



**Flanders**  
State of  
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# Reuse at Flemish events

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OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders)**

**10 February 2025**

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# Agenda

- ▶ Legislation
- ▶ Results
  - Waste
  - Impact on the market
  - Supply by local authorities & intermunicipal companies
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Support by the Flemish government



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# A\_LEGISLATION

# 1\_Legislation Europe – Belgium - regions

LEVEL			
<b>Europe</b> 		Single Use Plastics Directive ( <b>SUP</b> ) Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ( <b>PPWR</b> )	
<b>Belgium - federal</b> 		<a href="#">Royal Decree (KB): 5 July 2024</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Restrict the release of certain disposable products on the market:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Market ban on disposable plastic cups &amp; non-compostable plates &amp; cutlery</li></ul></li><li>- Increase the recycled content of certain products</li></ul>	
<b>Belgium - regions</b>		<b>Flanders</b>  <a href="#">VLAREMA</a>	<b>Wallonia</b>  <a href="#">Decr.W. 9 maart 2023</a> <a href="#">B.W.Reg. 18 juli 2019</a>
		<b>Brussels</b>  <a href="#">BRUDALEX</a>	





# 1\_Legislation Flanders: any type of event



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Large Open urban events



Small Open urban events



Closed door event



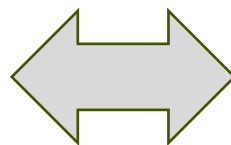
Sports event





## 2\_Legislation Flanders (1)

by a public body



by a non-public organisation

Event organised by the (local) government

Legislation on reusable cateringmaterial for drinks and prepared food is applicable



As well applicable on (local) government's own operation

Event not organised by the government

Legislation on reusable cateringmaterial for drinks is applicable

= Fair

= Event of an educational institution

Decision tree [events](#)

Decision tree [own operation government](#)



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## 2\_Legislation Flanders (2)

✓ For events not organised by a local authority or Flemish government: until 31 December 2029



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## 2\_Legislation Flanders (3)

- ✓ For Flemish governments and local authorities: since 1 January 2020
- ✓ For ALL Flemish events: from 1 January 2030







## 2\_Legislation Flanders (4)

✓ For local authorities and Flemish government: since 1 January 2022

Soup = prepared food





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# B\_RESULTS



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# 1\_Waste

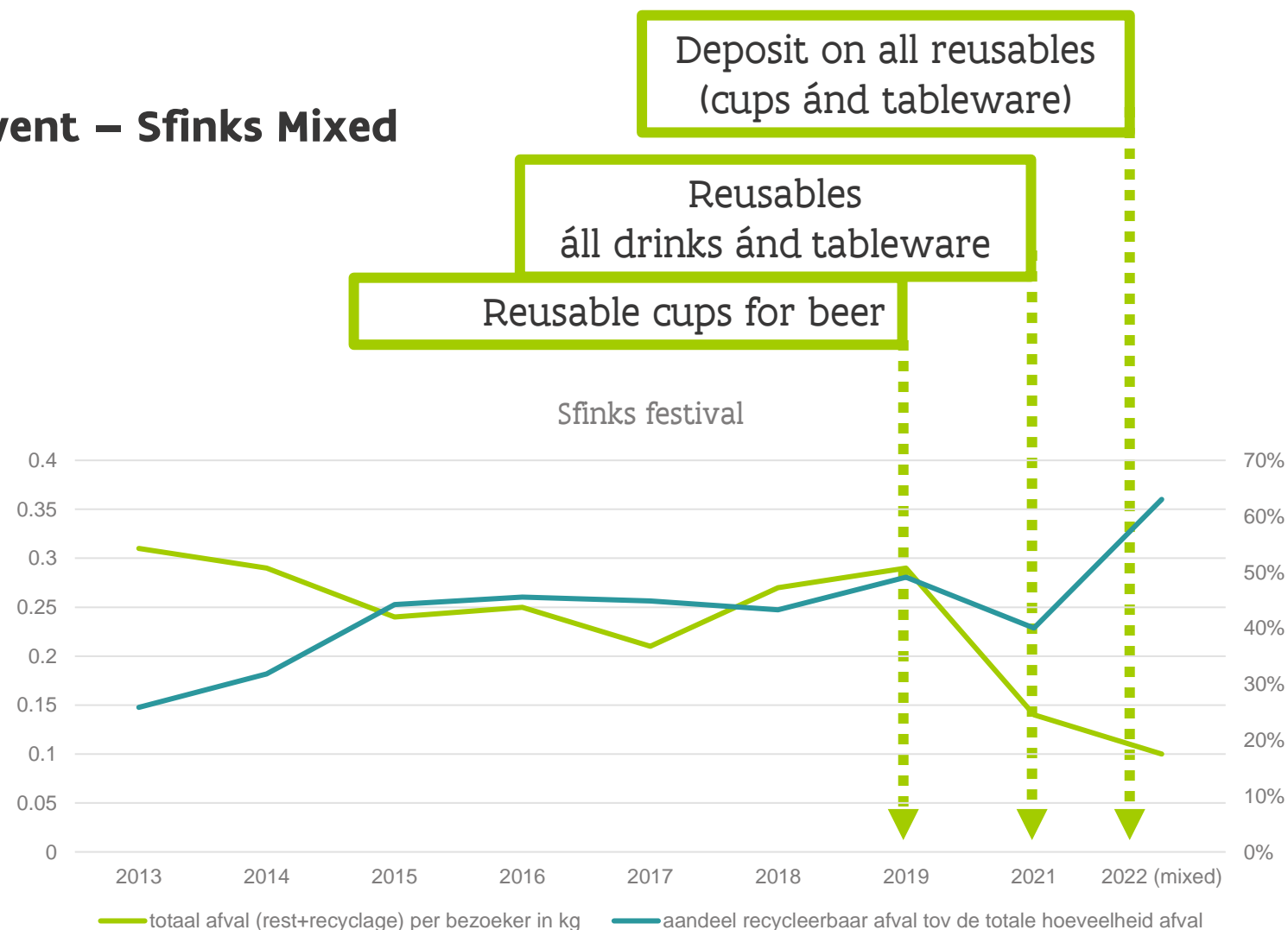
# 1\_Waste: up to – 63%/visitor closed door event

