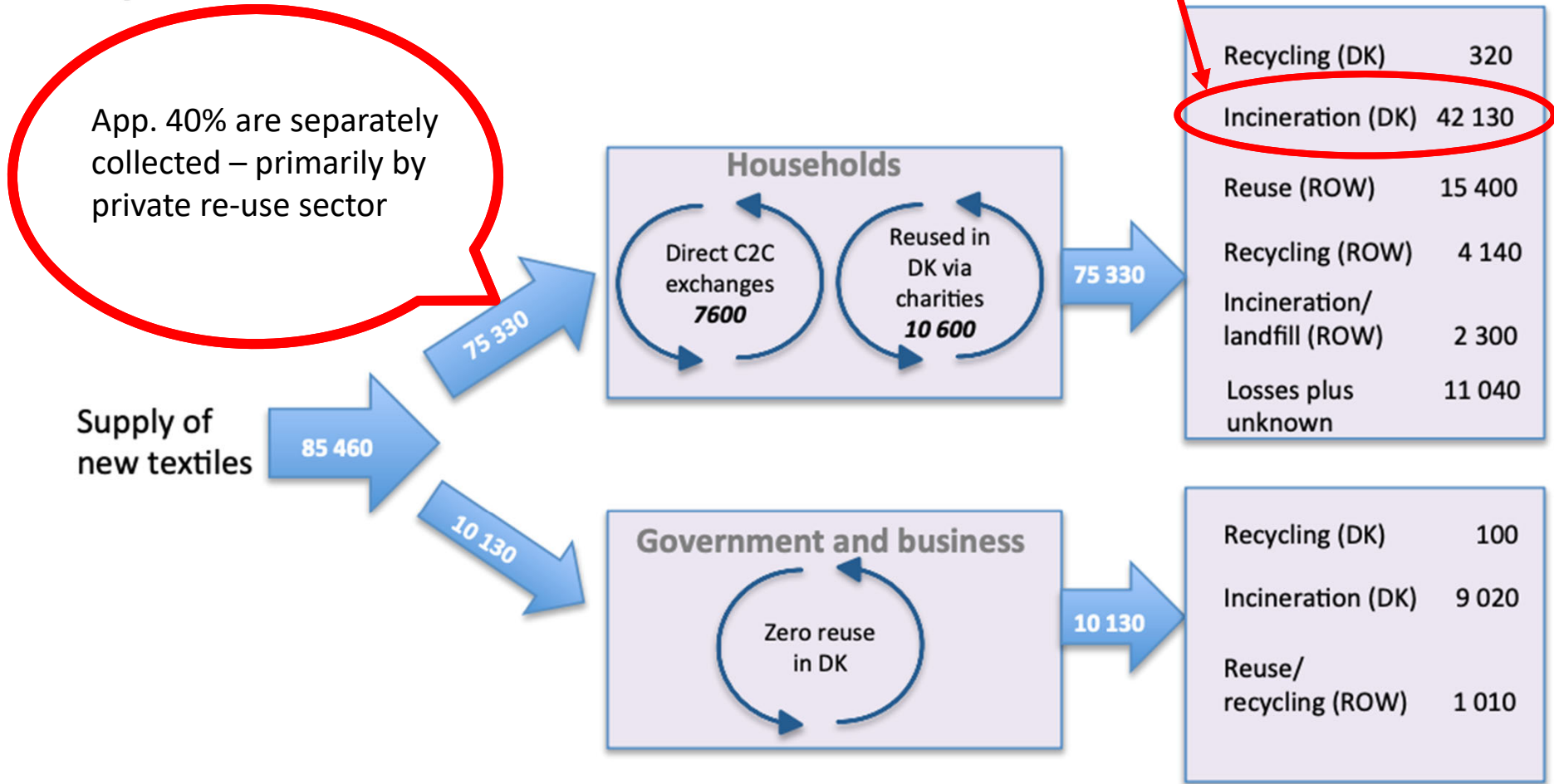
- The waste sector must be **climate neutral by 2030**
- Capacity for **incineration** must be reduced by 30%
- **Plastics** for incineration must be reduced by 80%
- Municipalities can collect waste from households and hereafter be sorted and treated by **private actors**
- **10 fractions** shall be collected separately from households by June 2021 – textiles by January 2022
- All municipalities must collect waste in an **uniform way**

