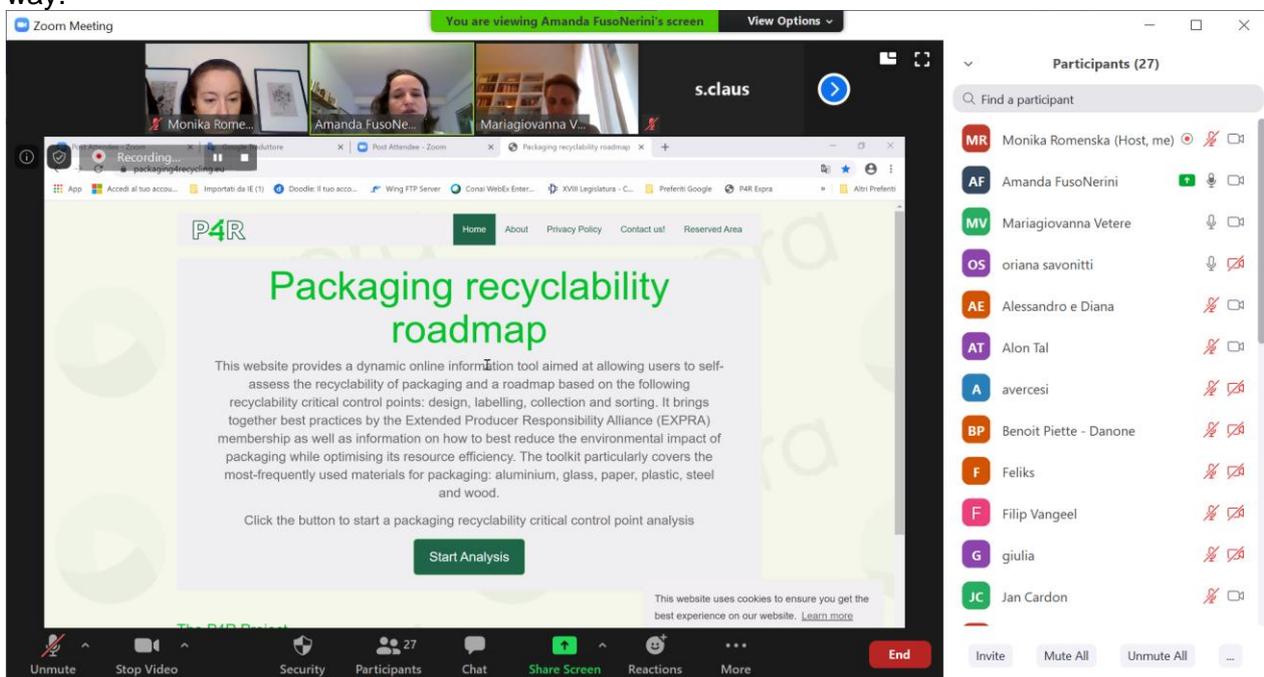


EXPRA External Workshop on Packaging and Sustainability WG with focus on Flexible Packaging, May 13

In the Webinar participated 30 representatives including EXPRA's Packaging and sustainability WG members as well as representatives of Industry and relevant associations.

Amanda Fuso Nerini (Chair of S&P WG) presented the **Packaging recyclability toolkit R4R**: She informed the industry representatives about the overall objective of this initiative, namely to provide practical and useful information to obliged industry regarding packaging in an unbiased way.