## ► Example: Closed Door Event – Sfinks Mixed

→ 4 days

→ #visitors: 25.000/day

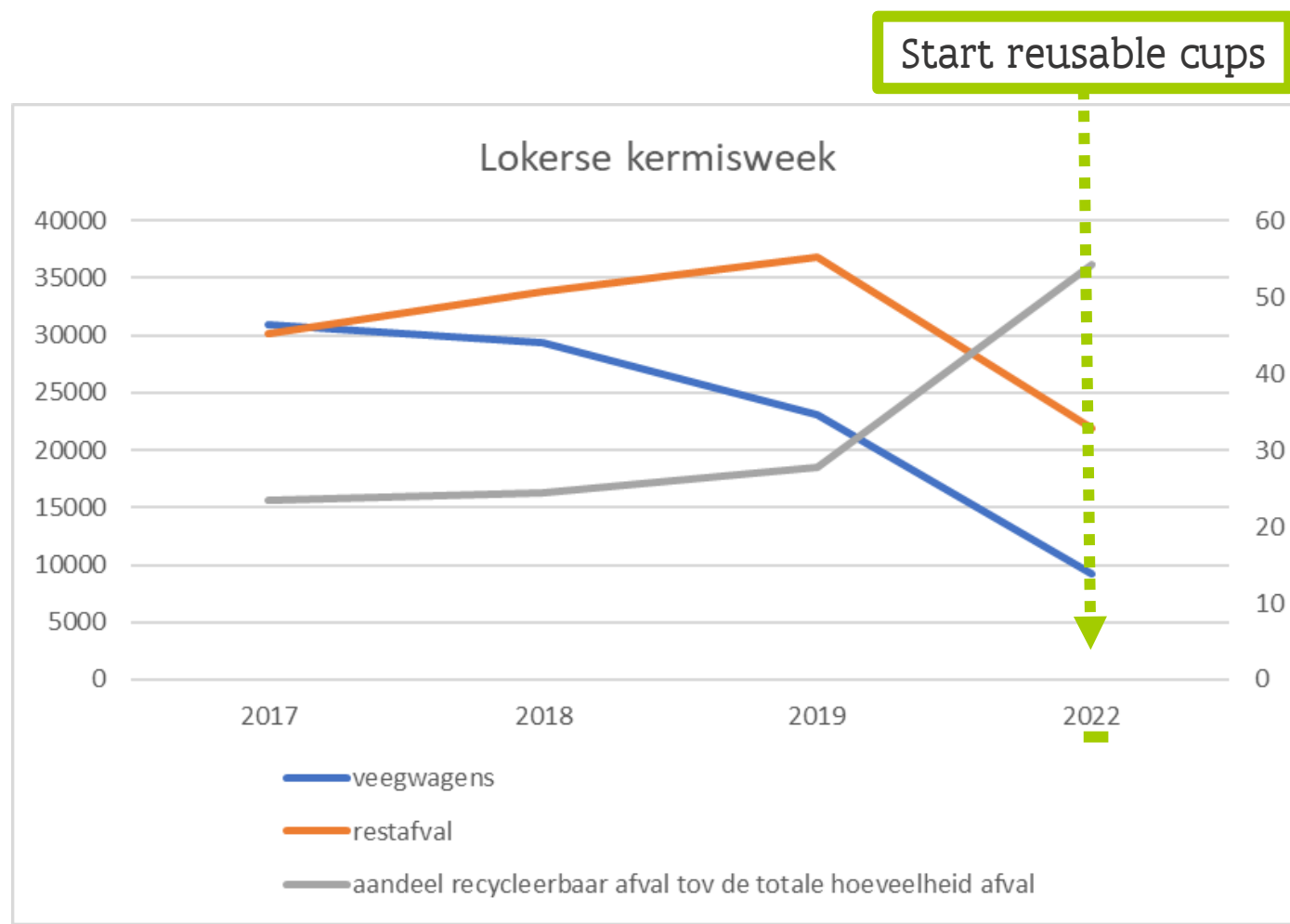
- 2021: (no deposit)
  - Waste per visitor: -48% tov 2018
- 2022: (with deposit)
  - Waste per visitor: -63% tov 2018





