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Interlinkages between the vertical integration of waste policy and its horizontal progression.

The project is going to examine the waste policy of Germany and the UK that is led by EU directives which are not yet connected to the sustainable resource use strategy (of the Commission). Comparing these two waste policies in relation to the EU framework reveals quite different patterns of regulation: Whereas in Germany a network with a monopolistic corporative association was formed after public protest demanded political action, British regulation created a market for waste recycling only after binding EU directives had been ruled. While German waste policy has been successful enough to disrupt the internal market (for secondary raw materials such as paper) the British waste policy is struggling to fulfil the minimal standards set by the EU. However, both regulations could fail in regard to sustainability on their own terms.

Although to some extent successful, the network in Germany has resulted in few gains in resource productivity. This is complicated by the vertical (re)integration of waste policy into the EU to secure an internal market. In opposition to this British waste policy was prompted by the EU and the chosen regulation induced reflexivity among market actors. Thus, highly innovative instruments are conceived by economic actors and, not surprisingly, it has been called for input taxes to support secondary material markets (recyclates). However, the British waste market seems not to raise enough investments neither to progress waste policy endogenously nor to incorporate all aspects of waste policy. Still, the situation is much different from Germany where the network regulation led to public misperceptions of waste policy. Furthermore, the still progressive German waste policy is dependent on approval from EU institutions which tend to prefer economic regulation and do (yet) not consider resource efficiency. In terms of methodology, it is largely D. Braun's ideational approach that is applied.