# Textiles in the political agreement

- Textiles should be collected separately by January 2022
- They must be collected “close to the household”
- Re-use sector must get “easy access” to re-usable textiles
- Re-usable products from recycling stations must firstly be offered to private re-use sector

# Focus: textiles in household waste

## Simplified overview of flows of new and used textile in Denmark



Source: Danish EPA (2018)

# Project: Recommendations for collection system and sorting criteria

- Commissioned by the Danish EPA

Project team:

**NIRAS**

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**codex**  
advokater

- Tasks:
  - To recommend collection method(s) and sorting criteria
  - How to introduce separate collection while ensuring “easy access” to reusables?

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# The process

- +30 interviews with municipalities, waste companies, NGO's, private actors, foreign actors and experts
- (Online) workshop with 37 participants from the sector
- Advisory group with three meetings
- Close dialogue with the EPA and Ministry

# Dialogue

"I'm concerned how this can work out in practice – will NGO's be able to come and cherry-pick in the waste?"

"There is currently no real market for recycling of textiles from households"

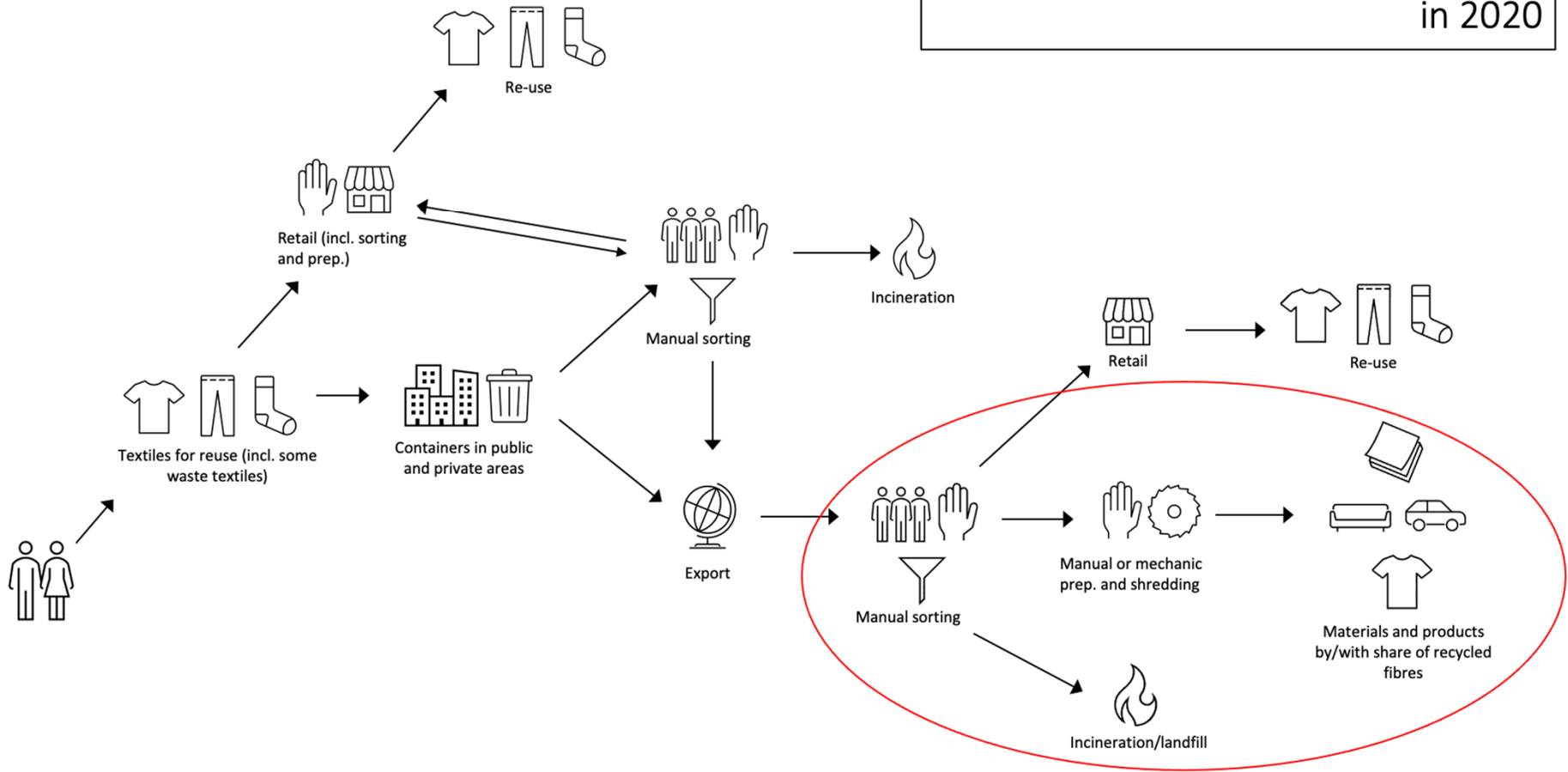
"The citizens want to do the right thing – but it can be difficult in practice"