## 2\_Waste: – 60% residual waste and - 40% sweeping waste open urban event

### ► Example: Open Urban Event – Lokerse & Fonnefeesten



- Sweeping trucks: - 60% in comparison to 2019
- Residual waste: -40% in comparison to 2019

Especially decrease in residual and sweeping waste

SAMEN MAKEN WE  
MORGEN MOOIER

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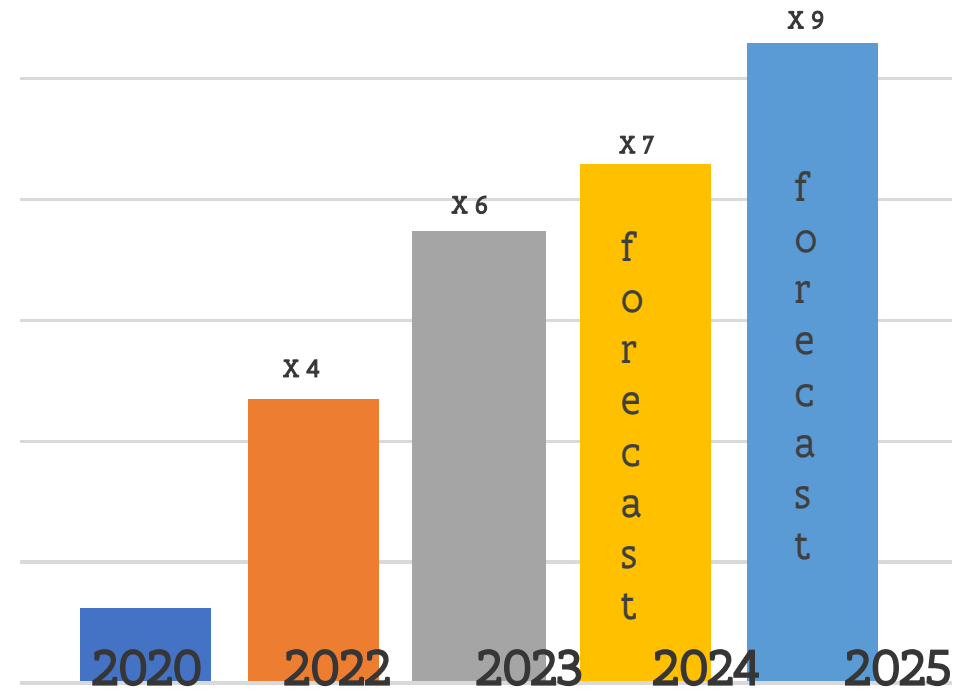
## 2\_Impact on the market

# 1\_Evolution supply rental cups: + 40% in 2023 vs. 2020

Source: survey OVAM in the autumn of 2023

## ► Evolution offer 9 professional suppliers in Flanders

→ Estimation of increase of stock of reusable cups on private market since the legislation