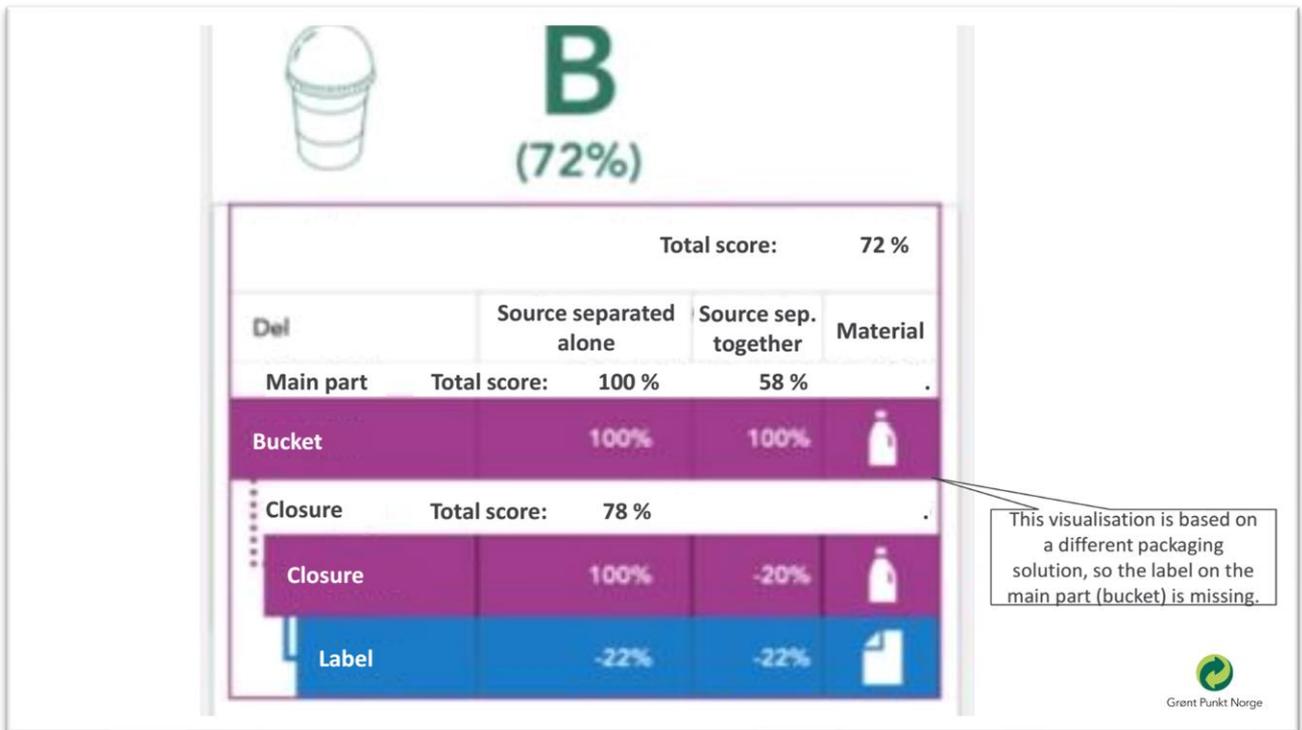
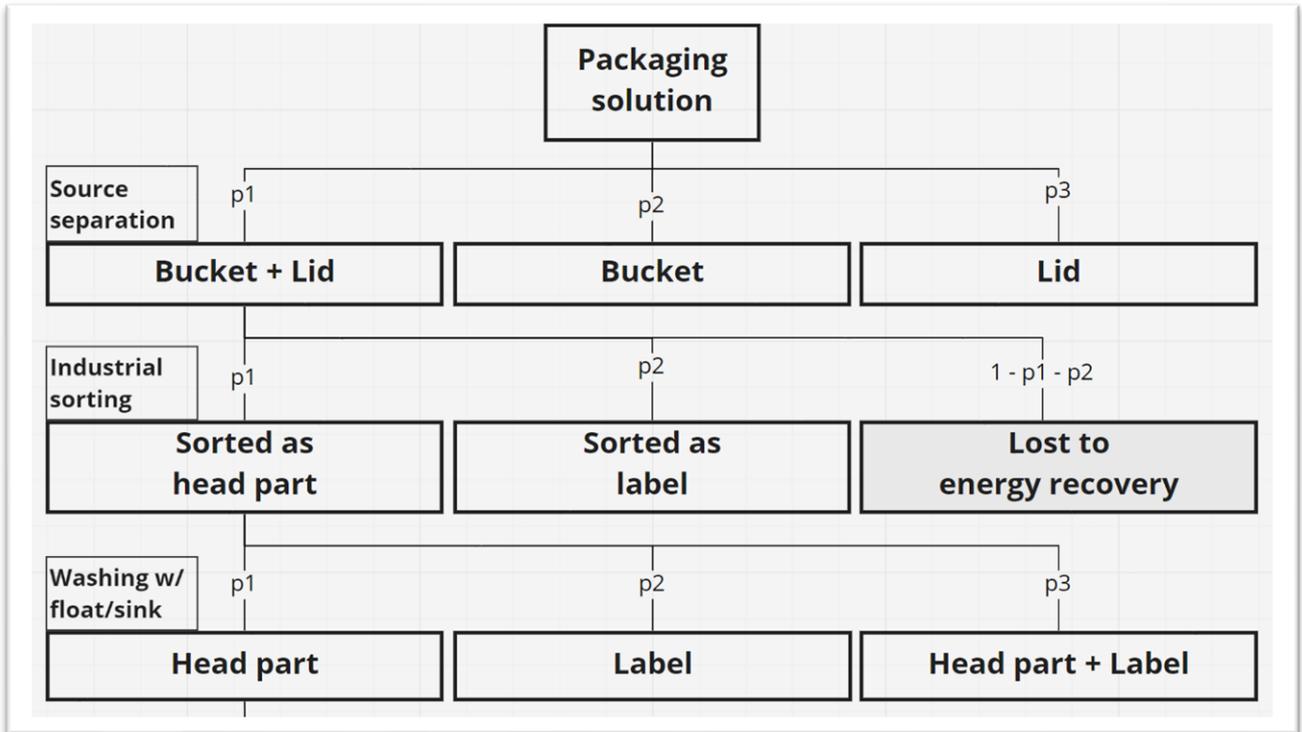