"Collection in a bag is a must"

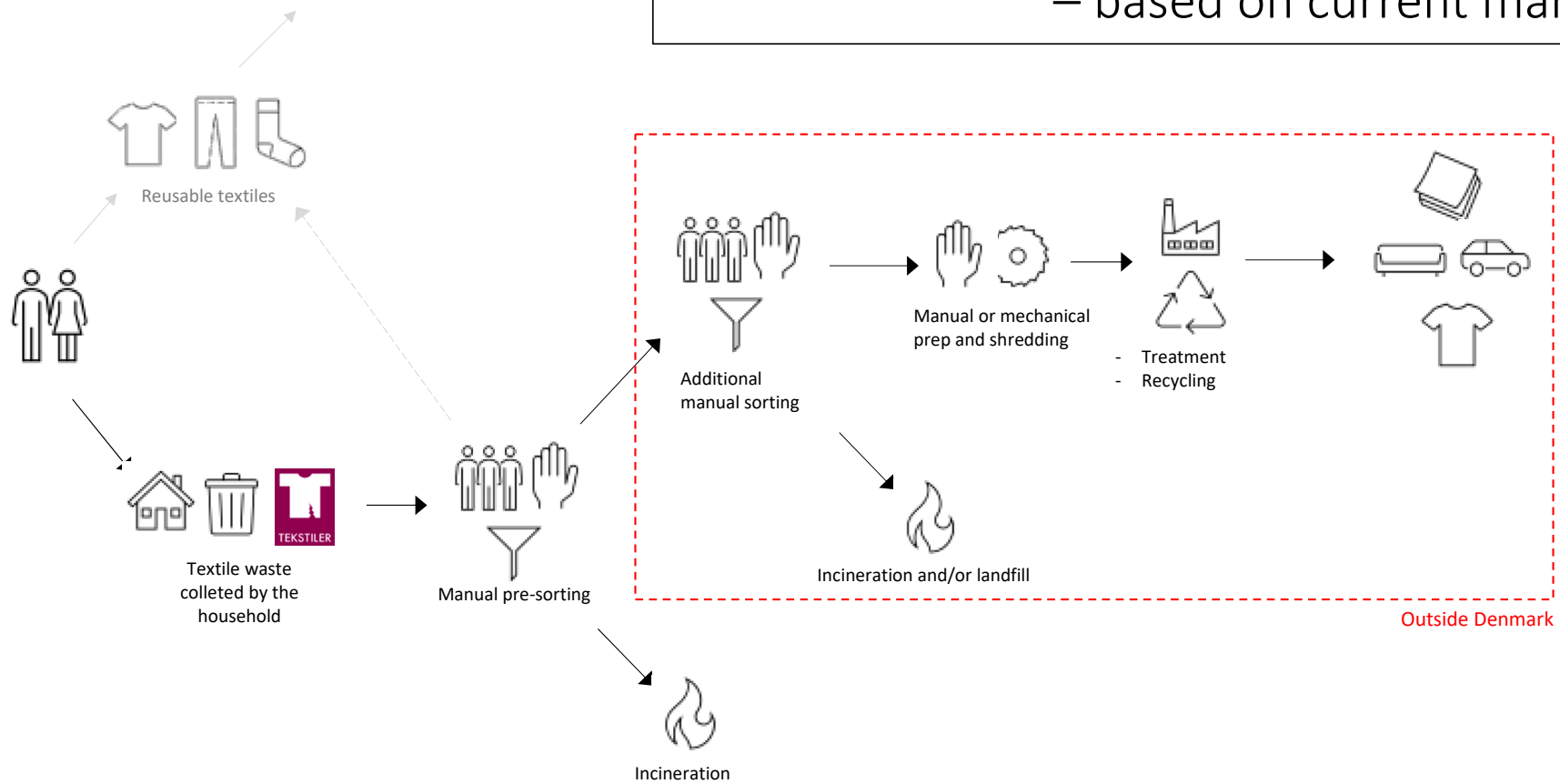
"No-one will want to support our re-use system if they can drop it by the household"