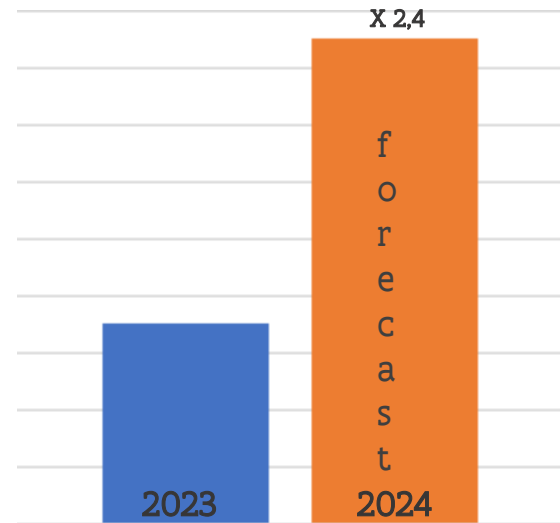
► Almost all brands of beer, spirits & some soft drink producers own cups which are part of sponsorship deals.

## 2\_Evolution supply rental cutlery & tableware: + 40% in 2024 vs. 2023

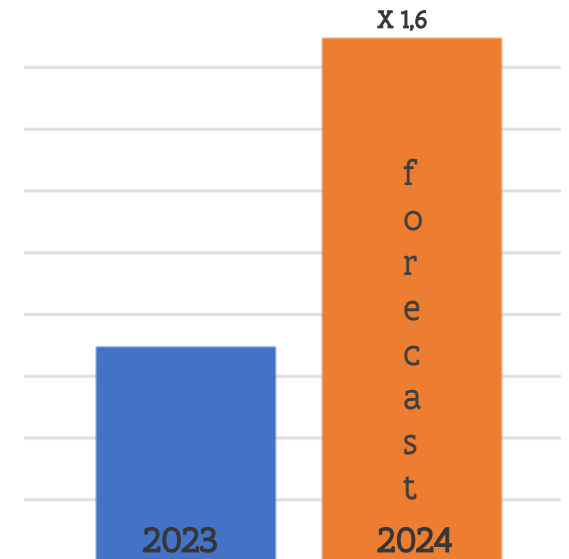
Source: survey OVAM in the autumn of 2023

### ► Evolution offer 5 professional suppliers in Flanders

→ Estimation of stock of reusable cutlery on private market since the legislation



→ Estimation of stock of reusable tableware on private market since the legislation



→ The legislation seems to ensure investment security for cups and tableware: supply follows demand.



# 3\_Dishwashing facilities: capacity +50% in 2023 vs. 2022

Source: survey OVAM in the autumn of 2023

- ▶ **Industrial dish washing facilities operating for Flanders:**
  - +- 13 locations
  - +50% capacity in 2023 vs. 2022
- ▶ **2024: increase intermediate washing by mobile/ professional dishwashing & by hand**
  - Saves rental of cups
  - Increase of return cycles



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# 4\_Collection systems:

Source: survey OVAM in the autumn of 2023



## ► Suppliers :

- Number and types of return systems increase
- 2023: 10 companies offering (digital) solutions for return systems