The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a presentation slide titled "Packaging recyclability roadmap" from P4R. The slide text reads: "This website provides a dynamic online information tool aimed at allowing users to self-assess the recyclability of packaging and a roadmap based on the following recyclability critical control points: design, labelling, collection and sorting. It brings together best practices by the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) membership as well as information on how to best reduce the environmental impact of packaging while optimising its resource efficiency. The toolkit particularly covers the most-frequently used materials for packaging: aluminium, glass, paper, plastic, steel and wood." Below the text is a green "Start Analysis" button. The Zoom interface includes a top bar with "Zoom Meeting" and "You are viewing Amanda FusoNerini's screen", a video gallery with three participants (Monika Rome..., Amanda FusoNe..., Mariagiiovanna V...), and a right-hand panel titled "Participants (27)" listing names and initials like MR, AF, MV, OS, AE, AT, A, BP, F, F, G, and JC. The bottom bar shows controls for Unmute, Stop Video, Security, Participants, Chat, Share Screen, Reactions, More, and End.

She underlined that Packaging4recycling tool is designed for the following: to give a mapping of all the information available for packaging recyclability. The idea is to have an overview of what is happening in different countries on this topic.

In the following discussion the industry representatives expressed their appreciation of the project and raised some questions and made some proposals.

Lars Brede Johansen, Grønt Punkt Norge and member of the S&P WG presented a very interesting project - Draft Design for Recycling Calculator: focus on Metallized plastics and EVOH. He explained how the calculator can be used and how the recyclability score is calculated – per material and per packaging solution.



Liz Morrish presented CEFLEX's D4ACE phase 1 Guidelines. EXPRA has supported the initiative from its creation. She provided a short overview of the project aiming to build a circular economy for flexible packaging.

Objective

To provide information and tools to design flexible packaging in line with the requirements of the circular economy, with positive environmental and economic benefits

Key activities

- 'Designing for a Circular Economy' guidelines using a phased approach
- A tool to enable the comparison of the economic and environmental lifecycle performance of different packaging formats and adopt the guidelines
- A mechanism to review, update and revalidate the guidelines

Regarding the focus of her presentation, namely the D4ACE she outlined that the objective is to make flexible packaging circular by:

- Giving clarity to the value chain so flexible packaging is designed to be suitable after use for collection, sorting and recycling
- Contributing to increasing levels of recycling

Phase 1 guidelines

- Structures that can be sorted and recycled using existing industrial scale technologies and processes
- Regarded as 'designed for recyclability'
- Supported by either test data or commercial practices somewhere in Europe
- Focus on **polyolefin-based structures**

Phase 2 guidelines

- Structures that are not currently widely sorted and/or recycled
- Cannot yet be regarded as being 'designed for recyclability'
- Testing needed to better understand sortability and/or recyclability, and to determine impact of different elements of a structure

In the following discussion, moderated by Karen van de Stadt, KIDV, The Netherlands flexible packaging recycling critical points/max thresholds were examined, with focus on metallization; minimum % of significant material; glue and EVOH.

During the discussion numerous important questions were raised, as for example are flexibles collected in all EU MS, respectively sorted (and how much quantity is lost during the sorting process), the importance of consumer behavior, especially in disposing of waste separately, etc.

Regarding communication with consumers, Amanda Fuso Nerini noted (CONAI) noted that much has been done in Italy on this. She underlined that Labelling is an important part of this communication process. CONAI has suggested to have a label on packaging on sorting, respectively to provide advice based on the prevalent material on the packaging and the correct way of sorting the used packaging.

Luca Stramare, Corepla explained that it should be considered that it takes 3 years, after the separate collection system is changed for the collection rate to stabilize. Respectively correct stable data for the collection from these 3 years cannot be expected. Regarding problematic for recycling materials, he noted that there are for example alternatives to carbon black, but this transition needs to be managed carefully, the best way being if the company does 100% of the conversion process. Also it is important that there is no mix up of different qualities in the market. It is very important when a company identifies the colorant they prefer to stick to it.

Regarding minimum levels for print, Filip Vangeel, Valipac informed the participants that Valipac has been working on projects with the entire value chain on recycling packaging films. They noticed that print is destroying the value of recyclability, still they believe that the 5% weight limit is good.

The representative of Mars noted that the main challenge of flexible packaging is that the recycled material is not attractive for the market. While PET bottles are attractive because they can go in several applications, flexibles are mainly composed of 2 structures: PE and PP, so not so attractive. He noted that the company is committed to use 30% of recyclable material where the only way will be via a chemical recycling.

Regarding coated paper, Amanda Fuso Nerini noted that no matter of the collection system used, the recyclability will not be affected. Many companies are considering to switch from plastic to paper and this is a problem which will increase over the years. It was agreed that it is necessary to find the right balance between as pure as possible, zero, and the technical needs for certain applications.

In general, the participants agreed that that all stakeholders need to work on all these areas in parallel and cooperate along the value chain. It was also noted that the infrastructure for separate collection and sorting is the key.