"Clear and simple communication will be decisive for a good result"

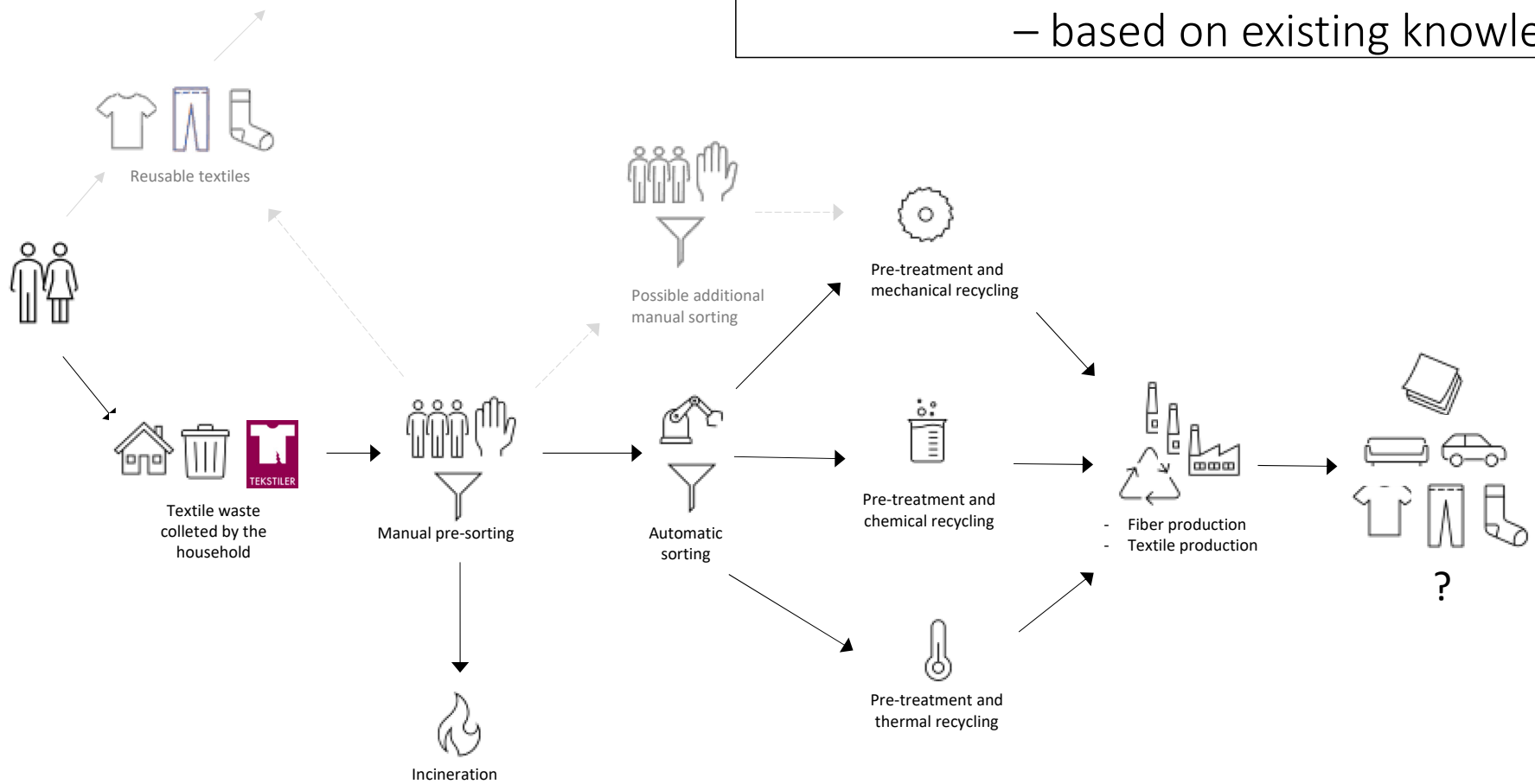
The system for re-use (and recycling)  
in 2020