## ► Deposit system: +90% of collection

- No deposit system: < 90% to 70% and less

## ► Measures for return (cumulative):

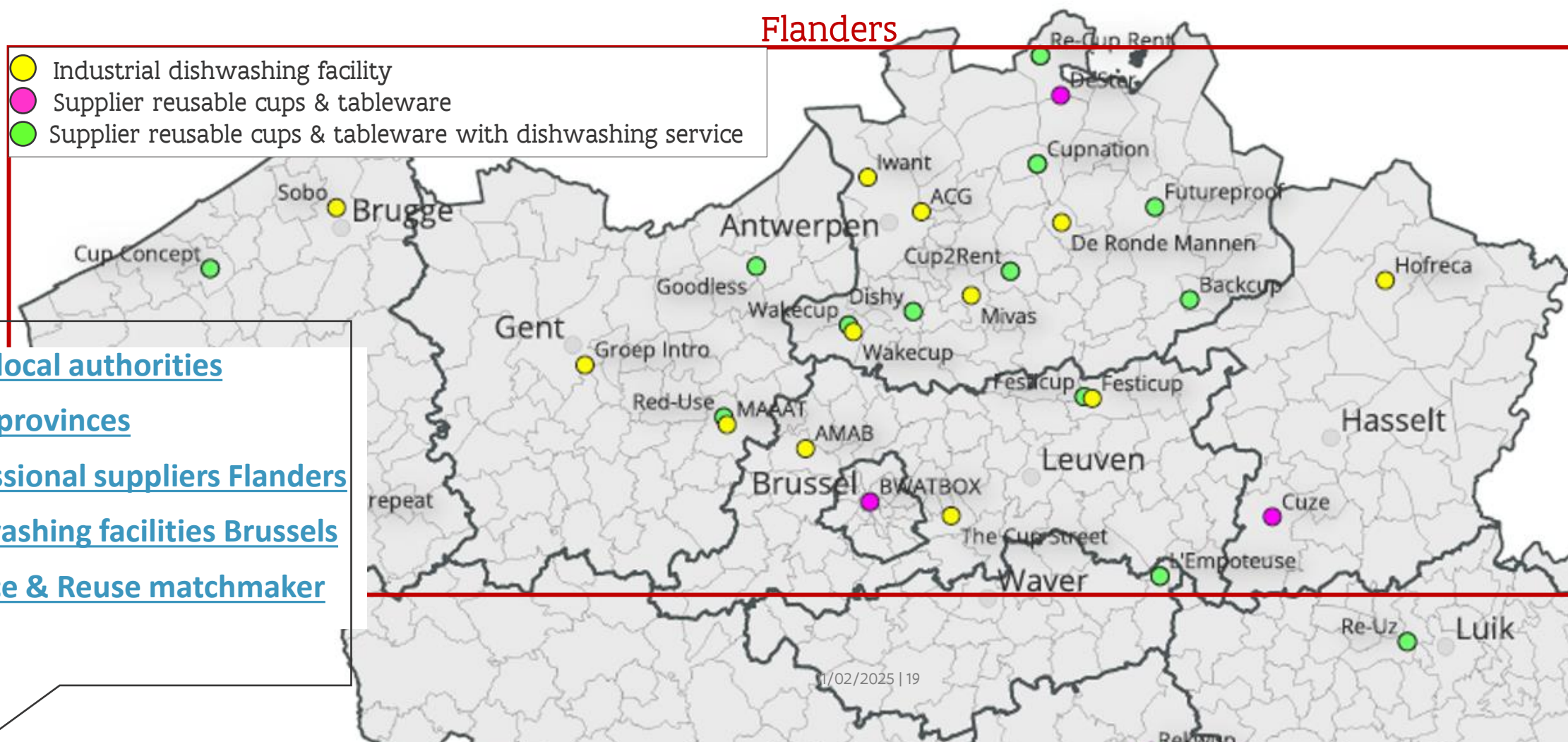
- deposit
- return at: bars + separate collection points + donation points
- clear signage & communication to visitors + all participating drink vendors & crew



# 5\_Geography of suppliers

Source: survey OVAM in the autumn of 2023

- industrial dishwashing facilities, suppliers of reusable cups and tableware



- [Offer local authorities](#)
- [Offer provinces](#)
- [Professional suppliers Flanders](#)
- [Dishwashing facilities Brussels](#)
- [Reduce & Reuse matchmaker](#)

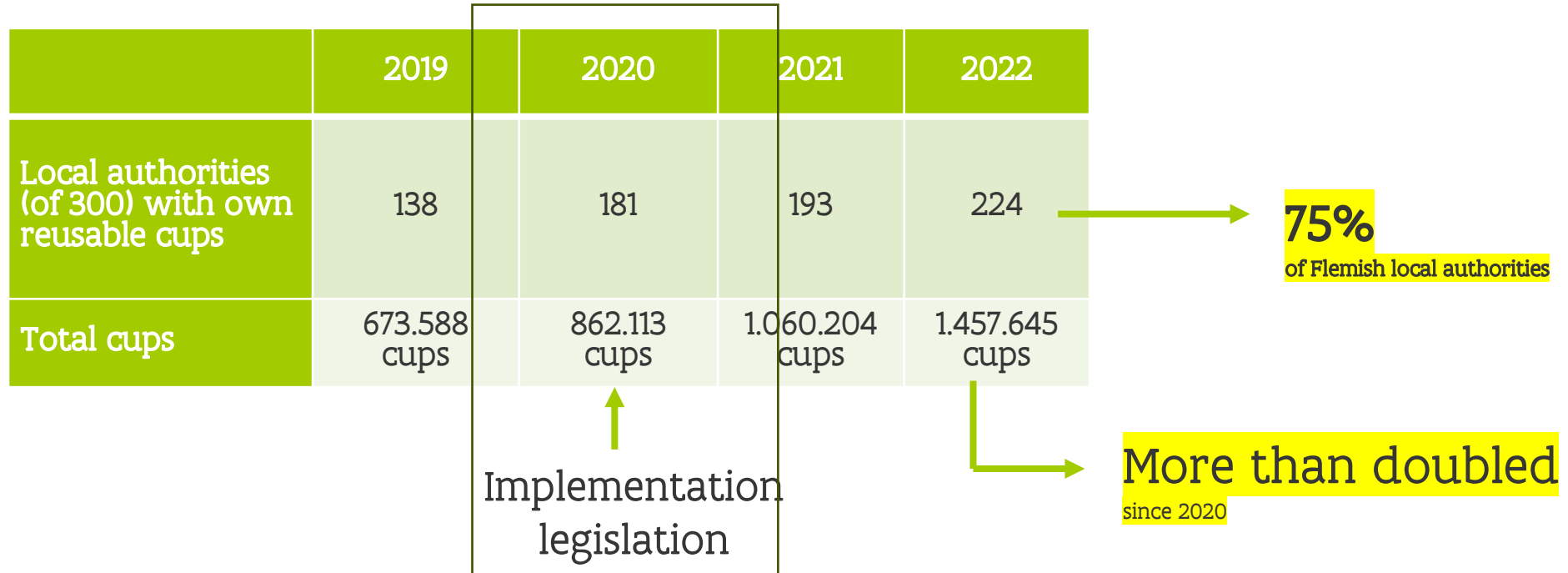


# **3\_Supply by local authorities & intermunicipal companies**



# 6\_Cups by local authorities (1): +50% in 2022 vs 2020

Source: Online Waste Survey 2023 about 2022



## ► Many combine stock of own cups for small events with:

- Framework/separate agreements
- Renting/borrowing from a sponsor or 3<sup>rd</sup> party

# 7\_Cutlery & tableware by local authorities

Source: Online Waste Survey 2023 about 2022

- ▶ Less Ownership than cups: (smaller amounts, less used, more difficult to wash)

TABLEWARE	2022
Local authorities (of 300) with own reusable tableware	26
Total pieces	18.925

CUTLERY	2022
Local authorities (of 300) with own reusable cutlery	23
Total pieces	21.898

- ▶ **Many combine with:**
  - framework/separate agreements
  - renting/borrowing from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party

# 8\_ Cups & washing by intermunicipal companies

Source: Online Waste Survey 2023 about 2022

- ▶ **20 of 27 waste intermunicipal companies have a rental offer of reusable cups:**
  - 15 own their own cups
  - 10 offer rental through a framework agreement with a professional supplier or through collaboration with an external partner such as the Kringwinkel (= thrift shop)
- ▶ **12 waste intermunicipal companies offer a dish washing solution themselves, 8 others outsource it through an external partner**

**More info?**

- ▶ **[Website VVSG](#) (= Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities)**



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# C CHALLENGES



# Challenges

- ▶ **Mass running events:**
  - Until 2024: exemption by Flemish government
- ▶ **Pet bottles & cans: ban from 1 Jan 2025 postponed to 2030**
  - Resistance from event & beverage sector
  - Market not adapted
- ▶ **Extra costs**
- ▶ **Efficient return systems**



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**D SUPPORT BY THE  
FLEMISH GOVERNMENT**

# Support by the Flemish Government

- ▶ Flemish research:
  - [Update studie drink-en eetgerei op evenementen \(BE;2020\)](#), [Studie drink- en eetgerei op evenementen \(BE;2017\)](#)
  - Summary: [Herbruikbare bekens: een goed idee \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)
- ▶ Press releases OVAM:
  - [26th June 2024](#)
  - [1st March 2024](#)
- ▶ Podcast: [June 2024: reusables at events in Flanders](#)
- ▶ Evaluation: [Evaluation evolution of reusables at events in Flanders \(2023\)](#)
- ▶ Annual Conference since 2023 [on reusables at events](#)
- ▶ LIFE communication [campaign](#) & [kit for organisers](#)
- ▶ Website support for organisers & municipalities:
  - Practical: [Aan de slag met de wetgeving cateringmateriaal \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)
  - How to control? (for local police & local controllers): [Handhaving op de wetgeving cateringmateriaal \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)
  - FAQ on the Flemish legislation

# WELCOME ! 11 Feb Conference Reusables at events

- 10 infosessions
- 34 speakers
- 35 stands of suppliers
- 300 participants





# Questions?

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