Scenario for waste textiles (non-reusables)  
in 2022  
– based on current market



Scenario for waste textiles (non-reusables)  
in 2030  
– based on existing knowledge



# Sorting criteria

- general principles

YES	NO
<p><b>Textile waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- I.e. clothes and textile which are ripped, worn, stained or ruined.</li><li>- Clothes, sheets, towels, curtains, rag rugs, and the like, which cannot be used anymore.</li><li>- The textile waste must be dry.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Wet, mouldy and dirty clothes and textiles.</b> This should go to residual waste</li><li>- <b>Clothes and textiles with chemicals, paint and oil.</b> This should go to residual waste</li><li>- <b>Clothes and textiles in good condition, which can be used again.</b> This should be handed over to a re-use actor.</li><li>- <b>Shoes, belts and bags.</b> This should go to residual waste if they are in poor condition and handed over to a re-use actor if suitable for re-use.</li></ul>

# Collection methods

METHOD	RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Collection in separate container (by the household)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Only at apartment buildings</li><li>- Higher expected collection rates (less use of recycling stations)</li></ul>
2. Kerbside collection in separate bag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Only at single-family buildings and summer houses</li><li>- Risk of theft, moist and other damages</li><li>- Consider working environment (lifting heavy bags)</li></ul>
3. Closed bag together with cardboard and paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Relevant for all housing types</li><li>- Extra sorting costs might be significant</li></ul>
4. Collection in containers close to home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Needs decision on criteria for max. distance</li><li>- Might be confused with collection for re-use</li></ul>

All collection methods requires handing out of bags

# Other recommendations

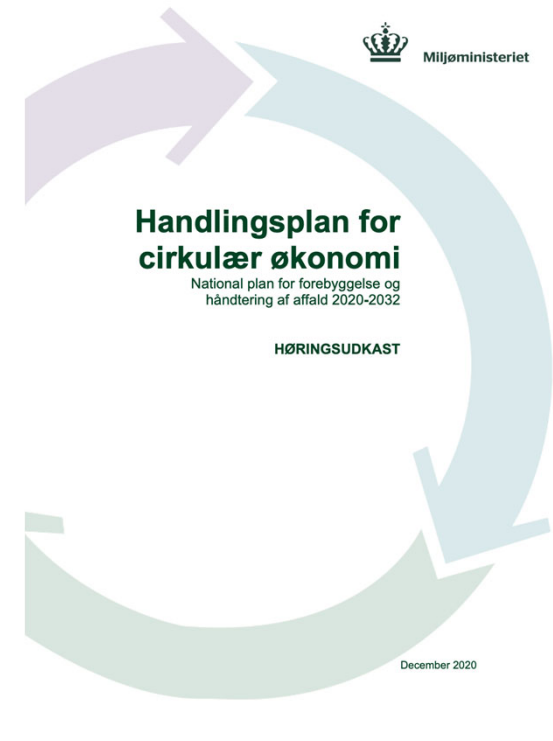
- Establish an “actors forum” with representatives from both public, private and charity sectors
- Clear and identical communication from all three actor groups including common profiling of the re-use schemes
- Common standard for bags for textile waste with a print that indicates what can be handed in to the municipality, as well as how to hand in textiles for reuse.
- Uniform guidelines for e.g. registration and reporting of data (quantity, quality and traceability)
- Increased push for demand for recycled fibers for example through public tenders and private procurement



# Danish action plan for Circular Economy 2020-2032

- Implementation of the EU directives
- Sorting of textiles from businesses
- Partnership on sustainable value chains
- Task-force for sustainable transition for Danish fashion and textile

...still in consultation



# Questions?

You can always reach me via  
[nikola@revalueate.dk](mailto:nikola@revalueate.dk)

**Thank you for listening!**